BIONOTES ON PRESENTERS

OAS/COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT SEMINAR

ON THE EONCOMIC RESILIENCE OF SMALL STATES

LARRY SCHEMBRI Dr. Schembri is chief of the International Department at the Bank of Canada, where he oversees analysis of current and prospective foreign developments, policy analysis of global economic and financial issues, and research about international financial markets and the global economy. Dr. Schembri previously was an associate professor of economics at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His publications include articles in the *Journal of International Economics*, the *Canadian Journal of Economics*, the National Bureau of Economic Research conference volumes, and the *Bank of Canada Review*.

JOHN L. ROBERTS is adviser on sustainable development at the Indian Ocean Commission. He has Masters and PhD. degrees in Statistical Economics and Social Medicine from the University of Birmingham, UK. He has worked within the British National Health Service (NHS) and the Universities of Bristol, Wales and Manchester. As an international consultant, he has been European Adviser to the World Health Organization (WHO) on Public Health Policy and Health Economics. Since 1994, working as consultant to governments in the African region, he has contributed to official national and international publications including case studies for UNEP on malaria eradication in Mauritius and cyclone early warning systems.

NAREN PRASAD is Research Coordinator at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) where he coordinates research projects on social policy and development, and market, business and regulation. Currently he is working on "the impact of private sector participation in public services: water, education, health", constructing a "social policy index" and "social policies in small states". He holds a doctorate in Economics from the University of Paris and has worked with various United Nations agencies.

GORDON CORDINA is a graduate of the University of Malta and of the University of Cambridge, UK. He currently lectures at the Economics Department of the University of Malta. He had previously worked in the Economics Department of the Central Bank of Malta for nine years up to October 2001, where he headed the Department's Research Office. He is the author and/or co-author of a number of journal articles on public finance, macro-econometric models and welfare reform. In 1997, Dr. Cordina published the study "A Structural Econometric Model of the Maltese Economy" in the Journal of Economic and Financial Modeling, which model remains in use at the Central Bank of Malta. Dr. Cordina is currently board member of the Malta Council for Science and Technology and advisor to the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development. In recent Years, he has served on a number of economic policy committees in Malta including the Commission for Welfare Reform and the Malta Council for Economic Development.

LINO BRIGUGLIO is Professor and Head of the Economics Department and Director of the Islands and Small States Institute at the Foundation for International Studies

at the University of Malta. He possesses a PhD in Economics from the University of Exeter, UK (1982). His main area of interest is islands and small states studies. He was the originator of the economic vulnerability index and was instrumental in its construction. Professor Briguglio has represented the Maltese Government in UN meetings dealing with islands and small states affairs including the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Islands states. He is one of the Lead Authors for the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report. He sits on a number of Malta Government Committee, including the Fair Trading Commission and the Commission for Sustainable Development.

NADIA FARRUGIA is an economist and a part-time tutor in Intermediate Macroeconomics and Advanced Microeconomics. Her main research interests are competitiveness, economic growth and small states studies. She possesses a first class honors Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree (with distinction) both in Economics and from the University of Malta. Her Masters dissertation was entitled "Economic Vulnerability: Developing a New Conceptual Framework and Empirically Assessing its Relationship with Economic Growth". Her published peer reviewed articles focus on economic vulnerability, competitiveness and institutional building. She co-authored the paper "Conceptualizing and Measuring Economic Resilience" University of Malta (2005), with Lino Briguglio, Gordon Cordina and Stephanie Vella.

STEPHANIE VELLA holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and a Master Degree in Economics from the University of Malta. She is currently a Lecturer at the Economics Department of that University, teaching Public Sector Economics and intermediate Macroeconomics at a graduate level. She had previously worked for 3 years at the Central Bank of Malta in the Economics Research Division. Her main research interests include small states studies, international trade and exchange rates. She co-authored the paper "Conceptualizing and Measuring Economic Resilience" University of Malta (2005), with Lino Briguglio, Nadia Farrugia and Gordon Cordina.