



South Centre Experts Short Biographies

Dr. Germán VELÁSQUEZ is the Special Adviser on Policy and Health of the South Centre. He is the former World Health Organization (WHO) Director of the department on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property. He is the President of the University Chair 'Right to health and access to medicines' at the Complutense University of Madrid. He is the author of numerous publications on health economics and intellectual property and access to medicines. Dr. Velásquez has a Master's in Economics and a PhD in Health Economics from the Sorbonne University, Paris, a PhD Honoris Causa on Public Health from the University of Caldas, Colombia and a PhD Honoris Causa from the School of Medicine of the Complutense University of Madrid.

Ms. Yuefen LI is the Senior Adviser on South-South Cooperation and Development Finance of the South Centre. She was Head of the Debt and Development Finance Branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) where she worked for 24 years. She used to teach in the University of International Business and Economics in China. She has published on various issues including development finance, the Chinese economy, international trade and development strategies. Ms. Li got her Master's degree in the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Beijing Foreign Studies University in China, and she was also a visiting scholar in the London School of Economics (LSE).

Dr. Manuel F. MONTES is the Senior Adviser on Finance and Development and Permanent Observer of the South Centre to the United Nations in New York. He was previously Chief of the Development Strategies and Policy branch at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). Before that he was a Program Officer in International Policy for the Ford Foundation. He had been on the economics faculty at the University of the Philippines. His publications have focused on development macroeconomics and finance. Dr. Montes holds a PhD in Economics from Stanford University.

Dr. Youba SOKONA is the Senior Adviser on Sustainable Development of the South Centre. He was elected Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2015 after previously serving as Co-Chair of the IPCC Working Group III for the Fifth Assessment Report, and Lead Author since 1990. He is affiliated with numerous boards and organizations, including as Honorary Professor at the University College London (UCL), Member of the Science Advisory Committee of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), and as a Special Advisor to the African Energy Leaders Group. He has over 35 years of experience addressing energy, environment and sustainable development in Africa. Dr. Sokona has an Engineering PhD in Earth Sciences from the Paris École Nationale Supérieure des Mines and from the Paris Université Pierre et Marie Curie.

Mr. Vicente Paolo YU is the Programme Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Programme, and was previously Deputy Executive Director of the South Centre. Prior to joining the South Centre in 2002, he worked for Friends of the Earth International and was the research and policy development director of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center in the Philippines. He taught law at the University of the Philippines, and has published articles, papers and

other research on, *inter alia*, energy policy, indigenous peoples rights, multilateral trade policy, climate change policy, South-South cooperation and international environmental policy. He obtained his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of the Philippines, and his master of laws degree (specializing in international trade law and international environmental law) from Georgetown University where he was a Fulbright Scholar.

Dr. Mariama WILLIAMS is Senior Programme Officer of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Programme of the South Centre. She is also a director of the Institute of Law and Economics (ILE), Jamaica. She was a member of the Expert Advisory Group for the UN Women Global SDG report *Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development* and also served as an assistant Professor of economics at the Fashion Institute of Technology, the State University of New York. She served on a number of board of directors and trustees and a member of a number of steering committees. She is a feminist economist with over 20 years of experience working and publications on economic development and macroeconomic issues, with a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment and social equity, international trade, external debt and finance and more recently on climate change issues. She obtained her B.A. in Economics and Political Science from New York University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research in New York.

Mr. Daniel URIBE is Programme Officer of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Programme of the South Centre. Previously, he served as a public servant in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador and as a judicial clerk in the Constitutional Court of Ecuador. He completed a 6 months internship at the International Commission of Jurists, where he also worked as Program Officer for the Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers. He is a lawyer from Ecuador where he obtained a Bachelor of Laws LL.B. from the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador, where he worked as a volunteer at the Free Legal Clinic of the School of Law. He also holds a Master in Law LL.M. in International Law from the Graduate Institute of Geneva.

Mr. Danish is a Researcher in the Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Programme of the South Centre. Previously, he worked as a legal associate in a boutique investment law firm based out of Barcelona, Spain. He is a lawyer from India where he obtained a B.A. LL.B. (Honours) degree from the National University of Advanced Legal Studies and a Diploma in International Trade and Business Law from the Indian Academy of International Law & Diplomacy. He also holds a LL.M. in International Law from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.

Ms. Aileen KWA is the Programme Coordinator of the Trade for Development Programme (TDP) of the South Centre. She was a trade analyst with Focus on the Global South and also worked for the Centre for Environment, Gender and Development. She is a trade negotiations expert and has been working on WTO issues since the First WTO Ministerial Conference in Singapore. Her work has covered, *inter alia*, agriculture, services, e-commerce and the digital economy, industrialisation policies, development and Special and Differential Treatment, Domestic Regulation in Services, process and transparency issues at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). She has written extensively on the WTO negotiations including as a co-author of *Behind the Scenes at the WTO: The Real World of International Trade Negotiations*. She obtained her B.A. and M.A. from the University Of Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr. Peter LUNENBORG is Senior Programme Officer of the Trade for Development Programme (TDP) of the South Centre. He provides policy analysis and advice on trade policies to developing countries and developing country groupings in Geneva as well as to capitals. He closely follows the various negotiations and discussions at the World Trade Organization (WTO), and has worked on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Before joining the South Centre, he was a manager at Maersk. He has published, inter alia, in the Ashgate Research Companion to International Trade Policy and the Global Trade and Customs Journal. He has an LL.M and MSc in Economics from the Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

Dr. Viviana MUÑOZ TELLEZ is the Programme Coordinator of the Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity (HIPB) Programme of the South Centre. Prior to joining the South Centre in 2006, she conducted research at the Queen Mary Research Institute, University of London on non-governmental public action on intellectual property governance. She has also worked in the private sector at Siemens S.A. and as consultant for various international agencies. Her research areas include economics of biomedical innovation, intellectual property, public health and development policy. She holds a Doctorate degree on management of technology from the École Polytechnique of Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, and a Master's degree in Development Management from the London School of Economics (LSE).

Mr. Nirmalya SYAM is Senior Programme Officer of the Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity (HIPB) Programme of the South Centre. Prior to joining the South Centre, he served as a researcher at the Centre for Trade and Development in New Delhi where he undertook research and advocacy on intellectual property rights, trade and public health issues in India. He was a visiting Fox International Fellow at the Betty and Whitney MacMillan Centre for International and Area Studies at Yale University in 2006-07 where he researched on participation of developing countries in decision making in international financial institutions from the perspective of the emerging body of global administrative law and the Third World approach to international law. He has also served as an Advocate at the High Court in Calcutta, India. He holds a bachelor's degree in law (LL.B) from the University of Calcutta and a master's degree (M.Phil) in international law from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Ms. Thamara ROMERO is Senior Programme Officer of the Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity (HIPB) Programme of the South Centre. Before joining the South Centre, she served as a Legal Officer at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). She has also served as a trade negotiator for Venezuela at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and represented Venezuela at the WTO Dispute Settlement Body and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Thamara worked as an international consultant for the World Health Organization and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). She has done research on intellectual property law, international law, European Union law, comparative trade and public law at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public and International Law in Heidelberg (Germany). She holds a Law degree from the University of Los Andes, Mérida (Venezuela), a Master Degree (LL.M) from the University of Heidelberg and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands). Thamara is a former Fundación Gran Mariscal de Ayacucho Fellow and DAAD Fellow.

Ms. Mirza ALAS PORTILLO is Programme Officer of the Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity (HIPB) Programme of the South Centre. She joined the South Centre in 2015 to provide research and policy advice to developing countries on antimicrobial resistance and access to medicines issues at the United Nations, World Health Organization (WHO), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to support building capacity on antimicrobial resistance at regional and national level, and enhance participation by the South Centre in relevant networks. Previous to her work at the South Centre, she worked as a health policy researcher with the Third World Network (TWN). She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Human Ecology from the College of the Atlantic (Maine, USA) with a focus on development studies and anthropology. She then obtained a Master of Public Health (MPH) joint degree conferred by the University of Copenhagen (Denmark) and the University of Sheffield (UK).

Mr. Vitor Henrique PINTO IDO is Programme Officer of the Health, Intellectual Property and

Biodiversity (HIPB) Programme of the South Centre. Prior to joining the South Centre, he has worked in both the private and public sectors as a researcher and lawyer. He holds a research master's degree in Human Rights (2017) at the University of São Paulo, where he was a Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellow. He also holds a bachelor in Law (2014) and a bachelor in Social Sciences (2018) from the same institution. He is currently a PhD Candidate in Law at the University of São Paulo, Brazil, where he is an affiliated researcher to the Law and Poverty Research Group, as well as to the Centre of Education and Innovation, FGV/SP. His research focuses on the intersection between intellectual property rights and development, with a focus on indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge, access to medicines and innovation and technology policies in the Global South.