



Webinar in cooperation with the International Finance Corporation (IFC):

## Opportunities and Challenges in Climate and Energy in Latin America and the Caribbean – How IFC Fosters Private Sector Engagement

May 2, 2024, 4.00-5.00 pm (Swiss time)

### *Biographies of Panelists*



**Ramon Esteve** is a business leader with more than 30 years of experience in the Agricultural commodity sector. He has held various Senior Management positions throughout his career within the ECOM group and continues to be involved in all aspects of the business.

A member of the Board of ECOM AgroIndustrial, he is also President of the Latin American Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland (LATCAM) as well as President of the Executive Board of the Swiss Trading and Shipping Association (STSA). Mr. Esteve holds a License in Law from the University of Lausanne.



**Elizabeth Marcano** is currently the IFC's Country Director for Mexico, Colombia, Central America, and the Caribbean region.

Before joining IFC as Director, Elizabeth was the Private Risk Director for Latin America at CAF and later led the Private Equity and Venture Capital Investments, managing the equity portfolio and serving as a board member at CAF's Asset Management Corp. She helped revamp portfolio management standards with new technology and enhanced governance guidelines while also helping launch new infrastructure investment funds for the asset management unit.

Previously, she served in various senior management roles with JP Morgan in New York and Citibank in Mexico, leading the bank's most profitable segments; the Corporate & Investment Banking Division, Structured Finance, Hispanic Markets, and Relationship Banking.



**Christian Michel** currently works as Manager of International Finance Institutions at Switzerland Global Enterprise, the Swiss export and investment promotion agency. There, he supports Swiss companies in their internationalization efforts, with a special focus on infrastructure and multilateral development banks.

From 2017 to 2022, Christian was Director of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Mexico. Previously, he has worked as a Consultant at the World Bank, as an Economic Analyst at the Wilson Center think tank in Washington, D.C., and in various positions within the Swiss and Mexican governments abroad: in political and cultural affairs at the Swiss Embassy in Brazil, scientific matters at Swissnex, the Swiss Scientific Consulate in Rio de Janeiro; as well as in legislative matters at the Mexican Embassy in the United States and multilateral issues at the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in Geneva.

Christian holds a Master's degree in Foreign Policy and International Development from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Geneva in Switzerland.



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**Dr. Philippe G. Nell** is University Lecturer on trade, investment, and integration policy as well as negotiating techniques, and Honorary Ambassador of LATCAM. Until October 2019, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Bilateral Economic Affairs and Head of the Americas Unit at the Swiss Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research. He held the diplomatic title of Minister. Previously, he dealt with WTO matters (1999-2004) in charge i.a. of investment and China's accession to the WTO; Rules of origin, Customs matters, and Government Procurement (1992-1999), and the European Area Agreement Negotiations (1988-1992).

Mr. Nell holds a Ph.D. from the Graduate School of International Studies of the University of Denver and a Master's from the Universities of Fribourg, Carleton (Ottawa), and Denver. He is a Privat Dozent at the University of Fribourg where he dispenses courses. He has published numerous articles on trade and integration policy as well as a book on Swiss-EU negotiations for the European Economic Area.

In September 2020, he released a book "Strategy with China: Swiss Cooperation or U.S. Confrontation. The Swiss Successful Path with a Free Trade Agreement" available at the Foundation Jean Monnet for Europe in Lausanne.



**Marcela Ponce** leads Sustainable Financial Advisory Services for IFC's Financial Institutions Group in the region. Additionally, Marcela serves as the Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Sustainable Banking and Finance Network (SBFN).

In her various roles at IFC, Marcela has supported financial entities in developing sustainable business practices, defining regulatory frameworks that promote sustainability in the real estate sector, and facilitating public-private dialogue to enhance knowledge and technical capacities in sustainable development across the region.



**Miguel Toledo** is a Chief Investment Officer at the International Finance Corporation, leading the energy sector practice in Latin America. Before that, he was responsible for IFC's infrastructure business in the Andean, Caribbean, and Central America regions.

Mr Toledo brings more than 25 years of experience financing infrastructure and energy projects globally. Prior to IFC, Mr Toledo worked at CAF, Citigroup, and BBVA. Mr. Toledo holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá and an MBA from McGill University.



**Jan van Bilsen** is the Country Manager for Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, and Sweden. He is IFC's Head of the Frankfurt office, responsible for managing relationships with the private sector, and governments, and developing finance institutions in six European countries.

Prior, he held different managerial roles at IFC in Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia, in the financial and real estate sectors. Before joining IFC in 2001, Jan worked in corporate banking and project finance for ABN AMRO Bank in Europe, the Middle East, and the Far East.