



Speaker bios

AMB. MATTHEW WILSON is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva. He has held various senior roles in international organizations, including Chief of Special Projects/Partnerships and Chief of Staff at the United Nations International Trade Centre and Senior Adviser and Counsellor to the Director General and Deputy Aid-for-Trade Coordinator at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Previously, he was a career foreign service officer. He has postgraduate degrees in International Relations, Development Studies, and an MBA Essentials. He has a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in psychology and sociology. He is on the board of the International Gender Champions and is currently Chairing the WTO Small Businesses Working Group.

DANIEL F. RUNDE is a senior vice president, director of the Project on Prosperity and Development, and holds the William A. Schreyer Chair in Global Analysis at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a leading global think tank. He also served as the acting director for the CSIS Americas Program from 2020-2022. His work concerns U.S. leadership in building a more democratic and prosperous world. Among other contributions, Mr. Runde was an architect of the BUILD Act, contributed to the reauthorization of the U.S. EXIM Bank, and was an architect of Prosper Africa. Earlier in his career, Mr. Runde worked in commercial banking at Citibank in Argentina and in investment banking at Alex Brown & Sons. He was granted the Officer's Cross in the Order of Isabel la Católica, a Spanish civil order, and serves on multiple boards. Fluent in Spanish, he graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College and holds a Master's in Public Policy from Harvard University.

DEODAT MAHARAJ is the Executive Director of the Caribbean Export Development Agency, promoting Caribbean trade globally and steering foreign direct investment to the Region. He has a distinguished track record of working with business and multilateral institutions for the last 25 years. Mr. Maharaj was the Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, leading its trade and investment work. He has also worked with the United Nations, the Caribbean Development Bank, and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, his country of origin. Mr. Maharaj has lived and worked in Tanzania, Mozambique, Guyana, Suriname, Barbados, the U.S., and the U.K. He is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, the University of London, and Florida State University. He is also an Attorney-at-Law.

KAYE-ANNE GREENIDGE is the CEO of Invest Barbados, the national investment promotion agency of the Government of Barbados. She assumed this role in September 2019. Ms. Greenidge holds a BSc in Economics and Accounting and a Master's of Science in Business and Financial Economics. An Economist by training, she worked as a Senior Economist in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of Barbados until 2007. Desirous of learning all aspects of Business and Finance, she then entered the world of banking and credit. During her twelve-year stint in banking, she managed an extensive portfolio, providing financial and investment solutions to players in various industries. Ms. Greenidge loves teaching and began to this journey in 1995. She is a certified online lecturer/ facilitator with the Cave Hill School of Business, University of the West Indies.

DORRETTE WATSON is the Managing Director of D'NexStep Sandals & Accessories Ltd. in Kingston, Jamaica. She started her company after losing her job as Vice President, Human Resources for a real estate company in Miami after 17 years of service. Her vision to create sandals came about after a visit to Jamaica, where she observed craftsmen making sandals by hand. D'NexStep sandals are carefully hand-crafted using the finest leather. The companies' accolades include New York City Fashion Week 2011 Rogues Gallery "Emerging Designers" Show and Miami Swimwear Fashion Week 2011. Ms. Watson was born in Jamaica, raised in London, and has lived in New York and Miami.