



13th IMF Statistical Forum:
Measuring Cross-Border Economic and Financial Linkages in a Dynamic World
(NOVEMBER 19-20, 2025)

SPEAKERS' AND MODERATORS' BIOS BOOKLET

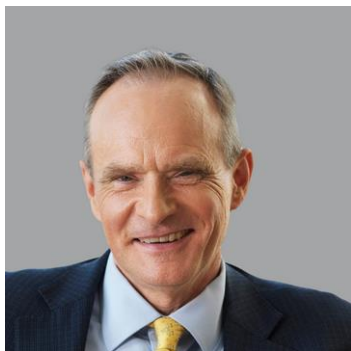
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SESSION I. OPENING ADDRESS



Simon Johnson is the *Ronald A. Kurtz (1954) Professor of Entrepreneurship* at the MIT Sloan School of Management, where he is head of the Global Economics and Management group. At MIT, he is also co-director of the Stone Center Initiative and a Research Affiliate at Blueprint Labs. In 2024, Johnson received the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel, joint with Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, “for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity.” In 2007-08, Johnson was Chief Economist and Director of the Research Department at the International Monetary Fund. He currently co-chairs the CFA Institute Systemic Risk Council with Erkki Liikanen. He is a Research Associate at the NBER and a Fellow at CEPR.



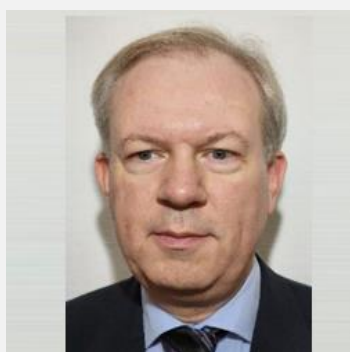
Nigel Clarke assumed the role of Deputy Managing Director at the IMF on October 31, 2024. Before joining the IMF, Mr. Clarke served as Jamaica’s Minister of Finance and the Public Service, and a Member of Parliament, since March 2018. Prior to this, he served as Ambassador of Economic Affairs from 2016. During this period, he stewarded his country’s economy to a stronger and more sustainable position. In 2022, Mr. Clarke was elected Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Inter-American Investment Corporation. Prior to his public service career, he was Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer of the Musson Group, a regional conglomerate, having started his career as an Equity Derivatives Trader at Goldman Sachs in London.

Mr. Clarke holds a PhD in Numerical Analysis from Oxford University where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and a Master of Science Degree in Applied Statistics, also from Oxford, while he was a Commonwealth Scholar. He also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of the West Indies where he was a Jamaica Independence Scholar.

SESSION II. WHO IS MAKING WHAT WITH WHOM? THE ROLE OF GLOBAL PRODUCERS AND HOW TO MEASURE THEM



Cheng Hoon Lim is a seasoned professional in the field of macroeconomic and financial sector policies, currently serving as Deputy Director in the Statistics Department of the IMF. With a wealth of experience across global markets, she has held several senior positions at the IMF since joining the institution in 1994, including heading key surveillance teams for Brazil, Canada, Indonesia, and the Philippines. As Division Chief of the North American Division, she helped shape policy dialogue in some of the world's most influential economies. Her leadership also extended to steering the IMF's Financial Sector Assessment Programs (FSAP) for major G-20 countries. Her international experience is further enriched by her secondment to the former UK Financial Services Authority. Ms. Lim has supported research on critical issues such as monetary policy, housing markets, macroprudential regulation, climate finance, financial inclusion, and gender equity. Her forward-thinking approach led to the development of innovative tools for assessing systemic risk, as well as pioneering frameworks to strengthen the IMF's macro-financial surveillance in both advanced and emerging economies. An accomplished author, Ms. Lim has contributed to several book publications and journals, including: *"Contingent Claims Analysis in Corporate Finance; Unlocking Climate Finance in Asia-Pacific: Transitioning to a Sustainable Future; Macroprudential Policy: What Instruments and How to Use Them; and The Future of Asia's Finance"*. Ms. Lim graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Smith College and earned both her MPhil with distinction and PhD from Cambridge University.



Oscar Lemmers is a Senior Researcher at Statistics Netherlands, specializing in the measurement of globalization and global value chains. His work involves developing new methods and data to analyse the causes and consequences of globalization by integrating trade and business statistics with national accounts. His findings have appeared in reports and academic journals. He was co-editor of the Handbook on Extended Supply and Use Tables and Extended Input-Output Tables (OECD/European Commission, 2025) and a chair of the corresponding expert group. He is currently the deputy chair of the OECD expert group on accounting frameworks for measuring economic globalization, and has also contributed to statistical handbooks by Eurostat and the United Nations. He received the Robert Summers Economic Measurement Fellowship (2023). Oscar holds a PhD in mathematics from the University of Amsterdam and is a Guest Researcher at Hasselt University.



Christina Palmou is an Economist at the OECD Science Technology and Innovation Directorate at the Productivity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship division and a PhD candidate at the Economic Statistics Centre for Excellence at King's College London.

She was previously a Lead Economist carrying out research on productivity and firm dynamics at the UK Office for National Statistics Economic Microdata Transformation team, and a Senior Economist at the Renewing the Centre team at the Tony Blair Institute and Oxford Economics.



Sourish Dutta is an Assistant Professor at the Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies–Technical Campus, affiliated with Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University in Delhi, India. Sourish has also worked as a Research Consultant to the Director and RBI Chair at the prestigious Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram.

His primary area of interest is the complex domain of global value chains, with a particular focus on India's manufacturing sector. His extensive portfolio of working papers and publications reflects a strong commitment to enhancing the quality and resolution of economic statistics.

Sourish holds an integrated MPhil-PhD in Economics from the Centre for Development Studies, affiliated with Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.



Kieran Lind is as an economist at the UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) responsible for improving the measurement of globalization. As a founding member of the ONS globalization team, he has authored several articles on the topic. Over the past seven years at ONS, he has accumulated a range of experience in national accounts working on the development of supply and use tables and many other methodological improvements.

He is a member of the ONS's methods advisory committee and has collaborated with Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence researchers on the role of digital inputs in firm productivity. Prior to joining ONS he worked on analysis of minimum wages with the UK's Low Pay Commission.

SESSION III. WHO IS BUYING WHAT FROM WHOM? THE ROLE OF GLOBAL CONSUMERS AND HOW TO MEASURE THEM



Nigel Chalk is currently serving as the Director of the Western Hemisphere Department of the IMF. During his time as Director, he has overseen a range of surveillance and lending operations for key countries including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, and Suriname. During this period, he was the U.S. Mission Chief, leading twelve consecutive Article IV consultations under four different administrations. Prior to joining IMF, Nigel was a Managing Director and Head of Non-Japan Asia Research at Barclays Bank in Singapore, providing advice to clients and the bank's own operations on macro, rates and FX strategy. Nigel holds a B.A. from the University of Liverpool, an M.Sc. in Economics from the London School of Economics, and both a Ph.D. and M.A. in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Annabelle Mourougane is heading the Trade and Productivity Statistics Division in the OECD Statistics and Data Directorate and co-chairs the OECD Innovation LAB. She holds an Engineer Degree in Economics, Statistics, and Econometrics (ENSAE) and a Master in Macroeconomics (EHESS and École Polytechnique). She joined the OECD in 2001 and has held a number of senior positions in the Economics Department and in the Trade and Agriculture Directorate. Prior to joining the OECD, Ms Mourougane worked at the French National Statistical Agency (INSEE), the European Central Bank, and at the French Fiscal Council/Court of Audit (in 2013-15). She has published in international academic journals, in the areas of forecasting and modelling, trade, labour market, and fiscal policy.



Brian Mbazuvara is a Technical Expert in the External Sector Statistics Section at the Bank of Namibia with over a decade of experience in macroeconomic statistics, specializing in balance of payments, international investment position, external debt, and exchange rates. Since joining the Bank in 2012 as part of its inaugural Graduate Accelerated Program, Mr. Mbazuvara has advanced through the ranks, consistently demonstrating technical excellence and leadership, including spearheading Namibia's transition to BPM6 standards and coordinating key international statistical surveys and ensuring Namibia's subscription to the IMF SDDS. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Economics from the Barcelona School of Economics (Universitat Pompeu Fabra) and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Namibia. Brian's contributions continue to shape Namibia's statistical systems, reinforcing data quality and global comparability in external sector statistics.



Atika Nashirah Hasyati is a Senior Statistician at the Directorate of Finance, Information Technology, and Tourism Statistics, BPS–Statistics Indonesia. She has been working at BPS since December 2014. She holds a Master of Science in Statistics with First Class Honours from the University of Auckland and graduated with distinction in economic statistics from the Institute of Statistics (Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Statistik).

Atika is a member of the Task Team on International Trade Statistics under the United Nations Statistics Division. She is passionate about research and has presented her work at global forums such as the Asia–Pacific Economic Statistics Week (UNESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank Institute. Her research interests include official statistics, the digital economy, and sustainable development.

She has received numerous awards, including recognition from the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) Young Statistician Prize and top honors in national data competitions. Her work continues to bridge statistical innovation with practical implementation, advancing Indonesia's role in global data ecosystems.



Robert Zymek is a Senior Economist in the Development Macroeconomics Division of the IMF Research Department, and an affiliate of the CESifo Research Network. He completed his undergraduate education at the University of Cambridge and obtained his PhD from Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Prior to joining the IMF, he was an Assistant Professor with tenure ("Lecturer") at the University of Edinburgh, and an Economic Adviser at HM Treasury. He also worked as a consultant for the Bank of England, the Scottish Government, and the UK Government's Industrial Strategy Council. Robert's research interests are International Economics and Macroeconomics. His research has been published in the Review of Economic Studies, Journal of International Economics, European Economic Review, and IMF Economic Review, among others.

SESSION IV. PANEL DISCUSSION: NAVIGATING CROSS-BORDER POLICY CHALLENGES IN A DYNAMIC WORLD – EMERGING DATA GAPS



Martin Galstyan is the Governor of the Central Bank of Armenia. Before joining the Board, he held numerous executive positions at the Bank, namely Director of research and training center in Dilijan, Head of Statistics Department, and the Head of reserves management.

He also teaches numerous courses at the American University of Armenia. The flagship course is the "Microeconomics of Competitiveness" which is taught in affiliation with Harvard Business School. He is the first recipient of Excellence in Teaching Award at the American University of Armenia.

Martin Galstyan holds postgraduate degree from John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



Gian Maria Milesi-Ferretti is a Senior Fellow in the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy. He was previously Deputy Director in the Research Department of the International Monetary Fund (2014-21). In this role, he directed the department's work on multilateral surveillance, including the World Economic Outlook, G-20 reports, spillover analysis, and economic modeling. Between 2012 and 2014 he was Deputy Director in the Western Hemisphere Department and IMF mission chief to the United States. He received his undergraduate degree in economics from Università di Roma La Sapienza in 1985 and his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1991. He joined the London School of Economics thereafter and moved to the IMF in 1993.

He has published extensively in refereed journals in the areas of international capital flows, international financial integration, current account sustainability, capital controls, taxation and growth, and political economy. Since 1996 he is a Research Fellow of the London-based Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR).



Petia Topalova is chief of the Development Macroeconomic division in the research department at the IMF. Prior to that, she worked in various capacities in the Asia and Pacific, European, and Research departments at the IMF. She was an adjunct lecturer at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, visiting scholar at the Center for International Development, and associate editor of the *IMF Economic Review*. Her research interests include international trade and development.



Robert Koopman is currently Hurst Senior Professorial Lecturer at American University's School of International Service where his research focuses on the impact of trade and trade policy on economic development and growth.

Robert previously served as the Chief Economist of the World Trade Organization and an Adjunct Professor of International Economics at the Graduate Institute in Geneva from 2014 to 2022. At the WTO Robert served as Chief Economic Counsellor to the Director General, and provided the WTO Secretariat and Member Countries with analysis and information that promoted a deeper understanding of trade and trade policy's role in economic growth and development. Robert also served as the WTO representative to the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group and the G20 Framework Group. He is a research associate of CEPR, London, serves on numerous advisory boards, and is an editor of the Springer Series on Advances in Applied General Equilibrium Modeling.

Robert also previously served as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Economist at the United States International Trade Commission. He also previously served as Deputy Administrator for Economic and Community Systems at what is now the National Institute for Food and Agriculture, USDA, and various research leadership and analyst positions at the Economic Research Service of USDA from 1985 to 1999.



Yan Liu is General Counsel and Director of the Legal Department of the IMF. She advises the IMF's Executive Board, management, staff, and country membership on all legal aspects of the Fund's operations, including its lending, surveillance, capacity development, regulatory and advisory functions.

Over her career at the IMF, Ms. Liu has led the Legal Department's work on a range of policy, country, and strategic issues. This includes reforming IMF policies on lending; helping strengthen central banking and financial sector legal frameworks in response to technological changes; leading work on corporate and household insolvency, and public debt management; and contributing to the development of international standards for financial regulation.

Ms Liu is also a well-recognized expert in sovereign debt, setting the Fund's policies in this field and supporting the Common Framework and the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable. She has provided advice on the Fund's role in facilitating orderly restructurings in several member countries.

Ms. Liu is widely published on various aspects of the law, and policy perspectives on areas such as private debt, sovereign debt restructuring, and good governance.

Ms. Liu received her Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois, and a master's degree from the University of Chicago. Prior to joining the Fund, she practiced corporate and securities law in the United States.



Andrei Kirilenko is a Professor of Finance at the Cambridge Judge Business School and the Founding Director of the Cambridge Centre for Finance, Technology and Regulation. Prior to joining Cambridge, he was a Professor at Imperial and MIT. Before MIT, Kirilenko served as Chief Economist of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) where he used modern analytical tools and methods to design and enforce an effective regulatory regime of financial markets post-global financial crisis. For this work Kirilenko was awarded the CFTC Chairman's Award for Excellence (highest honor). Prior to the CFTC, Kirilenko served for 12 years at the IMF which he joined as part of the Economist Program. Professor Kirilenko's scholarly work has appeared in top peer-reviewed journals and received multiple best paper awards. Kirilenko received his PhD in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania with a specialization in Finance from the Wharton School.



Ulf Lewrick has been with the Bank for International Settlements since February 2012. In 2024, he assumed his current role as Principal Economist in the Innovation & Digital Economy section following his tenure as an Economist and Senior Economist in the Financial Systems and Regulation section, as well as the Secretariat to the Committee on the Global Financial System. Before joining the BIS, Ulf served as Deputy Head of Section and Economist at the Swiss State Secretariat for International Finance, where he contributed to advancing several of the Swiss government's financial market reform initiatives. Ulf holds a PhD in economics from the University of Basel, where he continues to contribute as a

research fellow in the Faculty of Economics. His research focuses on the structure and regulation of banks, investment funds, crypto assets, and financial markets.



Paweł Pisany is an Economist at the Financial Institutions Division of the IMF's Statistics Department. He works on statistical methodology, data, and capacity development for monetary and financial statistics (MFS) and financial soundness indicators (FSIs), including cutting-edge topics such as digital finance and fintech. Previously, he served as Economic Advisor at the National Bank of Poland and as Assistant Professor at the Polish Academy of Sciences. He is an economist and a lawyer and holds a PhD in Finance from Warsaw School of Economics



Bidisha Das is an Economist in the IMF's Statistics Department, specializing in financial sector statistics. Her current work focuses on incorporating digital assets like central bank digital currencies, stablecoins, and tokenized instruments into macroeconomic frameworks. In her previous role, she has worked on frontier issues facing emerging markets, from trade and antitrust to debt and financial inclusion. She holds a graduate degree from Stanford University.



Maksym Markevych works in the Financial Integrity Group of the IMF's Legal Department on AML/CFT and other financial integrity and governance topics, primarily for the IMF-supported programs and surveillance, Financial Sector Assessment Programs, as well as capacity development. He focuses on the financial sector issues and ML/TF risk management, particularly from the cross-border financial flows. Maksym is IMF's lead on the Safe Payments Corridors block of the G20 Roadmap for cross-border payments. Before joining the Legal Department Maksym worked as economist in the European Department of the IMF, covering the real sector and structural reforms. Maksym holds graduate degrees in law and economic policy.

SESSION VI. RECENT RESPONSES TO DEAL WITH STATISTICAL CHALLENGES OF MEASURING CROSS-BORDER ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL LINKAGES



Jim Tebrake is currently the Deputy Director of the Statistics Department of the IMF, where he has worked since August 2019. His main responsibilities include overseeing the G20 Data Gaps Initiative, climate change statistics program, oversight for statistical methodologies, and data and statistical operations. Jim's current research includes developing improved frameworks and methods to account for financial innovation, the informal economy, globalization, digitalization, well-being and sustainability.

Prior to joining the IMF Jim held several positions at Statistics Canada, including Assistant Chief Statistician, Economic Statistics and Director General of the Macroeconomic Accounts Branch. He worked for Statistics Canada for 28 years.

Jim holds an Honours BA in economics from McMaster University, an MA in economics from Carleton University, and a Graduate certificate in Public Sector leadership from Ottawa University.



Melle Bijlsma is the Head of Department for balance of payments, banking statistics, and statistical publications at The Netherlands Bank (DNB). Melle has a background in financial stability, macroeconomic statistics, and international economic relations. He has contributed to numerous policy initiatives such as the G20 Data Gaps Initiative, the IMF task force on Special Purpose Entities, and the Dutch redesign of the compilation process for consistent macroeconomic statistics. Melle is a member of the executive body of the Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics and the ESCB working group on External Statistics. His research has been published in outlets such as the Journal of Financial Stability, publications of the Bank for International Settlements, and several analytical DNB papers.



Can Yang received a master's degree in finance from the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, China, and after graduation in 2008 she joined Price Waterhouse Coopers Beijing branch and worked as an auditor. She is currently working in State Administration of Foreign Exchange in China as the Division Chief for Balance of Payments Division 1. With more than 12 years of experience working as a balance of payments compiler, she is a veteran expert in China's BOP statistics. She has a deep understanding of balance of payments principles, especially in goods and services trade statistics. In recent years she has successfully led a systematic transformation of the data source of China's trade statistics demonstrating strong theoretical knowledge and practical skills. She was the main contributor to China's smooth migration from BPM5 to BPM6 and she is also responsible for drafting China's plan for the implementation of BPM7.



Sixto Muriel is the Division Director of the Large Cases Unit at the National Statistics Institute of Spain (INE), where he leads the strategic engagement between the statistical office and major multinational enterprises. His work focuses on profiling global corporate structures, improving the statistical recording of global production arrangements, and enhancing data quality in national accounts, balance of payments, and globalization indicators. He is an active member of international statistical communities, serving on OECD, Eurostat, and UN expert groups, and contributing to the IMF-led Marketing Assets Task Team in the System of National Accounts revision. With more than 20 years of experience in official statistics, Sixto has held senior leadership roles in the INE, including Deputy Director of National Accounts and Deputy Director of Population Statistics. In addition, Sixto is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Statistics at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. Sixto holds degrees in Mathematics and Economics, and a Master's in Public Management and Leadership, specializing in digital society.



Carlos Sanchez-Munoz is Assistant Director of the IMF Statistics Department and Chief of the Balance of Payments Division. He joined the IMF in 2016 and has since been leading the work on external sector statistics. Prior to this, he was a Deputy Division Chief at the European Central Bank leading the collection of micro datasets on securities, derivatives, nonfinancial corporations, and households. He contributed to drafting several international statistical manuals in the areas of external sector statistics, national accounts, and household income, consumption, and wealth. His published methodological research covers areas such as balance of payments; global financial flows; financial instruments; and markets and household wealth.



Amila Wijayawardhana has been recently appointed as the Regional External Sector Statistics (ESS) Advisor at the IMF's Capacity Development Office in Thailand. In this role, he provides technical assistance on ESS to ten beneficiary countries across Asia and the Pacific. Prior to this appointment, he served as Senior Economist and Head of the Balance of Payments Division in the Economic Research Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL). Since joining the CBSL in 2010, he has gained extensive experience in external sector statistics, including over 12 years as Sri Lanka's lead compiler of ESS and more than six years as Division Head. He has also served as a short-term expert for the IMF in Asia and the Pacific. His publications feature several papers on macroeconomic forecasting, the implementation of Sri Lanka's International Transactions Reporting System (ITRS), and the dissemination of high frequency current account statistics. Amila holds an MSc in Business Analytics from Robert Gordon University, Scotland, an MSc in Chemical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, and a BSc (Hons) in Chemical Engineering, also from the University of Moratuwa.



Kristy Howell is Deputy Division Chief of the Balance of Payments Division in the Statistics Department of the IMF, where she contributes to the department's mission to serve as global standard setter for macroeconomic statistics and to carry out the IMF's mandate in the areas of methodology, capacity development, data, and surveillance. Kristy is chair of the IMF's task team focused on understanding global asymmetries in external sector statistics. She also manages the Balance of Payments Division's data products and guides work on balance of payments methodology. Most recently, she helped lead the Department's multi-year project to update the international statistical standards, culminating in the release of the Integrated Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, 7th edition in March 2025. She also guided the creation of an implementation strategy for the new standards and is now leading the effort to support countries in adopting the new standards through a series of high-level regional workshops. Prior to joining the Fund in 2020, Kristy worked for 16 years at the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, ultimately serving as chief of the Balance of Payments Division and a member of the Senior Executive Service. Kristy holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Bethany College (WV) and a master's in economics from American University.



Martin Schmitz is a Senior Team Lead Economist-Statistician in the External Statistics and Sector Accounts Division at the European Central Bank's Statistics Department. He joined the ECB in 2010 after earning a PhD in Economics from Trinity College Dublin. Martin also studied at the University of Maastricht and HEC Montréal. At the ECB, Martin has contributed to various areas, including the Directorate General Economics and the Directorate General International. His research focuses on international macroeconomics and international finance. He has published articles in academic journals such as *Economic Policy* and the *European Economic Review*.



Mohan Kumar Pudasaini is a World Customs Organization (WCO) accredited Technical and Operational Advisor in Risk Management and Data Analytics. He currently serves as a Data/Risk Analyst at Nepal Customs and has experience across the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies, the National Statistics Office, and academia. At Nepal Customs, he is responsible for data analysis, risk assessment, conducting research, and developing data-driven strategies to enhance Customs efficiency. He holds a Master's degree in Mathematics and completed a specialized data analytics course, including artificial intelligence and machine learning, under the WCO BACUDA scholarship program. He is proficient in SQL, R, Python, and Tableau. Mr. Pudasaini has been invited as a speaker at multiple national and international forums, including ADB, WCO, and UNESCAP, and has facilitated over 40 workshops for diverse and multinational organizations. He is committed to leveraging emerging technologies to enhance trade facilitation, implement risk-based compliance management, and contribute to broader economic development.



Robert Leisch is a Statistical Officer at Eurostat, specializing in Integrated Global Accounts and Balance of Payments since February 2020. He holds a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of Vienna. Prior to joining Eurostat, Mr. Leisch spent 15 years at Statistics Austria's Macroeconomics Directorate and served as a Research Assistant at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, working within the Institutes for Social Policy and Political Economy.

At Eurostat, Mr. Leisch contributed to the update of the manuals representing the organization in Balance of Payments and Current Account Task Teams involved in updating the BPM6 methodology. He is a member of the IMF Task Team on Global Asymmetries and chairs Workstream 1 focused on Goods and Services. Additionally, he contributes to Eurostat's initiatives aimed at addressing and reducing asymmetries among EU Member States and actively participates in Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP) missions.

SESSION VIII. CLOSING DATA GAPS: HOW IMPLEMENTING THE UPDATED BPM AND SNA CAN IMPROVE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CROSS-BORDER ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL LINKAGES



Bert Kroese is Chief Statistician, Data Officer, and Director of the Statistics Department at the IMF.

Before joining the Fund, he worked for 25 years at Statistics Netherlands. He served in various expert, management, and (senior) director roles in the fields of methodology and economic statistics. From 2013 until 2022, he acted as Deputy Director-General and CIO with special focus on and responsibility for IT and Innovation. In 2014 and 2020 (at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic), he was acting Director-General for a short stint. Nationally and internationally, he has been especially active in the fields of innovation and environmental-economic statistics. He has chaired the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) for seven years. He has also been co-chair of the Executive Board of the High-Level Group for Modernization of Official Statistics (UNECE). In the context of the European Statistical System, he has been co-chair and deputy chair of a number of innovation-related task forces. In the Netherlands he was member of the strategy team of the Dutch National Artificial Intelligence Coalition and treasurer of ICTU, a large IT service supplier in Dutch government. Mr. Kroese holds a PhD (honors) in mathematical statistics from the University of Groningen.



Mariana Kotzeva was appointed Director General of Eurostat by the European Commission on March 1, 2018. She is the first woman at the helm of Eurostat. Ms. Kotzeva joined Eurostat as an Adviser Hors Classe to the Director General in 2012. Two years later, in 2014, she was appointed Deputy Director-General. Prior to joining the European Commission, Ms. Kotzeva was the Head of Bulgaria's National Statistical Institute. She also held a number of high-level consulting posts in the Bulgarian and foreign administration, and led international projects for the United Nations and the World Bank.

Ms. Kotzeva has a master's degree in economics and a PhD in statistics and econometrics. She also has an Executive Education training at Harvard Kennedy School. Ms. Kotzeva is an Associate Professor of Statistics at the University of National and World Economy in Sofia, Bulgaria.



André Loranger was appointed Chief Statistician of Canada in December 2024 after being in the position on an interim basis since April 2024. Mr. Loranger is an experienced senior public official, having worked at Statistics Canada for 27 years, leading large and complex statistical programs covering all aspects of the Canadian economy. He has previously served in various senior leadership positions in the Agency including Assistant Chief Statistician for Economic Statistics and Assistant Chief Statistician for Strategic Data Management, Methods and Analysis. In that capacity, Mr. Loranger was also Statistics Canada's Chief Data Officer responsible for the overall stewardship of the organization's information data holdings. Mr. Loranger represents Statistics Canada on various international expert groups pertaining to statistics. He is currently the chair of the United Nations Conference of European Statisticians under the umbrella of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the co-chair of the United Nations Network of Economic Statisticians, and the former chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting.

Mr. Loranger holds an M.A. (Economics) degree and a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Economics) from the University of Ottawa



James Benford is Director-General for Surveys, Economic and Social Statistics (SEES) at the UK Office for National Statistics (ONS). James leads the SESS group, responsible for ensuring ONS continues to produce the UK's most important statistics about the economy and society, increasing the quality of surveys and driving the transformation of economic statistics. Under the SESS umbrella sit national accounts, labor market statistics, trade, public sector finances, prices, crime, subnational data, and climate change statistics, amongst other key products.

James joined ONS from the Bank of England, where he was Executive Director for Data and Analytics Transformation and Chief Data Officer, driving enterprise-wide transformation to improve the way data and analytics supported policymaking and operations.

Prior to this, James was Private Secretary to Governors Mark Carney and Andrew Bailey and then spent three years on secondment in the Civil Service, including as Director for Analysis at the Joint Biosecurity Centre and Director of the Economics Group at HM Treasury, where he also served as Departmental

Head of Profession for Analysis and established the Treasury's data science hub.



Li Ming Ong is the Director of Data Management and Statistics Department at Bank Negara Malaysia. She oversees the compilation of data and statistics encompassing external sector, financial, payment and credit domains. She also leads the implementation of data governance framework, analytics initiatives and dissemination of data and statistics to internal and external stakeholders.

Li Ming was appointed to her current role in September 2020 and has a broad range of experience spanning reserve management and risk management. Li Ming is the co-chair of the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) Expert Network on Data.

Li Ming graduated from University of Cambridge, with an MA degree in Economics. She obtained her Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charter in 2012.

IX. KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Catherine L. Mann was reappointed as an *External Member of the Monetary Policy Committee, Bank of England* for a second term running from 1 September 2024 - 31 August 2027.

Dr. Mann is a Professor of the Practice at Brandeis University. She contributes to the research program of The Productivity Institute and is a Science Advisor to the European Investment Bank. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Economic Association, among others. Previously she was Chair of the Economic Advisory Committee of the American Bankers Association, a member of the Executive Board of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, on the Board of the National Association for Business Economics, and of the advisory committees of the Federal Reserve Banks of Chicago, Boston, and New York.

Prior to her appointment, she was the Global Chief Economist at Citibank (2018 to 2021) and the Chief Economist, Head of Economics Department, and G20 Finance Deputy at the OECD (2014 to 2017). Previous to these, she was Rosenberg Professor of Global Finance at Brandeis University, Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, and Assistant Director in the International Finance Division at the Federal Reserve Board.

Dr. Mann's research has focused on international economic relationships and outcomes, including trade, finance, climate, productivity, and inequality. She has authored or co-authored seven books, 60-plus articles, and numerous shorter pieces and testimony. Dr. Mann's university degree is from Harvard, and her PhD is from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Adam S. Posen is President of the Peterson Institute for International Economics. He has contributed to research and public policy on G20 macroeconomic policies, inflation targeting and central bank independence, European economic integration since the euro, Japan's recovery from its Great Recession, and recently a series of influential articles on the future of globalization amidst China-US conflict.

From 2009 to 2012, Posen served as an external voting member of the Bank of England's rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). He served seven terms on the Panel of Economic Advisors to the U.S. Congressional Budget Office. He is the recipient of the CBE medal for his service to British economic policy and of the Order of the Rising Sun with Gold Rays for his contributions to Japanese economic policy. He received his BA and PhD from Harvard University.