

**Joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the  
Second Committee of the General Assembly  
Wednesday, 14 October 2020, 3 pm**

**“Developing sustainable infrastructure and utilizing science and technology  
in response to COVID-19”**

**SPEAKERS’ BIOGRAPHIES**

***Panel 1. Developing sustainable infrastructure***

**Mr. Dolf Gielen**

As Director of the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC) since 2011, Dolf Gielen oversees the Agency’s work on advising member countries in the area of technology status and roadmaps, energy planning, cost and markets and innovation policy frameworks. Before joining IRENA, Mr. Gielen was Chief of the Energy Efficiency and Policy Unit at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Vienna. In that capacity, he managed a number of large projects involving energy efficiency and renewable energy (including those in Sri Lanka, Ukraine and India). Previously, he was a Senior Energy Analyst in the Energy Technology Policy Division of the International Energy Agency, Paris. Mr. Gielen has a PhD in Energy and Materials Modelling from the Technical University of Delft. He graduated with an MA in Environmental Sciences at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands.

**Mr. Christian Deseglise**

Christian Deseglise is the Global Co-Sponsor of Sustainable Finance and Global Head of Central Banks for HSBC. Before this, he held various positions within HSBC, including Global Head of Emerging Markets and a member of the Executive Committee of HSBC Global Asset Management. In this role, Mr. Deseglise helped HSBC become one of the world’s largest managers of emerging markets assets. He also designed and spearheaded the launch of a series of innovative products, notably the first BRIC fund and the New Frontiers fund.

**Mr. John Genda Walala**

Mr. John Genda Walala is a certified accountant and public Manager. He currently is the Director Local Government Inspection at the Ministry of Local Government, Republic of Uganda. John holds an MBA Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh Business School and Bachelor of Commerce in Accounts, with Honours from Makerere University. He has over 29 years of experience in both Public service and the private sector and has made a tremendous contribution in transforming public service in Uganda through his service both at the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and the Ministry of Local Government.

***Panel 2. Role of science and technology in combating and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic***

**Ms. Julia Glidden**

Dr. Julia Glidden is Corporate Vice President Worldwide Public Sector for Microsoft. She is serving as an expert advisor to the United Nations, the World Economic Forum and the European Commission, where she sits on an expert working group for the new 2018/19 Horizon 2020

Programme. As an accomplished TedX speaker and Top 100 global GovTech influencers, Julia is regularly asked to speak around the world on emerging digital policy trends. A Senior Research Fellow at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Dr. Glidden has authored numerous articles on Digital Government, Open Data & Smart Cities.

**Ms. Xiaolan Fu**

Prof. Xiaolan Fu is the Founding Director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development (TMCD), Oxford University and professor of Technology and International Development, Fellow of Green Templeton College. Her research interests include innovation, technology and industrialization; trade, foreign direct investment and economic development; emerging Asian economies; innovation and productivity in the UK/US. Professor Fu has conducted consultancy research for UNDESA, UNCTAD, UNIDO, ILO, the Commonwealth Secretariat, UKTI and the Chinese government. She serves on the Advisory Expert Group of the OECD Global Investment Forum and the DFID/ESRC Economic Growth Directorate (DEGP), and is President of the Chinese Economic Association (Europe).

**Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi**

Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi of Kenya became UNCTAD's Secretary-General in 2013. He has an extensive background as an elected official, an academic, and a holder of high government office. He also has wide-ranging experience in trade negotiations, and in African and broader international economics and diplomacy. He was born in Bungoma District, western Kenya, in 1956. He studied political science and international relations at the University of Nairobi and at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, receiving a BA in 1982. He went on to earn an MPhil in 1986 and a doctorate in 1989 from the University of Bergen, Norway.