



COM2019

52nd Session of the Economic
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Fiscal policy, trade and the private sector
in the digital era: A strategy for Africa

Marrakech, Morocco | 20-26 March 2019

A short biography of Speakers



Amel Saidane

Président of Tunisia Startups

Amel is an entrepreneur, ecosystem builder and digital transformation expert. She is president of Tunisian Startups, the association giving a voice to the startup ecosystem. She is the co-founder of BetaCube, a venture builder in Fintech. She acts as management consultant specializing in digital transformation and business strategy. Prior to that she has acted in different sales and client relationship management roles, working for Microsoft, Siemens and Nokia. Amel is an engineer in electro-technics, qualified from the Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany, she also holds a Master's of Science in Business in Digital Economy from the University of Maryland.



Amina J. Mohammed

Deputy Secretary General – United Nations

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed was Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from November 2015 to December 2016, where she steered the country's efforts on climate action, protecting the natural environment and conserving resources for sustainable development. Prior to this, she served as Special Adviser to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Post-2015 Development Planning, where she was instrumental in bringing about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Before joining the UN, Ms. Mohammed worked for three successive administrations in Nigeria, serving as Special Advisor on the Millennium Development Goals, providing advice on issues including poverty, public sector reform and sustainable development, and coordinating programmes worth \$1 billion annually for MDG-related interventions. She is also an Adjunct Professor in Development Practice at Columbia University, and served on numerous international advisory boards and panels, including the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, the Global Development Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the African Women's Millennium Initiative, Girl Effect, 2016 African Union Reform and the ActionAid International Right to Education Project. Ms. Mohammed began her 35-year career in the private sector with architects and engineers responsible for the project management of health, education and public sector buildings.



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Anna Ekeledo

Executive Director, AfriLabs

Anna is the Executive Director of AfriLabs, a network organization of over 133 Technology and Innovation Hubs across 36 African countries; leading the organization to develop programmes for start-ups and innovators, and building partnerships that support innovation hubs and stakeholders raise high potential entrepreneurs that will stimulate economic growth and social development in Africa. Anna is a speaker, consultant, mentor, trainer and an advisor on the Advisory Group on Technology and Creativity, under the Nigerian Industrial Policy and Competitiveness Advisory Council. She is passionate about leveraging on technology for social impact and inclusion; creating social and economic opportunities for all!



Axel Emmanuel Gbaou

Artisan Chocolatier, Instant Chocolate

Axel-Emmanuel Gbaou est un chocolatier ivoirien de renom. Après des études en sciences politiques et droit public à l'Université de Cocody à Abidjan, il obtient un master en fiscalité puis entre dans la banque. Il crée en 2015 son entreprise [Instant Chocolat](#), et depuis lors, l'ex-banquier ivoirien surfe sur le succès. Ses créations chocolatières sont vendues dans les boutiques duty free de l'aéroport international d'Abidjan, dans plusieurs pays de la sous-région (**Sénégal, Mali, Togo, Bénin, Guinée**, etc.) et s'exportent aussi en Europe et en Asie. Il a participé au Salon du chocolat de Paris en 2016 et a lancé en 2017, la tablette de chocolat pâtissier **Ecoya**, du nom d'une coopérative de femmes transformatrices de fèves de cacao de Yamoussoukro certifiée commerce équitable. Il a d'ailleurs formé, jusqu'ici, 500 femmes, avec qui il travaille à la transformation du cacao en milieu rural. À 35 ans, cet artisan multirécompensé ne comptait pas s'arrêter en si bon chemin. Le 2 mai 2018, il a lancé une nouvelle gamme de tablettes sous la marque **Le chocolatier ivoirien**, agrémentée d'un appel à **démocratiser la consommation du chocolat en Côte d'Ivoire et sur le continent**.



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Cesar V. Purisima

Former Secretary of Finance, Republic of the Philippines

His Excellency Cesar Purisima is an Asia Fellow of Milken Institute, a global non-profit, non-partisan think tank. He is a founding partner at IKHLAS Capital, an Asian private equity firm. He currently serves on the boards of the AIA Group, De La Salle University, Ayala Land, Universal Robina Corporation, and the International School of Manila. He is a member of Partners Group AG LIFE's International Advisory Council, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation's Global Advisory Council, and Singapore Management University's International Advisory Council in the Philippines. From 2010 to 2016, H.E. Purisima was the Secretary of Finance of the Philippines and the Chair of Economic Development Cluster of the President's Cabinet. He briefly served as Finance Secretary in 2005 and Trade and Industry Secretary from 2004 to 2005. Additionally, he was a member of the Monetary Board of the Philippines Central Bank, and the Governor for the Philippines at the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. He served as Alternate Governor for the Philippines at the International Monetary Fund. Under his leadership, the Philippines received its first investment-grade ratings. He was named Finance Minister of the Year seven times in six consecutive years by a number of publications, a first for the Philippines. Prior to his stints in the government service, he was the Chairman & Country Managing Partner of the Philippines' largest professional services firm SGV & Co., and was a member of the Global Executive Board and Global Practice Council of Ernst & Young. H.E. Purisima obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce Major in Accounting and Financial Institutions from De La Salle University in 1979. He earned his Master of Business Administration degree from Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Illinois in 1983. His Excellency was conferred a Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honour by the French Republic (Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur) in 2017.



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Chuks Okoriekwe

Chuks Okoriekwe Esq, a tenacious legal practitioner, thrives on innovation. He obtained his LL.B from the University of Lagos. As a strong believer in the power of law and technology to unlock Africa's potential, Chuks has embarked on various research activities in that regard. He is currently working on a model to promote Mobile Tax Payment System (MTax) from Revenue and taxpayers' perspective with a view to expand the tax net to cover the informal sector. Chuks has advised clients on numerous stay-awake industry issues including international tax (transfer pricing arrangement) and cross-border transactions. He has developed thought leadership through contributions to leading newspapers in Nigeria on the intersection of law and technology. He is an Associate at LeLaw (Barristers & Solicitors), Research Fellow at African Academic Network on Internet Policy (AANOIP), Carrington Fellow, StartingBloc Fellow and Country Lead at YALDA Nigeria.



Denis O. Mezui

Denis O. Mezui is the Managing Partner of HOD Consulting Gabon and Non-Executive Director, Board of Directors at United Bank of Africa in Gabon (UBA Gabon). As a Coach/trainer in Organization Development, Performance Improvement and Entrepreneurship, Denis works on performance improvement and organizational development. He is a coach / mentor in several entrepreneurship programs across the continent, is a consultant in strategic orientation within the HECI Business School / International University group among others. A graduate in business studies and business administration, he has worked in Africa and Switzerland, at the operational and strategic level for companies, including in marketing, innovation, distribution, sales and business development.



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Duvvuri Subbarao

Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India

Dr. Duvvuri Subbarao served as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for five years (2008-13). Prior to that, Dr. Subbarao was Finance Secretary to the Government of India from 2007-08 and Secretary to the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council 2005-07. Dr. Subbarao joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1972, topping the highly competitive civil services entry examination in that year. As a career civil servant, he worked in various positions in the state government of Andhra Pradesh and in the federal government of India. Dr. Subbarao was a Lead Economist in the World Bank (1999 - 2004), where his responsibilities involved analyzing the public expenditures of developing countries and advising them on fiscal policy issues. Dr. Subbarao studied at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and later at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. He went to Graduate School at Ohio State University where he got MS in Economics and later was a Humphrey Fellow at MIT studying Public Finance. He got a PhD in Economics from Andhra University, India for his dissertation on Fiscal Reforms at the Sub-national Level. Dr. Subbarao came in as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India just a week before the global financial crisis erupted in full in mid-September 2008, and he led the effort to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the Indian economy and to institute economic and financial sector reforms reflecting the lessons of the crisis. Dr. Subbarao has all along maintained a strong commitment to academic pursuits, and has written and spoken extensively on issues in macroeconomic management, public finance and financial sector reforms. Dr. Subbarao is currently a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the National University of Singapore.



Foy Zuo Bruno

Zuo Bruno is the founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zuoix, an Offensive Information Security Company based in Limbe, Cameroon. Bruno is known for his innovation known as ZOOMED, which he created to secure cars, businesses and homes when the internet was disconnected in his region. His Innovation has grown into a new term in technology, known as SOT (SMS of Things) in which he uses SMS for interconnection of devices.



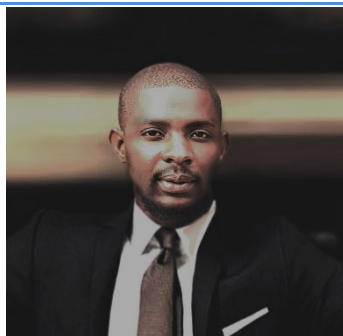
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Gilbert Eugene Peters

Gilbert Eugene Peters is the founder and CEO of Spidex Media Group which is one of Zimbabwe's top media and advertising company. He has seen the growth of his brands to other key African markets such as Zambia, Lesotho and South Africa. He is also the Chairman of Gilcorp Group, an Investment and holdings company with interests in real estate, technology and media. Gilbert Eugene Peters is ranked as one of the top 30 entrepreneurs in Africa by Forbes Magazine and he has received multiple awards in business.



Giovane Biha

Deputy Executive Secretary – Knowledge Delivery - of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Ms. Giovane Biha is a national of Burundi. Prior to joining the ECA on 30 March 2015 as a Deputy Executive Secretary for Knowledge Delivery, Ms Biha was serving as Director of Management and Administration Division at UN Women. She has more than 25 years of extensive experience that combines policy formulation, programmatic and operations management in the UN system as well as the private sector. She has also served as Chief of Budget Strategy and Corporate Performance Management in UNDP's Office of Planning and Budgeting. Ms. Biha has worked as Deputy Resident Representative for both Programme and Operations in UNDP-Mauritania; as Senior Programme Manager and Deputy Resident Representative a.i. in UNDP-Ethiopia; and as Assistant Resident Representative in Guinea-Bissau and Guinea-Conakry. Ms. Biha has also worked for the Central Bank of Burundi. She holds a Masters degree in Economics from Western Illinois University. In her current position as Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA for knowledge Delivery, Ms. Biha oversees the work of ECA's Capacity Development Division (CDD); Public Information and Knowledge Management Division (PIKMD); Division of Administration (DoA); ECA's five Sub-regional Offices (SROs); and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP).



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Goodwell Mateyo

President of the Chamber of Mines, Zambia

Goodwell Mateyo is the current President of the Chamber of Mines of Zambia, one of the largest and most influential private sector lobbies in the country. He is a lawyer by profession having obtained a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Zambia and Master of Laws degree from the University of London. He has worked as a legal advisor in the mining industry for 7 years and has experience in regulatory engagements. He works in that role as General Counsel for Mopani Copper Mines Plc, a Glencore managed copper extraction and processing company.



Hayat Essakkati

Hayat Essakkati is a Moroccan-Dutch entrepreneur based in Casablanca, Morocco. She spent 4 years in international development with the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank managing youth/ education programs in North Africa. After, Hayat founded Maroc4Invest, a consulting firm for foreign agencies doing business in Morocco where she worked on education, health, banking and renewable energy projects across Africa. She combines experience in international economic programs with entrepreneurship in Africa. Hayat has a BA in Public Administration from Leiden University in the Netherlands and a MA in International Economics from the Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC, USA.



Hippolyte L. Fofack

Chief Economist/Director, Research and International Cooperation, The African Export-Import Bank

Dr. Hippolyte Fofack is the Chief Economist and Director of Research and International Cooperation Department at the **African Export-Import Bank**. In that capacity, he directs theoretical and applied economic research activities and advises the President and Executive Vice Presidents on matters relating to research, policy development and strategic directions. Prior to joining the African Export-Import Bank, he was with the World Bank Group, where he served in several capacities, including as Senior Economist and Cluster Leader and Head of the Macroeconomic and Growth Program at the World Bank Institute. Dr. Fofack has published extensively and is a member of several leading professional and scientific organizations, including the American Economic Association, the African Finance and Economic Association. He is a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences, member of the Board of Trustees of the African Academy of Sciences, Editor-in-Chief of Contemporary Issues in African Trade and Trade Finance, Associate Editor of the Journal of African Development and member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of African Trade.



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Isabelle Durant

Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Ms. Isabelle Durant (Belgium) took office as Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 3 July 2017. Ms. Durant had a distinguished career in Belgian and European politics. She held the offices of Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Transport and Energy and Senator in the Belgian Government. She also served as Vice-President of the European Parliament and Presidency of the European Union Council of Ministers of Transport. Ms. Durant has a wealth of experience collaborating with civil society and the private sector as well, notably as the Vice-President responsible for relations between the European Parliament and civil society. Finally, Ms. Durant has held posts as a senior consultant on the empowerment of women in local government for the UNDP and as a member of Parliament of the Brussels-Capital Region in Belgium.



Jean-Claude Kassi Brou

President of the Economic Community of West African States
(ECOWAS)

Until his appointment as President of the ECOWAS Commission on December 16 December 2017, H.E. Dr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou was Minister of Industry, Trade and Mines in Ivory Coast from October 2012 to February 2018. Previously, he served as Economic and Financial Adviser to the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, from 1991 to 1995 and Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister from 1996 to 1999. He also worked for eight years at the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), where he successively held the positions of Director, Special Advisor to the Governor and Comptroller General from 2007 to 2008. He was also the World Bank Resident Representative for Chad from 2010 to 2012. Mr. Brou holds a Ph.D. in Economics, an MBA in Finance from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio, United States of America, and another Master's degree from the National University of Côte d'Ivoire. He began his professional career at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1982, as a senior economist, and also served in Senegal from 1990 to 1991 as Resident Representative of the IMF. He is fluent in French and English, Portuguese as well as Spanish. Jean-Claude Kassi BROU is married and has two children.



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Jenerali Ulimwengu

Jenerali Ulimwengu is a Tanzanian media expert and legal counsel who has worked in various capacities in Tanzania and the African continent. He has worked as a civil servant, Member of Parliament, and district governor in Tanzania. Before that he worked at the HQs of the Pan African Youth Movement in Algiers in the 1970s and 1980s, which afforded him invaluable knowledge of the continent and the world. He has consulted with the East African Community (EAC), the African Union (AU), UNECA, UNDP, UN-Habitat and the African Development Bank (AfDB). He currently heads a newspaper publishing house in his country and writes a weekly column in the Nairobi based 'The East African' newspaper. He is an advocate of the High Court in Dar es Salaam.



Kabelo Moiloa

Kabelo Moiloa is an avid entrepreneur and business developer with international experience in Investment Markets, Telecoms and Strategic consultancy and Advisory. Currently based in South Africa as a principal exec of new markets and coverage at Gladys Investments Group previously a partner at Stringfellow Investment Specialists an award winning investment manager. 10 year corporate advisory experience in over \$1 billion in managed transactions from organizations such as Origins Capital, Andany Holdings, Glad Africa, Symphony Capital, Dimension Data, Internet Solutions among others. His key strengths are derived from a decade of research acumen in start up funds, venture capital, Private Equity executive, in areas of Financial Analysis, Commodities, Telco funding frameworks, (MNO/VNO)–Financial modeling, Vas markets entry and revenue threshold planning (ARPU) studies. He is currently pursuing an MBA in Banking. A Silver Medalist winner of South African young innovators award.



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Kipyego Cheluget

COMESA Assistant Secretary General (Programmes)

Ambassador Dr Kipyego Cheluget was appointed COMESA Assistant Secretary General (Programmes) by the COMESA Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Kampala, Uganda in November 2012. Dr Cheluget, who was formerly Kenya's High Commissioner to Zambia and Malawi and Permanent Representative to COMESA, joined the Secretariat in February 2013. He is a long serving Diplomat, and was formerly the Deputy High Commissioner of Kenya to New Delhi, India. He served at IGAD as Chief, Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Officer in the late 90s before joining the East African Community as Deputy Secretary-General for Projects and Programmes from 2001-2007. He also served in various capacities at Kenya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as Director, Foreign Service Institute, Asia and Australasia, Middle East, Research and as Deputy Chief of Protocol. Dr Kipyego's academic background includes a Doctorate in Political Science from Northern Arizona University, and BSc and MSc Degrees from Illinois State University, all in the USA. He has also previously taught at Kenyatta, Moi and USIU Universities in Kenya.



Lanre Oloniyi

Lanre has over 15 years' investment experience doing business between Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA). Prior to co-founding Orbitt, Lanre was involved in originating investment ideas and raising the required capital to grow start-ups in Africa, including Sankuru, First African Gold and Tranergy Capital. He also worked at BP, Subsea 7 and Citi in the UK. Lanre holds a BSc in Economics from the University of Ado, an MSc degree in Energy Economics from the University of Dundee, UK and an MBA from University of Cambridge, UK.



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Latifa Elbouabdellaoui

Director of International Trade Relations
Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy, Kingdom
of Morocco

Latifa Elbouabdellaoui is the Director of International Trade Relations at the Directorate General of Commerce in the Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy, since 2013. Before being appointed Director, she was responsible for the Mechanical and Metallurgical Industries Division and later for the Offshoring Trades Division within the same Ministry. She coordinates and leads negotiations on Trade Agreements at the national level. She has hosted several national and international conferences and seminars on international trade topics. She is an engineer in industrial process engineering and holds a post-graduate degree in management.



Leila Farah Mokaddem

Recently appointed as Country manager & Resident representative of the African Development Bank in Morocco, Leila Farah Mokaddem was the Resident Representative of the AfDB in Egypt from 2014 to 2017. Prior to that, she occupied the positions of Regional Resident Representative in Dakar, Senegal, and head of financial institutions where she designed innovative financial solutions for Africa including the African SME Guarantee Fund, AfDB trade finance Initiative and the women in business initiative. Leila managed multibillions investment portfolio in 35 African countries in particular in infrastructure and financial services sectors. Prior to AfDB, Leila was long-term fiscal advisor to the IMF. She started her carrier at the Ministry Economy of Tunisia and has MBA degree in Finance and International trade, respectively. Leila is sitting at the Board of the Afreximbank.



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Li Yong

Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Li Yong, Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), has had an extensive career as a senior economic and financial policymaker. As Vice-Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China and member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank for a decade, Mr. Li was involved in setting and harmonizing fiscal, monetary and industrial policies, and in supporting sound economic growth in China. He pushed forward financial sector reform, and prompted major financial institutions to establish corporate governance, deal with toxic assets and strengthen risk management. Mr. Li gave great importance to fiscal and financial measures in favor of agricultural development and SMEs, the cornerstones for creating economic opportunities, reducing poverty and promoting gender equality. He played a key role in China's cooperation with multilateral development organizations, such as the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank.



Mahamane Cisse-Gouro

Mahamane Cisse-Gouro, a Jurist from Mali, is married and father of three children. He holds an LLM in Law from Rene Descartes University (Paris V- Malakoff) and a Master in International Relations from l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes Internationales (EHEI – Paris). Since January 2014, Mr. CISSE-GOURO is the Chief of Africa Branch at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) - Geneva. He oversees, manages and coordinates the Office's programme at Headquarters and in the field by providing policy and substantive guidance for the effective implementation of OHCHR mandate. Prior to this position, he assumed several managerial positions within OHCHR. From March 2012 to December 2013, he served as Senior Human Rights Officer and Chief of Africa Section II (West and Central Africa) at OHCHR Geneva. From September 2008 to February 2012, he was the OHCHR Regional Representative for West Africa, in Dakar. From August 2006 to August 2008, he was the Central Africa team leader in OHCHR-Geneva. Mr. CISSE-GOURO has field experience and has worked in complex political, humanitarian and human rights contexts. From November 2004 to May 2006, he was the Deputy Chief of the Human Rights Section at the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). He served as Human Rights adviser to the Resident Coordinator's Office in Haiti from March to November 2004. From October 2002 to February 2004, he was Deputy to the Director at the OHCHR Country Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and from August 1999 to September 2002 Head of Sub Office in Goma. When he joined the United Nations, he served from October 1995 to July 1999 as Human Rights Officer and Head of Provincial Office in Angola with the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) and the United Nations Observer Mission (MONUA). He is fluent in French, English and Portuguese.



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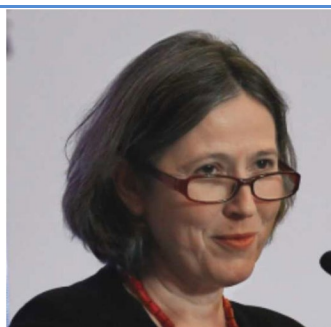
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Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly

Country Director for the Maghreb and Malta, Middle East and North Africa

Ms. Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly joined the World Bank in 1994 and has held a variety of positions focused on the restructuring of public enterprises, support to private sector development, regional integration, and management of the oil sector. Before assuming the position of World Bank Country Director for the Maghreb and Malta on July 1st, 2015, Ms. Marie-Nelly spent four years as Country Director for Nigeria, and previous to that held a number of posts including Country Director for the two Congo (Brazzaville and DRC) from 2008 to 2011, Director for the World Bank Group Program related to the Chad Petroleum and the Chad-Cameroon pipeline project from 2004 to 2007 and Director for the regional integration program in Africa from 2000 to 2004. A native of Martinique, Ms. Marie-Nelly is a Certified Public Accountant, graduate of the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Nantes and Bowling Green University (Ohio, USA). She has also completed several management programs at Harvard University in the US. She worked for many international firms and was advisor to several governments before joining the World Bank.



Martina Garcia

Head of Emerging Markets Strategy, London Stock Exchange Group

Martina Garcia heads the International Markets Unit at the London Stock Exchange Group since 2015. Prior to joining the London Stock Exchange Group, Martina worked for Goldman Sachs, managing their Brussels representative office and for the UK Treasury, where she held a variety of posts, most recently as Deputy-Director for Banking and Financial Sector Analysis. Before the 2008 financial crisis, Martina focused on trade and development issues, at the OECD where she led the joint WTO-OECD Aid-for-Trade initiative. She earned a first degree in Economics at the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona and a PhD from Wye College (Imperial College).



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Nneile Nkholise

Nneile Nkholise is an engineer by profession and the founder and director of iMed Tech; a South Africa based firm specialising in innovative medical technology. iMed Tech focuses on hiring young female mechanical engineers to design breast and facial prostheses for cancer and burn victims. She was named as the winner of South African Breweries Foundation Social Innovation awards in 2015. A winner of people's choice award and development award through her work of developing breast prosthesis using additive manufacturing. She was also recognised as one of Africa's top female innovators by the World Economic Forum in 2016 for her work.



Omobola Johnson

Former Minister of Communication Technology, Nigeria

Omobola Johnson is Senior Partner of TLcom Capital, a venture capital firm with recent focus on deal flow generation, investment and value generation in technology companies in sub-saharan Africa. Before joining TLcom, Omobola was Minister of Communication Technology, Nigeria from 2011 to 2015, focusing on the launch and execution of the National Broadband Plan, and the support of the Nigerian technology industry, including the pioneering involvement of the government in a local VC fund and a network of start-up incubators. Prior to serving in the Nigerian government, she gained over 25 years of consulting experience with Accenture including five years as Country Managing Director, working with companies in a variety of industries, transforming them into more competitive and dynamic organizations. Omobola serves on the Board of a number of leading Nigerian and multi-national corporations. She also serves on the Board of the World Wide Web Foundation is the Founding Chairperson and Trustee, Women in Management and Business. Omobola has a Bachelor's in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from the University of Manchester; a Master's in Digital Electronics from King's College, London and a Doctorate in Business Administration from the School of Management of Cranfield University. She is the recipient of the Distinguished Alumna award from Cranfield University and the Lagos Business School.



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Seynabou Dia

Seynabou Dia is CEO and Founder of Global Mind Consulting. As a specialist in Public Relations, she has deep knowledge of communication organizations. Thanks to her professional experience and marked by the ambition to value the actors of the economic transformation on the African continent, in 2011 she founded her first agency, Global Mind Consulting, based between Washington DC and Paris. In addition, Seynabou has been involved in various key initiatives internationally. For two years, she was responsible for the communication of a network of African executives and played an active role in organizing major events at the Information Office of the European Parliament and Science Po Paris. She also coordinated the launch gala of the “World Festival of Negro Arts” in France. At UNESCO, she was able to join the permanent delegation of Senegal, where she has worked for three editions during the organization of the Cultural Gala Africa.



Tahar Mdaghri Alaoui

Chief of the Division of Accountancy and Collection Monitoring
Network’s Animation Direction, General Tax Administration

Education

1996 – Information Scientist, Information Sciences School, Rabat / Morocco
2002 – Master in Organizations Management, University of Québec, Chicoutimi / Canada (relocated in ESIG Rabat)
2008 – Master in Law and Management of Public Finances, University of Paris 1 (Panthéon – Sorbonne), Paris / France

Experience

- Network’s Animation Direction, Division of Accountancy and Collection Monitoring, Chief of the Division of Accountancy and Collection Monitoring, 22/02/2018 – To date.
- Network’s Animation Direction, Division of Accountancy and Collection Monitoring, Chief of the Service of Accounting Centralization, 10/05/2016 to 22/02/2018
- Tax base, Collection and legal affairs Direction, Division of Collection Monitoring and Fiscal Forecasts, Chief of the Service of Monitoring Collection of Large Companies, 31/03/2015 to 09/05/2016
- Regional Direction of Casablanca, Service of Large Companies Tax Base, Responsible of the Administration’s Collection Unit Casa-Rachidi, 04/04/2004 to 30/03/2015

Regional Direction of Rabat, working in the unit in charge of collecting registration tax and stamps, 1996 to 2004



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Taieb BACCOUCHE

Mr. Taieb Baccouche has held various key positions in politics and as a human rights activist, trade unionist and university researcher. In this regard, he has served as Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union (August 1, 2016); Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia (February 2015 - January 2016); Minister of Education and Spokesperson of the Council of Ministers from 17 January 2011 to 24 December 2011, in the post revolution Transition Government. He is also a Founding Member and Secretary General of the party "Nida Tounes" (since 2012) and its Vice President since September 2015. Mr. Baccouche holds a doctorate in linguistics and Arabic (University Paris-Sorbonne 1980 and 1968). As a trade unionist, Mr. Baccouche is the Secretary General of the Tunisian General Labor Union (UGTT) (1981-1984) and Director of the "Echaab" newspaper, The People (1981-1985).



Tawanda Sibanda

Partner, McKinsey Johannesburg

Tawanda Sibanda is a Partner at McKinsey Johannesburg. He leads McKinsey Digital Labs in EEMA (Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa), and the firm's Digital work in the financial services sector in Africa. He primarily works with banks and insurance companies across Africa, helping them architect and deliver digital transformations at scale. Before joining McKinsey, he tried his hand at entrepreneurship, co-founding a travel start-up in his native Zimbabwe. Prior to this, he was a lead program manager at Microsoft based in Redmond, Washington. Tawanda holds Bachelor and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and an MBA with high distinction from Harvard Business School.



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A short biography of Speakers



Vera Songwe

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Dr. Vera Songwe brings to ECA and the position of Executive Secretary, a long-standing track record of providing policy advice on development and a wealth of experience in delivering development results for Africa, as well as a demonstrated strong and clear strategic vision for the continent. Prior to joining the ECA, she was Regional Director of the International Finance Corporation, covering West and Central Africa. In addition, she continues to serve as a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution's Africa Growth Initiative. She is also a member of the African Union institutional reform team under the direction of the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, and a board member of the African Leadership Network and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. Previously, she was Country Director for the World Bank, covering Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal. She was also Adviser to the Managing Director of the World Bank for Africa, Europe and Central and South Asia and a lead Country Sector Coordinator for the organization. She had earlier served as the World Bank's Senior Economist in the Philippines. Prior to joining the World Bank, she was a Visiting Researcher at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota and at the University of Southern California. She holds a PhD in Mathematical Economics from the Center for Operations Research and Econometrics and a Master of Arts in Law and Economics and a *Diplôme d'études approfondies* in Economic Science and Politics from the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of Michigan and is a graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes College in Cameroon. Ms. Songwe has published widely on development and economic issues.



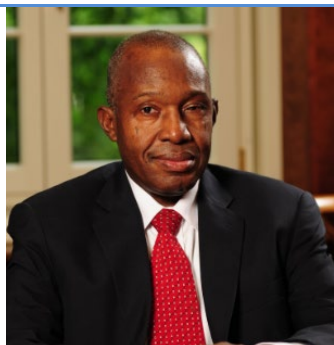
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Yonov Frederick Agah

Yonov Frederick Agah was appointed as Nigeria's Ambassador to the WTO in 2005. In that capacity, he served as the Alternate Chief Negotiator for the Doha Round and Head of Nigeria's Trade Office to the WTO in the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations Office in Geneva. The Trade Office is responsible for Nigeria's participation in Geneva-based trade-related international organizations, particularly the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the World Intellectual Property Organisation, the International Trade Centre and the WTO. Mr Agah served as Chair of the WTO's General Council in 2011. He was responsible for organizing the Eighth WTO Ministerial Conference, which was acknowledged to be successful despite the prevailing stalemate in the Doha Round. He has also served as Chair of the following WTO bodies: Dispute Settlement Body in 2010, the Council for Trade in Services in 2009, the Trade Policy Review Body in 2008, the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights in 2007, and the Council for Trade in Goods in 2006. He was also the Chair of the Council for TRIPS, Special Session, in 2013. Mr Agah has previously worked as a lecturer at Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna (1979-81), senior features writer/circulation manager, Benue Printing and Publishing Corporation (1982-84), Sales Manager, Benue Bottling Company Limited (1984-87), Field Manager, UTC Nigeria PLC (1990-91), Deputy Director (multilateral) (1991-2001) and Director (external trade) (2002-05). Mr Agah holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Economics from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. He obtained a Master of Business Administration and Doctor of Philosophy in Economics (International Trade) from the University of Jos, Nigeria, in 1989 and 2007 respectively. His doctoral dissertation was on "Trade Policy Reform and Economic Growth in Nigeria Since 1986". Mr Agah also obtained a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Abuja, Nigeria, in 2009. He has contributed to various books and journals.