

CSD-16 Partnerships Fair Chairperson Biography

Ralph Wahnschafft, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNDESA

Mr. Ralph Wahnschafft works with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and its Division for Sustainable Development. He is a Senior Economic Affairs Officer in the Energy and Transport Branch. He is an economist by education, and his priority professional interests relate to international affairs, political economy, development concerns and sustainable development, in particular with regard to energy issues, energy policies, analysis of market trends, promotion of energy efficiency, renewable energy and all aspects of environmental concerns, including air pollution and climate change.

Mr. Ralph Wahnschafft holds a Ph. D. degree from the University of Goettingen, Germany. He has worked with the United Nations for more than 20 years in various duty stations, including in Africa (Lesotho, South Africa), the Middle East (Baghdad, Iraq), South-east Asia (Bangkok, Thailand), and now, UN New York Headquarters. He has initiated a considerable number of technical cooperation and technical assistance projects in developing countries, in particular in Asia. Mr. Wahnschafft is currently Secretary to the UN-Energy, the UN-internal coherence mechanism on energy. Mr. Wahnschafft has written and edited a considerable number of publications and technical papers, both within the UN system and outside.