

Biographical notes

Mr. Juan Somavia was elected to serve as the ninth Director-General of the ILO by the Governing Body on 23 March 1998. He was re-elected for a third term as Director-General in November 2008. An attorney by profession, Mr. Somavia has had a long and distinguished career in civil and international affairs. Between 1990 and 1999, he was Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations in New York and, among other things, was also President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 1993/94 and 1998/99. Mr. Somavia began his career as an academic and has also been involved in business, financial and civil society organizations for many years. Among other things, he was coordinator of the Third World Forum, a network of African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean social actors, and also served as Chairman of the United Nations Committee of Parliamentarians for Global Action.

Ambassador Laura Thompson assumed her post as

perspective on the Millennium Development Goals and on Financing for Sustainable Development, connecting issues of inequality, poverty, economic development and sustainability with the required fiscal policies needed to address extreme poverty. Previously, she served in the Government of Mexico as the first Vice-Minister of Ecology and as Director-General of the National Institute of Fisheries. Ms. Bárcena Ibarra has published a number of articles on sustainable development, namely on financing, public policies, environment and public participation.

Mr. Andrew Steer was appointed Director General for Policy and Research at Department for International Development (DFID) in April 2008. In this capacity he is responsible for overseeing Policy and Research Division, Trade Policy Division, the Chief Economist and Chief Scientist, and Civil Society Unit. Mr. Steer is an executive member of the Management Board and he chairs the Development Committee and Country Planning Review Committee. Prior to joining DFID, Mr. Steer held a number of senior positions with the World Bank, including as the Bank's Director in Vietnam and then Indonesia, as head of Country Risk, and as Chief Author of the World Development Report on "Development and the Environment".