

## **Panel 2. International financing to address multidimensional vulnerability in SIDS**

***The mounting challenges that SIDS are facing as a result of their structural vulnerabilities that exacerbate impact of disasters and shocks cannot be addressed within their means. A more equitable system for countries to access development cooperation based on their actual needs, not on the GDP per capita alone, is essential to SIDS progress on the 2030 Agenda.***

***The session aims to foster discussions around the prospects of changing criteria and approaches in development cooperation to restore fairness and needs-based development financing.***

***Specific financial instruments for SIDS may be required to ensure SDG progress is timely and sustainable.***

***At SIDS request, GA Resolution A/RES/75/215 called on the UN to develop a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index to define SIDS special case for development. The use of the MVI may include facilitating access to development cooperation.***

***This panel will analyze the suitability of the existing development cooperation system for SIDS' access to the resources they need to strengthen resilience and achieve the SDGs.***

### **Bios - Panel 2**

#### **Moderator**



**Elliott Harris is Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).**

Prior to his current position, Mr. Harris served as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He joined UNEP's Senior Management Team in 2013 as Director of the New York Office and Secretary to the Environment Management Group.

Prior to joining UNEP, Mr. Harris began his career in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1988, where he worked in the African Department and the Fiscal Affairs Department. In 2002 he became an Adviser in the Policy Development and Review Department and was appointed in 2008 as Special Representative to the United Nations, in addition to serving as Assistant Director of the Strategy and Policy Review Department.

#### **Panelists**



**Haje Schütte is Senior Counsellor and Head of Division of the Financing for Sustainable Development Division (OECD)**

Haje Schütte is a senior development banker with over 20 years in policy positions and investment operations at KfW Group and the OECD. Haje has a track record in institution building and change management, having worked in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. At the OECD Haje leads work on how to address the dual challenge at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, i.e. how to mobilize unprecedented volumes of resources and leave no-one behind. He oversees the provision of data, standards and policy guidance on financing for sustainable development to OECD Members, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and other key stakeholders.



**Dr. David Rosenblatt** is the Regional Economic Adviser for the Caribbean Country Department at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Prior to this position, David worked for 27 years at the World Bank, where he divided his career between assignments in the Latin America and Caribbean region and the World Bank Chief Economist's office. David holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.



**Dr. Katherine Baer, Deputy Director of Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF)** - Ms. Baer is Chief of the Revenue Administration Division II in the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department, which provides technical assistance in tax and customs administration to more than 80 IMF member countries in the Western Hemisphere and Sub-Saharan Africa. The division also oversees technical assistance provided out of seven IMF Regional Technical Assistance Centers. During her career at the IMF she has also helped design and implement tax and customs reforms in Asia, Europe, and the former Soviet Union, including in crisis countries. She has been a Financial Economist in the U.S. Treasury, where she worked on tax policy reforms and tax compliance measures for the U.S. Budget. She was head of research in the Mexican Tax Administration. Ms. Baer has a number of publications in the field of tax administration and holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University.



**Hon Dr. Ashni Singh, Senior Minister, Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Cooperative Republic of Guyana**

Prior to his first appointment as minister, Singh was the Director of Budget in the Ministry of Finance and Deputy Auditor General in the Office of the Auditor General, as well as a chairman in the Governing Board of the Guyana Revenue Authority and the University of Guyana.

Between tenures as minister, he worked for the International Monetary Fund. As acting Minister, Singh also represented Guyana on the Boards of Governors of the IMF, the World Bank Group, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Caribbean Development Bank.



**Dr. Garry Conille - UN Resident Coordinator in Jamaica.** Mr. Conille brings more than 20 years of experience to his new position, most of them at the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations. Prior to the appointment, Mr. Conille served as Resident Coordinator in Burundi, from 2017 to 2020, and before that, as Under-Secretary-General for Programmes and Operations with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), from 2015 to 2017. Mr. Conille was also Regional Director for the Africa Region at the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) from 2014 to 2015, having previously led the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Millennium Development Goals support unit, from 2008 to 2010. Following Haiti's 2010 earthquake, Mr. Conille served as Chief of Staff to the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, former United States President William J. Clinton, where he helped coordinate the country's reconstruction efforts. In 2011, Mr. Conille was appointed Prime Minister of Haiti, a position in which he served until 2012, when he became Senior Advisor to Liberia's President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, in her role as Co-Chair of the United Nations High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.