

Final list of participants

Session 1: SDG Drivers Framework for North and Central Asia

Dinara Assaubayeva (moderator)

Dinara Assaubayeva is a research assistant at the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). She attained BSc in Agricultural Business Management and postgraduate diploma in Business, Economics and Management. Major areas of interest include economic analysis, research and data analysis. Dinara has experience working both for quasi-state companies as Analytical research center for agricultural policy LTD, National Management Holding “KazAgro” JSC, as well as for international organizations as FAO and private consultancy firm Whiteshield Partners LTD.

Rafkat Hasanov (presenter)

Rafkat Hasanov is a graduate of Williams College (2002), where he majored in Development Economics. He also graduated from Novosibirsk State University (1985), where he majored in Economic Cybernetics. Mr Hasanov worked in the republic’s government bodies for nine years, serving as a Deputy Minister of Finance and the Head of the Economic Policy Department at the Office of the President of Kyrgyzstan (the latter is equivalent to the position of the Advisor to the President), and later returning to applied economic research. His scholarly interests include fiscal sector reform, tax legislation, public finance (including gender budgeting), macroeconomic modeling and revenue forecasting, investment promotion and deregulation policies.

Elena Danilova-Cross

Elena Danilova-Cross is a programme specialist on poverty and inequality at UNDP. Her main areas of expertise include (i) design and implementation of regional research and programmes on regional trends in poverty, inequality, and vulnerability, (ii) measuring and monitoring multidimensional poverty, social inclusion, inequality, and sustainable human development, including in SDGs and national development strategies, and (iii) HDR quality assurance and forward-looking assessments of the human development reporting system. Ms. Danilova Cross has over eight years of professional experience in mainstreaming human development and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into policy practice, codifying human development through trainings and academic teaching as well as knowledge management support.

Hitomi Rankine

Hitomi Rankine has over 15 years of experience in policy advocacy, research and technical cooperation, focusing on the themes of sustainable development and green growth. She has worked with the UN in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and in Asia and the Pacific and has an academic background in environmental management and natural sciences.

Naylin Oo

Naylin Oo is an Economic Affairs Officer of the Countries with Special Needs Section of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). He provides substantive support to ESCAP’s work on assisting the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States through development research and capacity building activities. He also recently worked as an ESCAP’s Regional Advisor on ASEAN to provide advisory services and coordination for the ASEAN-UN Partnership. Before joining ESCAP, he worked at the United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ) in New York. He holds a Ph.D. in Development Administration from the National Institute of Development

Administration (NIDA) of Thailand and an MBA in Management and a BSc. in Computer Science from the City University of New York (CUNY), USA.

Oliver Paddison

Oliver Paddison is the Chief of the Countries with Special Needs Section at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). This section monitors progress in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs, the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs, and the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS and provides capacity-building support for policymakers to help these countries overcome their development challenges. Prior to joining ESCAP, Mr. Paddison worked for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York (DESA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Mr. Paddison holds a Ph.D. and MA in Economics from the University of Louvain, Belgium, and a BSc. from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

Savia Hasanova

Savia Hasanova is an executive director of “The Investment Round Table”, a research institute in Kyrgyzstan. During the past ten years, she has joined the national expert teams in drafting MDGs progress report in Kyrgyzstan, National voluntary presentation, National Human Development Report. She has also been working on SMEs development issues, including competitiveness of SMEs, enhancement of their integration into regional and global value chains, women’s entrepreneurship development, financial inclusion, and regulation in Central Asia. Savia is a graduate of the Humboldt University in Berlin (2013), from which she holds Master of Science degree in Economics.

Shukhrat Mirzoev

Shukhrat Mirzoev is a development economist with 16 years of professional consulting experience in Central Asia. He specializes in public sector and governance reforms, including public finance management, growth accounting, public-private dialogue and business environment. Shuhtrat has previously worked as an economist for the World Bank and DFID where he led a multi-million portfolio of programs in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. He is a Rumsfeld Fellow and a triple alumnus of British Council's Chevening and Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation programs. Shuhtrat is also an Independent Board member in OJSC 'Alif Bank' with operations in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and a contributor to FCO's Wilton Park dialogue on policy issues. He holds a PhD in Economics from Rutgers University, NJ (USA), an MSc with Distinction in International Strategy and Economics from the University of St Andrews (UK) and a Diploma in Economics from the Technological University of Tajikistan.

Yusuke Tateno

Yusuke Tateno is an Economic Affairs Officer of the Countries with Special Needs Section of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). He undertakes development policy research and manages technical cooperation projects to support the implementation of the global programmes of action for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. Before joining ESCAP, he worked at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Chile and the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC. He holds a PhD and MA in economic from Cornell University and a BA in economics from Beloit College, USA.

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Session 2: Sustainable Agriculture Transformation in North and Central Asia

Li Yutong (moderator)

Li Yutong is the Head of the Center for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). At the Center, Yutong advocates for the adoption of technologies that blend traditional knowledge and modern science which will have a positive impact on the region's capacity to answer to food demand, social dynamics and environmental concerns.

Patricia Wong Bi Yi (presenter)

Patricia Wong is an Associate Economic Affairs Officer at the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). At the subregional office, Patricia conducts and coordinates research related to economic transformation, digital transformation and sustainable development in the region. She has a background in international economics and has experiences in program management, monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement, investment promotion and international trade advisory.

Antonio Scognamillo

Antonio Scognamillo is an Econometric Analysis Specialist and work for the FAO Economic and Policy Analysis of Climate Change (EPIC Team). Antonio has a PhD in Development Economics and worked as a research fellow in the Department of Economics and Statistics at the University of Salerno. His research interests include climate-smart agriculture, natural capital, inequality and poverty, and nutrition.

Kamiljon Akramov

Kamiljon Akrimov is a Senior Research Fellow at the Development Strategy & Governance Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, DC. His research focuses on governance and development policy issues in Central Asia and other developing countries using applied econometric analysis.

Nodir Djanibekov

Nodir Djanibekov is a Research Associate in the Department of Agriculture Policy at the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO). Prior to joining IAMO, he was a researcher in the German-Uzbek development research project on the restructuring of land and water use in Uzbekistan. He obtained his PhD at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany.

Sergiy Zorya

Sergiy Zorya is the Lead Agricultural Economist in Europe & Central Asia Region for the World Bank. His research focuses agriculture development and poverty reduction and covers many developing countries and different regions. He is currently based in Tashkent where he is involved in the agri-food sector program in the region.

Oliver Paddison

Oliver Paddison is the Chief of the Countries with Special Needs Section at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). This section monitors progress in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs, the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs, and the SAMOA

Pathway for SIDS and provides capacity-building support for policymakers to help these countries overcome their development challenges. Mr. Paddison holds a Ph.D. and MA in Economics from the University of Louvain, Belgium.

Naylin Oo

Naylin Oo is an Economic Affairs Officer of the Countries with Special Needs Section of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). He provides substantive support to ESCAP's work on assisting the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States through development research and capacity building activities. He also recently worked as an ESCAP's Regional Advisor on ASEAN to provide advisory services and coordination for the ASEAN-UN Partnership. Naylin holds a Ph.D. in Development Administration from the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) of Thailand

Yusuke Tateno

Yusuke Tateno is an Economic Affairs Officer of the Countries with Special Needs Section of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). He undertakes development policy research and manages technical cooperation projects to support the implementation of the global programmes of action for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. Before joining ESCAP, he worked at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Chile and the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC. He holds a PhD and MA in economic from Cornell University.

Maria del Mar Polo

Maria del Mar Polo is an Agricultural Economist for the Investment Centre of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). She joined the FAO in 2008 and worked for the Investment Centre division on a broad variety of tasks, covering both operational and upstream work, including topics such as linking producers to markets, value chains, food security and safety, climate change, landscape and territorial development and research and extension. She has supported investments' design, implementation and completion of projects financed by the World Bank, IFAD and IDB in several countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Central Asia. Her main technical expertise includes economic and financial analysis, agribusiness development and market access, sectoral studies and policy work and monitoring and evaluation.

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Session 3: Realizing Digital Potential in North and Central Asia

Anna-Maria Chkoniya (moderator)

Anna-Maria Chkoniya is a Coordinator at the Technical Assistance Fund at Eurasian Development Bank. She also used to publish her blog on the Russian International Affairs Council's (RIAC) website. Her focus is on economic aspects of the BRICS group and its involvement in the economic development of other developing countries.

Dmitry Plekhanov (presenter)

Dmitry Plekhanov is a consultant at the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia (SONCA), ESCAP. Working in a close contact with global firms, Dmitry studies specific mechanisms for formulation, implementation, and evaluation of digital transformation strategies. Dmitry is a research associate and a doctoral student at the Chair of Production and Operations Management (POM) at ETH Zürich.

Aida Karazhanova

Aida Karazhanova is an economic affairs officer at the UN ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok. Aida is currently with the ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division promoting ICT and Development, in particular, through the development of the subregional broadband networks and corridors in Central Asia as part of the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS).

Aziza Umarova

Aziza Umarova is the CEO at SmartGov consulting firm dealing with public sector reform. For a decade, Aziza worked with United Nations Development Programme as the Advisor on Public Sector Innovation at the UNDP's Global Centre for Public Service Excellence in Singapore and she managed UNDP's governance portfolio in Uzbekistan. Aziza was a Chevening Fellow, completing her masters in internal relations at the University of St. Andrews.

Lena Kuhn

Lena Kuhn is a research associate at the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO). Her research and inputs target on SDG 9, foremost target 9B with a focus on digital transformation, SDG 10 with a focus on inclusive growth and rural development, and SDG 12. Lena holds a PhD degree from the Faculty of Law and Economics of Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg for an analysis of the anti-poverty effect of income transfer in rural China.

Michal Podolski

Michal Podolski is an associate economic affairs officer at the UN ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok. He is currently with the Innovation and Technology Section of the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division. Michal used to be with the Global Economic Monitoring Branch, United Nations Headquarters in New York and works on macroeconomic modelling and forecasting (GDP, inflation, other macro variables).

Natalia Mochu

Natalia Mochu is the director at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Office for CIS. Previously, she worked with ICANN as Global Stakeholder Engagement Manager and the Radio Research and Development Institute in Moscow, specializing in Internet-related public-policy issues and international cooperation.

Talant Sultanov

Talant Sultanov is a digital development specialist at the World Bank and the co-founder of the Internet Society-Kyrgyz Chapter. Previously, he served as an advisor to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, where he coordinated the work of the national digital transformation programme Taza Koom. He holds an MA in International Finance from Columbia University and a BA in International Relations from San Francisco State University.

Overall Participation from the Subregional Office for North and Central Asia United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Nikolay Pomoschnikov, Officer-in-Charge

Elvira Mynbayeva, Programme Officer

Natalja Wehmer, Economic Affairs Officer

Patricia Wong Bi Yi, Associate Economic Affairs Officer

Dinara Azhigaliyeva, Junior Professional Officer

Ainur Dyussyubekova, Administrative Assistant

Dinara Assaubayeva, Research Assistant

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