Expert Group Meeting on Optimizing the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Framework of Integration and Policy Coherence

12-13 July 2019, New York

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**SPEAKER PROFILE**

*Presented in the order as appears in the programme*

**Dr. Lucilla Spini** is a bio-anthropologist with expertise in sustainable development, science/policy bridging, global policy frameworks, capacity-building, and gender-lens in science and technology. Prior to joining the International Science Council (ISC), she has worked for a number of organizations including UNESCO, UN University (UNU), UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and FAO. Dr. Spini holds a B.A. (Hons.) in anthropology from New York University, as well as an M.Sc. in human biology and D.Phil. in biological anthropology, both awarded from the University of Oxford (Linacre College). Dr. Spini is also an alumna of the Harvard Kennedy School’s Sustainability Science Program and of the European University Institute’s Policy Leaders Fellowship Programme of the School of Transnational Governance.

**Mr. Jamil Ahmad** is Director of Intergovernmental Affairs of the UNEP New York Office. He joined UNEP in 2008 as the Secretary for the Governing Bodies based in Nairobi, Kenya (2008-14). He directed, managed and coordinated the Secretariat, led the organization of the sessions of the Governing Bodies and served as the focal point of UNEP’s external relations. A senior career diplomat, Mr. Jamil Ahmad entered the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1986 and has worked in several duty stations in Asia, Europe and Africa with rich experience of bilateral and multilateral affairs. He participated in numerous UN and other intergovernmental meetings, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, sessions of the UN General Assembly, the Commission of Sustainable Development (CSD) and the Governing Councils of UNEP, UN-HABITAT and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). He was lead negotiator of the Group of 77 & China for Climate Change under Pakistan’s chairmanship in 2007 culminating at COP13 to UNFCCC in Bali in 2007. Mr. Jamil Ahmad holds a Master’s Degree in Political Science.

**Ms. Senida Mesi** is a politician and an economist with extensive experience in development banking, finance, business development and human resources management. She is former Deputy Prime Minister of Albania and currently a member of Albania Parliament. As the Deputy Prime Minister, she worked intensively with all the developing partners in Albania and was in charge of the Agenda 2030, chairing the ministerial steering committee. She is a strong believer that government-academia-business must work together in order to achieve success in economic and social policies and achieving the SDGs. Previously she had worked in banking system in Albania, in a German capital bank with headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany. She was a senior manager and member of the extended management board of the bank. She was an assistant professor in Economic Faculty, specializing in micro and macroeconomics and human resource management. She holds a B.A in Business Administration from Tirana University and a Diploma in Banking from “ProCredit Academy” in Germany.

**Ms. Adriana Castro González** holds a B.A. in Political Science from Javeriana University in Bogotá, a M.A. in Latin American Politics from Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, and a M.A. in Politics from NYU. Adriana has more than 10 years of experience in program management, monitoring and evaluation, and technical assistance to public sector institutions. She also has been a consultant for international cooperation agencies and non-profit organizations. She is currently an adviser to the SDG Commission in the National Planning Department of Colombia.

**Ms. Ivonne Lobos Alva** is the lead Research Fellow for work on the SDGs at the Stockholm Environment Institute’s Latin America office (SEI). She is a sustainability expert with over a decade of experience, equally divided between scientific institutions and international development organizations. Key areas of work include the sustainable management of natural resources, the transformation towards sustainable food systems, and the formulation and implementation of global sustainability agreements. Her current work focuses on supporting the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
Ms. Doljinsuren Jambal is the Director of Development Policy and Planning Department, National Development Agency of Mongolia (since January 2017). Ms. Jambal has 19 years of experience working at the Government and development partners in Mongolia, spanning from the National Statistics Office, the Ministry of Finance and most recently UNDP, where she acted as the Poverty Reduction and MDG/SDGs Team Leader. She also worked on World Bank, Asia Development Bank and USAID projects. Ms. Jambal has extensive knowledge and experience in the field of national accounting, human development, sustainable development, development policy and planning and policy analysis. She obtained a Masters degree on “Development Economics” from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University in the Hague, The Netherlands in 2002.

Dr. Fabien Tondel is a Policy Officer at the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) in Maastricht. He conducts policy-oriented research on inclusive agri-food value chain development, rural development and food security in Africa, in the context of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme and of Africa-Europe relations in the area of sustainable economic development. He also works on policy coherence for sustainable development, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, European sustainable development strategies and Europe-Global South relations. Prior to joining ECDPM Fabien held the position of Markets and Trade Advisor for the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network, supporting food security analysis, early warning, and humanitarian and development responses in Africa, Central America, the Caribbean and Central Asia. Fabien holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics and a MS in Economics from the University of Kentucky, USA. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the National Superior Institute of Agronomic Sciences, Food and the Environment of Dijon.

Ms. Karin Fernando is a Senior Research Professional at the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) in Sri Lanka. She is also the Regional Coordinator for Asia for the Southern Voice Network. At CEPA she leads the research and policy work on sustainable development. Her interests are in natural resource management and poverty and environment nexus issues. Her work concentrates on building evidence and generating a dialogue on sustainable systems in order to integrate this knowledge into development practice and policy. Her work in the development sector includes project management, research, and policy related work at both local and global levels.

Ms. Eunhae Jeong is a Senior Development Management Expert in United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), UNDESA. In her current work, she is committed to assisting countries’ implementation of internationally agreed SDGs in applying integrated approaches for envisioning, planning, implementing and monitoring national development plans and strategies. She is also leading various capacity development and knowledge sharing activities on SDG 6 (water), SDG 13 (climate change) and SDG 15 (terrestrial ecosystem). Before she joined UNOSD, she worked for the Korean government for 20 years, establishing and implementing sustainable development policies in the field of water, climate change, and biodiversity conservation. During her time in the Korean Ministry of Environment, she actively engaged in international sustainable development discourse including the negotiation for Rio+20, UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity. She also worked as a council member of Global Environment Facility representing Australia, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea from 2011 to 2012.

Mr. Martin Garcia is the Head of the Public-Private Cooperation Division within the Social Evaluation Undersecretariat of Chile. His main task is to design and implement cooperation methodologies among public-private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia in order to support the activities of the Social Development Ministry of Chile. Additionally, Mr. Garcia leads the Division in charge of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Chile. Mr. Garcia has professional experience in the private sector, NGOs, public sector and also in the academia. Mr. Garcia holds a B.S. and a M.Eng degree from Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile and a Master of Science in Management from MIT Sloan School of Management, with concentration in Sustainability, Strategic Management, System Dynamics and Organizational Studies.
Mr. Ayman Cherkaoui, currently Coordinator at the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, is a Judge for the UN SDG Action Awards, member of the Steering Group of the Goalkeepers Youth Action Accelerator, as well as Lead Counsel for Climate Change at the Center for International Sustainable Development Law, Obama Foundation: Africa Leader and Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leader. Formerly, he was the Executive Director of UN Global Compact Morocco for UNDP as well as Special Advisor for UNFCCC COP22 and COP23 to the Moroccan Presidency and Ministerial Advisor, following professional experiences in management consulting and industry. Mr. Cherkaoui has academic background in Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Finance, Law and Engineering.

Ms. Livia Hollins is a Programme Officer in the Adaptation programme at the UNFCCC climate change secretariat. She leads the secretariats work on SDG indicators as well as UN system and interagency activities, with a focus on supporting countries to implement the Paris Agreement and make the most of synergies in implementation of 2030 agenda and other post 2015 development agendas as well. Livia currently supports the intergovernmental negotiations on cooperation with UN entities and other intergovernmental organisations. She joined the UNFCCC in 2010, and has previously worked for the New Zealand Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, as well as Science, Technology and Innovation, and Environment Ministries. Livia holds a masters in Sustainability Science from Lund University Center of Sustainability Studies, Sweden.

Dr. Zitouni Ould-Dada is currently Deputy Director of Climate and Environment Division at FAO in Rome. Before joining FAO in January 2018, he worked for 5 years as Head of Technology Unit at UNEP in Paris. Prior to that, he worked for the British Government in London for 15 years holding several senior positions at Department of Energy and Climate Change; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Food Standards Agency; Environment Agency; and Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food. He worked for the French Government during France Presidency of the European Union in 2008, leading work on international climate change and technology transfer. He provided strategic advice and technical support to the Moroccan Government during Morocco’s Presidency of COP22 climate conference held in 2016.

Ms. Melinda Kimble is an economist and a skilled multilateral negotiator. Currently a senior fellow at the United Nations Foundation, she provides analyses on a range of development questions. As a senior vice president at UNF, Ms. Kimble developed UNF-UN partnerships to improve public health, protect natural resources, deploy clean energy and advance human development. Serving on UNEP’s High Level Group for the 6th Global Environmental Outlook, Ms. Kimble extensively reviewed drafts and advised on key messages. Ms. Kimble served in policy positions at the U.S. Department of State until 2000 where she led negotiating teams on climate change, biodiversity and economic issues. She is an adjunct professor at Syracuse University’s Washington graduate program, lecturing on sustainability. Ms. Kimble holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Denver and a Masters in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.

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Ms. Jaehyang So supports World Bank Group’s engagements on the 2030 Development Agenda through public private partnerships, leading the recent launch of the World Bank Group SDG Fund. Ms. So has worked on a range of sustainable development topics, infrastructure, water, urban development, gender, and public private partnerships. As Manager, Ms. So brought results-based management and increased the financial mobilization of the Water and Sanitation Program. Ms. So was the architect of the World Bank’s Public Private Infrastructure (PPI) Database, which serves as a global market leader. Ms. So is honorary SDG Professor of the Ban Ki-moon Center, Institute of Global Engagement and Empowerment, Yonsei University. She is committed to mentoring young people for international careers. At Monitor Company, Ms. So advised Fortune 100 level companies in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan. She holds an MBA and a BA in Economics from Stanford University.

Mr. Jean DA’ragon is now the Officer-in-Charge of UNOSD in Incheon, South Korea after 3 years working as the Senior Sustainable Development Expert at the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD). Dr. D’Aragon has over 20 years of international development experience in research, policy advisory, capacity building, and monitoring and evaluation related to sustainable development in America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania. Dr. D’Aragon worked at the UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi and the UN DESA United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) in Nagoya, Japan linking climate change, natural disaster risk and vulnerability reduction, urban planning and governance. He has also been called upon to undertake assignments as Early Recovery Advisor and Early Recovery National Coordinator with the same and other UN agencies, such as UNDP, in various geographical contexts, including disaster-hit regions of the Philippines and Vanuatu or in Cameroon, where he developed and coordinated programmes combining food security and poverty reduction with youth job creation and empowerment, particularly in the Far North Region of Cameroon, which is severely affected by Boko Haram ‘s insurgency, not to mention land use agro-pastoral conflicts, which are exacerbated by increases in drought and flooding associated with the adverse effects of climate change.
Prior to joining the UN, Dr. D’Aragon was Senior Programme Officer at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC - Canada), leading research programmes on the interlinkages between urban poverty reduction, livelihood and food security, access to housing, water and sanitation, solid waste management, environmental protection and resilience building, supporting their integration into territorial planning policies, codes, regulations, plans and programmes.

Dr. D’Aragon also taught and lectured in different universities in Brazil, Portugal, France and in Canada, particularly at McGill University, where he has earned his PhD.