

Speakers' CVs

Panel 1

High level discussion: Sustainable global supply chains in times of geopolitical crisis

10.45 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.

Salvatore Berger is a policy officer at the European Commission. He was first posted at DG MARE and DG BUDG before joining DG GROW's unit on raw materials and energy intensive industries. There, he coordinated the drafting of the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) as well as the negotiations with the Council of the EU and the European Parliament, leading to a political agreement on the CRMA in November 2023.

Bärbel Kofler (SPD) holds the position of Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development. Before being appointed to this role in December 2021, she was the Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid for six years. She has been a member of the German Bundestag since 2004, where her previous roles included Development Policy Spokesperson of the SPD parliamentary group and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. She holds a doctorate in linguistics.

Jann Lay is Head of the Research Programme "Globalization and Development" at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, and co-head of the "Research Network Sustainable Global Supply Chains". As adjunct professor, he teaches development economics at the University of Goettingen. He works on various facets of economic development in the Global South, in particular in Africa, including on foreign investment and global value chains, employment and labour markets as well as issues related to energy, climate and development. He has published on these issues in numerous internationally renowned journals and has advised various German as well as international organisations.

Melanie Müller is a Senior Associate at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) in Berlin with a focus on South Africa and Southern Africa and co-heading the "Research Network Sustainable Global Supply Chains". She has been working on political and social developments in South Africa since 2011 and has also conducted research in other countries of the SADC region and in Niger and Ghana. She published extensively on the political and socioeconomic developments in Southern Africa, on resource governance and migration, as well as on European-African relations.

Panel 2

Navigating Tomorrow: Insights from the research on global sustainable supply chains on geo-economic and -political dynamics and fragmentation

12.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Tilman Altenburg co-leads the research programmes "Transformation of Economic and Social Systems" and "Research Network Sustainable Global Supply Chains" at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), the government-funded think tank for development policy in Germany. He is an economic geographer working on economic development in Latin America, Asia and Africa, with a focus on industrial policy, global value chains and especially transformation strategies towards green economies.

Carlo Altomonte is Professor of “Economics of European Integration” at the Social and Political Sciences Department of Bocconi University, and a core faculty member of SDA Bocconi School of Management, where he teaches International Business Environment. He has been regularly acting as consultant for a number of national and international institutions, including the Italian Government, the United Nations (UNCTAD), the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Central Bank, analysing the role of international trade and investment, industrial policies and their implication for competitiveness. Until October 2022, he has acted as an Expert Advisor to the Italian Government for the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. His main areas of research and publication are international trade and investment, the political economy of globalization and its implication on competitiveness. He has published in several leading academic journals.

Almut Schilling-Vacaflor is Professor of “International Business, Society and Sustainability” at the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg and senior researcher at the Center of Human Rights Erlangen-Nuremberg (CHREN). She co-leads a research project on the private and public governance of soy and beef supply chains from Brazil, with a focus on deforestation and human rights. Together with Maria-Therese Gustafsson she will soon lead a new research project that aims to explain under what conditions new supply chain regulations can be effective for environmental and human rights protection. Her work about the regulation and governance of global supply chains, including new approaches based on human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD), has been published in important journals such as Regulation & Governance, Environmental Politics, World Development, Ecology & Society, Human Rights Review and Sustainability.

Nimrod Zalk is Chief Research Officer “Climate and Development” at the University of Cape Town’s Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance. Dr Zalk is a development economist focused on green industrialisation and development finance in Africa. He has over 20 years’ experience in trade and industrial development research; policy formulation and implementation; and development finance. Until July 2023 he served as Deputy Director-General: Sectors in the South African Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) and as non-executive Director of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) of South Africa. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. He has authored a number of policy documents (notably South Africa’s National Industrial Policy Framework); academic publications; and opinion pieces, including on the role of development banks in African green industrialisation. He is co-founder of the annual African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics (APORDE).

Closing Remarks

Rainer Thiele is director of the “Kiel Institute Africa Initiative” and deputy head of the research center “International Development” at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW). Since 2020 he is co-head of the “Research Network Sustainable Global Supply Chains”. His research interests are in applied development economics, with a focus on how global integration of poor countries affects local welfare. He has published his research results in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals including the Economic Journal and the Journal of Development Economics. In addition to his academic work, Rainer has on various occasions been involved in consultancy services for the German government and international organizations such as the World Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute.