Programme for Structural Transformation

4-6 Dec 2017
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
#2017AEC
African Economic Conference 2017
Governance for structural transformation

The African Economic Conference provides a forum for leading thinkers and practitioners to discuss the emerging issues in Africa. The specific objectives of the Conference series are the following:

Promote knowledge management as an important driver of policy dialogue, good policy planning and implementation;

Foster dialogue that promotes the exchange of ideas and innovative thinking among researchers, development practitioners and African policymakers;

Encourage and enhance research on economic and policy issues relating to the development of African economies;

Provide an opportunity for young African researchers, Africans in the diaspora and regional and subregional organizations to disseminate their research findings and share information with African policymakers on the work that they do in the region.
Monday, 4 December 2017

9:00 – 9:30 Registration of participants

9:30 – 10:30 Official opening ceremony
Room: Conference Room 2
Master of ceremony: Jimmy Ocitti, Director, Public Information and Knowledge Management Division, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Opening remarks
- Dr. Vera Songwe, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, ECA
- Mr. Lamin Momodou Manneh, Director, Regional Service Centre for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Dr. Célestin Monga, Vice President, Economic Governance and Knowledge Management, African Development Bank (AfDB)

Official opening
- H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Keynote address
- Prof. Richard Joseph, John Evans Professor of International History and Politics at Northwestern University, Illinois, United States of America

10:30 – 11:00 Press conference
Room: Large Briefing Room
Moderator: Jimmy Ocitti, Director, Public Information and Knowledge Management Division, ECA

- Dr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECA
- Mr. Lamin Momodou Manneh, Director, Regional Service Centre for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Dr. Célestin Monga, Vice President, Economic Governance and Knowledge Management, AfDB

10:30 – 11:10 Tea and coffee break
11:10 – 12:40 Plenary session 1 – High-level panel: Reflections and perspectives on the theory and practice of governance for structural transformation in Africa
This session will provide the opportunity for high-level experts, policymakers and practitioners to engage and share their reflections and perspectives on how governance in Africa can better support the continent’s structural transformation. The session will provide the analytical framework on the relationship between governance and structural transformation and how the former affects the latter. In addition, the session will discuss Africa’s key challenges and opportunities in this area and offer perspectives on the best practices, including from African countries.
Room: Conference room 2
Moderator: Dr. Victor B. Oladokun, Director of Communications, AfDB
Panellists:
• Hon. Maria Kiwana Kiwanuka, Senior Presidential Advisor, and former Minister of Finance, Uganda
• Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum
• Prof. David Booth, Principal Research Fellow, Politics and Governance Programme, Overseas Development Institute
• Prof. Edward Edokat Tafah, Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda, Cameroon

12:40-14:30 Lunch break
Room: Delegates’ lounge, top floor

14:30-16:00 Plenary session 2: Role of the State in governing development in Africa (ECA)
Experiences from Africa and elsewhere indicate that the State must fulfil its role, through visionary leadership, development planning, strong institutions, active industrial policy and effective service delivery, in order to achieve structural transformation. The success of these policies will essentially depend on them integrating collaboration with non-state actors into the policy design and its implementation at national, subnational and local levels. This session will provide an opportunity for leading experts to assess the role of the State in governing Africa’s structural transformation and inclusive development. Experts will share views, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned on the role of African Governments in promoting development. Experts will further make policy recommendations for enhancing State capabilities and formulating and implementing appropriate strategies and policies.
Room: Conference Room 2
Moderator: Prof. Edward Edokat Tafah, Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda, Cameroon
Panellists:
• Dr. Abdalla Hamdok, Chief Economist, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECA
• Dr. Adeyemi Dipeolu, Economic Advisor to the President of Nigeria
• Dr. Nomfundo Ngwenya, Group Chief Strategist, Ntsele Global, former Chief Director, African Economic Integration, National Treasury of South Africa
• Dr. Omano Edigheji, Chief Executive Officer, Zeezi Oasis Leadership Inspiration Limited
• Mr. Charles Abugre, Chief Executive Officer, Savannah Accelerated Development Authority, Ghana

16:00-16:30 Tea and coffee break
16:30-18:00  
**Plenary session 3: Inclusive resource governance as a driver of structural transformation (UNDP)**

Africa’s natural resources, both above and below ground, remain a major potential driver of structural transformation in a growing number of African countries. Major discoveries and expansion of current facilities are changing the continent’s resource map: the estimation is that Africa hosts 30 per cent of the world’s mineral reserves and an even higher proportion of deposits of gold, platinum, diamonds and manganese. This session will provide the opportunity for participants to focus on strengthening inclusive governance for natural resource-based structural transformation and inclusive growth that leaves no one behind. In particular, on the design and implementation of sustainable and equitable institutions that are in line with regionally and globally agreed development strategies, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, in order to transform African economies.

**Room:** Conference room 2  
**Moderator:** [Dr. Ayodele Odusola](#), Chief Economist, UNDP Africa  

**Panellists:**

- [Dr. Yao Graham](#), Coordinator, Third World Network Africa  
- [Dr. Lilian Ajayi-Ore](#), Executive Director, Global Connections for Women Foundation  
- [Ms. Hannah Forster](#), Executive Director, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies  
- [Dr. Claude Kabambe](#), Director, Southern Africa Research Watch–Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa  
- [Dr. Degol Hailu](#), Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development, UNDP

18:00-19:00  
**Special Event A: Book launch of “Income Inequality Trends in sub-Saharan Africa: Divergence, Determinants and Consequences“ (UNDP)**

**Room:** Banquet Room

19:00-20:00  
**Reception hosted by the United Nations Development Programme**
Tuesday, 5 December 2017

9:00 – 10:30

**Plenary session 4: Role of institutions in transformative governance (ECA and AfDB)**

Transformative institutions are an essential ingredient in developmental States. Such institutions will be capable of responding to the changing global economic landscape and of creating policies that are appropriate to it at the national, subnational and regional levels. Coordinated development plans and associated policy frameworks for sustainable development will be required. Developmental States emerge in different political contexts; however, in order to be sustainable, they must be both inclusive and democratic. This session will provide an opportunity for participants to look at issues in institutional structures, design and implementation for inclusive and sustainable economic transformation. In addition, participants will be encouraged to recommend measures for enhancing national, regional and subnational government policy and administration, and regulatory and resource mobilization capabilities.

Room: Conference room 2

**Keynote address**

- **Prof. Mushtaq Khan**, Department of Economics, University of London

**Moderator:** Gabriel Negatu, Director General, East Africa Regional Development and Business Delivery Office

**Panellists:**

- **Dr. Neway Gebreab**, Former Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia
- **Prof. Malcolm Sawyer**, University of Leeds, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- **Dr. Adam Elhiraika**, Director, Macroeconomic Policy Division, ECA
- **Prof. Augustin Fosu**, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, University of Ghana

10:30 – 11:00

Tea and coffee break

11:00 – 13:00

**Concurrent session 1 (Research paper presentations)**

**Session 1.1: Governance, institutions and economic development**

**Room:** Caucus room 11

**Chair:**

Dr. Said Adejumobi, Director, Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa, ECA

**Paper presenters:**


Discussant: **Ms. Ito M Mannathoko**, Formerly Senior Economist, Adviser to the Executive Director, IMF, Botswana

- Structural Change: Pace, Patterns and Determinants. **Pedro Martins**, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA.

Discussant: **Michael Mbate**, London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- Intervention de l’Etat et transformation structurelle de l’économie : cas de la campagne agricole en Guinée. **Mr. Ibrahima Camara**, Banque Centrale de la République de Guinée

Discussant: **Dr. Sandrine Dahouet-Boigny**, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA
Session 1.2: The role of the State and leadership in overcoming barriers to effective structural transformation
Room: Conference Room 3

Chair: Dr. Gamal Ibrahim, Chief, Finance and Private Sector Section, ECA

Paper Presenters:
• Growth, Sectoral aid and Institutional Quality: Evidence from Developing Countries. Adamasu Maruta, University of South Australia

Discussant: Charles Abugre, Savannah Accelerated Development Authority, Ghana

• The economics and politics of foreign aid and domestic revenue mobilization. Abrams Mbu Enow Tagem, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Discussant: Dr. Dereje Alemaehu, Tax Justice Network – Africa

• Can export promotion agencies stem the deindustrialisation in Sub-Saharan Africa? Malokele Nanivazo, University of Kansas, Isaac Marcelin, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, United States of America

Discussant: Nomfundo Ngwenya, Ntsele Global

• From Consumer to Citizen Building a social contract for transformation through direct taxation. Adrian Gauci and John Sloan, ECA

Discussant: Carina Sugden, AfDB

Session 1.4: Deepening regional integration towards effective governance and structural transformation
Room: Conference Room 5
Chair: James Wakiaga, UNDP

Paper Presenters:
• Institutional Quality and Trade: The case for COMESA region. Shingirirai Mashura, and Makochekanwa Albert, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe

Discussant: Adeleke Salami, AfDB

• Productivité Globale des Facteurs et transformation structurelle dans l’espace CEDEAO : une analyse du rôle des externalités technologiques. Inoussa Traoré, University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Discussant: Wafa Aidi, ECA

• The Role of Regional Trade Integration and Governance in Structural Transformation: Empirical Evidence from ECOWAS Trade Bloc. Musibau Adekunle Oladapo and Abiodun Surajdeen Bankole, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Discussant: William Davis, ECA

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

13:00 – 14:30 Special event B: UN-Women – discussion on the policy recommendations from the report entitled, “The Cost of the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity”
Room: Delegates’ lounge, top floor

Lunch offered
Special Event C: Governance for Africa’s Industrialization (AfDB)

Many African countries have realized that industrialization is crucial to attain economic transformation, and have taken steps to improve the enabling environment through adoption of industrial policies, infrastructure improvements, and development of human capital. However, the governance deficit must be addressed for industrialization to be achieved. The session, Governance for Africa’s Industrialization, will examine more closely the importance of governance for industrialization- examining more closely the governance factors that contribute towards more successful design and implementation of industrial policies. The session will examine modern notions of industrial policy and the evolving role of the State, as well as the importance of ensuring private sector participation. It will also examine the contribution of development and finance institutions to this agenda. The panel discussion aims to come up with policy options on possible modalities for upscaling governance for industrial development and structural transformation of African economies.

Room: Conference Room 2
- Keynote Address: Prof. Keun Lee, Department of Economics, Seoul National University, Korea and Director, Center for Economic Catch-up
- Moderator: Dr. Abebe Shimeles, Director of Macroeconomics Policy, Forecasting And Research, AfDB

Panelists:
- Hon. Vicente J. C. Pinto de Andrade, Coordinator of the Subcommittee on Economy, Angola National Assembly
- Dr. Tilman Altenburg, Head of Department, German Development Institute
- Dr. Miriam Altman, Commissioner National Planning Commission, South Africa
- Prof. Adebayo Olukoshi, Director Africa and West Asia Region, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

15:30-16:00 Tea / Coffee break
Concurrent Session 2 (Research Paper Presentations)

Session 2.1: Enhancing agricultural policies for structural transformation
Room: Caucus Room 1
Chair: Dr. Abdul Kamara, AfDB

Paper Presenters:
- Targeting of Malawi’s Farm Input Subsidy Programme based on Efficiency: Big Pain, Small Gain? Solomon Asfaw and Andrea Cattaneo, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Giacomo Pallante, Ministry of Environment, Alessandro Palma, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy

Discussant: Obindah Gershon, Covenant University, Nigeria

- Transaction Arrangement Choices of Smallholder Coffee Growers along Coffee Supply Chains. The Case of South-Western Coffee Growing Areas of Ethiopia. Mebratu Alemu, Belaine Legesse and Jema Haji, Haramaya University and Moti Jaleta, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, Ethiopia

Discussant: Mark Eghan, AfDB


Discussant: Mebratu Senbeta, Arba Minch University, Ethiopia

Session 2.2: The role of the Government in supporting private sector development for structural transformation
Room: Conference Room 3
Chair: Abdoulaye Coulibaly, AfDB

Paper Presenters:
- Economic regulation and employment elasticities of growth in Sub-Saharan Africa. Abidemi C. Adegoye, University of Benin, Nigeria and Monday I. Egharevba and Joel Edafe, Benson Idahosa University, Nigeria

Discussant: Edward Sennoga, AfDB

- Incentives and Firms’ Productivity: Exploring Multidimensional Fiscal Incentives in a Developing Country. Rapuluchukwu Efobi Uchenna, Belmondo Tanankem Voufo, Cameroon

Discussant: Kevin Lumbila, AfDB

- Climat des Affaires, Création d’emplois et Productivité du Travail des Entreprises Béninoises

Discussant: Mr. Inoussa Traoré, University of Ouagadougou
Session 2.3: Trade and industrial policies for structural transformation  
Room: Conference Room 5  
Chair: John Anwanyu, AfDB

**Paper Presenters:**
- Does trade policy impact food and agriculture global value chain participation of Sub-Saharan African countries?  
  
  Jean Balié, Davide Del Prete and Emiliano Magrini, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Italy, Pierluigi Montalbano, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy and University of Sussex, UK and Silvia Nenci, Roma Tre University, Italy

  Discussant: Batanai Chikwene, ECA (tbc)


  Discussant: Linguere Mbaye, AfDB

- Economic Interactions based on Free Trade Agreements between European Union and African Countries: a panel VAR approach. Léléng Kebalo, University of Lomé, Togo

  Discussant: Ojijo Odhiambo, UNDP

Session 2.4: Macroeconomic policies for inclusive development  
Room: Conference Room 6  
Chair: Angela, Lusigi, Strategic Advisor, UNDP

**Paper Presenters:**

  Discussant: Taiwo Ojapinwa, University of Lagos, Nigeria

- Is there Causal Association between Exchange Rate and Inflation in Africa? A Panel Granger Causality Analysis. Mamo Girma, Addis Ababa Science & Technology University, Ethiopia

  Discussant: Admit Wondifraw Zerihun, AfDB

- Financial repression in Sudan  
  
  Saswan Abdul-Jalil, University of Khartoum, Sudan

  Discussant: Fatou Leigh, UNDP

18:00-19:00  

**Special event D: Governing Development through integrated development plans and processes: Launch of the 2017 Sustainable Development Goals (the 2030 Agenda) and Agenda 2063 Report and the 2017 Economic Report on Africa**  
Room: Conference Room 2

**Presenters:**
- Bartholomew Armah, Chief, Renewal of Planning Section, ECA
- Allan Mukungu, ECA
- Semia Guermas de Tapia, ECA
Wednesday, 6 December 2017
9:00 – 11:00 Concurrent Session 3 (Research Paper Presentations)
Session 3.1: Financing Africa’s development – session 1
Room: Caucus Room 11
Chair: Radhika Lal, UNDP

Paper Presenters:
- Financial literacy and household investment choices in Uganda. Fred Kasaliirwe, Makerere University, Uganda and Razack Lokina, University of Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania
  Discussant: Allan Mukungu, ECA

- Finance and firm productivity in Africa. Grace Onubedo, Centre for the Study of the Economics of Africa, Nigeria
  Discussant: Lucas Monge Roffarello, UNDP

- Economic growth and FDI nexus does democracy matter. Moheeldenn Atif, United Arab Emirates
  Discussant: Habiba Ben Barka, ECA

- Impact of Community-Based Health Insurance on Child Health Outcomes? Evidence on Stunting from Rural Uganda. Emmanuel Nshakinda Rukundo and Nicholas Gerber, University of Bonn, Germany
  Discussant: Xuan Che, ECA

Session 3.2: Financing Africa’s development – session 2 – tax and illicit financial flows
Room: Conference Room 3
Chair: Ernest Bamou, UNDP

Paper Presenters:
- Corruption, illicit financial flows and political stability. Emmanuel Orkoh, Carike Claassen and Derick Blaauw, North-West University, South Africa
  Discussant: Ibrahima Aidara, Open Society Initiative West Africa

- Determinants of Tax Revenue in Ethiopia (Johansen Co-Integration Approach)
  Workineh Ayenew Mossie, Wachemo University, Ethiopia
  Discussant: Fitsum Abraha, UNDP

- Does the Implementation of Tax-Related Reforms and Institutions-Related Reforms Offer Scope for Sustained Tax Revenue Mobilization in Senegal?
  Ameth Saloum Ndiaye, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal
  Discussant: William Lochi, European University Institute
Session 3.3: Financing Africa’s development – session 3 – remittances and natural resources
Room: Conference Room 5
Chair: Bartholomew Armah, Chief, Renewal of Planning Section, ECA

Paper Presenters:
- Impact of remittances on food consumption and nutrition. Raphael Olanrewaju Babatunde, University of Ilorin, Nigeria
  
  Discussant: Becaye Diarra, UNDP

- Remittances, institutional quality and economic growth in SSA. Taiwo Ojapinwa, University of Lagos, Nigeria
  
  Discussant: Wilmot Reeves, UNDP

- Africa’s financial development exploring the role of natural resources. Abiodun Adewale Adegboyce and Fisayo Fagbemi, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

  Discussant: Prof. Malcolm Sawyer, University of Leeds, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Session 3.4: Inclusive governance of natural resources as a driver of structural transformation
Room: Conference Room 6
Chair: Francis Ikome, Chief, Governance and Public Sector Management Section, ECA

Paper Presenters:
- Impact on oil exploitation on wellbeing in Chad. Gadom Djal Gadom, University of N’Djamena, Chad, Armand Mboutchouang Kountchou, University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon and Abdelkrim Araar, Université Laval, Canada
  
  Discussant: Kevin Lumbila, AfDB

- Governance in the mineral dependent economy. Ita Mary Mannathoko, Formerly Senior Economist, Adviser to the Executive Director, IMF, Botswana

  Discussant: Yao Graham, Third World Network – Africa

- Energy sector governance and cost reflective pricing. Obindah Gershon, Covenant University and Alex Ezurum, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

  Discussant: Frederick Mugisha, UNDP

Tea / coffee break

11:00 – 11:30
Plenary Session 5: Institutions, Competitiveness, and Industrial Policy in the age of Global Value Chains: Lesson from China (AfDB)

This session focuses on how China’s industrial development model can provide inspiration to Africa, which has faced major constraints to the growth of its industrial sector. A systematic overview of China’s industrial development mechanisms will highlight how the interplay of well-designed institutions, sound competitiveness, and industrial policy has been decisive in ensuring China’s formidable advances. The institutional framework for innovation policymaking has been instrumental in formulating a broad spectrum of support, and associated legislation at the macro and State Council levels. This framework enables definition of innovation policies, covering a wide spectrum of R&D-related activities. These, complemented with other policy instruments such as regulation of markets, taxation, and infrastructural development, have played a critical role in remedying market failures, building innovation networks, creating a fertile innovation environment, and improving innovation capacity. At the same time, China adopted an export-oriented strategy that has encouraged private and overseas investment in labor-intensive manufacturing.

Room: Conference Room 2
Session chair:

- Dr. Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI-Addis Ababa

Presenters:

- Prof. Fang Xia, University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, China
- Prof. Zhongxiu Zhao, University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, China
- Dr. Bart Minten, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Prof. Xiaobo Zhang, Peking University, Beijing, China and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

13:00-14:00 Presentation of the Best Paper Award
Room: Conference Room 2
Presentation by ECA

Closing remarks

- ECA
- AfDB
- UNDP

14:00 – 15:30 Lunch
PARTICIPANT BIOs
Dr. Vera Songwe is UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Dr. Songwe 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 also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of Michigan. She is also a graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes College in Cameroon and has published widely on development and economic issues.
Dr. Célestin Monga is the Vice President and Chief Economist of the African Development Bank Group. He has held various board and senior executive positions in academia, financial services, and international development institutions, serving most recently as Managing Director at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and Senior Economic Advisor-Director at the World Bank. Prior to these assignments he was Manager in the Bank Nationale de Paris Group, a member of the Board of Directors of the Sloan School of Management Fellows Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and taught economics at Boston University and the University of Bordeaux. He currently also serves as a pro bono Visiting Professor of Economics at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, and Peking University. Dr. Monga has published extensively on various dimensions of economic and political development. His books have been translated into several languages and are widely used as teaching tools in academic institutions around the world. His most recent works include Beating the Odds: Jump-Starting Developing Countries (Princeton University Press, 2017), with Justin Yifu Lin; the two-volume Oxford Handbook of Africa and Economics (Oxford University Press, 2015), co-edited with Justin Yifu Lin; and Nihilism and Negritude: Ways of Living in Africa (Harvard University Press, 2016). Dr. Monga holds graduate degrees from MIT, Harvard University, the Universities of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and Pau.
Mr. Lamin Momodou MANNEH is Director, UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa since July 2017. Before joining the center, he served as United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in Rwanda from 2012-2017. Prior to his appointment in Rwanda, Lamin Manneh served as the UN Resident Coordinator in Congo Brazzaville for four years from 2008-2012. Since 1996, Lamin Manneh has served in several Senior Managerial Positions within the United Nations Development Programme, both at Headquarters in New York, as well as in Country Offices. He served in Sierra Leone and Liberia Country Offices as Senior Economic Advisor and Deputy Resident Representative. At the UNDP Headquarters in New York, he served first as Senior Regional Programme Advisor and then as Head of the UNDP Regional Bureau’s Strategic and Regional Programmes Department for a total of 8 years through 2008. During this tenure with UNDP, Mr. Manneh engaged widely in development policy, capacity development for policy analysis and sound economic management, poverty reduction and growth programs, post conflict reconstruction and recovery planning and implementation, trade and external sector competitiveness, private sector development as well as MDG-based and SDG planning and policy processes. He has also done extensive work on operational research for underpinning policy making processes. Before serving with UNDP, Lamin Manneh worked with the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund as well as with the Ministry of Economic Planning and the Central Bank in the Gambia. Mr. Manneh graduated from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, with Postgraduate studies in Economic Policy, Investment Analysis and Management in 1994 and the University of East Anglia, England, with a Master’s Degree in Economics.
Prof. Richard Joseph is John Evans Professor of International History and Politics at Northwestern University and Non-resident Senior Fellow in Global Economy and Development at the Brookings Institution. As a Fellow of The Carter Center, he participated in democracy and peace initiatives in Ghana, Zambia, Ethiopia, Liberia and Sudan. He has written extensively on issues of democracy, governance, and political economy. His selected books include Radical Nationalism in Cameroun (Clarendon Press, 1977), Democracy and Prebendal Politics in Nigeria (Spectrum Books, 1987) and edited books, Gaullist Africa: Cameroon under Ahmadu Ahidjo (Fourth Dimension, 1978), State, Conflict and Democracy in Africa (Lynne Rienner,1999), and (with Alexandra Gillies) Smart Aid for African Development (Lynne Rienner, 2009). He served as Principal Investigator of the Research Alliance to Combat HIV/AIDS (REACH), a collaborative program in Nigeria, 2006-2011. Dr. Joseph completed his B.Phil at New College in 1969, and his D.Phil in 1973 at Nuffield College, both of Oxford University. He has promoted access to knowledge in Africa as a university lecturer in Sudan and Nigeria, the publication of his books in affordable editions, and digital scholarship via AfricaPlus and Northwestern’s Arch Library. Many of his articles, essays, and lectures since 1977 are being re-published at Arch in an online volume, The Nigerian Crucible: Politics and Governance in a Conglomerate Nation, 1977-2017. A collaborative study of these issues across Africa since 1987, Freedom Gates: Building Peace and Democracy in Africa, is underway. He also hopes to establish an African Governance Learning Network.
Dr. Jim Ocitti is the Director of Public Information and Knowledge Management Division in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) where he provides strategic guidance and transactional leadership in four critical areas of ECA’s work: communications, knowledge management, publications and information technology. These specialisms form ECA’s strategic and collective platform through which the organization’s image and profile as a think tank of reference on Africa’s development is developed, shaped and implemented.

Prior to joining ECA, Dr. Ocitti served as Regional Communications Director for World Vision in West and Central Africa where he developed, managed and supervised the regional communications strategy at the height of the Sahelian food crisis. Based in Dakar, Senegal, his remit covered Senegal, Niger, Mauritania, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Mali and Chad.

Earlier, he had worked as a Senior Communications and Coordination Advisor as well as Head of Office in the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator’s office in South Sudan. Dr. Ocitti has also previously served as a Public Information Advisor and Spokesman in the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Afghanistan.

Prior to that, he worked in the Balkans as a Public Information Coordinator and Senior Editor for the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and, later, Media Advisor to UNDP’s election programme in the South American state of Suriname. He has also served in New York as a Media Consultant for the UNDP’s Action 2 programme, which was the UN Secretary General’s initiative to harmonize human rights policies and actions of the United Nations Country Teams globally.

Dr. Ocitti started his professional career as a Journalist in Uganda, later moving to Germany and the Netherlands as Producer, Editor and Senior Producer respectively. He got his PhD in Politics from the University of Bristol in the UK and attended Harvard University as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Programme on International Conflict Analysis and Resolution and a Fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. He was also a Centre Associate at Harvard. Dr. Ocitti has authored three books on Ugandan politics, history and the media.
Dr. Victor Oladokun is a highly accomplished communications and media practitioner with more than 25 years of demonstrated expertise in public relations, corporate branding, journalism, broadcasting, strategic communications consulting, leadership development, and executive coaching, and as an adjunct professor. Dr. Oladokun joined the African Development Bank in 2017 from 3D Global Consult, a media and communications consulting firm in Nigeria, where he has been the Chief Executive Officer since 2012. Early in his career, he worked at Cadbury Nigeria Plc. in various management positions from 1983 to 1986 as Publications Manager, Media Relations Manager, and Acting Corporate Affairs Manager. From 1986 to 1987, he worked as the Group Public Relations Manager/Spokesperson for the A.G. Leventis group of companies, Lagos, Nigeria. Between 1990 and 2009, he worked as a news journalist, international TV host, Producer, Senior Producer, and later as Managing Producer at CBN International, Virginia Beach, USA. He thereafter became Adjunct Professor at Bethel College, Hampton, Virginia, USA, before joining 3D Global Consult. Dr. Oladokun holds a Doctorate of Strategic Leadership (DSL) degree from Regent University, Virginia Beach, USA; a Master of Arts in Communication from Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History/Political Science from the University of Ife, Nigeria.


Hon. Maria Kiwanuka has served as a Non-Executive Director on Financial Boards i.e. Stanbic Bank (U) Ltd, UDB (U) and Governor of Islamic Development Bank, Governor at African Development Bank and Governor of international Monetary Fund.

Hon. Maria Kiwanuka has also served as a Non-Executive Director on several Regulatory Institutions i.e. Uganda Registration Service Bureau, Uganda Communications Commission as well as major Tertiary Education Institutions i.e. Makerere University Business School and Nkumba University.

She holds an MBA from London Business School (University of London) and B.Com from Makerere University.
Prof. David Booth is a Principal Research Fellow at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). His interests span research into the politics and political economy of development and the promotion of innovative approaches to development programming. He has 45 years of experience in these fields, including research, teaching, editorial, and consultancy assignments across the developing world. Before joining ODI in 1998, he was Professor of Development Studies at the University of Wales, Swansea. David spent seven years at the head of two large collaborative programs on ‘Africa Power and Politics’ and ‘Developmental Regimes in Africa’ (www.institutions-africa.org). He co-authored (with Diana Cammack) Governance for Development in Africa (Zed Books 2013) and contributed to Business, Politics, and the State in Africa (Tim Kelsall, Zed Books 2013). He now works on ODI’s Supporting Economic Transformation (SET) program (http://set.odi.org) with a focus on the political economy of industrial policy.

Dr. Ibrahim El Badawi is the Managing Director of ERF. Earlier he served as the director of research at the Dubai Economic Council, which he joined in March 2009. Before that, he was lead economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank, which he joined in 1989. He has published widely on macroeconomic and development policy, democratic transitions and the economics of civil wars and post-conflict transitions. He was the thematic leader of the Natural Resource Management and Economic Diversification theme at the ERF for five years and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Arab Planning Institute. He holds a PhD in economics and statistics from NC State and Northwestern
Studied at the University of Lagos in Nigeria where he obtained a B. Sc (Hons) Economics in 1979. He enrolled in the University of Ibadan in the same year where he graduated in 1980 with an M. Sc (Economics). He returned to Cameroon and was recruited as an Assistant Lecturer in the then Faculty of Laws & Economics of the then University of Yaounde in 1981. He returned to the University of Lagos in 1984 for a PhD, which he obtained in March 1989. He returned to the University of Yaounde to continue his career as a University lecturer.

Prof. Tafah held the positions of Head of Department of Human Resources and Vice Dean in charge of Academic Affairs in the Faculty of Economics and Management at the University of Yaounde II, Soa from 1998 - 2003. He was appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management at the University of Dschang from 2003-2009. He became the Vice Rector in charge of Research and Cooperation in the same University from 2010-2011.

Professor Edokat became the Pioneer Vice Chancellor of the State University of Bamenda in September 2011, a position he occupied until November 2015.

He has taught in almost all the State Universities in Cameroon either as full time, part time lecturer, or as examiner in PhD theses. He has rendered consultancy services to the government of Cameroon in several domains and was part of the Cameroon team to the IMF/World Bank in 1997 to negotiate for the Enhanced Adjustment Facility. He was also a consultant to the United Nations Institute for Economic Development in Dakar. He is presently a visiting Professor of Development Economics in the Collaborative PhD Economics programme of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Nairobi Kenya. He was among the few African Economists selected to prepare the position of African Heads of States on the mobilisation of domestic resources for Africa’s development. Professor Tafah has published several articles and contributed to Book Chapters.
Dr. Abdalla Hamdok is an economist, senior policy analyst and an author with over thirty years of experience in addressing development challenges in Africa primarily in the fields of governance, institutional analysis, public sector reforms, regional integration and resource management.

Dr. Hamdok has worked in various senior-level capacities at the national, sub-regional and continent wide levels with ECA, the International IDEA, International Labour Organization, African Development Bank, Deloitte & Touche Management Consultants and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of Sudan. He holds a PhD and MA in Economics from the School of Economic Studies, University of Manchester, UK.

Dr. Adeyemi Dipeolu is the Special Adviser to the President on Economic Matters in the Office of the Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Prior to this, Dr. Dipeolu was Director of the Capacity Development Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). In this role he led ECA’s innovative work on Transformative Industrial Policy and on Conflict and Development in Africa. He was also Member of the Technical Committee and Head of Secretariat of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa.

Dr. Dipeolu’s earlier assignments at the Economic Commission for Africa included serving as Chief of Staff and as Coordinator of the African Trade Policy Centre. Before joining ECA, Dr. Dipeolu was in the Nigerian Foreign Service and served in Geneva, Pretoria, Addis Ababa and Caracas. He has also been Special Assistant in the Office of the Chief of Staff to the President of Nigeria.

Ambassador Dipeolu obtained his doctorate degree in economics from the University of South Africa with a thesis entitled “Policy Reforms and Economic Development: An Institutional Perspective on the Nigerian Experience”. He obtained his Master of Philosophy degree in the Economics and Politics of Development with distinction from the University of Cambridge and undertook diplomatic studies at Oxford University as a Chevening Scholar. Dr. Dipeolu’s bachelor degree in economics was from the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University).

Dr. Dipeolu is a member of the Nigerian Economic Management Team, National Industrial Policy and Competitiveness Advisory Council, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Council, National Council on Procurement and the National Council on Privatization. He also serves on the Governing Council of Lead City University, Ibadan and on the Board of Trustees of the Visiola Foundation.
Dr. Nomfundo Xenia Ngwenya is the Group Strategy Officer for Ntsele Global, a diversified, black-owned South African investment group. She was previously the Chief Director for African Economic Integration at the National Treasury, where she represented South Africa at key continental multilateral economic institutions such as the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund, the International Monetary Fund’s Afritac-South Steering Committee, the Southern African Customs Union’s Finance and Audit Committee and the Southern African Development Community. She was previously Director: Global Development Policy, where she headed National Treasury’s BRICS desk. In this role, she oversaw the formulation of South Africa’s negotiating position at the New Development Bank (NDB) and was part of the South African delegation to the inaugural negotiations of the NDB. She has also headed the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA’s) South African Foreign Policy and African Drivers programme, served at the South African Secret Service and lectured at the University of South Africa.

She holds a BA (Political Science) from the University of Port Elizabeth, MA in International Studies from the University of Stellenbosch, a MSc in Politics of the World Economy from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and a PhD from the University of Cambridge.

Ghanaian by birth, Mr Abugre is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA), a regional statutory planning and development organisation in Ghana. He also a Commissioner of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) – Ghana’s constitutionally mandated planning body, responsible for medium and long-term development planning and development coordination.

Prior to assuming these roles, Mr Abugre was for 5 years a Director at the United Nations Development Programme as the Africa Regional Director of the United Nations Millennium Campaign project, set up by the United Nations to promote the MDGs.

Mr Abugre has also been active in the international NGO world, founding a few in the African Continent, heading the global research and advocacy division of Christian Aid, UK; and leading development programmes and consultancy missions in several African, Caribbean and Asian countries.

He was a lecturer and research fellow at the Centre for Development Studies, Swansea University and taught several summer courses abroad. He studied development economics and is a co-founder of the World Economic Association, an Advisory Board member of the Chronic Poverty Network hosted by ODI, UK and a member of the International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) and the Tax Justice Network International, where he still serves as a Board member.
Dr. Edigheji is a development expert and CEO, ZeeZi Oasis Leadership Inspiration Ltd, Abuja, Nigeria

He holds a PhD in Political Science, with a specialisation in the political economy of development, from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Trondheim, Norway). He is the recipient of a Certificate in Key Executive Leadership from the School of Public Affairs, American University (Washington, D.C., USA).

Dr. Edigheji has amassed in excess of twenty years of experience in government, academia, think-tanks, development foundations, and civil society. He has demonstrated sound analytical, action-planning and advisory skills, forging strong strategic partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, including national governments and regional institutions, civil society organisations, private sector, and bilateral and multilateral development agencies. His track-history traverses effectively leading and managing divisions and programs, and successfully directing and managing multi-disciplinary professional teams from diverse cultural backgrounds.

He was Chief Technical Adviser: Public Service Reform at the Public Service Commission of South Africa. In this capacity, he led the reforms process to build a professional, career-driven and capable public service in South Africa. In this capacity, he was leader of a high-level delegation of South African government officials to China, Brazil, Malaysia and Mauritius to explore best-practice in economic and public reforms. Prior to that, he was Research Director in the Policy Analysis Unit of the Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa, and headed the Council’s research and policy programme on State and Economic Development. Additionally, Dr. Edigheji was Research Manager at the Johannesburg-based policy think-tank, Centre for Policy Studies.

Over the years, Dr. Edigheji has been instrumental in major economic and public sector reforms in South Africa; and has provided policy advisory services to the South African government and the African National Congress (ANC). Dr. Edigheji has served as consultant to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Agency, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the African Development Bank, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), and TrustAfrica.

Dr. Edigheji has published extensively, including three books, including Governance in the New South Africa: The Challenges of Globalization (co-editor, University of Cape Town Press, 2003); and Constructing a Democratic Developmental State in South Africa: Potentials and Challenges (ed., HSRC Press, 2010). He has made more than 100 presentations at a variety of forums involving policy-makers and academics across the globe.

Dr Edigheji has lectured at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, both in South Africa.
Dr. Ayodele OduSola is the chief economist and head of the strategy and analysis team for the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). He co-ordinates the preparation of regional flagship reports for RBA, including the Africa Human Development Report, the African Economic Outlook, Africa reports on the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), strategic policy notes and occasional policy papers. He is also the co-editor of the book Income Inequality Trends in Sub-Saharan Africa: Divergence, Determinants, and Consequences. Mr OduSola provides intellectual leadership to SDG acceleration frameworks in sub-Saharan Africa, managing the network of senior economists in UNDP Africa country offices and providing strategic advice on policy matters to the RBA director. As an economist, he focuses on the dynamics of macroeconomics and development in Africa. He is a Nigerian national and holds a PhD in economics from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Dr. Yao Graham is the Coordinator (head) of Third World Network-Africa, a pan-African research and advocacy organisation based in Accra, Ghana. He has good knowledge and experience of African and international development issues and processes from many years of work in various capacities. He holds a PhD in Law from Warwick University, Coventry, UK. Yao Graham’s current and recent institutional roles include serving as a member of: Ghana’s Environmental and Natural Resources Advisory Council; the Civil Society Advisory Committee to the UNDP Administrator; the International Study Group (ISG) on reform of Africa’s mining regimes set up by the UNECA and the Africa Union and the Coordinating Committee of Social Watch, the global CSO coalition working for poverty eradication and gender equality. He has also worked as a consultant for UNCTAD, UNDP, UNAIDS, the African Union and the UNECA. He co-edited (with Jimi Adesina and Adebayo Olukoshi) Africa’s Development Challenges in the New Millennium published in 2006 by Zed Books, London. He is a member of the editorial board of the Review of African Political Economy (ROAPE) and was the founding editor of the Ghanaian bi-weekly newspaper Public Agenda.
Lilian is the Founder and Executive Director of the Global Connections for Women Foundation (GC4W), an award-winning international not-for-profit organization for gender equality, women and youth empowerment headquartered in New York City with a reach of 3.5 million people worldwide. She is a Harvard Graduate and doctorate student at the University of Pennsylvania. Lilian was invited to create the first teach Gender Equality certificate course for Microsoft Education, the certificate course is being offered to 2 million teachers worldwide. She also a Global Contributor at The Huffington Post and Diplomatic Courier. Lilian currently a university professor at the School of Professional Studies at the New York University. Lilian professional experience also includes working as the Head of Digital Strategy and Big Data Analytics for several Fortune 500 and Fortune 100 companies.
Hannah Forster is the Executive Director of the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) based in Banjul, The Gambia (since 2001), a regional institution whose main objective is to build and maintain a human rights movement in Africa to promote greater respect and observance of human rights and fundamental democratic principles. She has worked with both the African and International Human Rights System for over two decades.

A Manager, Educator and Information Specialist, she graduated from the University of Ghana, Legon; Loughborough Technical College and Loughborough University in the United Kingdom, respectively as well as Scoula Superieur Sant’Anna, in Pisa, Italy (MA in Human Rights and Conflict Management). She has also undertaken internships and training in various areas of human rights and specialises in human rights documentation and information handling techniques; human rights education; women’s human rights; child rights and elections.

As an expert and activist, she has extensive practical experience in the development of training and education programmes on Human Rights, Governance, Gender Equality and Conflict Management; has also carried out various research in these areas as well as directed a number of human rights and democracy initiatives in Africa. She is an expert serving on the Committee on the Prevention of Torture in Africa (CPTA) of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. She has also served as a Member of the Working Group that prepared the report on Women Human Rights Defenders as well as the Study Group on Freedom of Association and Assembly.

She has published on civil society, the African Commission, and made many presentations on human rights related issues including democracy, development and women’s rights. She has also lectured and made presentations in many institutions on the African Human Rights System; on Women’s Rights in Africa including the LLM Courses and Gender Institutes of the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (2004-2010); Women’s Law Colloquium of the University of Zimbabwe (2008), among others.

As an initiator and Head of ACDHRS, she is the Convenor of the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the Work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights held twice a year, where a watershed of civil society contribution and participation in the African Human Rights System is institutionalised. She has led and or participated in many advocacy campaigns on the development, adoption, ratification, domestication and implementation of regional treaties including the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

She also designed and implemented projects in these areas notably the African Transformative Justice Project, which involved the training of mediators in the rural communities of the Gambia to enable them maintain peace in their milieu.

Mrs. Forster serves as a Steering Committee Member of the World Movement for Democracy and the Civil Council for the Community of Democracy. She is the outgoing President of the African Democracy Forum (since 2006), a network of over 450 democracy and human rights organisations throughout Africa, which seeks to consolidate democracy in Africa by providing opportunities for democrats and activists to openly express their views and act as a platform for mutual support and sharing of resources.

Mrs. Forster is a founding and or Steering Committee Member on many national and international bodies including the Solidarity for African Women’s Rights (SOAWR); the African Spanish Women’s Network; the African Union/European Union Civil Society Human Rights Dialogue as well as the Chairperson of the Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) of The Gambia. She has been trained in election observation and monitoring and observed elections in a number of African countries including Mauritania, The Gambia, Nigeria with NDI, Senegal with the Women’s Platform for Peaceful Elections), Sierra Leone and Kenya (with the African Union/DPA).

Hannah has been recognised as an Ambassador of Peace in 2001 by The Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace; is the recipient of the Women of Courage Award (2007) and the ICPS Award 2013 for work in governance with civil society as well as The Kairaba Award by the Platform of Women for Peace in Casamance.

Mrs. Forster is married with children.
Dr. Claude Kabemba, Executive Director of Southern Africa Resource Watch. In 2006, the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) asked Claude Kabemba to spearhead the formation of Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW). Before joining SARW, he worked at the Human Sciences Research Council and the Electoral institute of Southern Africa as a Chief Research Manager and Research Manager respectively. He has also worked at the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the Centre for Policy Studies as Policy Analyst. Dr Kabemba holds a PhD in International Relations (Political economy) from the University of the Witwatersrand. Dr. Kabemba’s main areas of research interest include: Political economy of Sub Saharan Africa with focus on Southern and Central Africa looking specifically on issues of democratization and governance, natural resources governance, election politics, citizen participation, conflicts, media, political parties, civil society and social policies. He has consulted for international organizations such Oxfam, UNHCR, The Norwegian People’s Aid, Electoral Commissions and the African Union. His publication record spans from books (as editor), book chapters, journal articles, monographs, research reports, and newspaper articles.

Dr. Degol Hailu is currently Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development and UNDPs’ lead on Extractives. He was formerly the Senior Policy Adviser and Team Leader on Economic Governance and Globalization for the Poverty Practice of the UNDP Bureau of Development Policy. Between 2008 and 2009, he was the Acting Director of the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth in Brasilia. During 2005-2007, Degol worked as the Economic Policy Advisor for the Caribbean Region with UNDP, based in Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to joining the UNDP, Mr. Hailu spent quite a few years at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, researching, teaching and consulting. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of London. He is widely published on development issues. In 2008, he received an honorable mention from the African Studies Association Melville J. Herskovits Award for a co-authored book, written with a grant awarded by the Economic and Social Research Council of the United Kingdom.
Prof. Mushtaq Husain Khan is a heterodox economist and Professor of Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. He is also Chief Executive of the Anti-Corruption Evidence (ACE) Research Partnership Consortium, a global research program supported by DFID for identifying feasible anti-corruption strategies that assist economic development. His broader work focuses on the institutional economics of poor countries; it includes notable contributions to the analysis of rents and rent seeking, governance, technology policy, institutions, political settlements, and economic development in South Asia. Educated as an exhibitioner at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, Prof. Khan graduated with a first-class BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics in 1981. In 1982, he received his MPhil from King’s College, Cambridge, where he completed a PhD. in 1989. From 1990 to 1996, Prof. Khan was Fellow and Lecturer in Economics at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and Assistant Director of Development Studies at the University of Cambridge. In 1996, he took up a post at SOAS, where he was made a Professor in 2005. Apart from his academic career, Khan has held appointments as consultant for many international organizations including the World Bank, DFID, UNDP and the Asian Development Bank; moreover, he has held positions as visiting professor at Chulalongkorn and Dhaka Universities. Several of his articles have won prizes, including the Hans Singer Prize and the Frank Cass Prize. In addition, he is a regular commentator for the BBC’s Bengali service broadcasts.

Prof. Malcolm Sawyer
Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Leeds UK

Prof. Augustin Kwasi Fosu is Professor, Institute for Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana. His other (honorary) appointments include: Extraordinary Professor, University of Pretoria, and CSAE Research Associate, Oxford University. Among his previous positions are: Deputy Director, UN University-WIDER, Finland; Senior Policy Advisor/Chief Economist, UN ECA, Ethiopia; and Director of Research, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Kenya. He holds both Master’s and PhD in Economics from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, USA, and a Bachelor’s in Mathematics and Economics (with honors: distinction, Phi Beta Kappa) from Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin, USA. He has published widely, with certain rankings listing him among ‘top economists/authors’ in Africa and globally. Prof. Fosu is editor-in-chief, Journal of African Trade (Elsevier); co-managing editor, Journal of African Economies (Oxford); and is (or has been) on the editorial boards of many other journals, including: Journal of Development Studies, Oxford Development Studies, World Bank Economic Review, and World Development. Prof. Fosu has also served in numerous advisory and consulting capacities for international organizations, including currently the International Panel on Social Progress (IPSP), and on the President of Ghana’s Economic Advisory Council (2012). He is a recent recipient of the Elsevier Atlas award for his 2010 paper, ‘Growth, Inequality, and Poverty Reduction in Developing Countries: Recent Global Evidence’.

Dr. Adam B. Elhiraika (PhD-Glasgow University) is the Director of the Macroeconomic Policy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). He directly supervises ECA’s work on development planning; forecasting and macroeconomic policy analysis; economic governance and public sector management; and finance and private sector development, including research and advocacy work on combating illicit financial flows. The Division leads the substantive preparation of the Commission’s flagship publication: the Economic Report on Africa. Before joining the UN, Mr. Elhiraika served as Assistant and Associate Professor of Economics in several universities and he has published extensively in internationally refereed journals, books and monographs.
Newayechristos Gebre-ab, Former Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia with the rank of Minister and Executive Director, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI)

Newayechristos Gebre-ab was the Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, with the rank of Minister and Executive Director of the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI) until recently. Duties of the advisor included contribution to macro-economic policy-making, development strategy formulation, and negotiations with World Bank, IMF and Paris club members on debt relief. He chaired the Government/Donors Committee on governance and represented the Prime Minister in the NEPAD. He was also the chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Bank of Ethiopia. He was the Prime Minister’s Sherpa in meetings of climate issues, and the transitional Committee of UNFCC that studied the design of the Green Climate Fund. He has previously worked as a project coordinator and team leader at different projects of FAO. He has also worked as an Economic Officer of the Technology Division in UNCTAD, Geneva. He has been a freelance consultant for UNDP, UNESCO and FAO among others.

Mr. Newayechristos Gebreab has recently received The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star award from the Japanese government.

He holds Post-graduate Diploma, Economics, Manchester University and B.Litt. Economics, Oxford University, UK.
Prof. Keun Lee is a Professor of Economics at the Seoul National University, and the founding Director of the Center for Economic Catch-up. He has been awarded the 2014 Schumpeter Prize for his monograph Schumpeterian Analysis of Economic Catch-up: Knowledge, Path-creation and the Middle Income Trap (2013 Cambridge University Press). He is now the President of the International Schumpeter Society, a member of the Committee for Development Policy of UN, an editor of Research Policy, a council member of the World Economic Forum, and a member of the governing board of Globelics. He obtained his PhD in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley, USA, and has had working experience at the World Bank, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK and the East-West Center, Hawaii, USA. One of his most-cited articles is a paper on Korea’s technological catch-up published in Research Policy, with 955 or so citations (Google Scholar). His H-index is now 33, with 80 papers with more than 10 citations.

Mr. Gabriel Negatu was appointed Director General, Eastern Africa Regional Hub in 2016. The Regional Hub is part of the Bank’s new strategy to accelerate business and development impacts across the continent. His more than 25 years of senior level program, project and portfolio management experience includes 18 years of service at the African Development Bank. His illustrious record of managing sector and country operations comes from serving as Senior and Principal Program Officer, Chief Program Officer and Sector Director, where he established/led the Bank’s Economic and Financial Governance department. He has been credited with successfully leading the Bank’s response to the global financial crisis and spearheading the innovative use of budget support instruments; including in fragile states. Appointed as Country & Regional Director for Eastern Africa in 2010, he successfully piloted the Bank’s decentralization strategy. Presently he directs the Bank’s largest Regional Center, responsible for 13 member countries and a portfolio valued in excess of US$9 billion. Mr. Negatu completed his university studies in the USA, receiving a Bachelor’s Degree from California State University, USA, and a Master’s Degree from the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, with concentration in Economics and Social Development. He has also completed several advanced studies, including at Harvard University Business School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA, and the University of Manchester, UK.
Dr. Tilman Altenburg is Head of the Sustainable Economic and Social Development Department at the Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik / German Development Institute (DIE), Germany’s think tank for development policy. Before joining DIE in 1995, Dr. Altenburg was a research fellow at Universities in Berlin and Marburg. He received his Doctorate in Economic Geography from the University of Hamburg in 1991. Since 1986 he has conducted empirical research and published books and journal articles on issues of competitiveness, industrial and innovation policy, SME promotion and value-chain development. Recent publications include Industrial Policy in Developing Countries: Failing Markets, Weak States (Edward Elgar, 2017). He serves as a frequent advisor to the German government and international development agencies.

Dr. Miriam Altman is a part-time Commissioner on the National Planning Commission (NPC) in the Office of the South African Presidency. This body guides long-term planning for South Africa (SA). She was a significant contributor to the writing of SA’s first National Development Plan, and has played a leading role in shaping policy on employment, industrialization, and social protection. Among other responsibilities, she is leading the NPC’s drive to strengthen the governance of state-owned enterprises, and to deepen and diversify trade and investment between China and South Africa. From 2013 to April 2016, Miriam was Head of Strategy and Regulatory Affairs for the Telkom Group, SA’s largest fixed-line telecommunications operator. She was Executive Director at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in South Africa from 2002 to 2013. Employment Scenarios was her flagship there, and these were heavily relied upon in the direction of South Africa’s first National Development Plan. She has led major public policy and development programs in urban renewal and industrial development. She was Head of Economic Development in a multi-billion Rand township renewal program (Alexandra) and Project Leader of the 1998 Employment Strategy and Presidential Jobs Summit. Miriam has a BA in economics from McGill University, an MPhil from the University of Cambridge and a PhD in economics from the University of Manchester. She has produced more than 100 publications. She was commissioning editor of approximately 400 policy papers and publications, and guest editor of four special edition journals. These publications can be found at www.miriamaltman.com.
Ahmed Abdel Razek is the Chairman of the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) affiliated to Egyptian Ministry of Trade and Industry. He was assigned his current role as IDA Chairman in October 2016 to lead the institution’s overreaching objective of Supporting the creation and expansion of industrial projects in-line with the national plans for sustainable development, resource efficiency and high value-added industrial output. Prior to this role he held a number of strategic business positions in a number of multinational companies around the world for about 35 years. He is also the Chairman of Industrial Lands Development and Infrastructure Fund and a Board Member of: i) Industrial Modernization Center (IMC); ii) Industrial and Mining Projects Council; iii) Arab Authority for Industrialization; iv) Nuclear Materials Authority; and v) Industry and Trade Council. He graduated from Faculty of Engineering Cairo University in 1982 with a BA in Civil Engineering.

Dr. Abebe Shimeles is Acting Director of the Development Research Division at the African Development Bank. Previously, Mr. Shimeles worked for the World Bank as Senior Poverty Economist (2008-2009); ECA as Economic Affairs Officer (2006-2007); ACTIONAID as Principal Researcher/Program Advisor, and Addis Ababa University in different capacities. His recent research interests include labor market integration, migration in Africa and impact evaluation of policy interventions. Abebe Shimeles joined IZA (Institute for the Study of Labor) as a Research Fellow in November 2011. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Gothenburg; MSC from Delhi School of Economics and an undergraduate degree in economics from Addis Ababa University.
Prof. Adebayo Olukoshi serves at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) as Regional Director for Africa and West Asia. He holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Leeds. He has more than 35 years of experience in the areas of international relations, governance, and human rights, both in the academic sector and in intergovernmental institutions. Olukoshi was a member of the African Union Assessment Panel and Chair of the Board of several think tanks, including the European Centre for Development Policy Management and the West African Civil Society Institute. He also previously served as Director of the UN African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, as Executive Director of the Africa Governance Institute, Executive Secretary of the Council for Development of Social Science Research in Africa, Director of Research at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Senior Research Fellow/Research Programme Coordinator of the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala, and Senior Programme Staff at the South Centre in Geneva. He has published extensively on the politics of economic relations, governance, and development, as well as on African higher education and development. Prof. Olukoshi’s report ‘The Elusive Prince of Denmark: Structural Adjustment and the Crisis of Governance in Africa’ (NAI Research Report 104) is among his most impactful publication.
Dr. Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). His most recent research covered aspirations and wellbeing, the impact evaluation of large multi-year public programs (including the Productive Safety Net Program and the Agricultural Growth Program, both in Ethiopia), weather index insurance, performance of cooperatives, crop productivity, and inter-sectoral growth linkages. He is the current president of the Ethiopian Economics Association. Dr. Alemayehu has previously worked as an assistant professor of economics at Addis Ababa University and an economic affairs officer at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. He holds a DPhil degree in Economics from the University of Oxford, UK.

Prof. Fang Xia is an assistant professor of the Research Institute for Global Value Chains at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, China. She obtained her PhD in agricultural economics at Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA. Prior to joining the Research Institute for Global Value Chains, Fang worked for the World Bank as a consultant on land issues related to agricultural productivity in sub-Saharan African countries. In addition to a cross-country study on land rental markets in Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Niger, Tanzania, and Uganda, Fang also conducted research on land tenure security of smallholders in Malawi, and the spillover effects of large-scale farms on neighboring smallholders in Mozambique. Currently her research is focusing on China’s experiences in participation in global value chains and the implication of China’s upgrading in global value chains to low-income countries.
Dr. Bart Minten, joined the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) as a senior research fellow in December 2006, and works with the Development Strategy and Governance Division. He has been out-posted in Addis Ababa since June 2011 and is the program leader of the Ethiopia Strategy Support Program, a multi-donor-financed program that focuses on research, capacity building, and outreach and communication of research related to food and agricultural issues in Ethiopia. Before moving to Addis Ababa, he worked in the New Delhi office where his work focused on the effects of changes in agricultural value chains on the structure of food systems in South Asia. Prior to joining IFPRI, he was a senior research associate for the Cornell Food and Nutrition Policy Program in Madagascar. He also has held the position of assistant professor at the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Economics, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. Bart received his PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA.

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