



### 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. 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).

**Ms. Vahini NAIDU** is the Programme Coordinator of the Trade for Development Programme (TDP) of the South Centre. Prior to joining the South Centre, she was an international trade negotiator for the Department of Trade and Industry in South Africa covering regional and multilateral trade negotiations. Her trade negotiating areas include trade in services, e-commerce and the digital economy, development and Special and Differential Treatment, Domestic Regulation and Rules of Origin in Services. She was a diplomat at the South African Permanent Mission to the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland. She holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a Master of Commerce Degree from the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business.

**Mr. Luis Fernando ROSALES** is the Programme Coordinator of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Programme of the South Centre. He was a Senior Programme Officer of the Trade for Development Programme (TDP) of the South Centre. He has ample experience and knowledge on international trade negotiations since he was Bolivia's main negotiator at WTO and has also participated in other bilateral, regional and multilateral negotiations for more than 18 years. He has a Master's degree in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Peru and an M.A. in International Trade Negotiations from the University of Barcelona. He has also completed postgraduate studies in political economy at the University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru. He has been involved in WTO negotiations, on

several issues such as agriculture, NAMA, Services, Trade Facilitation and e-commerce, among others, for the last 10 years.

**Mr. Abdul Muheet CHOWDHARY** is Senior Programme Officer of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Programme of the South Centre. Previously, he served in India's Ministry of External Affairs where he was a consultant in the Policy Planning and Research Division specialising in economic strategy. He was formerly a consultant to the United Nations Department of Public Information and also worked as a legislative aide in the Parliament of India, specialising in tax and financial law. He has a Master's in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, a Diploma in International Trade Law from the Indian Academy of International Law & Diplomacy and a certification in International Taxation.

**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.

**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.

**Mr. Daniel URIBE** is Lead Programme Officer of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Programme of the South Centre. Mr. Uribe has been extensively engaged in the research of the implications of International Investment Agreements in sustainable development for developing countries, and on the issues of business and human rights; he has also conducted research on how South-South and Triangular Cooperation could support developing countries' efforts in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. He has supported and advised governments and civil society organizations in negotiations in international forums in line with the mandate of the South Centre and participated as panelist and trainer in several workshops and international meetings. Mr. Uribe is a lawyer from Ecuador where he obtained a Bachelor of Laws LL.B. from the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador and holds a Master's Degree (LL.M.) in International Law (*Cum Laude*) from the Graduate Institute of Geneva. During his thirteen years of professional career, Mr. Uribe has earned experience working for the Republic of Ecuador, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society institutions. This has allowed him to understand public policy concerns from diverse perspectives, as an advantage to forge strategic synergies to achieve common objectives towards sustainable development and international cooperation.

**Mr. Danish** is Programme Officer of 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.

**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.

**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).