

## Panellists

### The interrelationship between the right to development and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights



**Ms. Isabelle DURANT** (Belgium) is the Chairperson of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development. Until 2022 she was Acting Secretary General of UNCTAD in Geneva and has started her career with the UN as a consultant for the UN Development Programme. Prior to that she was Vice-President of the European Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium and Senator. Her commitment and network on development issues has been built up and is also reflected in her participation in various organizations, think tanks, international organizations and universities active in this field.



**Mr. Surya DEVA** is a professor at the Macquarie Law School and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development. He served as a member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights between 2016 and 2022. Mr. Deva has taught previously at City University of Hong Kong, University of Delhi and the National Law Institute University Bhopal. He is one of the founding Editors-in-Chief of the Business and Human Rights Journal and the Director of the Centre for Environmental Law at Macquarie University.



**Mr. Michael WINDFUHR** is the Deputy Director of the German Institute for Human Rights and a member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He has previously acted as Human Rights Director of the Protestant Development Organisation in Germany and co-founded the Organisation FoodFirst Information and Action Network, for which he also served as the United Nations Representative. He has a background in political science and was a lecturer at the University of Heidelberg.



**Mr. Xigen WANG** (China) is a Professor and Dean of the Law School of Huazhong University of Science and Technology and the Director of the National Human Rights Education and Training Base. He has published and worked on the right to development for over 30 years, also in the context of the United Nations, having contributed to the work of the Human Rights Council, the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development. On the national level, he has presided over the composition of the White Paper on the right to Development in China.