



UPU World Leaders Forum

11th October 2021, 10h - 17h CEST, online

ONE OCEAN – MANY CURRENTS

Facilitating Sustainable Global Trade

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Live stream on [UPU TV](#)



Pascal Clivaz

Deputy Director General, Universal Postal Union

Mr. Clivaz is Deputy Director General of the UPU's International Bureau since 1 January 2013. Until his election, he was Director of finance and strategic planning at the International Bureau, which he joined in 2005. A law graduate, Mr. Clivaz has held numerous roles in both private and public organizations, as well as at the European Commission in Brussels. Mr. Clivaz has 17 years' experience working in the postal sector and the UPU, having begun his postal career at Swiss Post as a scientific advisor responsible for finance and strategy, before rising to become director of international affairs and a member of the Swiss operator's management team. At 44 the year of his election, he is one of the youngest top executives in the history of the Union.



Annemarie Gardshol

Group CEO and President, PostNord

Born in 1967, Ms. Gardshol has been a Member of the Group Executive Team since 2012 and of the Group Leadership Team since July 1, 2019. She is also a Board member of SCA AB and Essity AB. Previously, she held the positions of the Head of e-Commerce & Corporate Clients in PostNord, Chief Strategy Officer (CSO), executive positions at Gambro, and the position of management consultant at McKinsey & Company. Ms. Gardshol holds a Master of Science degree in Industrial Engineering.



David McRedmond

CEO, An Post

Mr. McRedmond was appointed Chief Executive Officer of An Post in October 2016. He has led the company's transformation programme and is personally driving An Post's Sustainability Charter. Mr. McRedmond was previously CEO of TV3, Commercial Director of Eircom and Managing Director of Eircom Enterprises. During his early career as a retail industry executive in the UK and USA, he held roles such as Operations Director of Waterstones and CEO of WH Smith Inc. Mr. McRedmond was appointed chairman of Eir in 2018; he is a director of Premier Lotteries Ireland (the National Lottery) and a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. A native of Dublin, he holds a Master's Degree in Modern Irish History from University College Dublin.



Þórhildur Ólöf Helgadóttir

Managing Director and CEO, Iceland Post

Ms. Helgadóttir accepted the post of Managing Director and CEO in December 2020. Before that she held the position of Iceland Post's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) since August 2019. She has extensive experience in the field of finance and operations and was employed as CFO of 66°North for the past two years. Before accepting the posting at 66°North, she was CFO of the car dealership Hekla from 2014 to 2017; and prior to that, the CFO of Securitas and a project manager for Deloitte. She was a member of the Board of Directors of Sjóvá Almennar for a number of years and sat on the boards of the subsidiaries of 66°North and Hekla. Ms. Helgadóttir holds a cand. oecon. degree from the University of Iceland.



David Walsh BCA, CA

Chief Executive Officer, NZ Post Group

Mr. Walsh became Chief Executive of NZ Post Group in May 2017. He joined the Group in February 2015 as Chief Financial Officer having previously held the position of General Manager Corporate and Finance at KiwiRail. Mr. Walsh has experience in a wide range of industries experiencing change and with complex infrastructure, consumer products and services and has led large change projects. His professional background also includes Chief Operating and Chief Financial Officer at New Zealand Racing Board, and senior finance roles at Fonterra and TransAlta.



Rocío Bárcena Molina

General Director, Mexican Postal Service

Ms. Rocío Bárcena Molina has 46 years of experience in the educational sector and public administration. Certified in preschool education and pedagogy, Ms. Bárcena is a passionate defender of public education with an extensive background in teaching and researching. In public administration, Ms. Bárcena served as the General Director of the Institute for the Care of Elderly, Training Coordinator at the Ministry of Rural Development and Equality for Communities in Mexico City Government; advisor to the Program of Welfare of Elderly at the Welfare Ministry and General Director of Port Administration and Development of the General Coordination of Ports and Merchant Navy. On 15 January 2021, she was appointed as General Director of Mexican Postal Service.



Jean-Paul Forceville

Director of European and International Relations, La Poste Group (France), Chair, Postal Operations Council, UPU

Mr. Forceville joined Le Groupe La Poste in 1979. Since then, he has enjoyed a progressive career with various appointments within the Group, including Director of Cabinet of the President and General Manager, Director of External Relations, Director of European and International Affairs, as well as Director of Regulation, Institutional and European Affairs. Since January 2011, Mr. Forceville has been chairing the Board of Directors of PostEurop. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of PUMed. Within the UPU, Mr. Forceville chaired a Congress Commission in Doha (2012) and Istanbul (2016), among other engagements. In August 2021, he was elected Chair of the Postal Operations Council. Mr. Forceville is a graduate of the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris (1979) and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Postes et Télécommunications (1986).



Siva Somasundram

Director of Policy, Regulation & Markets, UPU

A highly experienced international lawyer and economist, Mr. Somasundram is Director of Policy, Regulation & Markets at the International Bureau of the UPU since 2017. With almost three decades of professional experience, Mr. Somasundram has proven expertise with cross-border commercial transactions, international M&A, trade and investment, international treaties and inter-governmental law and policy setting forums. His prior appointments include senior management positions with the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the UN & WTO, International Enterprise Singapore and legal enterprises, such as Latham & Watkins and Minter Ellison. Most recently, he held a position of General Manager for International Regulatory Affairs at Australia Post. Mr. Somasundram holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Oxford and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from the University of Melbourne.



Brody Buhler
CEO, Escher Group

As CEO at Escher, Mr. Buhler is responsible for driving growth in addition to key areas such as strategy, product, operations, and culture. A distinguished leader in the post and parcel practice for over 22 years, Mr. Buhler is a trusted advisor to industry c-level executives globally. Most recently, he served as the Global Managing Director of Accenture's Post and Parcel Practice for the past 9 years. In that role, he was responsible for overseeing Accenture's delivery and thought leadership for the industry and oversaw a global practice of over 2,000 resources across more than 20 countries. Prior to this position, Mr. Buhler served as the Digital Government lead at Accenture Federal Services.



Vincent Phang
Group CEO, SingPost

Group CEO since 1 September 2021, Mr. Phang first joined SingPost in April 2019 as Chief Executive Officer for Postal Services and Singapore, which encompasses all SingPost's core businesses in Singapore, including post, parcel, and logistics. As Singapore's Postmaster General, Mr. Phang was responsible for leading both mail and last-mile delivery networks in Singapore as well as responsible for SingPost's international postal relationships. Mr. Phang has over 20 years of regional experience in the supply chain, logistics, industrial and manufacturing industries in Asia. He holds a Master of Engineering Aeronautic from the Imperial College, UK, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Flight Test Engineering from International Test Pilots School, UK.



Tomaž Kokot
General Manager Ad Interim, Post of Slovenia

Prior to joining Pošta Slovenije, Mr. Kokot was Executive Director of a software development and business transformation company, active in planning data analyses, desktop applications and online solutions for large companies. With a background in business development, he also serves as an internal auditor for ISO 9001:2015 and ISO/IEC 27001 and a supervisor in Slovenian Sovereign Holding. Mr. Kokot holds a master's degree from the Faculty of Economics and Business in Maribor and is now continuing his studies in project management at the doctoral level at Alma Mater Europaea – ECM, where he is also a lecturer. Since 2016, he has been registered as a researcher at the Slovenian Research Agency.



Anirudha Bansod

CEO, Post Fiji

CEO of Post Fiji since 2019, Dr. Bansod is a transformational executive with extensive experience in the development, planning, and implementation of new strategies and innovations, managing change and delivering measurable ROI. His prior appointments include the positions of General manager at WR Carpenter (PNG) Limited, Kasabias Group Limited and PRICON. Throughout his career, Dr. Bansod has successfully led teams comprised of more than 1000+ employees. He holds a PhD degree in Marketing, with research interests in relationship marketing, retailing, salesperson characteristics and personality, and technology products.



Mike Froman

Vice Chairman and President, Strategic Growth, Mastercard

Mr. Froman serves as Vice Chairman and President, Strategic Growth for Mastercard, as well as Chairman of the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth and a member of the company's management committee. From 2013 to 2017, Mr. Froman served as the U.S. Trade Representative, President Barack Obama's principal advisor and negotiator on international trade and investment issues. In 2009-2013, he served at the White House as assistant to the President and deputy national security advisor for international economic affairs. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Mr. Froman held several executive positions at Citigroup. Earlier in his career, during the Clinton Administration, he worked at the White House and the Treasury Department. Mr. Froman is a distinguished fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations. He holds a bachelor's degree in public and international affairs from Princeton University, a doctorate in international relations from Oxford University, and a law degree from Harvard Law School.

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