

Keynote Presentations: Welcome

7th November 2023

10:00 – 11:00

Moderated by: Miranda Naiman

Ms. Mary Ngelela Maganga
*Permanent Secretary in the Vice
President's Office, Tanzania*



Ms. Mary Ngelela Maganga has held the position Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office since April, 2021. She has held a number of positions in her almost three decades career in Public Service. The positions include Deputy Permanent Secretary responsible for Treasury Services and Commissioner for Budget at the Ministry of Finance and Planning; Director for Research, Policy and Planning; Tax Modernization Programme Manager and Head of Planning Division in the Tanzania Revenue Authority and Senior Economist at the Tanzania Postal Bank.

She served as the Board Member at the Bank of Tanzania, TRA focal person for the IMF Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool, member of the African Tax Administration Forum Steering Committee and an IMF Short Term Expert in Development of Tax Modernization Strategic Plans in Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Zambia and for Zanzibar Revenue Board.

She holds a Master of Science in Economics from Southern Illinois University (USA) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Dar es Salaam.

Denis Matatiken
*Secretary of Environment in the
Republic of Seychelles*



Denis Matatiken, the Principal Secretary for Environment, boasts a remarkable 25-year career in the environmental sector. He once led the national parks authority and later served as a ministerial advisor, showcasing his dedication to preserving marine ecosystems. Matatiken continues to be a driving force in marine conservation efforts, inspiring advocates to protect our oceans and marine life.

Mrs Charlina Vitcheva

DG MARE, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries



Mrs Charlina Vitcheva was appointed Director General of DG MARE, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries in June 2020.

Prior to this, she became Deputy Director General of the Joint Research Center (JRC) in September 2016. She was acting DG for the JRC from the 1 st November 2019 to the 30th April 2020.

Previously, Mrs Vitcheva have been Director of Smart & Sustainable Growth in Southern Europe at DG Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), and also held a Director's position on Inclusive Growth, Territorial and Urban Development and Northern Europe.

Before joining the European Commission, Charlina Vitcheva has been active in the Bulgarian public administration for 15 years, including at the Permanent Representation in Brussels, being actively involved in the negotiations of Bulgaria accession to the European Union, notably in charge of agricultural and fisheries dossiers and heading the negotiations, from 2000 to 2004, in the area of agriculture and rural development, food safety and fisheries.

Dixon Waruinge

Nairobi Convention Secretariat



Dixon Waruinge is the coordinator of the Nairobi Convention Secretariat. He is recognised in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region and globally for his dedication to strengthening the linkage between science and decision makers, strengthening the involvement of the scientific community in the Nairobi Convention work programme, and making the Nairobi Convention a regional platform for dialogue between governments and key players in the marine and coastal environment in the WIO. Dixon has managed several projects in the Western Indian Ocean region and with a comprehensive understanding of international environmental law and governance, has developed cooperative agreements with global NGOs such as WWF and IUCN, Regional Economic Commissions such as the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and research associations such as WIOMSA. He also developed collaborative programmes with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the World Heritage Convention on Sites of Universal Value.

Barbara Neumann
RIFS



Barbara Neumann leads the Ocean Governance Research Group at RIFS since September 2022. Trained as a geographer, she has specialized human-environment interactions, sustainable development and (environmental) governance of coastal and marine areas. Her research interest is in understanding how governance processes can be designed and supported in such a way that they foster sustainable approaches and provide responses to the challenges ahead. She employs transdisciplinary and transformative research approaches and focuses particularly on the interface of science, policy/administration, and civil society. Barbara and was a research associate at the Chair of Physical Geography and Environmental Research at Saarland University, Germany, from 1997 to 2010 and received her PhD in 2022. From 2010 to 2017, she was a member of the Cluster of Excellence "The Future Ocean" in Kiel and employed as a research associate in the working group Coastal Risks and Sea Level Rise at the Institute of Geography at Kiel University. Here she researched and taught on climate change, sea-level rise impacts, and sustainability and governance of coastal areas. She joined the RIFS (formerly the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, IASS) in 2017.

