



### South Centre Experts Short Biographies

**Dr. Germán VELÁSQUEZ** is the Special Adviser on Policy and Health of the South Centre. He is the former World Health Organization (WHO) Director of the department on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property. He is the President of the University Chair 'Right to health and access to medicines' at the Complutense University of Madrid. He is the author of numerous publications on health economics and intellectual property and access to medicines. Dr. Velásquez has a Master's in Economics and a PhD in Health Economics from the Sorbonne University, Paris, a PhD Honoris Causa on Public Health from the University of Caldas, Colombia and a PhD Honoris Causa from the School of Medicine of the Complutense University of Madrid.

**Ms. Yuefen LI** is the Senior Adviser on South-South Cooperation and Development Finance of the South Centre. She was Head of the Debt and Development Finance Branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) where she worked for 24 years. She used to teach in the University of International Business and Economics in China. She has published on various issues including development finance, the Chinese economy, international trade and development strategies. Ms. Li got her Master's degree in the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird) and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Beijing Foreign Studies University in China, and she was also a visiting scholar in the London School of Economics (LSE).

**Dr. Viviana MUÑOZ TELLEZ** is the Programme Coordinator of the Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity (HIPB) Programme of the South Centre. Prior to joining the South Centre in 2006, she conducted research at the Queen Mary Research Institute, University of London on non-governmental public action on intellectual property governance. She has also worked in the private sector at Siemens S.A. and as consultant for various international agencies. Her research areas include economics of biomedical innovation, intellectual property, public health and development policy. She holds a Doctorate degree on management of technology from the École Polytechnique of Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, and a Master's degree in Development Management from the London School of Economics (LSE).

**Ms. Vahini NAIDU** is the Programme Coordinator of the Trade for Development Programme (TDP) of the South Centre. Prior to joining the South Centre, she was an international trade negotiator for the Department of Trade and Industry in South Africa covering regional and multilateral trade negotiations. Her trade negotiating areas include trade in services, e-commerce and the digital economy, development and Special and Differential Treatment, Domestic Regulation and Rules of Origin in Services. She was a diplomat at the South African Permanent Mission to the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland. She holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a Master of Commerce Degree from the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business.

**Mr. Abdul Muheet CHOWDHARY** is Senior Programme Officer of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Programme of the South Centre. He leads the South Centre Tax Initiative (SCTI) which is a part of the SDCC Programme. He is a Member of the United Nations Tax Committee's Subcommittee on Wealth and Solidarity Taxes, a member of the BEPS Monitoring Group and is on the Steering Group of the Independent Commission for Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT). Previously, he served in India's Ministry of External Affairs where he was in the Policy Planning and Research Division specialising in economic strategy. He was formerly a consultant to the United Nations and also worked as a legislative aide in the Parliament of India, specialising in tax and financial law. He has

a Master's in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, a Diploma in International Trade Law from the Indian Academy of International Law & Diplomacy and a certification in International Taxation.

**Mr. Nirmalya SYAM** is Senior Programme Officer of the Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity (HIPB) Programme of the South Centre. Prior to joining the South Centre, he served as a researcher at the Centre for Trade and Development in New Delhi where he undertook research and advocacy on intellectual property rights, trade and public health issues in India. He was a visiting Fox International Fellow at the Betty and Whitney MacMillan Centre for International and Area Studies at Yale University in 2006-07 where he researched on participation of developing countries in decision making in international financial institutions from the perspective of the emerging body of global administrative law and the Third World approach to international law. He has also served as an Advocate at the High Court in Calcutta, India. He holds a bachelor's degree in law (LL.B) from the University of Calcutta and a master's degree (M.Phil.) in international law from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

**Mr. Daniel URIBE** is Lead Programme Officer of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Programme of the South Centre. Mr. Uribe has been extensively engaged in the research of the implications of International Investment Agreements in sustainable development for developing countries, and on the issues of business and human rights; he has also conducted research on how South-South and Triangular Cooperation could support developing countries' efforts in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. He has supported and advised governments and civil society organizations in negotiations in international forums in line with the mandate of the South Centre and participated as panelist and trainer in several workshops and international meetings. Mr. Uribe is a lawyer from Ecuador where he obtained a Bachelor of Laws LL.B. from the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador and holds a Master's Degree (LL.M.) in International Law (*Cum Laude*) from the Graduate Institute of Geneva. During his thirteen years of professional career, Mr. Uribe has earned experience working for the Republic of Ecuador, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society institutions. This has allowed him to understand public policy concerns from diverse perspectives, as an advantage to forge strategic synergies to achieve common objectives towards sustainable development and international cooperation.

**Mr. Danish** is Programme Officer of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Programme of the South Centre. Previously, he worked as a legal associate in a boutique investment law firm based out of Barcelona, Spain. He is a lawyer from India where he obtained a B.A. LL.B. (Honours) degree from the National University of Advanced Legal Studies and a Diploma in International Trade and Business Law from the Indian Academy of International Law & Diplomacy. He also holds a LL.M. in International Law from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.