



Official List – BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Founding Board

Submitted to State of Geneva, Government of Switzerland, 27 June 2006

ISTIA CHAIRMAN : General Abu Bakr EL GINDI, President, CAPMAS, National Statistical Agency, **Govt. of Egypt**
ISTIA VICE-CHAIRMAN : Pf. Thomas COTTIER, Director, World Trade Institute, *former Chief GATT Negotiator*, **Govt. of Switzerland**
ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO CHAIRMAN : Pf. Mohammed F. SAKR, Advisor to Minister, Ministry of Planning, **Govt. of Egypt**
ISTIA BOARD MEMBER: Ambassador Dr. Assad OMER, Ambassador to UN in Geneva, Mission and Consulate, **Govt. of Afghanistan**
ISTIA BOARD MEMBER: Ambassador Nathan IRUMBA, Senior Advisor, SEATINI; *former Ambassador to WTO*, **Govt. of Uganda**.
ISTIA BOARD MEMBER (retired in 2009): Dr. Edwini KESSIE, Counsellor, Council and TNC Division, (**WTO**), Geneva, Switzerland
ISTIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Ms. Jennifer M. POWELL, Economist, International Services Trade Information Agency (**ISTIA**)

General Abu Bakr Mahmoud Mohamed Bakr EL-GINDI, President, CAPMAS, Central Agency for Planning, Mobilization and Statistics (EGYPTIAN NATIONAL STATISTICAL AGENCY), CAIRO, GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT

ISTIA ROLE: Chairman of the Board



General El Gindi is President of the Central Statistical Agency in the Government of Egypt, a Ministerial-level appointment made in 2005 by President Hosni Mubarek. His appointment as President of CAPMAS succeeded a long and successful career as a senior military officer of the Egyptian Army. In addition to his military role, General El Gindi served as Head of U.S. Relations Division at the Ministry of Defense in 1988-1990, as well as serving as Military Attaché Representative to the U.S. Government in Washington D.C. in 1983-85. General El Gindi holds various academic degrees, including undergraduate and graduate military degrees from the Military College and Nasser Higher Military Academy, as well as having attended the U.S. National Defense College in Washington D.C. General El Gindi holds numerous medals and honors including the Order of Military Duty, the UN Peacekeeping Order, and the U.S Order of Merit. **General El-Gindi is a national of Egypt.**

Pf. Thomas COTTIER, Director & Founder, World Trade Institute (WTI), University of Berne, Switzerland *former Chief Negotiator for the Swiss Government to the GATT.*

ISTIA ROLE: Vice-Chairman of the Board



Dr. Thomas Cottier, Founder and Managing Director of the World Trade Institute, is a Professor of European and International Economics Law at the University of Bern and Director of the Institute of European and International Economic Law. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees, IPGRI (International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome) Professor Cottier was Legal Officer and Head of legal services of the GATT Division, Department of Foreign Economic Relations, Bern (1986-89), Deputy Director-General, the Swiss Federal Intellectual Property Office, Bern. He has been a member of various dispute settlement panels in WTO/GATT. From 1986-1993 he was member of the Swiss negotiating team at the GATT Uruguay Round and, from 1989-1992, on EEA negotiations.

Professor Cottier is a national of Switzerland

Dr. Mohammed F. SAKR, Economic Advisor to the Minister of Planning & Project Director Development Planning Decision Support Advisory Group (DPDAG), MINISTRY OF PLANNING, GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT

ISTIA ROLE: Economic Advisor to ISTIA Chairman & Liaison Officer; Member of the Board



In 2006, Dr. Sakr was appointed as the *Economic Advisor to Dr. Osman Mohamed Osman, Minister of Planning*. He has previously provided such advisory to the Minister of Information and the Minister of Tourism of the Government of Egypt. Dr. Sakr serves regularly on expert panels in the Egyptian context for the World Bank and other intergovernmental agencies, as well as providing project advisory assistance on Egyptian development projects. Until recently, Dr. Sakr served as the Head of the *Economics and Political Science Faculty of Cairo University*, where he served as an eminent professor for many years. Several Ministers in the Government of Egypt, as well as many senior Ministry officials, serving in economic-related Ministries of the Egyptian Government, including the Central Bank of Egypt, were graduate and doctoral students of Dr. Sakr. **Dr. Sakr is a national of Egypt.**



Ambassador Dr. Assad OMER, Permanent Representative to the UN and other International Organizations, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Geneva, Switzerland; GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

ISTIA ROLE: Member of the Board

Prior to his appointment in 2005, by President Hamid Karzai, to serve as *Permanent Representative and Ambassador for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva*, His Excellency Dr. Omer has had a long and distinguished career as a UN Economic Affairs Officer and Counselor, specialized in intellectual property policy, foreign direct investment (FDI) policy and science and technology policy for development. As a research fellow, he worked for several international organizations including UNDP and as an panel expert for the International Commission on Trade and Development (ICTSD). His Excellency Dr. Omer obtained his Baccalauréat from the Lycée Esteqlal, Kabul. He pursued his graduate studies at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at the University of Kabul and Faculty of Law at the University of Geneva (Licence and DES). His Excellency Dr. Omer obtained a doctorate (PhD) in international law and development economics at the prestigious Graduate Institute of International Studies (*Hautes Etudes Internationales - HEI*) of the University of Geneva. As a United Nations official, he undertook a large number of advisory missions in developing countries and carried out consultations with governments.

Ambassador Omer is a national of Afghanistan.



Dr. Edwini KESSIE, Senior Counselor, WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO), Council on Trade Negotiations Committee Division, Geneva, Switzerland

ISTIA ROLE: "Emeritus" Founding Former Board Member (Mr. Kessie retired from the Board in 2009)

Dr. Kessie joined the WTO Secretariat in January 1995 and has worked in various divisions of the Secretariat including the Development Division, the Training Division and the legal unit of the Technical Cooperation Division, where he had the responsibility for assisting developing countries wishing to have recourse to the dispute settlement procedures of the WTO. He is currently working in the Council and Trade Negotiations Committee Division, which has the responsibility for coordinating the negotiations which were launched in Doha, Qatar in November 2001. He is also a part-time lecturer in international trade law at the World Trade Institute in Berne, Switzerland and also the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia. Dr. Kessie has participated in many international conferences on international trade and has written a number of articles on international trade issues. Dr. Edwini Kessie has a Doctorate Degree in Law from the University of Technology, Sydney, Australia and Masters' Degrees in Law from the University of Toronto, Canada and the University of Brussels, Belgium and a Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of Ghana. He is admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Courts of England & Wales, New South Wales, Australia and Ghana. He has practiced Corporate and Commercial Law in Sydney, Australia and International Trade Law and European Community Law in Brussels, Belgium. **Dr. Kessie is a national of Ghana and Australia.**



Ambassador Nathan IRUMBA, Senior Trade Advisor and Head of Office, Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI), Kampala, UGANDA; former Ambassador of the Government of Uganda to the WTO.

ISTIA ROLE: Member of the Board

For many years, Ambassador Irumba served his country as *Ambassador and Permanent Representative for the Republic of Uganda to the WTO and United Nations* in Geneva, Switzerland. Ambassador Irumba was a leader among developing country WTO Ambassadors and trade diplomats, serving as Chairman of the WTO Committee on Least Developed Countries (LDCs), as well as being Chairman on other WTO Committees and participating in most WTO meetings and organizing consortia of eminent developing country trade diplomats. Ambassador Irumba is currently the Head of the Uganda office of the Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) in Kampala, Uganda, where he assists Uganda and other African countries with trade negotiations and policy.

Ambassador Irumba continues his work as a principal diplomat in African regional trade and investment negotiations, most particularly the trade interests in the context of the African Union, COMESA, the WTO “African Group”, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP). Ambassador Irumba continues to represent African trade interests as an advisor and expert in meetings held by the OECD, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), the World Bank as well as serving as a panel expert to meetings at the Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa (TRALAC) and other research institutes. He continues to play an advisory role in WTO negotiations in Geneva and during WTO Ministerial Meetings. Before serving as Ambassador to the WTO, Ambassador Irumba held various official positions in the Government of Uganda Ministry of Trade and Industry. **Ambassador Irumba is a national of Uganda.**



Ms. Jennifer M. POWELL, Executive Director, International Services Trade Information Agency (ISTIA), Geneva, Switzerland; *Economist and former UN Official.*

ISTIA ROLE: Executive Director & Member of the Board

Ms. Powell served as an economic affairs officer and principal team member of the *UN World Investment Report* in the *Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development (DITE)* group at UNCTAD; during this time she managed the design and implementation of the UNCTAD database on FDI/FATS (foreign direct investment & foreign affiliate trade statistics); this included training of all in-house statisticians. At the World Health Organization (WHO) worked with trade in health statistics, helping the WHO to prepare initial contributions to the *OECD Inter-Agency Task Force on International Statistics for Trade in Services*. At the WTO she worked as an economist in the Trade Policy Training, Accessions and Market Access Divisions. She has consulted and project managed various trade-and-FDI-related technical assistance projects in Africa and the Middle East, as well as having held professional positions in multinationals in Europe and the United States.

Ms. Powell holds a graduate degree from the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration (*NorgesHandelsHøyskole-NHH*) and two undergraduate degrees from the University of California at Santa Barbara (BS in Computer Engineering, BA in Sociology). She has undertaken further PhD studies at the University of Geneva, during which time she taught at the Business School of the University of Lausanne (*Hautes Etudes de Commerce, HEC*) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (*Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, EPFL*); Ms. Powell has also studied international law and policy at the Graduate School of International Relations (*Hautes Etudes Internationales – HEI*). **Ms. Powell is a national of the United States.**