

## THE RTA EXCHANGE DIALOGUE SERIES

### Dispute Settlement Mechanisms in RTAs

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## Speakers Biographies



**Jeremy T. Harris** is an Economist and Integration and Trade Specialist with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). He has supported several trade negotiation processes, including the FTAA and the DR-CAFTA, as well as others within Latin America, with an emphasis on rules of origin and market access. He has participated in the design and development of several databases and information systems regarding market access, and has written on preferential trade agreements and their systemic effects on regional and global trade. Former: Consultant for UN-ECLAC, the CARICOM Secretariat, DFID, and GTZ. He has a PhD in Economics from the University of Maryland.



**Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz** is Co-founder and Chief Executive of ICTSD since 1996. He is also principal convener of the E15 Initiative ([www.E15initiative.org](http://www.E15initiative.org)), a joint undertaking of ICTSD and WEF, involving over 380 experts on the future of the global trade and investment system. He leads a campaign for robust, efficient global markets in clean energy technologies (the SETA Initiative) and he serves on the Advisory Group of the Global Commission on Business and Sustainable Development (<http://www.businesscommission.org>). Since 1997, he is Publisher for BRIDGES and its sister periodicals. Mr. Meléndez-Ortiz is Member of the Board, Meridian Institute (US). He is former member of the U.N. Secretary General Millennium Project Task Force on Trade, and the WTO's Director General Advisory Group. Co-Founder and Exec. Director, Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano; Principal Adviser to Colombian Minister of Econ. Dev.; Chief Trade Negotiator; Chief of Administration, Office, President of Colombia; Spokesperson, G77; Colombian negotiator GATT/WTO. Author and Editor.



**Robert McDougall** is a Senior Fellow at ICTSD and an independent international trade law consultant. His main research interests are in the trade law aspects of climate change, inclusive trade, trade facilitation, ecommerce, Brexit as well as formal and informal mechanisms for dispute resolution. Robert spent fifteen years as an international trade lawyer at Global Affairs Canada (formerly Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada), during which time he provided trade law advice and litigated disputes before the WTO. As permanent delegate to the WTO for five years, he was Canada's representative to the Dispute Settlement Body, to negotiations to improve the dispute settlement system, and in many disputes involving Canada. Previously, as Canada's permanent delegate to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, he represented Canada in OECD activities relating to trade, agriculture, science, technology, industry, including major initiatives on innovation, digital economy and green growth.



**Henry Gao** is Associate Professor of law at Singapore Management University and Dongfang Scholar Chair Professor at Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade. With law degrees from three continents, he started his career as the first Chinese lawyer at the WTO Secretariat. Before moving to Singapore in late 2007, he taught law at University of Hong Kong, where he was also the Deputy Director of the East Asian International Economic Law and Policy Program. He has taught at the IELPO program in Barcelona and the Academy of International Trade Law in Macau, and was the Academic Coordinator to the first Asia-Pacific Regional Trade Policy Course officially sponsored by the WTO. Widely published on issues relating to China and WTO, Prof. Gao's research has been featured in CNN, BBC, The Economist, Wall Street Journal and Financial Times. He has advised many national governments as well as the WTO, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, APEC and ASEAN on trade issues. He sits on the Advisory Board of the WTO Chairs Program, which was established by the WTO Secretariat in 2009 to promote research and teaching on WTO issues in leading universities around the world. He is also a member of editorial board of Journal of Financial Regulation, which was launched by Oxford University Press in 2014.



**Amos Saurombe** is a Professor of International Economic Law at the University of South Africa. He is a former Director of Post Graduate Studies, Research & Innovation at the same University. He teaches courses and conducts research on International trade law, intellectual property law, e-commerce, international law and indigenous knowledge systems. He is also an International Trade Law Consultant for the African region and their various RTAs. He is an Adjunct Professor of international economic law at the Trade Policy Training Centre (TRAPCA), Arusha Tanzania; the University of Pretoria and the University of the Western Cape for their Masters Programme (LLM in Trade and Investment in Africa). He is also part of the elite teaching faculty at the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute (TMALI) where he teaches a programme on the Politics of International Trade. He has taught at University of South Africa for ten years. Prior to that, he taught at North West University and University of Fort Hare. Mr. Saurombe has supervised a number of Doctoral and Masters Students to completion as well as publishing over 25 research papers in high impact factor journals.



**Joost Pauwelyn** is Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva and Co-Director of the Institute's Centre for Trade and Economic Integration. He is also the Murase Visiting Professor of Law at Georgetown Law Center in Washington DC and leads the [www.tradelab.org](http://www.tradelab.org) network of legal clinics on international economic law. Before joining the Graduate Institute, Joost was a tenured professor at Duke Law School. He served as legal officer at the WTO from 1996 to 2002 and practiced law at a major Brussels law firm. Joost advises governments and non-state actors in dispute settlement under the WTO and FTAs and investor-state arbitration. From 2007 to 2014 he was Senior Advisor with the law firm of King & Spalding LLP. Joost received degrees from the Universities of Namur and Leuven, Belgium as well as Oxford University and holds a doctorate from the University of Neuchâtel. He was appointed on the roster of WTO panelists and as arbitrator under Free Trade Agreements and the Energy Charter Treaty. He is a Member of the ICSID Panel of Conciliators. Joost is the author of one of the leading case books on International Trade Law (Aspen, 2016, 3rd ed., with A. Guzman & J. Hillman). In 2015, he was appointed as Co-Editor in Chief of the *Journal of International Economic Law*.



**Natasha Suñé** is a PhD student at University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. She has acted as a Legal Officer at the Permanent Review Tribunal of Mercosur. She received degrees from the Buenos Aires and La Plata National Universities, and her Master Degree Thesis focused on investor-state arbitration. Also she has studies at Bonn University (Germany), Alcala de Henares University (Spain), Universidad Andina (Ecuador) and ACWD-WTO. She has publications in regional integration and MERCOSUR dispute settlement systems in Brazil, Paraguay, Spain, Germany, Colombia and Argentina. She has taught subjects as regional integration law and public law.



**Arnel Marcos Sánchez** is a career Foreign Service Officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) of the Philippine government, and currently serves as Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the WTO. In his previous foreign posting, Mr. Sánchez was Head of the Economic Section at the Embassy of the Philippines in Tokyo, Japan from 2014 to 2017. In the home office, Mr. Sánchez was Special Assistant to the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations from 2003-2014, where he advised on legal and policy issues of international economic relations and served as the DFA's representative in FTA negotiations and APEC. He holds a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of the Philippines College of Law and a degree in Management from the Ateneo de Manila University.



**Amy Porges** advises companies, governments and trade associations on how to use WTO law, trade agreements and investment rules to solve complex market access problems. She represents governments and stakeholders in negotiations and litigation in the WTO and free trade agreements, and advises on WTO and trade agreement institutions and compliance. Her recent work focuses on trade issues for renewable energy and climate change, free trade agreement dispute settlement, trade in digital products and services, market access negotiations for services and for information technology products, technical barriers to trade, TPP and TTIP, and she has worked with a wide range of industrial and agricultural sectors. She draws on experience as USTR's Senior Counsel for Dispute Settlement, as a Senior Legal Officer in the GATT Secretariat during the Uruguay Round, and in major international law firms. She teaches international trade law at John Hopkins University and she has published widely in trade law. She is a member of the Roster of External Counsel of the Advisory Centre for WTO Law in Geneva.



**Leidylin Irene Contreras Ramírez** is Deputy Director of International Arbitration, WTO Dispute Settlement Procedures, Investment/Trade Policy at the Directorate of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Dominican Republic. Before joining the Directorate of Foreign Trade, Mrs. Contreras was the Secretary General of the Dispute Resolution Center of the Chamber of Commerce of Santo Domingo. She had previously worked as lawyer at the Office of the Legal Advisor to the President, and as the Coordinator for International Arbitration, Dispute Settlement and Trade Disciplines, at the Directorate of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Dominican Republic. Her responsibilities included the legal implementation of the Free Trade Agreements of the Dominican Republic, the Coordination of Investment, State to State Arbitration and WTO Dispute Settlement Procedures. Mrs. Contreras graduated Magna Cum Laude from Universidad Iberoamericana (Dominican Republic); Comparative Law (Sorbonne University, Paris, France) (2004), International Law and International Relations (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain) (2005). In 2007 she attended the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC's) International Court of Arbitration Internship Program (Latin American/Iberian Peninsula Team). Mrs. Contreras has been Speaker on the subject of International Arbitration at Complutense University of Madrid, University of Panama, Externado University (Colombia), University of la Habana, University of Miami, Mexican Academy on International, Private and Comparative Law; Mexican Bar, The Florida Bar, Ecuador's Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic, ICC's Young Arbitration Forum Global Conference (ICC YAF), ICC's Annual Conference on International Arbitration in the Americas, Columbia University, Fordham University, Latin America Arbitration Conference (CLA), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), US-Latin America Legal Summit, the Supreme Court of the Dominican Republic, ICC's Arbitration Forum, among others. Mrs. Contreras is the coauthor of a book on International Trade Law. Professor for the Courses "Institutional Aspects of Trade and Investment Law" (Central Bank of the Dominican Republic), Dispute Resolution on International Trade and Foreign Investment, (Gaceta Judicial, Dominican Republic), and Lecturer on Investment Arbitration in the Dominican Republic (Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra), among others.



**Luis Adolfo Fernández López** has been Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the WTO since 2013. In that capacity, he represents Costa Rica in WTO meetings in matters such as intellectual property, investment, rules, technical barriers to trade, dispute settlement, trade and environment, among others. He also informs the authorities of Costa Rica about developments in these areas and contributes to developing negotiation strategies in relation to different WTO matters. Prior to that, he worked as Trade Policy Advisor and Coordinator of the Legal Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica, where he led Costa Rica's dispute settlement team in dispute settlement procedures arisen from the application of bilateral investment treaties and free trade agreements. He also worked as trade policy advisor and participated as lead negotiator in trade remedies and competition policy issues in bilateral, regional and multilateral trade negotiations. He holds a B.A. in Law from Universidad de Costa Rica, B.A. in International Trade from Universidad Internacional de las Americas and a Master's Degree in International Trade Law from Universiteit van Amsterdam.



**Victoria Francolino** is a career diplomat who has been devoted to international trade and economic matters her entire professional life. After joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay in 1997, she served in Australia, Brazil and at present time she is the Deputy Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the WTO and Other International Economic Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland. Ms. Francolino has been proactive in all her posting overseas, especially in terms of facilitating and identifying new trade and investment opportunities. She has been involved in teams that planned, organized and participated in export promotion activities in different markets (Uruguay, Australia, Israel, Italy, Brazil). Between 2013 and 2015, as Director of the Integration Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Victoria represented Uruguay in regional and bilateral trade negotiations. Her current responsibilities include: fisheries subsidies negotiations, WTO Dispute Settlement Body, MSMEs. She holds a MBA by University of La Trobe (Australia) and the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia (APESMA); a Postgraduate Diploma in Regional Integration and Agricultural Policies in Mercosur Countries –jointly offered by Universidad de la República (Uruguay), Universidad de La Matanza (Argentina) and the University of Santa María (Brazil)–; a B.A. in International Studies by ORT University; and a Technical Degree in International Business and Integration by the Catholic University of Uruguay.



**Yaxuan Chen** is a Programme Manager at ICTSD and is in charge of the International Trade Law Programme. In this role, she designs and implements legal capacity building projects, including dialogues and similar events on trade and investment disputes. She also initiates research works on cross-cutting issues relating to international economic law and sustainable development. Ms. Chen’s experience in international trade law includes having worked as a dispute settlement lawyer in the WTO Legal Affairs Division and as a consultant in the WTO Trade in Services Division. She also served as a legal intern in the WTO Appellate Body Secretariat. Prior to moving to Geneva, Yaxuan worked on various business projects in India and Australia. Ms. Chen earned a Master in International Law and Economics (MILE) from the World Trade Institute (WTI) in Bern and a Master in International Law from Wuhan University in China. She also obtained a Certificate in Chinese and American Studies from the Johns Hopkins University–Nanjing University Centre for Chinese and American Studies and Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Economics from Wuhan University in China.



**Hugo Perezcano Díaz** is the Deputy Director of International Economic Law with the International Law Research Program (ILRP) of the the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), and was previously a CIGI senior fellow with the ILRP. Prior to joining CIGI, he was an attorney and international trade consultant in private practice. Mr. Perezcano Díaz worked for the Mexican government’s Ministry of Economy for nearly 20 years, serving as head of the trade remedy authority, and formerly as general counsel for international trade negotiations. He was lead counsel for Mexico in investor-state and state-state dispute settlement cases under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the WTO and other international trade and investment agreements. His expertise is in international law, economic law, international trade law and negotiations, and international investment law. He has taught in those fields throughout his career and is a graduate of Mexico’s Autonomous Institute of Technology.



**Fernando Piérola** is Senior Counsel at the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL) in Geneva, Switzerland. In this position, he represents developing country governments in WTO dispute settlement proceedings and provides legal advice and training on WTO law. Thus far, he has participated in more than 10 disputes involving matters relating to trade remedies, market access, and internal regulations. Prior to joining the ACWL, Mr. Piérola served as a Legal Adviser to the Antidumping and Subsidies Commission, which is Peru's investigating authority for anti-dumping, subsidies and safeguards. He has also worked for the University Bern, as a Research Fellow at the World Trade Institute.



**Claudia Orozco** is an experienced trade and investment lawyer, involved with WTO-related matters since the establishment of the Organization. After some years devoted to investment and energy law, since 1993 Ms. Orozco has focused on trade law, initially as policy maker and as trade diplomat. Between 1996 and 2000, as Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia to the WTO, Ms. Orozco developed the idea and led the efforts resulting in the creation of the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL). Since 2002, Ms. Orozco is in private practice based in Brussels. From 2008 to 2011 she was Legal Director at the law firm DLA Piper LLP. Since 2011, established as an independent, Ms. Orozco represents companies in anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations in various jurisdictions and is advisor to companies, industry associations and Governments on customs issues, market access and dispute settlement proceedings under WTO and free trade agreements. In parallel, Ms. Orozco is active as adjudicator, and has served in fourteen cases as WTO Panelist and arbitrator in disputes involving Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines and the United States concerning the Agreements on anti-dumping, anti-subsidies, safeguards, agriculture, Import Licensing, SPS and GATT.



**Simon Lester** is a trade policy analyst with Cato Institute's Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies. His research focuses on WTO disputes, regional trade agreements, disguised protectionism and the history of international trade law. Before joining the Cato Institute, he worked for the trade law practice of a Washington, D.C. law firm, and also as a legal affairs officer at the Appellate Body Secretariat of the World Trade Organization. In 2001 he founded the international trade law website WorldTradeLaw.net. He has written a number of law journal articles, which have appeared in such publications as the *Stanford Journal of International Law*, the *George Washington International Law Review* and the *Journal of World Trade*. In addition, he has taught courses on international trade law at American University's Washington College of Law and the University of Michigan Law School. He has a JD from Harvard Law School.



**Pedro Fabián Negueloatcheverry** is a diplomat and trade lawyer with 15 years of experience in trade law, policy and negotiations. Since 2013, he has been responsible for dispute settlement matters at the Mission of Argentina to the WTO. In 2012, he was the Acting Deputy Director of the WTO Dispute Settlement Unit of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Argentina. Working for such DS Unit, between 2005 and 2012, Mr. Negueloatcheverry represented his country in several WTO dispute settlement proceedings as a party and a third party. In addition, he participated of several trade remedy investigations before foreign investigating authorities. His first steps as a trade lawyer were taken in 2004 as an intern in the Legal Affairs Division (LAD) of the WTO. He holds a Master degree in European Community Law of the University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain, and a law degree of the National University of Mar del Plata, Argentina. Mr. Negueloatcheverry was included in the indicative roster of WTO panelists in 2017.



**Marco Tulio Molina Tejada** is a seasoned trade lawyer with hands-on experience in dispute settlement and comprehensive understanding of the multilateral trading system. With more than 22 years of experience in international trade law, he is currently the Deputy Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the WTO. In this capacity, he has been responsible for dispute settlement and has represented Guatemala in more than 35 disputes both as a party and as a third party, in the WTO. He has also represented Guatemala in bilateral and regional disputes, including the first ever labour dispute, under the CAFTA-DR. He has also served as panelist in several WTO disputes. Before joining the Guatemalan Mission, in 2004 as Legal Counsellor, he advised several private sector associations of the Guatemalan Chamber of Industry and the Commission of Exporters of Textiles and Clothing on trade negotiations and legal issues. From 1996 to 2000, he served as trade negotiator on dispute settlement and legal advisor at the Trade Negotiations General Directorate of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. He also designed and delivered the courses on trade negotiations and trade law at Universidad Rafael Landívar and Universidad del Istmo, in Guatemala City. He holds a law degree from Universidad Rafael Landívar and a Master in International Studies, Specializing in International Law, from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.



**Leticia Ramírez Aguilar** is legal counsellor at the Permanent Mexican Mission to the WTO. She is responsible for dispute settlement and trade negotiations at the WTO. She has more than 9 years of experience in trade and disputes litigation. Previously to her post at the Permanent Mission of Mexico, she was Deputy Director General in the Legal Counsel's Office for International Trade in the Ministry of Economy in Mexico, where she was involved in the defense of investor - state and state - state WTO disputes and in the negotiation of institutional, environment and dispute settlement provisions in recent FTAs, RTAs and BITs signed by Mexico. Prior to joining the Federal Government she worked as a private sector lawyer, providing legal counsel in customs law and administrative law procedures for the implementation of free trade agreements.



**Daniela Ferreira de Matos** is Foreign Trade Analyst at the Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services of Brazil. She is responsible for the negotiations of the Cooperation and Facilitation Investment Agreement (CFIA) as well as negotiations in trade in services and e-commerce. She holds a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Brasilia (UnB). She is currently participating in the Brazilian WTO Mission's Traineeship Program.



**Stephan Schill** is Professor of International and Economic Law and Governance, University of Amsterdam; Principal Investigator, European Research Council-funded project on ‘Transnational Public-Private Arbitration as Global Regulatory Governance’; Member, ICSID List of Conciliators; Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of World Investment and Trade*. He is admitted to the bar in Germany and New York. He has published numerous articles and several books on international investment law, including *The Multilateralization of International Investment Law* (Cambridge University Press 2009) and, as editor, *International Investment Law and Comparative Public Law* (Oxford University Press 2010).



**Geraldo Vidigal** is Assistant Professor at the University of Amsterdam, where he lectures International Trade Law and Public International Law. Prior to joining UvA, he worked as a Dispute Settlement Lawyer at the World Trade Organization (Legal Affairs Division) and as a Senior Research Fellow at the Department of International Law and Dispute Resolution of the Max Planck Institute in Luxembourg. He is the Managing Editor of *Legal Issues of Economic Integration* (Kluwer). Dr. Vidigal publishes regularly on International Economic Law and International Dispute Settlement. He is currently finalizing a book entitled *After Adjudication: Judicial Remedies for Non-Compliance in International Law*, to come out with Cambridge University Press this year. Following the completion of his book, he will be focusing his research on the transformation of international economic law in response to pressures for it to balance the protection offered to the interests of transnational economic agents with the protection of other interests, as well as of immaterial values. Dr. Vidigal holds a PhD in Law from the University of Cambridge, a Master’s in International Law from the Sorbonne Law School and a Bachelor’s in Law from the University of São Paulo. He has held a Jean Monnet Fellowship at the European University Institute (2014-2015) and a Marie Curie Fellowship at Bocconi University, Milan (2013-2014), and has been a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration at the Graduate Institute, Geneva (2017).



**Xiaohong Zhou** is Associate Professor of Jilin University School of Law of China, as well as research fellow of the 2011 Plan of China-Collaborative Innovation Center of Judicial Civilization. Her research, teaching and publications focus on EU law, regional trade agreements and law and globalization. Ms. Zhou has also worked as Deputy Representative of the EU Office of the China Chamber of International Commerce from 2016 to 2017. She has also ample experience in international legal exchange and cooperation programmes, such as the China Economic Law Reform Project (sponsored by the World Bank), the Sino-American Legal Exchange Programme, the EU-China Higher Education Programme, the Sino-American Judicial Mediation Programme and the Northeast Asia Legal Talents Exchange Programme.



**Brendan McGivern** practices international trade law, particularly the law of the WTO. Mr. McGivern advises companies, industry associations and sovereign governments on the full range of WTO rules. He represents WTO Member states in dispute settlement proceedings before panels and the Appellate Body. He counsels sovereign governments on the negotiation of bilateral and regional free trade agreements. He has extensive experience in international energy trade law issues. Mr. McGivern is ranked in Chambers Global 2017 (“Clients... praise his extensive knowledge of trade law. Based in Geneva, he has a strong reputation for representing clients, including sovereign states, in WTO disputes”) and is listed as a “Most Highly Regarded” Individual in Who’s Who Legal – Switzerland: Trade and Customs 2017 (“a ‘very seasoned hand’ who is ‘doing a great job’ for clients”). Mr. McGivern served as a member of the WTO arbitration panel in the US – 1916 Anti-Dumping Act case, which adjudicated a request by the European Communities for retaliatory trade sanctions against the United States. He is a regular public commentator on WTO matters, as well as on Brexit. Prior to joining White & Case, Mr. McGivern was the senior legal adviser and the head of the Dispute Settlement section at the Canadian Mission to the WTO in Geneva.



**Celso de Tarso Pereira** is Minister-Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the WTO. He has more than twenty years of experience as a diplomat in the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil. From 2010 to 2013, he was Head of the Dispute Settlement Unit of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry. He was responsible for WTO Litigation at the Brazilian Mission to the WTO between 2001 to 2005 and 2013 and 2018. Prior to that, he worked at the Mercosur Division of Ministry between 1996 and 2001, where he participated in the first four disputes at the Mercosur Dispute Settlement Mechanism. He has also been Professor of International Law at the Rio Branco Diplomatic Academy and at different universities in

Curitiba and Brasilia. Mr. de Tarso Pereira holds a B.A. in Law from Universidade Federal do Paraná and an L.L.M. in International Law from the University of Kiel.



**Guohua Yang** is currently Professor of Law at Tsinghua University School of Law, China. From 2008 to 2014, he was Deputy Director General of the Department of Treaty and Law of the Ministry of Commerce of China. Prior to that, he acted as Attaché for Intellectual Property Rights for the Chinese Embassy in the US. Mr. Yang holds an L.L.M from Wuhan University and a PhD from Beijing University. In 1999, he received the Distinguished Legal Scholar Award from the Beijing Law Society. He has acted as arbitrator within the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), he is Vice Chairman of the WTO Law Research Society of China Law Society and he is an associate editor of the Journal of World Trade.



**Kyonglim Choi** is Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva. Ambassador Kyonglim Choi has been serving as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations, including the World Trade Organization, in Geneva since October 2015. He has also been serving as Korea's G20 Sherpa since December 2017. In Geneva, Ambassador Kyonglim Choi was elected President of the United Nations Human Rights Council for year 2016. He is currently President of the Government Group in the International Labour Organization and Chairperson of the Trade in Goods Council in the World Trade Organization. Throughout his career as a diplomat, Ambassador Kyonglim Choi worked mostly on trade and economic issues. Prior to his appointment to Geneva, he was the Deputy Minister for Trade at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. From 2012 to 2013, he served as the Deputy Minister for Free Trade Agreement at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. From 2002 to 2009, he held various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including those of Director for WTO, Senior Adviser to the Minister for Trade, Senior Coordinator for Free Trade Agreement Negotiations and the Director General for Free Trade Agreement Policy. He was the lead negotiator for several of Korea's successful bilateral Free Trade Agreements, including the Korea-India FTA, Korea-Canada FTA and Korea-New Zealand FTA. He also participated in Korea's other bilateral FTA negotiations such as Korea-USA FTA, Korea-China FTA and Korea-ASEAN FTA. Ambassador Kyonglim Choi joined Republic of Korea diplomatic services in 1982. He has had five other overseas diplomatic postings: in the United States of America (1988-1991), in Jamaica (1995-1997) and twice in Geneva (1997-2001 and 2002-2005). From 2009 to

2012, he served as an Ambassador in Brazil. He graduated from the Seoul National University and had a Master's degree in International Relations at the University of Connecticut in the United States of America. He is married and has two sons.



**María J. Pereyra** is a Senior Counsellor with the Legal Affairs Division (LAD) of the World Trade Organization (WTO). In this position, she leads teams of lawyers and other professional staff assisting panels/arbitrators in WTO dispute settlement proceedings. Among her other functions, Ms. Pereyra assists WTO Members, and, eventually, the WTO Director-General, in the process of composing dispute settlement panels and arbitrators. Before joining the WTO in 2001, she practiced international economic law for several years in Brussels with two renowned international law firms, Coudert Brothers and Hammonds. Prior to that, she was a Junior Scholar in Residence at the College of Europe, Natolin. She is a member of the IELPO Faculty and, workload permitting, regularly lectures in a number of universities around the globe.

**Koji Saito** is Counsellor (WTO Dispute Settlement) of the Permanent Mission of Japan to International Organizations in Geneva. Since 1995, Koji Saito has held various international trade law related positions at the Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Director of International Trade and Investment Dispute Settlement Division (November 2012 – October 2016). His experience has included representing Japan in the Dispute Settlement Body (January 2007 - October 2012 and November 2016 - present), serving as Japan's negotiator for the DSU review negotiations in the Dispute Settlement Body Special Session (January 2007 - present) and pleading for Japan in a number of WTO dispute settlement proceedings in which Japan has participated.