



Mrs. Krisztina Bende is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Organizations in Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) since September 2023. Before her current posting, Krisztina Bende was the Director of the Trade Relations Division at the European Free Trade Association in Geneva, overseeing trade negotiations with non-EU countries.

In 2005, Krisztina Bende joined the Federal Office for Agriculture to work on international trade issues related to agriculture. She was a Member of the Swiss delegation to the World Trade Organisation and chaired the Joint Committee on Agriculture between Switzerland and the European Union.

She started her career at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, where she worked on environmental issues in the Policy Directorate. She then worked as a lawyer at the European Court of Human Rights.

Ambassador Bende holds a Law degree from the University of Berne, CH and an MBA from IE Madrid and Brown School of professional studies in the USA.



Mrs. Elsa Dhuli holds a Doctorate in Statistics from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tirana. With over 30 years of expertise in economic statistics, she has held several pivotal roles, including Director of the General Directorate of Statistical Production, Coordinator of Statistical Quality, and Director of Economic Statistics and currently as the Director General of National Institute of Statistics Albania.

Mrs. Dhuli has led initiatives to enhance the quality of statistical data and implement European and international standards for statistical development in Albania.

She also serves as the Chair of the National Nomenclature Commission, a negotiator for Chapter 18, "Statistics," and contributes to other major activities in official statistics and beyond.

Internationally, she plays a crucial role as a member and co-chair of the United Nations High-Level Group on Cooperation, Partnership, and Capacity Building in Statistics (HLG-PCCB). She is also a member of the Programme Committee for the UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) since 2021, and serves on the Executive Committee (ExCo) of the UNECE for CES 2023-2025, as well as the Executive Committee (ExCo) of the IAOS for ISI. Additionally, Mrs. Dhuli coordinates the e-GDDS platform (NSDP-IMF) and contributes to the Strategy for Southeast Europe (SEE 2030).

Her commitment to ethical leadership is demonstrated through her involvement in the Ethical Leadership Task Team within the UNECE High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics (HLG-MOS). Mrs. Dhuli also shares her extensive knowledge and experience as a lecturer at the University of Tirana, Faculty of Economics, where she specializes in the Master of Science in Official Statistics and Data Science.



Mr. Gero Carletto is the Senior Manager in the Development Data Group at the World Bank and the Head of the World Bank Group's Institute for Economic Development in Rome, a new initiative in the office of the WBG Chief Economist to make development knowledge more accessible and actionable.

For over fifteen years, Gero has managed the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS), the flagship household survey program at the World Bank. In 2015, Gero founded and directed the Center for Development Data, a WBG Rome-based hub that fosters methodological innovation and strengthens countries' capacity in the collection, analysis, and dissemination of socio-economic data.

Gero is currently the Chair of the Committee on Agricultural Statistics of the International Statistical Institute and the Co-chair of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys of the United Nations Statistical Commission. He has published extensively in top economic and development journals on various topics, including poverty, food security, agriculture, and rural development, as well as data collection methods and measurement issues.

Gero holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California at Berkeley.



Mr. Rafael Diez de Medina is the Chief Statistician and Director of the Department of Statistics International Labour Organization since 2009, building on his previous ILO positions of Senior Economist in the Policy Integration Department and Senior Adviser for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Director-General Office from 2003 to 2009.

Before joining the ILO, he worked 18 years for the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), where he was Regional Advisor on Labour Markets and Special Adviser to the Executive Secretary as well as Director of the ECLAC Office in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Prior to joining the UN in 1986, he worked as Technical Adviser and Director of the Household Surveys Division in the National Statistical Institute (INE) in Uruguay and as consultant to the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, ILO, GTZ, UNFPA, UNDP, FAO, UNIDO, UNWTO, OAS, IOM and WHO, in statistical issues relating household and establishment surveys, poverty and labour statistics. He also provided advice to the National Statistical Offices of most of the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Mr Diez de Medina holds a Master in Economics and Econometrics from University of the Republic of Uruguay (UDELAR) and a PhD in Statistics and Econometrics from CIENES in Chile.



Mr. Samuel Kobina Annim is, since September 2025, the new Director of the Africa Centre for Statistics (ACS) within the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

Before joining UNECA, Mr Annim served as the Head (Government Statistician) of the Ghana Statistical Service from 2019 to 2025. He also acted as the Head, Department of Economics and Deputy Director, Directorate of Research, Innovation and Consultancy at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, where he has been an academic faculty member and associate professor since 2002.

At the international level, Annim has acted as Co-Chair of the United Nations High Level Group on Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building (UN-HLG PCCB) and Chair of the Executive Board and Board of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21).

Annim received a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. He also holds a Master of Philosophy in Economics from the University of Ghana and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana.