



## **BRUSSELS POLICY BRIEFING N. 60**

### **The future of food and agricultural transformation**

Organisers: CTA, ACP Secretariat, European Commission/DG Devco, Concord

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 9h00-13h00**

ACP Secretariat, Avenue Georges Henri 451, 1200 Brussels, Room C

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

### **BIODATA OF THE SPEAKERS**

#### **Isolina Boto – Manager CTA Brussels Office and Coordinator of the Briefings**

Isolina Boto is the Manager of the CTA Brussels Office. Isolina has more than 20 years of experience in development. She worked for the European Commission, various ACP embassies and NGOs in areas related to food security, rural development and trade. Within CTA, she worked in various positions at headquarters, in the Netherlands, especially on co-funded technical programmes on Agriculture and Rural Development implemented at regional level. Since 2004 she heads the CTA Brussels Office, dealing with policy issues related to the ACP-EU cooperation in the field of agricultural and rural development. In that context, she coordinates and organizes the regular Brussels Development Briefings on topical development policy issues (<http://brusselsbriefings.net>). The office produces a daily news service on key policy areas of ACP-EU cooperation on trade, fisheries, climate change, food security and development policy (<http://brussels.cta.int>). She also implements field projects on policy and value chains in ACP countries.

#### **Patrick Caron – Co-President Foresight4Food, Vice-President University of Montpellier, Cirad**

Veterinary doctor, PhD in development geography, Patrick Caron is a specialist of territorial dynamics, with focus on tropical regions.

At CIRAD since 1988, he has been Director-General from 2010 to 2016. He is currently International Director at Montpellier University of Excellence (<http://muse.edu.umontpellier.fr/>), Vice President for International Affairs of the University of Montpellier and chair of Agropolis International.

He is a member of many scientific bodies and of the French National Council for Development and International Solidarity. He has chaired several international scientific conferences.

He has served as Chair of the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) from 2015 to 2019.

#### **Sean de Cleene – Head of Food Systems Initiative and Member of the Executive Committee, World Economic Forum**

Sean has a strong experience in the areas related to the private sector, NGO, entrepreneurship and development. He held senior positions in the private sector, primarily as the Senior Vice-President, Global Initiatives, Strategy and Business Development at Yara International, the world's leading global crop nutrition company. He was the Vice-President in charge of the Business Development and Strategic Partnerships at AGRA.

He occupied various positions at the World Economic Forum: former Chair, New Vision for Agriculture Project Board and Co-Chair Emeritus, Grow Africa,

Currently, he is the Head of Food Security and Agriculture System Initiative and Member of the Executive Committee.

Sena is the former Special Adviser to the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Food Security and Nutrition.

### **Fabrice DeClerck – EAT Science Director & Scientist of the Alliance of Bioversity & CIAT**

Fabrice DeClerck PhD is the Science Director of EAT and a Senior Scientist at the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT. He leads innovative and synthetic food systems research using systems-based approaches to set clear science targets for healthy and sustainable foods systems. Using global targets, he works closely with a multiple networks to drive uncommon collaborations between disciplines (agriculture, environment, health) and domains (science, business, policy, civil society) for food systems transformations. He enjoys strong collaborations and silo busting with a very diverse set of actors and individuals throughout the globe committed to healthier, more biodiverse, regenerative, and equitable food and farming systems.

Fabrice is the author of more than 100 peer reviewed journal articles spanning environment, agriculture and health including in Science and Nature. He is an Earth Commissioner and contributing author to the EAT Lancet Commission on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food reports, and both the Africa and Global IPBES Assessments.

### **Patrick Gomes –Secretary General, ACP Secretariat**

Dr. Patrick Ignatius Gomes of Guyana was elected the new Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) at the 100th Session of the Group's Council of Ministers, held at ACP Headquarters in Brussels on December 10, 2014. Prior to taking up his position as the Secretary General of the ACP Group, Dr. Gomes served as Guyana's Ambassador to Belgium and the European Community and as Guyana's representative to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Dr. Gomes also served as Chair of the Working Group on Future Perspectives of the ACP Group. He was the Dean of ACP Ambassadors in Brussels, and Chair of the Sub-Committee on Sugar and previously served as Chair of the Committee of Ambassadors, a decision-making body of the ACP Group. Dr Gomes has also worked for the United Nations as a senior adviser in Human Resources Development at the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. He has authored numerous publications in the areas of development and social policy analysis and served as Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Maastricht-based think tank, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM). Dr. Gomes serves as Secretary General for the ACP for the period 2015 - 2020.

### **Viwanou Gnassounou – Assistant Secretary General, ACP Secretariat**

Viwanou Gnassounou, from Togo, is an economist, financial expert and project manager with 17 years of experience in agricultural and natural resource policy formulation, aid programming, sectoral commodity export strategies, and trade. Before joining the ACP Management Team, he was co-manager of a Consulting firm, which provides support in the areas of development policies. He also set up and managed an agricultural products industrial processing company based in Togo. Mr. Gnassounou holds a Master's degree in Economic Analysis and Policy, a Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA) in Development Economics (MPhil equivalent), and a Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées (DESS) in Economic Development and Development Project Management (MSc equivalent) from the Centre for Research and Studies in International Development at the Université d'Auvergne, France. He is fluent in English, French and Mina (Togo), with basic knowledge of German. Mr. Gnassounou took office on 1 April 2015.

### **Michael Hailu – Director, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)**

Michael Hailu, an Ethiopian national, is the Director of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) based in the Netherlands. CTA is a joint institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Union working under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement. Mr. Hailu has over 25 years of professional experience in agricultural research and development in Africa and Asia. Prior to joining CTA in mid-2010, he held senior leadership positions at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) based in Nairobi, Kenya and at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Indonesia. Mr. Hailu has led the development and implementation of CTA's 2011-2015 strategic plan

refocusing the Centre's work on three priority themes—supporting agricultural policies and strategies; enhancing inclusive value chains; and strengthening capacities of ARD institutions and networks in knowledge management and ICTs. He has degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and Addis Ababa University. He has also been trained in strategic leadership at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

**Len Ishmael – Advisor, Global Affairs Brussels Diplomatic Academy; Vrije Universiteit Brussel ; Visiting Professor at the Mohammed V1 University, Morocco**

Dr. Len Ishmael is the Advisor Global Affairs of the Brussels Diplomatic Academy of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and visiting professor at the Mohammed V1 University, Morocco. She is a German Marshall Fund Fellow (GMF) & Distinguished Visiting Scholar, a Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South and associate member of the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM). She is the former Ambassador of the Eastern Caribbean States to the Kingdom of Belgium and European Union, and past President of the seventy-nine-member African, Caribbean & Pacific (ACP) Committee of Ambassadors in Brussels. She is a former Director for the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean; Director General of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Alternate Governor for the World Bank and Director for the Foundation - Leadership for Environment & Development of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York City. Dr. Ishmael was conferred a Doctoral Degree in Development Planning/Development Economics from the University of Pennsylvania (PENN) and a Master's degree in International Relations & Diplomacy from the Fletcher School, Tufts University. She is the author of several publications on global politics, development cooperation & international relations. Her most recent work entitled: *Global Governance in a Post American World Order: The End of Hubris* was published by the Policy Center for the New South in the book *Atlantic Currents: The South in the Time of Turmoil*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. December 2019.

**Leonard Mizzi – Head of Unit Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition, Europeaid, European Commission**

Leonard Mizzi is a Maltese national, having started working in the Maltese public administration (Office of the Prime Minister in the late 80s) then moving to the Maltese private sector between 1996-2006 where he was the first Director of the Malta Business Bureau in Brussels- the joint office of the Hotels and Restaurants Association and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Malta. Since 2007 he joined the European Commission (DG Agriculture and Rural Development), first dealing with ACP countries and development and then inter-institutional affairs. In 2017, he joined DG DEVCO. Dr. Mizzi is a graduate of the University of Malta, CIHEAM-IAMM (Montpellier) and has a Ph.D from Reading University, UK – with a specialisation in food demand economics. He has been a visiting lecturer at the University of Malta, Open University and Boston University and occasionally College of Europe (Bruges). He is the author of a number of articles, specialising in Euro-Mediterranean issues, Malta-EU relations, agribusiness in island states and agribusiness and SME development.

**Elizabeth Nsimadala – President, Panafrican Farmers Organisation**

Elizabeth Nsimadala is the President of the Pan Africa farmers Organization (PAFO) and President of Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF). Previously, she served four years as the Regional Women Representative at the EAFF and Treasurer Board Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA) a member of EAFF. She also sits at the Governing Council of Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM) and Chairs the Governing Council of the Uganda Cooperative College in Tororo among others. Elizabeth is a successful agriprenuer and has been at the Centre of championing farmer-led Agriculture technology and innovation at the EAFF through the E-Granary initiative that virtually aggregates farmers for markets. She is a passionate co-operator and she spearheaded the push to have the regional law on cooperatives – The East Africa Cooperative Societies Bill 2015 through the East Africa Legislative Assembly. As a result of her efforts, she was recently awarded and Globally recognized by the World Farmers Organization (WFO) as one of the exemplary women leaders in Farmers Organizations' contributing to sustainable development.

**Marissa Ryan – Global Deputy Director of Advocacy, Head of Oxfam's EU**

Marissa Ryan is Oxfam's Global Deputy Director of Advocacy, managing Oxfam's multilateral advocacy offices in Brussels, New York, Washington DC, the OECD and Moscow. Marissa provides strategic leadership in relation to Oxfam's policy priorities; reducing economic inequality, food and climate justice, women's rights and principled humanitarian response. Marissa is based in Brussels, and prior to Oxfam she has worked with Concern Worldwide, the Irish Foreign Ministry, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Uganda and the Kenya Human Rights Commission. Marissa has a Master's Degree in Human Rights from University College Dublin.