Rolf Traeger coordinates the work of research on least developed countries (LDCs) in UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) and undertakes capacity-building activities on development strategies and policies. He leads the team which writes UNCTAD's Least Developed Countries Report, which he has co-authored since 2007. He has been working since 1991 as an economist for the United Nations. During the period 1999-2006 he worked at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), where he co-authored UNECE's Economic Survey of Europe. His main research interests include: development strategies and policies, poverty, structural transformation, technology, international trade and economic geography.

**Piergiuseppe Fortunato** is currently an economist at the ALDC Division of the United Nation Conference for Trade and Development. Before joining UNCTAD he was an economist at Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations. In the past he held a position of Assistant Professor in Economics at the University of Bologna and did research at the Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne as a research fellow. His research interests include long-term growth and political economy, economic development and South-South integration.

David Woodward is Senior Adviser in the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes of UNCTAD. In more than 30 years as a development economist, he has also worked for the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the UK Executive Director's Office in the IMF and World Bank, the World Health Organisation and UN DESA, as well as in the voluntary sector and independently, largely focusing on between global economic issues and governance development, poverty and health. He is the author of Debt, Adjustment and Poverty in Developing Countries (Pinter Publishers, 1992) and The Next Crisis? Direct and Equity Investment in Developing Countries (Zed Books, 2001) and co-editor of Global Public Goods for Health: Economic and Public Health Perspectives (OUP, 2003), and has published articles in journals in the fields of economics, development, political economy and health, as well as numerous discussion papers.