



ECA



**The Continental
Free Trade
Area and Trade
Facilitation**

Speaker Biographies

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African Union Conference Centre
Addis Ababa**



Wafa Aidi

Wafa Aidi is an Economic Affairs Officer in the Investment Policy Section of the Regional Integration and Trade Division since 18th of July 2016. She was granted the grade of Doctor in Economics with the summa cum laud mention from both University of Tunis and Toulon. She also has a master in forecasting business cycles and financial markets from the Higher Institute of Management (Tunis). During the last six years, Wafa has been a researcher with the Higher Institute of Management of Tunis (University of Tunis) and its Research unit of quantitative analysis applied to economics and finance (UAQUAP). She also spent several research stays with the University of Toulon and was visiting scholar with the Graduate Institute of Geneva, Centre for Trade and Economic Integration. Her research focuses on the design and effects of financial reforms by investigating the role of complementarity between international finance integration and international trade integration and has been recognized by refereed international journals such as Journal of Business & Economics, Journal of Economic Integration, Economic Modelling, and Canadian Journal of Development Studies. Wafa has solid research abilities in empirical analysis and designing sectorial development strategies, especially on macroeconomics issues for the developing regions. She is keen on statistical data processing and gained hands-on experience in applied econometrics and statistics. Wafa is national of Tunisia, and can work in the three languages of the commission (Arabic, English and French).



Rob Davies

Rob Davies is serving his second term as Minister of Trade and Industry, having been appointed to this portfolio in May 2014. During his first term from 2009-2014, he oversaw the development and implementation of annual three year rolling Industrial Policy Action Plans as well as steering South Africa's participation in important trade relations, including the Tripartite SADC-COMESA-EAC Free Trade Area, BRICS, Economic Partnership Agreement with EU, the US Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, and World Trade Organisation Bali package. Between 2005 and 2008 he was Deputy Minister in the same Department. An ANC MP since 1994, Rob Davies served as Chairperson of the Portfolio Committees of Finance and Trade and Industry as well as the Constitutional Assembly Sub-Committee responsible for drafting Charter 13 (Finance). Before entering Parliament, Rob Davies was Professor and co-Director of the Centre of Southern African Studies at the University of the Western Cape and before that Professor Auxiliar at the Centro de Estudos Africanos at Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, Mozambique. An anti-apartheid activist for many years, Rob Davies joined both the ANC and the SACP while in exile in Mozambique. He is currently a member of the Central Committee of the SACP and of the National Executive Committee of the ANC. Academically he holds an Honours degree in Economics from Rhodes University, a Masters in International Relations from the University of Southampton in the UK and a Doctorate in Political Studies from the University of Sussex.



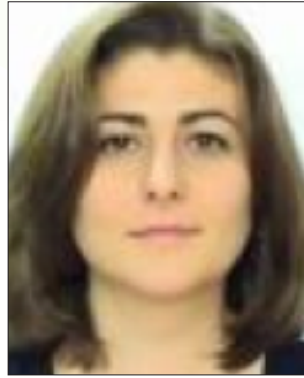
William Davis

William Davis is a trade economist with the African Trade Policy Centre at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa who is a member of the development team behind the Africa Regional Integration Index.



Nathan DeAssis

Nathan DeAssis has over 29 years of professional experience in Investment, Finance and Business Development a former lecturer in the School of Business at the Copperbelt University at Undergraduate and graduate levels lecturing in Management for Financial Institutions, Corporate Finance, Financial and Investment Management and Money and Banking courses. He has also worked with developmental Projects that have been funded by USAID that have included Human Resources Development Program (HRDP) as an MSME Trainer of Trainers Under Clark Atlanta University; Livingstone Small Business Linkages Program; CopperLink Small Business Association Program and BizAIDS Zambia. He was involved in the establishment of Zambia Chamber of Small and Medium Businesses (ZCSMBA) in 2000. He served as the Country Director in Zambia of International Executive Service Corps (IESC) a US based development organization. He is currently the Director of Equity Capital Resources Plc and a consultant in Investment, Business Development, Banking and Financial services. He works with Fourth Dimension Consulting to provide Financial Management for employees and small and medium businesses. He is also CEO for Imara ECR Asset Management Limited a private asset management company. He is the current Board Chairperson for Pulse Financial Services Limited a micro finance institution that provides enterprise credit to the informal and formal sector catering for mainly micro, small and medium businesses. He holds a Master's Degree in Banking and Finance for Development from Italy and Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy from the University of Zambia. He is a Fellow of the Zambia Institute of Bankers and Financial Services.



Nora Dihel

Nora Dihel is a Senior Economist in the Macroeconomics and Fiscal Management Global Practice of the World Bank. She has previously worked in the Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice focusing on trade issues in Eastern and Southern Africa. Prior to joining the World Bank in 2008, Nora worked in the Chief Economist Unit of the Directorate General for Trade of the European Commission and the OECD Trade Directorate. She has published extensively on the economic impact of services reforms, regional integration and South-South linkages. Her most recent publication, the Unexplored Potential of Trade in Services in Africa, was launched in June 2016 in Addis Ababa. Nora has a Doctorate Degree in Economics from the Helmut Schmidt University, Germany.



Sékou Falil Doumbouya

Mr. Sékou Falil Doumbouya is a trade economist, Partner of African Trade and Sustainable Development (AFRTSD). He is specialized in the field of services trade policy and tariff reform impact simulations. He worked on services issues at global level as member of the E15 Services Group and as ILEAP Research Associates. M Sekou Doumbouya awarded the Master's degree in economics and statistical modelling, at Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique of Paris, France in 1996.



Gerhard Erasmus

Gerhard Erasmus is an Emeritus Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa, where he teaches Public International law, Constitutional Law and International Trade Law. He is an Associate of the Trade Law Centre (TRALAC) and works on the legal and institutional aspects of regional integration and trade in Southern and Eastern Africa. He has been involved in the drafting of national constitutions and legislation, international agreements, trade negotiations, and the implementation of regional legal instruments.



James T. Gathii

James T. Gathii is the Wing-Tat Lee Chair in International Law and Professor of Law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. His research, teaching scholarship interests are in public international law and international economic law. In addition, his scholarship interests include African national and international courts. His books are African Regional Trade Agreements as Legal Regimes (Cambridge University Press, 2011 and 2013) and War, Commerce and International Law (Oxford University Press, 2010) His latest book is The Contested Empowerment of Kenya's Judiciary 2010-2015: A Historical Institutional Analysis, Sheria Publishing House, (2016) In addition to his books, Professor Gathii has authored over 80 articles and book chapters.



Kebour Ghenna

Kebour Ghenna is the Executive Director of the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI) since 2013. He oversees a unique organization representing the interests of business and trade associations in Africa. Previously he founded Initiative Africa, a social enterprise, whose mission is to improve education from cradle to career in Africa. A well-known business man, Kebour Ghenna has been involved in a number of business ventures, including agriculture, technology, media and education. He served as a non-executive director of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Abyssinia Bank, and the National Fertilizer Company. He presided over the Addis Ababa and Ethiopia Chambers of Commerce, the Ethiopian Business Coalition against HIV/AIDS, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society. Next to his experience in business, Kebour Ghenna has extensive experience in applied research and research design having been involved in the design and execution of numerous research projects working as an expert and consultant for UNECA, UNDP, the WBI, IDRC and various other national and international organizations. Kebour Ghenna has post graduate degrees from SUNY at Stony Brook and NYU. He lectured at the Addis Ababa University and played a key role in the establishment of the School of Information Sciences. He is a regular contributor to Capital, a weekly newspaper in Addis Ababa he established in 1996.



Barbara Natukunda Kabuchu

Barbara Natukunda Kabuchu is a 39 year old Chartered Accountant with professional qualification and membership from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) of eleven years and a certificate from the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda. (ICPAU). She possesses a Master's degree in Business and Administration from The Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI) (2007) and a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration with an emphasis in Economics from Makerere University (1999). She has a certificate in Strategic Investment Promotions and Development of Bankable Projects from International Development Ireland (IDI) (Feb 2016). She also hold a certificate on the Development of Public Private Enterprises from UNIDO (2015) and another in Managing Effective Investment Campaigns from The World Bank (2008). She is also a trained and licensed Adviser of the UNIDO SPX Supplier Benchmarking Tool (2013). She is a Certified Project Planning and Management Trainer from Prince 2 (2011). She has attended several Finance and Budget trainings organized by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Uganda.



Peter Kiuluku

Peter Kiuluku is the Executive Director, Trade policy training Centre in Africa (TRAPCA). He has over 20 years' experience in Business consulting, capacity building, corporate strategy and marketing. Mr. Kiuluku is experienced in managing multi-stakeholder partnerships. He previously managed the Global Leadership and Management Sustainability Programme at ESAMI in partnership with Management sciences for Health (MSH) and was Manager, Marketing and Business Development at ESAMI. He holds a Bachelor of Education from Kenyatta University, an MBA in Strategic Management from ESAMI and has an MPhil degree from Maastricht School of Management.



Pranav Kumar

Mr. Pranav Kumar holds an M. Phil degree in Economics from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai. He has over 20 years of professional experience of working with government, industry, international agencies, academia, and CSOs. Since February 2012, he has been working as head of International Trade Policy with India's leading business chamber Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). As a head of international trade policy division, he engages closely with the Government of India (GoI), international/national organisations, industry members and experts working on trade & globalisation. He engages with industry members across all sectors on all aspects of trade negotiation and policy formulation to build an Indian industry position on international trade policy which feeds into the negotiating process of Government of India. Previously he worked as a Senior Trade Policy Advisor with the joint international trade policy team (India Trade Policy Unit) of British High Commission and DFID India.



David Luke

David Luke is Coordinator of the African Trade Policy Centre at the ECA in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. He previously taught at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, served as Chief of Trade Section at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Senior Economist at the African Union Geneva Office and UNDP Trade Adviser in Southern Africa and in Geneva. He holds a bachelor and master's degrees from the London School of Economics and a doctorate from the London School of Oriental and African Studies. He has written widely on trade and development.



Zodwa Mabuza

Zodwa Mabuza is an economist currently coordinating the Tripartite FTA negotiations at the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat. She holds an MSc degree in International Business from Lancaster University in the UK as well as a BA degree in Economics and Statistics from the University of Swaziland. She started her career as an economist in 1995 working for the Government of Swaziland in various ministries. She joined the Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce in 2004 as Director for Trade and Commerce. In 2006 she became the Chief Executive Officer of the same organization until April 2013. In May 2013 she joined the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa as Coordinator for the Tripartite FTA. Zodwa follows regional and international trade developments with keen interest. She has represented Swaziland in various trade negotiations fora and currently serves in various boards, including the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation and TRALAC.



Simon Mevel

Simon Mevel is currently working as an Economic Affairs Officer for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Prior to joining the UN five years ago, he had been working successively for the Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales (CEPII), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the World Bank. He has more than 10 years of experience in the assessment of trade and environmental policies with a focus on development issues, with over 30 publications to date. He has developed and conducted a number of capacity building programmes, particularly on trade policy analysis, in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Rosemina Nathoo

Ms. Rosemina Nathoo, is CTPL Senior Associate with practical experience in law, international trade negotiations, international development, issues management at the senior departmental and political levels, and strategic planning. Recently, Rosemina was the Director of the Office of Legal Affairs at University of Central Asia (UCA) in Kyrgyzstan. Prior to joining UCA, Ms. Nathoo led the legal, governance and corporate compliance functions for Aga Khan Foundation Canada, a Canadian charity focused on poverty alleviation, as well as the Global Centre for Pluralism, an international initiative of His Highness the Aga Khan and the Government of Canada, and the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada. She also worked on Canada's Parliament Hill as Chief of Staff on the Inter-governmental Affairs and Labour Ministerial portfolios. Currently, Ms. Nathoo is the lead trade law advisor for CTPL working with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) through the Africa Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) on a capacity development project to support the Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (CFTA) negotiations process.



Dominique Njinkeu

Dominique Njinkeu is an economist and trade expert with over 30 years of experience doing research and advising governments and regional economic communities on macro-economic and industrial policies, trade, regional integration and international trade negotiations. His experiences include serving between 2009 and January 2016 as the Lead Trade Facilitation Expert and Program Coordinator of the Trade Facilitation Facility (TFF) of the World Bank. Between 2003 and 2009, Mr. Njinkeu served as the Executive Director of International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP). He is currently the President and CEO of African Trade & Sustainable Development (AFTSD), a consultancy that seeks to support Africa's sustainable development through a pro-poor trade agenda at a regional and international level. He is a member of the African trade and development community through the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), the Trade Policy Centre for Africa (TRAPCA) and the WTO Chairs Program.



Chris Nshimbi

Dr Nshimbi is Department of Science and Technology-National Research Foundation (DST-NRF) Research Fellow & Deputy Director of the Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation (GovInn), Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria. He researches regional and sub-regional integration (especially in East and Southern Africa and Southeast Asia), borders and borderlands, the informal economy and cross-border trade, grassroots non-state actors, social cohesion and water resources management. He teaches Regional Integration; African and Regional Politics; and Political Dynamics in the Department of Political Sciences. Dr Nshimbi has participated in and sits on regional and international technical working groups on labour and migration, the integrated water sector, social protection and well-being. Find him on twitter @csn_chris



David Primack

David Primack is a development economist and international trade policy expert, specializing in trade in services policy, negotiations and sector development. Recent work has focused on regional integration, aid-for-trade, and policy interventions affecting competitiveness and the promotion of structural transformation. For over 15 years he has been providing strategic advice to governments, the private sector, and civil society (primarily in Africa), alongside a host of international and regional organizations. David's work primarily involves research, stakeholder facilitation, and training. He is the outgoing Executive Director of International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP) and an independent research consultant.



Phil Rourke

Phil Rourke is Executive Director of the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL). CTPL specializes in working with governments and their stakeholders in the design, negotiation and implementation of effective international trade and development strategies. CTPL is the Canadian partner in the implementation of a four-year trade capacity building project with the Africa Trade Policy Centre. Phil is an expert in trade negotiations and trade strategy and a lecturer in trade and development at Carleton University, the University of Ottawa and the University of the West Indies.



Nicholas Schlaepfer

Nicholas Schlaepfer, Senior Adviser, Women & Trade Programme, International Trade Centre (ITC)

Nicholas Schlaepfer has worked with the International Trade Centre's flagship Women and Trade Programme since its inception in 2009. He works closely with the head of the programme on strategy and performance issues, helping to drive the #shetrades initiative to connect one million women to markets by 2020.

Nicholas has also worked for DFID and as an international management consultant on assignments in Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean.

Nicholas holds a BA from the University of Oxford and an MSc from the University of London.



Timothy M Shaw

Timothy M Shaw (timothy.shaw@umb.edu) is adjunct research professor at Aalborg, Carleton & Ottawa universities. He previously directed a new PhD in Global Governance & Human Security at UMass Boston, the Institute of International Relations at UWI in T&T & the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London after being based at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia for three decades. Tim holds a trio of degrees from three continents: Sussex in Europe, Makerere in Uganda & Princeton in North America & has received grants from the EU 5th Framework, Ford, HSSRCC, IDRC, QNRF, UN agencies etc. He is delighted to have coedited three new paperback titles in 2015-6: *Development in Africa: refocusing the lens after the MDGs* (Policy Press), *Africa's Challenge to IR Theory* (Palgrave Macmillan) & *Africa & IR in the 21st Century* (Palgrave Macmillan).



Heini Suominen

Heini Suominen is an Economic Affairs Officer with the African Trade Policy Centre of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), where her work focuses on intra-African trade, the Economic Partnership Agreements and trade and gender. She has previously worked on macroeconomic policy with the ECA, and on transport facilitation and logistics with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Her previous experience also includes public health and social policy issues in the EU and the UK. She holds degrees from the University of Warwick and the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Kathleen Van Hove

Kathleen Van Hove is Senior Policy Officer on Trade and Regional Integration at the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) in Brussels (www.ecdpm.org). Her current activities relate mainly to the political economy dimensions of regional integration processes in Africa. She joined ECDPM in 1997, and over the years has worked on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations and implementation, Aid for Trade, participation of private sector and non-state actors in the policy arena. Facilitating dialogue and fostering networks between actors in Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific on trade and development policy has been the major focus of her work.



Jan Vanheukelom

Jan Vanheukelom is a senior advisor on political economy and governance at the European Centre for Development Policy Management. Most of his career he has worked on and in Africa. Jan acted as team leader of a first ever political economy study of Africa's main regional organizations (the African Union and five Regional Economic Communities, PERIA). He specializes in applying political economy approaches to development challenges in sectors such as transport and security, as well as in processes such as North-South and South-South relations and partnerships. Such relations – even when intended to maximize development opportunities – are marred with politics and power. He is motivated by the idea (and evidence) that development can be done differently by *thinking and working politically*.



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