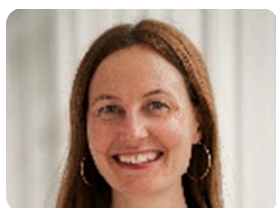


Sustainability in Coffee – Panel Discussion



Dr. Vanússia Nogueira – Executive Director, International Coffee Organization (ICO)

Vanússia Nogueira comes from a family of coffee producers and started her career at PwC Consulting. She started working directly with coffee in 2002, always focusing on niche markets. She served as executive director at the Brazil Specialty Coffee Association (BSCA) and took over as Executive Director at the International Coffee Organization in 2022. Nogueira holds a PhD in Administration/Marketing from Rosario National University in Argentina, a BS in Systems Engineering and Administration from Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-RJ) and MBAs and post-MBA focusing on Management, Marketing and Advanced Project Management from Fundação Getúlio Vargas in Rio de Janeiro.



Dr. Virpi Stucki – Chief, Division for Fair Production, Sustainability Standards and Trade, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

As a Chief of the Division for Fair Production, Sustainability Standards and Trade, Virpi Stucki is leading UNIDO's work on sustainable supply chains as well as sustainable industrial skills development. Prior to joining UNIDO in 2012, Stucki worked at the Royal Dutch Shell as a biodiversity advisor, the International Union for Conservation for Nature (IUCN) in Burkina Faso and Switzerland as well as Aalto University, School of Engineering. She holds a PhD in civil and environmental engineering.



Dr. Krisztina Szalai – Secretary General, Swiss Coffee Trade Association (SCTA)

Krisztina Szalai serves as the Secretary General of the SCTA - Swiss Coffee Trade Association, leveraging over a decade of experience in the coffee industry. Her expertise spans commercial management, green coffee buying, trading, sustainability, and industry representation across both mainstream and specialty coffee sectors. Under Szalai's leadership, the SCTA is advancing into a new era of strategic growth and collaboration, with a strong focus on enhancing ESG activities and sustainability efforts. She is committed to fostering trade relations, building partnerships with industry associations and government entities, and ensuring that SCTA members are well-informed about forthcoming regulatory developments.



Dr. Leonard Mizzi – Head of Unit, European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships - Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries

Prior to his current post, Mizzi was Head of Unit for 10 years in the Directorate-General (DG) Agriculture and Rural Development, first in charge of agri-trade and development issues and then leading the inter-institutional unit covering relations with the European Parliament, Council and consultative bodies and well as steering the Civil Dialogue Groups. He holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Reading (UK) and has authored a number of articles and publications on agri-food issues and nutrition in the Mediterranean region. He worked in the Economic Planning Division of the Office of the Prime Minister (Malta) and was the first Director of the Malta Business Bureau in Brussels. His areas of specialisation are global food security governance, agriculture and food and nutrition security, the Mediterranean and Sub Saharan Africa.



Dr. Monica Rubiolo – Head, Trade Promotion, Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

Monica Rubiolo is Head of Trade Promotion at the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO. She leads SECO's efforts to foster trade in developing countries that is socially responsible, environmentally friendly, inclusive and thereby sustainable. This includes supporting framework conditions for sustainable trade, enhancing international competitiveness and market access of SMEs and producers alike, and strengthening a resource-efficient private sector in partner countries. Rubiolo obtained her PhD from the University of Tübingen and published on issues related to economic development. She was Assistant Professor at the Catholic University in Cordoba (Argentina) and has also taught at the Universities of Tübingen (Germany) and Bilbao (Spain). She has worked in Taiwan and at the European Institute of Latin American Studies (IRELA) in Madrid. She joined SECO in 2003, focusing on public financial management and financial sector support.



Gerardo Patacconi – Head of Operations, International Coffee Organization (ICO)

Gerardo Patacconi is an economist statistician and agri-business development expert currently Head of Operations at the International Coffee Organization (ICO). After an initial engagement with industry and financing sectors in Italy, He joined the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in 1987 as Associate Expert in Papua New Guinea to later on assuming the responsibility of leading the Department of Agribusiness Development, where he oversaw a portfolio worth US\$40 million. At the core of Patacconi's experience is sustainability and development cooperation through policy and strategic advice, development, fund raising and management of large-scale operations and projects and by building successful public-private partnerships both in the coffee sector and other agribusiness value chains.



Dr. Fred Kawuma – African Coffee Ambassador and retired Secretary-General of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO)

Fred Kawuma is an experienced executive, consultant, coffee professional and retired diplomat. He has over 30 years of experience in the coffee industry and is the author of "Is There Poverty in Your Cup of Coffee? He holds a PhD in Entrepreneurial Leadership from Regent University and has worked as a coffee expert in the public and private sectors in East and West Africa and the United States. He was part of the core team that set up the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), helped create the Uganda Coffee Trade Federation (UCTF), founded the African Fine Coffees Association (AFCA) and started the African Coffee Symposium under IACO in 2013. He spearheaded the drafting of the new IACO Agreement, which was adopted by the IACO Annual General Assembly in November 2020. He has served on several local and international boards and is Chairman of Café Africa Uganda, and was appointed Goodwill Ambassador for African coffee in November 2020.