BIOGRAPHY

President Special Panel on “Accelerating Implementation of the Bank’s Ten-Years Strategy with the High 5s Agenda.

Moderator

Ms. Bronwyn Nielsen
Head of Programming, Executive Director, CNBC

Bronwyn Nielsen has been with CNBC Africa since its launch in 2007. Nielsen has over 13 years of experience in the South African broadcasting industry with numerous accolades to her name including the 2006 Telkom ICT Journalist of the Year.

She is best known for her weekday evening programme Business Tonight, wrapping up the days business news and speaking to some of the most influential personalities in business.

Some of her highlights at CNBC Africa include the hosting of the live CNBC Africa Debate at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2013, the first time that an African broadcaster was represented in the official WEF Agenda at this event, and presenting Captains of Industry, a programme that features weekly interviews with top leadership of African companies.

Africa Business News (ABN) appointed Nielsen as an executive director to the group in 2012. Her role of executive director involves setting the content agenda for all the companies within the ABN Group (this includes CNBC Africa, Forbes Africa - ABN Publishing, ABN Pictures, ABN Digital and ABN Productions), as well as working closely with senior management on all strategic growth opportunities.
Speakers

Hon. Trevor Manuel

Former Finance Minister of South Africa, Senior Advisor, Rothschild Group

Mr. Trevor Manuel has been a Deputy Chairman of South Africa at Rothschild Group since October 1, 2014. Mr. Manuel has been a Non-Executive Director at Old Mutual plc since January 1, 2016. He has been a Non-Executive & Independent Director of Swiss Re Ltd. since April 21, 2015. He has been Independent Non-Executive Director of SABMiller plc since March 1, 2015. He has been Senior Adviser of Globally/member of the International Advisory Board at Rothschild Group since October 1, 2014. He served as South Africa's finance minister from 1996 to 2009, was appointed as head of the National Planning Commission in 2009. He is a Chancellor of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Professor Extraordinaire at the University of Johannesburg and Trustee of the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation Endowment. He was a Minister in the South African government for more than 20 years. He was first appointed to Cabinet as Minister of Trade and Industry in May 1994, a portfolio he held for two years. During his Ministerial career, Mr. Manuel assumed a number of ex officio positions in international bodies, including the United Nations Commission for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the G20, the African Development Bank and the Southern African Development Community. He served on a number of voluntary public interest commissions including Africa Commission, Global commission on Growth and Development, Global Ocean Commission and the New Climate Economy. During his last term in office from May 2009 to May 2014, he served as Minister in the Presidency responsible for South Africa's National Planning Commission. He served two terms as Chairperson of the Development Committee of the World Bank.
Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
Chairperson, GAVI Alliance Board

A development economist and former Finance Minister of Nigeria, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has served as Board Chair of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, since January 2016. Dr Okonjo-Iweala brings more than 30 years of development and financial expertise to the Gavi Board. She has twice served as Nigeria’s Finance Minister, most recently between 2011 and 2015 – a role that encompassed the expanded portfolio of the Coordinating Minister for the Economy. In 2006 she served as Foreign Affairs Minister. She has also held several key positions at the World Bank, including as Managing Director.

As a former Finance Minister, Dr Okonjo-Iweala’s experience and expertise are particularly valuable as Gavi strives to ensure that immunisation programmes are financially sustainable. Her strong commitment to finding private sector solutions to development challenges further contributes to Gavi’s mission.

Dr. Lars Thurnell
Chairman, Global Water Development Partners

Dr. Lars Henrik Thunell, Ph.D. served as a Senior Advisor at The Blackstone Group, Private Equity Group since June 19, 2013 and focuses on the energy sector. Dr. Thunell is also Senior Advisor to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a US foreign policy think-tank. He is a seasoned Chief Executive with over 30 years of management experience. He served as the President of SEB Invest. Dr. Thunell served as an Executive Vice President at The World Bank Group.
Mr. Jay Ireland

President and CEO of General Electric, Africa

Mr. Jay Ireland is the President and CEO of GE Africa (appointed in 2011) located in Nairobi, Kenya where he leads GE’s operations on the sub-continent across power generation, healthcare, transportation, oil & gas and aviation. He is a GE Officer and a member of GE’s Corporate Executive Council.

Prior to this appointment, Ireland led GE Asset Management (GEAM), a global investment firm with about US$120 billion in assets under management. Before heading GEAM, Ireland was President of NBC Universal Television Stations and Network Operations where he had overall executive responsibility for NBC Universal's 10 television stations, the Telemundo network and its 16 Spanish language television stations. Before joining NBC in 1999, he had been the CFO of GE Plastics. Ireland started his career with General Electric in 1980 in its Financial Management Program after 3 years as a US Army Officer.

He serves as Vice Chair on the Board of Directors of the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA). He is a member of the Private Investors for Africa (PIA) and the World Economic Forum Business Working Group for regional projects in Africa. Mr. Jay Ireland is also a member of the board of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation and a Trustee of St. Lawrence University where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1977.

Dr. Ismail Serageldin

Director, the Library of Alexandria

Dr. Ismail Serageldin is the Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA), the new Library of Alexandria, inaugurated in 2002. He also chairs the Boards of Directors for each of the BA’s affiliated research institutes and museums. He is advisor to the Egyptian Prime Minister in matters concerning culture, science and museums. He serves as Chair or Member of a number of advisory committees for academic, research, scientific and international institutions and civil society efforts, including as co-Chair of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC), and serves on the Advisory Committee of the World Social Science Report for 2013 and 2016, as well as the UNESCO-supported World Water Scenarios (2013) and the executive council of the Encyclopedia of Life (2010) and Chairs the Executive Council of the World Digital Library (2010). He also co-chaired the African Union’s high level panel for Biotechnology (2006) and again for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in 2012-2013, and was a member of the ICANN Panel for the review of the internet future (2013).

Before that, he notably co-chaired the Inter-Academy Panel on Capacity Building for Science in (2003-2004) and was a member of the High Level group for the Alliance of Civilizations convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations (2006-2007). He has held many important international positions, including Vice President of the World Bank (1992-2000), and Chairman Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR, 1994-2000), founder and former Chairman of the Global Water Partnership (GWP, 1996-2000) and the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP), a microfinance program (1995-2000).
Dr. Kingsley Y. Amoako

President, African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)

Dr. K.Y. Amoako, Founder and President of the African Center for Economic Transformation and former Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, has dedicated his career to solving the development challenges of the world’s poorest countries, especially those in Africa. He began his career in 1974 at the World Bank, becoming the Bank’s Director for Education and Social Policy from 1992-1995. From 1995-2005, Amoako served as Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at the rank of Under Secretary General of the UN; during which he transformed the institution to more effectively serve African policy-makers, to amplify the African voice internationally and to influence African partners. After his 10-year stint at ECA, Amoako spent 2006 as a Distinguished African Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. Dr. Amoako has worked with leading development experts and political leaders on high-level international commissions and task forces that address the development prospects of Africa and many of today’s central global issues. Among many others, he chaired the Commission for HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa, convened by Kofi Annan.

Prof. Justin Yifu Lin

Director, Center for New Structural Economics, Peking University

Prof. Justin Yifu Lin has been Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of Development Economics at The World Bank Group since February 2008. Prof. Lin has been a Professor of Peking University since 1993 and serves as its Honorary Dean. He serves as Vice Chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce and Vice Chairman of the Committee for Economic Affairs of Chinese People’s Political Consultation Conference. He serves as a Member of Advisory Council at Asian Development Bank. Mr. Lin serves on several national and international committees including the United Nations Millennium Task Force on Hunger, the Eminent Persons Group of the Asian Development Bank, the Working Group on the future of the OECD, the Reinventing Bretton Woods Committee and the World Bank Chief Economist’s Advisory Council, an outside group of eminent experts. He serves as Founding Director of the China Centre for Economic Research at Peking University. He is well known for his work on fiscal decentralization, enterprise reform, urban and rural modernization and agricultural innovation and reform.
Hon. Graça Machel

Founder of the Graça Machel Trust

Hon. Graça Machel is one of the world’s leading advocates for women, children, and communities affected by conflict and injustice. Born in a rural part of Portuguese East Africa, she attended university in Lisbon before returning home to be a freedom fighter and schoolteacher. After the declaration of Mozambique’s independence, she became the country’s first Education Minister. In the years following her government ministry, she produced a ground-breaking UNICEF report on the impact of armed conflict on children that changed the way the United Nations and member states respond in conflict zones. Since then, she has worked tirelessly in support of global health, child welfare, and women’s rights and empowerment.

Hon. Machel is a founding member of The Elders, and played a key role in establishing Girls Not Brides. She is the Board Chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, and Board Chair of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, and President of the Foundation for Community Development. As founder of the Graça Machel Trust, she has more recently focused on advocating for women’s economic and financial empowerment, education for all, an end to child marriage, food security and nutrition, and democracy and good governance. Machel has been recognized for her work on the Africa Progress Panel, UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Group for Every Woman Every Child, the Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy Group, and the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Graça Machel has dedicated her life to improving lives, inspiring hope, and building a more just and equitable world for us all.
**Leadership for Agricultural Transformation: Town Hall with the President**

**Moderator**

**Ms. Bronwyn Nielsen**

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Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina is the 8th elected President of the African Development Bank Group. He was elected to the position on May 28, 2015 by the Bank’s Board of Governors at its Annual Meetings in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

Adesina served as Nigeria’s Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development from 2011 to 2015, during which time he implemented bold policy reforms in the fertilizer sector and pursued innovative agricultural investment programs to expand opportunities for the private sector.

He was previously Vice-President (Policy and Partnerships) of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). He was also Associate Director (Food Security) at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, where he worked for a decade (1998-2008) in senior leadership positions, including as Regional Office Director and Representative for Southern Africa.

Adesina was Principal Economist and Social Science Research Coordinator for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Principal Economist and Coordinator of the West Africa Rice Economics Task Force at the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA) and an Assistant Principal Economist at the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). From 2008 to 2010, Adesina was the President of the African Association of Agricultural Economists.

He has received a number of global awards for his leadership and work in agriculture. In 2010, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed him as one of 17 global leaders to spearhead the Millennium Development Goals, along with Bill Gates, the Spanish Prime Minister and the President of Rwanda. He was named Person of the Year by Forbes Africa magazine in 2013.
Hon. Arun Jaitley is an Indian politician and lawyer who is the current Finance Minister, Minister of Corporate Affairs in the Cabinet of India. A member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Jaitley previously held the cabinet portfolios of Commerce and Industry and Law and Justice in the Vajpayee government (1998–2004) and briefly served as the Minister of Defense in the Narendra Modi government. From 2009 to 2014 he served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. He is a Senior Advocate of the Delhi High Court.

Jaitley was an Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) student leader in the Delhi University Campus in the seventies and rose to be the President of the Students Union of Delhi University in 1974. During the period of proclamation of Internal Emergency (1975–77) when civil liberties were suspended, he was under preventive detention for a period of 19 months. He was a prominent leader of a movement against corruption launched in the year 1973 by Raj Narain and Jayaprakash Narayan. He was the Convenor of the National Committee for Students and Youth organisation appointed by Jai Prakash Narayan. He was also active in civil rights movement and helped found PUCL Bulletin along with Satish Jha and Smitu Kothari. After being released from jail he joined the Jan Sangh.

In 1977, being the convener of the Loktantric Yuva Morcha at a time when the Congress suffered defeat, Jaitley was appointed the president of the Delhi ABVP and All India Secretary of the ABVP. He was then made the president of the youth wing of the BJP and the secretary of the Delhi Unit in 1980, a short time after joining the party.
Alpha Condé is a Guinean politician who has been President of Guinea since December 2010. He spent decades in opposition to a succession of regimes in Guinea, unsuccessfully running against President Lansana Conté in the 1993 and 1998 presidential elections and leading the Rally of the Guinean People (RPG), an opposition party. Standing again in the 2010 presidential election, Condé was elected as President of Guinea in a second round of voting. When he took office that December, he became the first freely elected president in the country's history. Condé was reelected in 2015 with almost 58 percent of the vote. On 30 January 2017, Condé succeeded Chad's Idriss Deby as head of the African Union.

H.E Paul Kagame
President of Rwanda

His Excellency Paul Kagame was sworn in as President of the Republic of Rwanda for a second seven-year term on 6th September 2010 following the country’s elections held on 9th August 2010. Paul Kagame was appointed Vice-President and Minister for Defense in the Government of National Unity on 19 July 1994, and four years later was elected Chairman of the RPF, a partner in the Government of National Unity. As president, Kagame has prioritized national development, launching a Programme which aims to transform Rwanda into a middle income country by 2020. President Kagame has received recognition for his leadership in peace building and reconciliation, development, good governance, promotion of human rights and women’s empowerment, and advancement of education and ICT.
H.E Patrice Talon
President of Benin

Patrice Talon is a Beninese businessman and politician who has been President of Benin since 6 April 2016. He studied science at the University of Dakar and transferred to the National School of Civil Aviation in Paris. With dreams of becoming a pilot, Talon failed a medical test and this dream became an impossibility.

Known as the "King of Cotton" for his involvement in the cotton industry, Talon built his empire due to connections with the Beninese political class. He was a backer of President Thomas Boni Yayi, financing his campaigns for the 2006 and 2011 elections. In 2011, Talon received management of Cotonou’s imports at the Port of Cotonou.

Talon ran as an independent candidate in the March 2016 presidential election. Although he finished second to Prime Minister Lionel Zinsou of the Cowry Forces for an Emerging Benin in the first round of voting, he won the second round with 65% of the vote.

H.E. Macky Sall
President of Senegal

H.E. Macky Sall is a Senegalese politician who has been President of Senegal since April 2012. Under President Abdoulaye Wade, Sall was Prime Minister of Senegal from April 2004 to June 2007 and President of the National Assembly of Senegal from June 2007 to November 2008. He was the Mayor of Fatick from 2002 to 2008 and held that post again from 2009 to 2012.

He was a long-time member of the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS). After coming into conflict with Wade, he was removed from his post as President of the National Assembly in November 2008; he consequently founded his own party named APR, and joined the opposition. Placing second in the first round of the 2012 presidential election, he won the backing of other opposition candidates and prevailed over Wade in the second round of voting, held on 25 March 2012.

Developing Africa’s Grey Matter Infrastructure: Addressing Africa’s Nutrition Challenges

Ms. Rajul Pandya-Lorch

Chief of Staff and Head, 2020 Vision for Food, Agriculture and the Environment Initiative, International Food Policy Research Institute

Ms. Rajul Pandya-Lorch serves as Chief of Staff and Head 2020 Vision Initiative at International Food Policy Research Institute. Ms. Pandya-Lorch is head of IFPRI's 2020 Vision for Food, Agriculture and the Environment Initiative, a global initiative that seeks to identify solutions for meeting world food needs while reducing poverty and protecting the environment. In recognition of her achievements, the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) presented Ms. Pandya-Lorch with its 2010 Quality of Communication Award for their work on Millions Fed: Proven Successes in Agricultural Development. She has also received the American Agricultural Economics Association’s 2002 award for Distinguished Policy Contribution, along with Per Pinstrup-Andersen and Mark Rosegrant. She has facilitated four major international conferences on (1) “Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health,” in New Delhi, India, on February 10-12, 2011; (2) “Taking Action for the World’s Poor and Hungry People”, in Beijing, China, on October 17-19, 2007; (3) “Assuring Food and Nutrition Security in Africa by 2020”, in Kampala, Uganda on April 1-3, 2004; and (4) “Sustainable Food Security for All by 2020”, in Bonn, Germany on September 4-6, 2001. She recently led a major project, “Millions Fed: Proven Successes in Agricultural Development” that documents evidence on policies, programs, and investments in agricultural development that have significantly reduced hunger.
H.E. Hery Rajaonarimampianina is a Malagasy politician who has been President of Madagascar since January 2014. Previously he served as Minister of Finance under President Andry Rajoelina, and he was the Rajoelina camp's candidate in the 2013 presidential election. He won the vote in a second round, defeating Jean-Louis Robinson, the candidate of Marc Ravalomanana's camp. Once he was elected, Rajaonarimampianina holds the world record of the Head of State with the longest name (44 characters) as well as family name (19 characters).

In 1995, Rajaonarimampianina created the accountant firm Auditeurs Associés – C.G.A, in Antananarivo. With 50 associates, the firm operates throughout Madagascar for private commercial companies either national or international. It also assists entities in their projects supported by international fundraisers.

In 2003 he was elected President of the "Ordre des Experts Comptables et Commissaires aux Comptes de Madagascar" (Professional Order of Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors of Madagascar) and appointed Vice-Président of the "Conseil Supérieur de la Comptabilité" (Superior Accounting Council) and counsel of the "Comité pour la Sauvegarde de l’Intégrité" (Committee for the Safeguarding of the Integrity).

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn
President of the World Food Prize Foundation

Dr. Kenneth M. Quinn, former U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, assumed the leadership of the World Food Prize Foundation on January 1, 2000, following his retirement from the State Department after a 32-year career in the Foreign Service. During his diplomatic career, Ambassador Quinn served: on the National Security Council staff at the White House; at the U.S. mission to the United Nations in Vienna; as Chairman of the U.S. Inter-agency Task Force on POW/MIAs; and as Director of Iowa SHARES, the humanitarian campaign that sent Iowa doctors, nurses, medical supplies and food to starving Cambodian refugees. Dr. Quinn acted as interpreter for President Gerald Ford at the White House and personally negotiated the first ever entry by U.S. personnel into a Vietnamese prison to search for U.S. POW/MIAs. He was also a member of the first U.S. team to gain entry to a former Soviet prison in Russia.

In his role as president of the World Food Prize, he has received the following honors; all the highest-level award that these organizations present:
• The American Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award;
• The FFA Distinguished Service Citation;
The Crop Science Society of America Presidential Award; and
• The AFA Leadership in Agriculture Award
On May 30, 2014, Dr. Quinn became only the 23rd person in history to receive the prestigious Iowa Medal, the state’s highest citizen award, joining several illustrious Iowans as: President Herbert Hoover, Vice President Henry A. Wallace, George Washington Carver, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Norman Borlaug.

Panellists

Prof. Baffour Agyeman-Duah
CEO, John A. Kufuor Foundation

Prof Baffour Agyeman-Duah is the CEO of The John A. Kufuor Foundation. Prior to this, he was a Senior Governance Adviser to the United Nations Mission in Liberia. He received a Ph.D. from the University of Denver, Colorado, and taught for ten years in American universities and at the University of Ghana. At the Institute of Economic Affairs, Accra, he directed the Parliamentary Support and Conflict Management programs. He also managed Ghana’s Network of Domestic Election Observers (1996) and was a consultant to the National Democratic Institute (USA) on the Liberian and Nigerian elections in 1997 and 1998-99 respectively. He was a member of the Commonwealth Election Observer Group in Zimbabwe (June 2000) and the Commonwealth’s Technical Expert for Sierra Leone’s National Election Watch (2002). He serves as Adjunct Faculty Member of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, (US Defense Department, Washington D.C.), having participated in the Senior Leadership Seminar in Dakar, Senegal (1999) Gaborone, Botswana (2000), Libreville, Gabon (2001) and Washington, DC (2002).

Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate
CEO, Big Win Philanthropy

Dr. Pate was Minister of State for Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from July 2011 to July 2013. He led the successful Presidential Task Force on Polio Eradication in Nigeria and developed the results-based initiative Save One Million Lives. Previously, Dr. Pate served as the Chief Executive of Nigeria’s National Primary Health Care Development Agency and worked for several years at the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C. He is a founding co-chair of the Board of the Private Sector Health Alliance in Nigeria and serves on Merck’s Advisory Board for Merck for Mothers, Harvard’s Defeating Malaria Initiative, the FHI 360 Advisory Board and the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Demographic Dynamics. He has received the Geneva Health Forum Award 2014 and Harvard Health Leadership Award 2012.
Mr. Shawn Baker  
**Director of Nutrition, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**

As director of the Nutrition team, Shawn Baker leads the foundation’s efforts to ensure that women and children receive the nutrition they need for healthy growth and development.

Before joining the foundation in 2013, Shawn served as vice president and regional director for Africa for Helen Keller International. In that role, he oversaw an expansion from 4 to 13 country programs and an 80-fold increase in program funding. He shaped flagship programs including vitamin A supplementation through child health days (reaching more than 50 million children twice a year) and food fortification (reaching more than 130 million people). He led the development of strategic regional relationships, particularly with the 15-nation West African Health Organisation. Shawn also served as country director for Niger and Bangladesh.

During his 30-year career, Shawn has served as co-promoter of the Niger Health Information System, coordinator of the Tulane University Center for International Health and Development, and coordinator of the Famine Early Warning System in Southern Africa. Earlier, he was a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

Shawn received a master’s degree in public health from the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, with concentrations in international health and nutritional epidemiology. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Miami. He is the author or co-author of more than 80 peer-reviewed publications, presentations at international conferences, and monographs. Shawn received the Officier de l’Ordre du Mérite du Niger from the president of the Republic of Niger and Niger’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He currently chairs the Technical Review Panel for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

Ms. Lauren Landis  
**Director for Nutrition, United Nation World Food Program**

Ms. Landis has many years of experience working with food aid and development. From 2006 until her recent appointment, she was the Senior Representative on Sudan at the U.S. Department of State. Between 2002 and 2005, Ms. Landis was the Director of the Office of Food for Peace in the U.S. Agency for International Development. Ms. Landis has worked in developing countries around the world, including with Save the Children as Director of the Food Security Unit; Interaction; and with OFDA. She has also worked as a consultant to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs,
USAID, the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, and with ADRA. In addition, she worked with private industry in marketing research and business development for Southern Air Transport, a company providing airlift and airdrop of relief commodities. While an undergraduate at Mount Holyoke, Ms. Landis attended the Institut D’Etudes Politiques in France. She has done graduate work at the University of Miami and Harvard’s Graduate School of Business Administration as well as at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Ms. ZOUERA YOUSSOUFOU
CEO, Dangote Foundation

Zouera Youssoufou is the CEO of the Dangote Foundation, based in Lagos. She reports to the Board of the Dangote Foundation, and provides overall management oversight for the $1.24 billion USD foundation. In this capacity, Zouera crafts the short, medium and long-term strategic plans of the Foundation and executes them with guidance from the Board. Prior to joining the Dangote Foundation, Zouera was the World Bank Country Manager for Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tomé and Principe.
Agriculture Is Cool: Engaging Africa’s Youth.

Moderator

Ms. Lerato Mbele
Presenter of Africa Business Report, BBC World News

Lerato Mbele is presenter of *Africa Business Report* on BBC World News television.

Lerato joined the BBC in 2012 as presenter of flagship breakfast radio programme, *Newsday* on BBC World Service.

Prior to that, Lerato served as a Senior Business Anchor for CNBC Africa. She hosted a variety of business focused programming and specials including presidential debates in South Africa, Nigeria, Tunisia and for multilateral organisations like the African Development Bank and United Nations. Lerato is the co-editor of *Designing Democracy*, having worked as a researcher at the SA Institute of International Affairs.

Lerato began her journalism career in 1999 at South Africa’s state-owned broadcaster The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC). She eventually served as an anchor for the channel’s daily news show *News at 10* and also fronted the weekly show, *Public Interest* and *The Ambassadors*.

Lerato has interviewed notable political figures, including Nobel Peace Prize laureates Kofi Annan, Wangari Maathai and F.W de Klerk, and has also interviewed Bill Gates, Olusegun Obansanjo, Goodluck Jonathan and Uhuru Kenyatta.

In March 2014, the World Economic Forum in Geneva Switzerland named Lerato Mbele a Young Global Leader. She has also been nominated for other awards. She is the recipient of a literary award from the World Association of University of Women. Lerato is a *Chevening Scholar* and a regular speaker at international conferences on Africa and economics. She has hosted televised debates, having participated the World Bank and IMF annual meeting in Washington DC and the UN Climate Change Summit COP17 in 2011. She also holds an MSc degree in Development Studies from The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. She is also a graduate of the Universities of Cape Town & Stellenbosch.
1996 marks the year of John Dramani Mahama’s entering into politics. He joined the National Democratic Congress and, being an eloquent champion of the underprivileged, he was elected to the Parliament of Ghana to represent the Bole/Bamboi Constituency for a four-year term. He was re-elected in 2000 and in 2004.

During this time, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Communications in 1997, full Minister of Communications from 1998 until 2001, Minority Parliamentary Spokesman for Communications from 2001 until 2005, and Minority Parliamentary Spokesman for Foreign Affairs from 2005 until 2008.

While being Minister of Communications, John Dramani Mahama also served as the Chairman of the National Communications Authority, and played a key role in stabilizing Ghana’s telecom sector.

He also served as a member of the Pan African Parliament based in Pretoria, South Africa from 2004 to 2011, where he was Chairman of the West Africa Caucus.

On 7 January 2009, John Dramani Mahama became the Vice-President of Ghana, remaining in the post until President John Atta Mills’ untimely death on 24 July 2012, when, in line with Ghana’s Constitution, he became President of the Republic.

In December 2012, he was elected President of Ghana for a four-year term. He thus made political history by becoming the first Ghanaian head of state to have been born after Ghana’s declaration of independence on 6 March 1957.

During his entire life and throughout his political career, President John Dramani Mahama was a champion of the underprivileged, fighting for them against all sorts of bullies; a unifier, moving above tribal politics; a strong supporter of public education for all; and a visionary, seeking to transform Ghana in fundamental ways.

Continuing his legacy as one of the front-runners of a prosperous and modern Ghana, John Dramani Mahama is now running for a second term for the Presidency of Ghana. While many new projects have been implemented since his last election, John Dramani Mahama vows to continue his reforms if elected, reforms that will touch some of the most important issues Ghana is facing at the moment:
Ms. Kemi Adeosun

Minister of Finance of Federal Republic of Nigeria and AfDB Governor for Nigeria

Ms. Kemi Adeosun has been the Minister of Finance of Nigeria since 11 November 2015.

Kemi was born in London, United Kingdom to Nigerian parents from Ogun State. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of East London and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Financial Management from the University of London. She qualified as a Chartered Accountant with the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales in 1994.

Hon. Mohammed Boussaid
Minister of Finance and AfDB Governor for Morocco

From 1986 to 1992, Hon. Boussaid served as a consulting engineer in the Commercial Bank of Morocco (Banque Commerciale du Maroc). He has subsequently served as the deputy general manager of a company specializing in the production and trading of chemicals (1992-1994). From 1994 to 1995 he was in charge of portfolio management of large enterprises at Banque Marocaine du Commerce and Industry (BMCI).

Member of the National Rally of Independents (RNI), Boussaid has also served from 1995 to 1998, as Chief of Staff to the Minister of Public Works and Chief of Staff of the Minister of Agriculture, Equipment and Environment. From 1998 to 2001, he was director of programs and studies at the Department of public works before becoming between 2001 and 2004, the Director of public institutions, then Director of Public Enterprises and Privatization at the Ministry of Finance and Privatization. In 2004, he was appointed Minister of Public Sector Modernization and in October 2007, Minister of Tourism and Handicraft.

In March 2010, Hon. Boussaid was appointed Wali of Souss -Massa -Draa, Governor of the Prefecture of Agadir Idda Outane, then Wali of the Grand Casablanca region, Governor of the Prefecture of Casablanca in May 2012.

Ms. Ada Osakwe
Chief Executive of Agrolay

Ada Osakwe is the Chief Executive of Agrolay Ventures, an investment firm dedicated to growing the agricultural and food sector in Africa. From November 2012 to May 2015, Osakwe served as the Senior Investment Adviser to Akinwumi Adesina, Nigeria’s Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Amongst various initiatives, Osakwe led the development and launch of the US $100 million Fund for Agricultural Financing in Nigeria (FAFIN), an innovative private equity fund dedicated to investing in small and medium agribusiness companies in Nigeria. Prior to this role, Ada was a Vice President at Kuramo Capital, a New York-based private equity fund that invests in high-growth opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ada spent nearly four years at the African Development Bank (AfDB) where she joined as the youngest professional to be hired in the institution. She started her career as an Analyst in the Debt Capital Markets team of BNP Paribas investment bank, London. Ada was selected to the Archbishop Tutu Leadership Fellowship Program. At the age of 26, she was named one of the ‘Top 40 Under 40 Nigerian Female Professionals’ by the Nigeria Professional Network (NiPro).
Ms. Evelyn Ohanwusi  
Head, Partnership and Marketing, IITA Youth Agripreneurs

Evelyn Ohanwusi is the head of the Partnership, Advocacy and Resource Mobilization Arm of the Youth Agripreneurs in Ibadan, Nigeria. She is a strong presenter with proven ability to manage multiple tasks/projects simultaneously.

Prior joining the group, Evelyn worked with the facilities management services under the National Youth Service Scheme of the federal government of Nigeria for 1 year between July 2012 and July 2013.

As the partnership officer of IYA, she is responsible for building and maintaining partnerships between the group and its partners; NGOs, state and federal governments of Nigeria, international institutions and private organizations, which enable the group to effectively fulfill its mission and objectives. She identifies and nurtures such relations focusing primarily on funding, program development and communications.

She also advocates and mobilizes resources for the group and other youth groups established under the IITA Youth Agripreneur’s initiative.

Mr. Noel Mulinganya  
Coordinator, IITA Youth Kalambo Agripreneurs in East DRC

Noel Mulinganya, have a degree in agronomy from the Catholic University of Bukavu. He currently doing an MSc in Integrated Soil Fertility Management at Kenyatta University in Nairobi/ Kenya. He joined the IITA-Kalambo Youth Agripreneurs group to learn from others to become a successful agripreneur. His vision is to transform all his knowledge into a pro table source of income for the members of his group in particular and the youth in general.
Let’s Talk Africa-Asia Partnerships

Moderator

Ms. Georja Calvin-Smith
Anchor, France 24

Georja Calvin-Smith produces and presents France 24's daily Africa news Bulletin.

She has worked in the United States, Britain and France on international documentaries, news and current affairs. After studying law in the UK she was invited to join the diplomatic service of Trinidad and Tobago before she turned to journalism at France 24.

Leader’s Dialogue

Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina
President, African Development Bank Group

Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina is the 8th elected President of the African Development Bank Group. He was elected to the position on May 28, 2015 by the Bank’s Board of Governors at its Annual Meetings in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

Adesina served as Nigeria’s Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development from 2011 to 2015, during which time he implemented bold policy reforms in the fertilizer sector and pursued innovative agricultural investment programs to expand opportunities for the private sector.

He was previously Vice-President (Policy and Partnerships) of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). He was also Associate Director (Food Security) at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, where he worked for a decade (1998-2008) in senior leadership positions, including as Regional Office Director and Representative for Southern Africa.
Adesina was Principal Economist and Social Science Research Coordinator for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Principal Economist and Coordinator of the West Africa Rice Economics Task Force at the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA) and an Assistant Principal Economist at the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). From 2008 to 2010, Adesina was the President of the African Association of Agricultural Economists.

He has received a number of global awards for his leadership and work in agriculture. In 2010, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed him as one of 17 global leaders to spearhead the Millennium Development Goals, along with Bill Gates, the Spanish Prime Minister and the President of Rwanda. He was named Person of the Year by Forbes Africa magazine in 2013.

Mr. Shaktikanta Das
Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, India.

Mr. Shaktikanta Das, serves as Joint Secretary (Budget) in Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, and Government of India. Mr. Das had distinguished services as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, Government of India; Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Revenue Administration, Government of Tamil Nadu; Secretary, Industries Department in Government of Tamil Nadu and various other distinguished services. He served as Secretary of the Industries Department of Government of Tamil Nadu. He served as Chairman and Director of Tamil Nadu Newsprint And Papers Ltd., from May 24, 2006 to November 3, 2007. He served as the Chairman and Director of Titan Company Limited, from June 5, 2006 to December 5, 2007. He served as the Chairman of Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd., from July 27, 2006 to January 22 2008. He has been a Director at Life Insurance Corporation of India since October 12, 2015. He served as a Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corp. Ltd. since August 28, 2012 until December 30, 2013. He served as a Non-Executive Director at Indian Bank from December 9, 2009 to December 5, 2012. He served as Director of Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Limited from May 30, 2006 to January 19, 2008; and Tamilnadu Industrial Explosives Ltd., until August 17, 2007. He served as Additional Director of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited from September 6, 2006 to January 21, 2008. Mr. Das holds Master's degree from St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
H.E Patrice Talon
President of Benin

Patrice Talon is a Beninese businessman and politician who has been President of Benin since 6 April 2016.

He studied science at the University of Dakar and transferred to the National School of Civil Aviation in Paris. With dreams of becoming a pilot, Talon failed a medical test and this dream became an impossibility.

Known as the "King of Cotton" for his involvement in the cotton industry, Talon built his empire due to connections with the Beninese political class. He was a backer of President Thomas Boni Yayi, financing his campaigns for the 2006 and 2011 elections. In 2011, Talon received management of Cotonou’s imports at the Port of Cotonou.

Talon ran as an independent candidate in the March 2016 presidential election. Although he finished second to Prime Minister Lionel Zinsou of the Cowry Forces for an Emerging Benin in the first round of voting, he won the second round with 65% of the vote.

Mr. Issad Rebrab
CEO, CEVITAL

Issad Rebrab is an Algerian entrepreneur and CEO of CEVITAL industrial group. It is the biggest private company in Algeria employing thousands of people in different domains: steel industry, food, agribusiness, electrotics. According to the Forbes 2013 list of billionaires, Rebrab is the 8th richest person in Africa, with an estimated net worth of US$3.2 billion. After graduating from a professional school, Issad Rebrab taught accountability and commercial law. But he left teaching very quickly and started his own accountability firm. His industrial adventure started in 1971, when one of his clients proposed to him to take shares in a metallurgical construction company. He jumped at the chance and took 20% of shares of “Sotecom”. It was the first step of his success story. After that, he created other companies in steel industry: “Profilor” in 1975 and “Metal Sider” in 1988. In 1995, his main installations were destroyed in a terrorist attack. Feeling in danger, he was forced to leave Algeria. But he came back in 1998 with Cevital, the biggest group in agribusiness, which will become later the largest private Algerian company.
Ms. Helen Hai
CEO, Made in Africa Initiative (China)

Ms. Helen Hai is the CEO of the Made in Africa Initiative and adviser to the governments of Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Senegal for investment promotion and industrialization. She is a senior adviser on South-South cooperation for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and works closely with the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID), the World Bank, the Gates Foundation, the Tony Blair African Governance Initiative and other multilateral players involved in development issues in Africa.

Ms. Hai is an experienced business executive and an expert in the field of development. For over two years, she worked in Ethiopia where she served as the Vice President and General Manager for overseas investment for the Huajian Company, one of China’s biggest shoe makers. The shoe factory she established in the capital, Addis Ababa, started production in January 2012 and, within two years, employed 3,500 workers. She recently supported Rwanda to set up the first garment factory for export, which created hundreds of jobs in a few months’ time. She launched the Made in Africa Initiative with the aim of assisting African countries to capture the opportunity of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. As UNIDO’s Goodwill Ambassador, HAI Helen is focusing on Africa’s industrialization.

Hai was trained as an actuary in the United Kingdom and with 15 years international experience in FTSE100 companies, previously served as Vice President and Chief Actuary for Zurich Financial Services in China, and Partner in Jardine Lloyd Thompton Group in London. World Economic Forum elects her as one of the 2015 Global Young Leader.
Transforming African Agriculture into a Lucrative Business

Moderator

Mr. Alan Kasujja
Presenter, BBC World Today

Alan Kasujja is currently a presenter at BBC World Service’s Newsday radio programme. He previously hosted Capital Radio’s Big Breakfast in Kampala and presented The Fourth Estate debate Programme and Who Wants to be a Millionaire? on Ugandan Television. Alan now lines up alongside Bola Mosuro, Julian Keane, Paul Bakibinga, Lawrence Pollard and Nuala McGovern in London, and Lerato Mbele in Johannesburg. His first assignment was working on Newsday’s coverage, with Paul Bakibinga, of the 50th anniversary of Ugandan independence before heading to London to join the Newsday team where he started broadcasts from London in Mr. Kasujja has been part of Uganda’s media industry since his late teens when he joined The New Vision as a freelance writer and photographer. He studied law at Makerere University and speaks (or has a good understanding of) many East African dialects. He started his radio career at Sanyu FM, worked at Capital FM, Nairobi then returned home to present The Big Breakfast on 91.3 Capital, Kampala.
Dr. Khaled F. Sherif
Vice-President, Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery, AfDB

Dr. Khaled Sherif is the Vice-President, Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery, AfDB. He is a highly respected and experienced economist and manager with 25 years of experience within the World Bank, spanning strategic, operational and technical expertise in development and development finance. He rose progressively through the ranks in the World Bank, joined through the Young Professional Program and moved up as Senior Economist, Principal Economist, Lead Economist and Sector Manager for private and financial sector development. He later became the Chief Administrative Officer – the Chief Operations Officer of the World Bank’s Africa Region. He also previously served as the Chief Administrative Officer, Network Operations in the Human Development Network of the World Bank, where he managed nearly $2 billion in bank-executed Trust Funds. He helped to create the Regional Integration Department in Africa for the World Bank and brings unique set skills in working with Regional Economic Communities on regional integration projects. He has expertise in strategic planning, budget control and management and working with others to deliver actionable, locally tailored regional and country strategies. He possesses a unique combination of technical expertise in the private sector, managing regional integration, financial sector development, banking operations, strategic planning and organizational reform and change management. These will help the Bank to spearhead its regional integration agenda and ensure the success of the decentralization action plan.
Panellists

Ms. Ada Osakwe
Chief Executive of Agrolay

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Ms. Monica Musonda
CEO of Java Food

Ms. Monica Musonda is founder and Chief Executive Officer of Java Foods, a food processing company based in Zambia. Monica's vision is to revolutionize the eating habits of the youth market by offering them affordable and nutritious food options made from local products. Monica is a dual-qualified English solicitor and Zambian advocate with over 15 years of experience in legal practice and corporate management, including being corporate counsel at the International Finance Corporation and for Aliko Dangote of Dangote Industries Limited. Monica currently serves on the Boards of the Central Bank of Zambia and Dangote Industries Zambia Limited, and is Chairperson of Kwacha Pension Trust Fund, Zambia’s largest single employer pension fund. She is a 2013 Young Global Leader (World Economic Forum) and Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow. Forbes Magazine and Africa Investor named her as one of the leading Young Power Women in Business in Africa in 2013 and 2014 respectively.
Mr. Vimal Shah  
CEO of Bidco Oil Refineries

Mr. Vimal Shah, an Asian-Kenyan businessman, is the CEO of Bidco Oil Refineries, the largest manufacturer of edible oils in East and Central Africa, and manufactures detergents, soaps, baking powder and canola, as well as other edible oils. Bidco has a 49% share of the edible oils market in Kenya. In 1985, Vimal Shah, his father and younger brother started manufacturing soaps and in 2002, they acquired a significant portion of Unilever's edible oil businesses. The three family members share ownership of the fortune. Bidco grosses over $500 million in annual revenues and its products are manufactured, sold and distributed in 14 countries across Africa. Shah chairs the East African Business Council.

Mr. John Magnay  
Head of Agriculture, Opportunity International

John is Head of Agricultural Finance for Opportunity International. He has been a consultant for a range of development entities including USAID, the UN and the World Bank, and has advised on agri-business and output market development throughout Africa. Before Opportunity International, he served as the Chairman and Chief Executive of Uganda Grain Traders Ltd. John also founded Magric Uganda Ltd to provide agricultural inputs and technologies to African governments and private sector companies. He received a BSc in Agricultural Management from Wye College.
Hon. Amer Tarek,
Governor of Central Bank of Egypt and AfDB Governor for Egypt

Hon Amer Tarek, who has a bachelor’s degree in economics and management, has more than 27 years of experience in international banking under his belt, including the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Turkey, the Gulf, and Asia. He was previously a deputy governor of CBE and served as chairman between 2008 and 2013 of the state-owned National Bank of Egypt, where he undertook reforms that were “applauded by regional and international financial institutions,” the presidency said in its statement.

He has worked in more than 10 countries in the Middle East. The positions he has held include the vice chairman of the board of Banque Misr in Egypt, the General Manager of Banks of Bahrain and Kuwait, as well as holding several managerial positions in Citibank, Egyptian American Bank, Bank of America and Bank of Credit and Commerce.

He increased the balance sheet for of the National Bank of Egypt by LE170 billion in five years after he was appointed president. He succeeded in bridging the bank’s gap of bad debts, which was more than LE10 billion, and in achieving a net profit of LE300 million in 2012, all despite the bad economic conditions that followed the January 25 Revolution which makes experts optimistic that he could save the economy, according to Bloomberg.
Financing African Infrastructure

Moderator

Mr. Wallace Kantai
Anchor, NTV, Kenya

Wallace Kantai is the Business Editor at the Nation Media Group, East Africa’s biggest and most respected media company.

He has interviewed and interacted with dozens of Kenya’s and the world’s business leaders and policymakers, including Presidents and the heads of the WTO and IMF. He also has moderated high level round tables.

Kantai has held roles in the information technology, non-profit and public relations fields in Kenya, South Africa and the United Kingdom. He is also a columnist for Kenya’s leading newspapers.
Setting the Context

Mr. Pierre Guislain

Vice-President, Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization, AfDB

Pierre Guislain is the Vice-president, Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization of the African Development Bank. He was a Senior Director at the World Bank, where he provides global leadership for the Global Practice on Transport and Information and Communications. He has built an impressive career at the World Bank, spanning more than 30 years. He worked previously as Director for the Investment Climate Department of the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank Group (2006-2014) and Manager of the World Bank Group’s Information and Communications Technology Division (2001-2005). He is widely respected for his global leadership in pushing for regulatory reforms in the telecoms industry, moving away from the monopolistic telecoms operators to a competitive sector with private sector participation, contributing to what became a major driver of economic and private sector growth, especially in Africa.
He has extensive experience in private sector and infrastructure development. As Director, Investment Climate Department of the International Finance Corporation, he managed a team of 300 professionals across the world.
Guislain has a strong background as an economist and lawyer with many years of experience and senior leadership experience at the World Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). He successfully integrated the separate teams from the World Bank, IFC and MIGA into a single integrated department.
Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina
President, African Development Bank Group

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Ms. Janet Heckman
Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Janet Heckman is the Managing Director for the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) region at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). She started in the role in February 2017.

Based in Cairo, Ms Heckman is responsible for the formulation and delivery of the EBRD’s strategy and business plan for this new region of operations, covering Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Ms. Heckman is also the EBRD’s country Head for Egypt.

An American national, Ms. Heckman joined the EBRD in July 2012 from Citi. During her tenure as Director, Head of Kazakhstan, she contributed to a significant increase in the EBRD’s footprint and impact in the country, including an expansion of our network of local offices.

She was instrumental in designing and implementing a ground-breaking and multi-faceted Enhanced Partnership with the Government of Kazakhstan.

In the course of her long career at Citi, she was Managing Director for its corporate bank activities in Algeria and held many field roles in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Bahrain with a focus on corporate banking.

She also had responsibility for global relationship banking across Citi’s Central Eastern Europe Middle East Africa (CEEMEA) region and later for Europe Middle East Africa (EMEA) industrial clients and CEEMEA consumer industries and healthcare.

Ms. Heckman holds a Master’s of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and a BA in History from Kenyon College. She also studied at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.
Mr. Jingdong Hua  
Vice President, Treasury & Syndication, IFC

Mr. Jingdong Hua is Vice President and Treasurer of IFC. He is responsible for managing IFC’s financial position, safeguarding its international triple-A rating and maintaining its standing as a premier issuer in the global capital markets. He oversees liquid assets, market borrowings, and risk-management instruments totaling over $100 billion.

Under Mr. Hua’s leadership, IFC focuses on capital market development in emerging markets, through pioneering transactions such as a first-of-its-kind global Indian rupee program that set a benchmark yield curve for the offshore rupee markets, and market-opening local currency bonds in Armenia, Costa Rica, China, Nigeria, Rwanda, and many other countries.

Mr. Hua is also responsible for IFC’s loan syndications and co-investment program, which has mobilized over $50 billion for private sector development. He oversaw the creation of the IFC Managed Co-Lending Portfolio Program—an landmark program that has mobilized significant funds from sovereign and institutional investors and established a potential model that development institutions could use to raise the trillions of dollars that will be needed each year to achieve the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

Prior to joining IFC, Mr. Hua served as Deputy Treasurer at the Asian Development Bank in Manila. He previously held a number of positions in the treasury departments of ADB, the United Nations Development Program in New York, and the African Development Bank in Abidjan.

Mr. Hua, a Chinese national, started his career in 1983 with China National Chemical Construction Corporation. He holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Qingdao University of Science and Technology, an MBA Finance from the University of Texas at Arlington, and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Columbia University.
Mr. Paulo Nogueira Batista Jr.
Vice President & Chief Risk Officer, New Development Bank (BRICS)

Mr. Paulo Nogueira Batista Jr. is Vice President and Chief Risk Officer of the New Development Bank. A well-known Brazilian economist, he was the Executive Director representing Brazil and ten other countries at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from April 2007 to June 2015. Prior to joining the IMF he served as Secretary for Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Planning, Brazil. He has held various senior leadership offices such as Advisor on External Debt to the Minister for Finance and Head of the Center for Monetary and International Economics Studies, Getúlio Vargas Foundation in Rio de Janeiro.

Hon. Amer Tarek,
Governor of Central Bank of Egypt and AfDB Governor for Egypt

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Innovative Financing for Agriculture

Moderator

Ms. Julie Gichuru
Host, African Leadership Dialogues, KBC

Julie Gathoni Sumira Gichuru is a Kenyan journalist and Host, African Leadership Dialogues formerly worked for Royal Media Services as Group Digital Business Manager and talk show host. She's now at KBC.

Gichuru initially worked at Capital FM before moving to television as a reporter and news anchor at Kenya Television Network, part of The Standard Group. During her time there, she the launched investigative series The Inside Story, focused on corruption, crime injustices and inequity in Kenya. She later worked at NTV before moving to Royal Media Services. She is currently the founder and CEO of Arimus Media.

Setting the Context

Dr. Jennifer Blanke
Vice-President, Agriculture, Human & Social Development, AfDB

Dr. Jennifer Blanke is the Vice-President, Agriculture, Human & Social Development of the African Development Bank Group. She is a renowned and globally respected development economist, with over 20 years of experience. She is was the Chief Economist and member of the Executive Committee of the World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland, where she provides global leadership on economic and development issues. She has worked for the past 14 years at the World Economic Forum, including as Senior Director, Lead Economist and Senior Program Manager. She has deep expertise in strategy development, execution and driving for results. She is widely respected for her ability to develop effective partnerships and convene diverse group of experts to achieve results. She earlier worked as Senior Consultant for the Eurogroup Consulting
As Chief Economist of the World Economic Forum, she is exposed to all the key issues driving the global economy and is at the center of many of them. She was very effective in launching of the African Competitiveness Report for 2015-2016 in Kinshasa this year, which brought tremendous interests in Africa, including investing in transition and fragile situations. Dr. Blanke is a dynamic leader, with extensive networks in the public and private sector. She has done tremendous amount of work on growth and inclusion and will be able to leverage the agriculture sector to deliver not only on growth and feeding Africa, but also on other dimensions of inclusion such as gender and youth.

Panellists

**Dr. Aliyu Abdullhameed**  
Managing Director/CEO, NIRSAL

Dr. Aliyu Abbati Abdulhameed is the Managing Director of the Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL).

Mr. Abdulhameed holds a B.Sc. in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, a Master’s Degree in Public Administration with specialization in Public Policy, and an Executive Masters Certificate in Project Management from the Project Management College (UK).

Currently as an Executive Team Member of NIRSAL Plc, he has over 22 years’ experience in corporate agribusiness, and in the field of Agricultural Finance and Risk Management. NIRSAL, a Public Limited Liability Company licensed as a Non-Bank Financial Institution (NBFI), is an initiative of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Banker’s Committee (BC) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD).

With the primary mandate of facilitating the flow of credit to agribusiness value chain players, and collaborating with stakeholders to fix broken agricultural value chains in Nigeria, NIRSAL promotes economic development by acting as a catalyst for credit flows to agricultural value chains, by systematically addressing key failures in the agribusiness supply chains. He was to re-focus NIRSAL and help de-risk agricultural lending in Nigeria, asserting that it would help move the country towards food sufficiency, job creation, and inclusive growth.
Mr. Mezuo O. Nwuneli
Managing Director, Fund for Agricultural Finance in Nigeria (FAFIN)

Mr. Mezuo has a 20-year career in private equity, investment banking, and corporate finance. Over the past six years, Mezuo has worked extensively within agribusiness in West Africa and across a broad range of crop value chains. Mezuo Co-Founded Sahel Capital in 2010 to facilitate the development of the agricultural sector within the region. Sahel Capital is the fund manager for FAFIN, a US$33 million private equity fund sponsored by the German and Nigerian governments and focused on SME agribusiness opportunities in Nigeria. Mezuo is also a Co-Founder/Director of AACE Foods, an agro-processing company established in 2010, which produces a range of spices, seasonings, and complementary food products for industrial and retail customers. He is a 2007 Archbishop Desmond Tutu Fellow and a 2015 Eisenhower Fellow. Mezuo spent his fellowship studying agribusiness-focused private equity investing, learning about agricultural finance related investment instruments, and exploring technology to minimize post-harvest loss. His goal is to increase his capacity to tailor financing to small and medium agribusinesses and farmers, who are most in need of capital.

Mr. Sean de Cleene
Vice-President, Business Development and Strategic Partnerships, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

Chief Strategy and Partnerships Officer at Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). Responsible for overseeing business and market development strategies, innovative financing and strategic partnerships. Former positions include:

Chair, World Economic Forum New Vision for Agriculture incorporating multi-stakeholder partnerships in 14 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America including partnering to form both Grow Africa and Grow Asia

Founding Co-Chair Grow Africa

Seconded as Special Adviser, UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition.

Previously Sean was a successful innovator having jointly initiated a number of respected cross sector partnership platforms and initiatives including inter alia Grow Africa, African Green Revolution Forum, Beira Agricultural Growth Corridor, Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania, Malawi Agriculture Partnership, Business Action Against Corruption, UNEP Finance Initiative Africa Taskforce, African Sustainable Investment Centre, African Institute of Corporate Citizenship, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange Sustainability Index and several companies specialising in business sustainability and social entrepreneurship.
Mr. Mark Suzman
Chief Strategy Officer & President, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Mark Suzman leads the foundation's efforts to build strategic relationships with governments, private philanthropists, and other key partners to increase awareness, action, and resources devoted to foundation programs in both the U.S. and abroad. Additionally, he oversees the foundation's regional offices and strategic presence in Europe, Africa, and China, as well as grant portfolios supporting cross-cutting policy research, advocacy, communications, and select country-level delivery efforts.

As Chief Strategy Officer, he also manages foundation-wide learning initiatives and critical strategic trade-offs across all the foundation’s work.

Mark joined the foundation in 2007 as director of Global Development Policy, Advocacy, and Special Initiatives. In 2012, he was appointed president of Global Policy, Advocacy, and Country Programs and in 2016, was appointed the additional position of the foundation’s first Chief Strategy Officer.

Prior to joining the foundation in 2007, Mark held multiple positions at the United Nations, including senior advisor for policy and strategic communications in the Office of the Secretary General, and policy director in the Office of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Program. Prior to that, he was a correspondent for the Financial Times in Johannesburg, London, and Washington D.C.

Originally from South Africa, Mark holds a doctorate in international relations from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He earned his bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, from Harvard University.
Lord Paul Boateng
Chairman, AECF

The Rt. Hon the Lord Boateng is a Barrister former British MP, Cabinet Minister, and British High Commissioner to South Africa. Brought up in Ghana West Africa he is a frequent writer broadcaster and lecturer on Africa.

He founded his own market regulatory advisory company Akyem Law and Advisory, is on the Health Policy Advisory Board of Gilead Sciences and is an advisor to a number of other international companies.

A member of the House of Lords, he sits on the Joint National Security Strategy Committee of the British Parliament and is Vice Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Development.

He is a Trustee of the Planet Earth Institute Chairs Book Aid International, the English Speaking Union and the International Council of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

A Methodist Lay Preacher he is married to Janet Lady Boateng a Social Policy Analyst and Company Director they have five children and six grandchildren.
Hon. Arun Jaitley
Finance minister and AfDB Governor for India

Hon. Arun Jaitley is an Indian politician and lawyer who is the current Finance Minister, Minister of Corporate Affairs in the Cabinet of India. A member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Jaitley previously held the cabinet portfolios of Commerce and Industry and Law and Justice in the Vajpayee government (1998–2004) and briefly served as the Minister of Defense in the Narendra Modi government. From 2009 to 2014 he served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha. He is a Senior Advocate of the Delhi High Court.

Jaitley was an Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) student leader in the Delhi University Campus in the seventies and rose to be the President of the Students Union of Delhi University in 1974. During the period of proclamation of Internal Emergency (1975–77) when civil liberties were suspended, he was under preventive detention for a period of 19 months. He was a prominent leader of a movement against corruption launched in the year 1973 by Raj Narain and Jayaprakash Narayan. He was the Convenor of the National Committee for Students and Youth organisation appointed by Jai Prakash Narayan. He was also active in civil rights movement and helped found PUCL Bulletin along with Satish Jha and Smitu Kothari. After being released from jail he joined the Jan Sangh.

In 1977, being the convener of the Loktantric Yuva Morcha at a time when the Congress suffered defeat, Jaitley was appointed the president of the Delhi ABVP and All India Secretary of the ABVP. He was then made the president of the youth wing of the BJP and the secretary of the Delhi Unit in 1980, a short time after joining the party.
Mr. Henry Kiplagat Rotich
Cabinet Secretary and AfDB Governor for Kenya

Mr. Henry Kiplagat Rotich, EGH, B.A. (Econ.), MA (Econ.), MPA, serves as the Cabinet Secretary - The National Treasury in Kenya. He served as the Head of Macroeconomics at the Treasury, Ministry of Finance in Kenya since March 2006. Mr. Rotich worked at the Research Department of the Central Bank of Kenya since 1994. From 2001 to 2004, he was attached to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) local office in Nairobi to work as an economist. He has been the Chairman of Governing Council at East African Development Bank since April 1, 2014 and its Member of Governing Council since May 16, 2013. He serves as a Governor at International Monetary Fund. He serves as Member of the Board of Governors at African Development Bank. He serves as a Director at East African Portland Cement Company Limited. He serves as a Non-Executive Director of National Bank of Kenya Ltd. He has been a Director of Kenya Electricity Generating Company Limited since January 15, 2014. He serves as an Independent Director at Kenya Commercial Bank Limited. He serves as a Non-Executive Director of Kenya Reinsurance Corporation Ltd. He serves as a Director of Telkom Kenya Limited and The Kenya Power and Lighting Company Limited. He served as a Non-Executive Director of Safaricom Limited since November 5, 2013. Mr. Rotich served as a Director at Mumias Sugar Company Limited until September 24, 2014. Mr. Rotich was a Director on several Boards of State Corporations, including: Insurance Regulatory Board; Industrial Development Bank; Communication Commission of Kenya; and Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

Hon. Mohammed Boussaid
Minister of Finance and AfDB Governor for Morocco

From 1986 to 1992, Hon. Boussaid served as a consulting engineer in the Commercial Bank of Morocco (Banque Commerciale du Maroc). He has subsequently served as the deputy general manager of a company specializing in the production and trading of chemicals (1992 -1994).

From 1994 to 1995 he was in charge of portfolio management of large enterprises at Banque Marocaine du Commerce and Industry (BMCI).

Member of the National Rally of Independents (RNI), Boussaid has also served from 1995 to 1998, as Chief of Staff to the Minister of Public Works and Chief of Staff of the Minister of Agriculture, Equipment and Environment.

From 1998 to 2001, he was director of programs and studies at the Department of public works before becoming between 2001 and 2004, the Director of public institutions, then Director of Public Enterprises and Privatization at the Ministry of Finance and Privatization.

In 2004, he was appointed Minister of Public Sector Modernization and in October 2007, Minister of Tourism and Handicraft.

In March 2010, Hon. Boussaid was appointed Wali of Souss -Massa -Draa, Governor of the Prefecture of Agadir Idda Outane, then Wali of the Grand Casablanca region, Governor of the Prefecture of Casablanca in May 2012.
Ambassador Claver Gatete
Minister of Finance & AfDB Governor for Rwanda

Amb. Claver Gatete is a Rwandan politician and former ambassador, who currently serves as the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning in the Rwandan government. He has previously served as the Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda and as Rwanda’s ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Iceland.

Upon the completion of his university studies, Gatete worked in Canada as an economist between 1991 and 1997, and then worked as the national economist with the United Nations Development Programme in Rwanda until 2000.

In October 2001, Gatete joined the office of the president as the president’s personal representative to NEPAD, before being appointed the Secretary General and Secretary to the Treasury in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in November 2003, a position he held until September 2005.[2]

From November 2005 until December 2009, Gatete was Rwanda’s ambassador to the UK, Ireland and Iceland, before joining the National Bank of Rwanda as the deputy governor. He then served as the Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda from May 2011, before his appointment as the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Amadou Ba
Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning, AfDB Governor for Senegal

Hon. Amadou BA, current Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning
He had taught Accounting to several cohorts of inspector students in "Taxation and Domains" of the “Ecole Nationale d'Administration” since 1992. Between 1995-2000, he was in charge of teaching in the West African Training Center for Banking Studies and (COFEB) of the Central Bank of the States of West Africa (BCEAO).

On a professional level, the current Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning began his career in Diourbel before being transferred to the Centre for Tax Services (CSF) in Dakar Plateau. From 1992 to 1994 he held the position of Commissioner Controller of Insurance at the Department of Insurance before returning to the Directorate General of Taxation and Domains as Inspector-Auditor at the Department of Audits and Surveys until 2002.

From 2002 on, Mr. Amadou BA will lead successively Center for Large Businesses and the Department of Taxation before he is promoted as Director General of Taxation and Domains in November 2006, a position he held until Monday, September 2, 2013, date of his appointment as Minister of Economy and Finance of Senegal. In July 06, 2014, Mr. Amadou BA was reappointed in the new government as Minister of the Economy, Finance and Planning.
President Dialogue with Central Bank Governors: Boosting Domestic Resource Mobilization to Finance African Transformation

Moderator

Mr. Alan Kasujja
Presenter, BBC World Today

Alan Kasujja is currently a presenter at BBC World Service’s Newsday radio programme. He previously hosted Capital Radio’s Big Breakfast in Kampala and presented The Fourth Estate debate Programme and Who Wants to be a Millionaire? on Ugandan Television. Alan now lines up alongside Bola Mosuro, Julian Keane, Paul Bakibinga, Lawrence Pollard and Nuala McGovern in London, and Lerato Mbele in Johannesburg. His first assignment was working on Newsday’s coverage, with Paul Bakibinga, of the 50th anniversary of Ugandan independence before heading to London to join the Newsday team where he started broadcasts from London in Mr. Kasujja has been part of Uganda’s media industry since his late teens when he joined The New Vision as a freelance writer and photographer. He studied law at Makerere University and speaks (or has a good understanding of) many East African dialects. He started his radio career at Sanyu FM, worked at Capital FM, Nairobi then returned home to present The Big Breakfast on 91.3 Capital, Kampala.
Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina
President, African Development Bank Group

Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina is the 8th elected President of the African Development Bank Group. He was elected to the position on May 28, 2015 by the Bank’s Board of Governors at its Annual Meetings in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

Adesina served as Nigeria’s Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development from 2011 to 2015, during which time he implemented bold policy reforms in the fertilizer sector and pursued innovative agricultural investment programs to expand opportunities for the private sector.

He was previously Vice-President (Policy and Partnerships) of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). He was also Associate Director (Food Security) at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, where he worked for a decade (1998-2008) in senior leadership positions, including as Regional Office Director and Representative for Southern Africa.

Adesina was Principal Economist and Social Science Research Coordinator for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Principal Economist and Coordinator of the West Africa Rice Economics Task Force at the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA) and an Assistant Principal Economist at the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). From 2008 to 2010, Adesina was the President of the African Association of Agricultural Economists.

He has received a number of global awards for his leadership and work in agriculture. In 2010, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed him as one of 17 global leaders to spearhead the Millennium Development Goals, along with Bill Gates, the Spanish Prime Minister and the President of Rwanda. He was named Person of the Year by Forbes Africa magazine in 2013.
Hon. Amadou Ba
Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning, AfDB Governor for Senegal

Hon. Amadou BA, current Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning

He had taught Accounting to several cohorts of inspector students in "Taxation and Domains" of the “Ecole Nationale d'Administration” since 1992. Between 1995-2000, he was in charge of teaching in the West African Training Center for Banking Studies and (COFEB) of the Central Bank of the States of West Africa (BCEAO).

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Mr. Godwin Emefiele
Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria

Godwin Emefiele is the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). Prior to his joining the CBN, he spent over 26 years in commercial banking culminating in his tenure as Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Zenith Bank PLC, one of Nigeria's largest banks with over 7,000 staff, about US$3.2 billion in shareholders’ funds, and subsidiaries in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Gambia, South Africa, China, and the United Kingdom.

Under Emefiele's leadership, Zenith Bank had strengthened its position as a leading financial institution in Africa, winning recognition and endorsement at home and abroad for giant strides in key performance areas like corporate governance, service delivery and deployment of cutting-edge ICT.

Before his banking career, he was a lecturer in Finance and Insurance in two Nigerian Universities.
Dr. Benno Ndulu  
Governor, Bank of Tanzania

Dr. Ndulu is the governor of bank of Tanzania. He has presided over strong economic growth averaging 7 percent a year while bringing down the annual inflation rate to single digit levels from a peak of 20 percent in December 2011. Ndulu is credited with implementing prudent policies and overseeing macroeconomic stabilisation that have underpinned Tanzania's strong economic performance over the past five years. Analysts say major challenges facing the governor include reining in the country's external current account deficit, among the largest in the region at 14 percent of GDP in 2014. Preserving fiscal and debt sustainability as the country embarks on major infrastructure projects are other key challenges.

Ndulu has supported the expansion of financial inclusion by licensing more commercial banks, helping introduce agent banking and tapping into the growth of mobile financial services. Under his stewardship, the central bank has licensed the country's first two credit reference bureau in a bid to reduce risks of lending and boost credit to the private sector.

Dr. Ndulu was deputy governor for less than a year before he was made governor. He previously worked for the World Bank's macroeconomic division covering east Africa. He has taught economics at the University of Dar es Salaam and helped set up the think tank African Economic Research Consortium. His research covers macroeconomics, regional integration, trade and investments.

Hon. Sfiso Buthelezi  
Deputy Minister of Finance and AfDB Temporary Governor for South Africa

Sfiso Buthelezi, 56, is an ANC MP currently sitting on the standing committee on finance.

He was appointed in April 2016, and has an 88% attendance record for 2017 thus far.

He had resigned from a post as the chief operating officer of the Makana Investment Corporation upon joining the ANC caucus last year.

He served as Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) board chairperson for six years, and spent the prior four years as a director.

He was Prasa board chairperson.
Mr. Mohamed Loukal
Governor, Central Bank of Algeria

Mr. Mohamed Loukal serves as the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of Banque BIA. Mr. Loukal serves as the Chairman and General Manager of National Commercial Bank SAL. He serves as Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Banque Extérieure d'Algérie. He serves as the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President at Banque Intercontinentale Arabe - BIA -Paris. He has been a Non-Executive Director of British Arab Commercial Bank Ltd., since May 26, 2005. Mr. Loukal serves as Non-Executive Director of Banque du Maghreb Arabe pour l'Investissement et le Commerce - BAMIC and Ubac Curaçao N.V. He served as a Director of Union de Banques Arabes et Francaises S.A.-U.B.A.F. until September 19, 2016. He served as a Director of Arab Bank for Investment and Foreign Trade.
Her Excellency Dr. Sahar Nasr was sworn in as the Egyptian Minister of Investment and International Cooperation on February 16, 2017. On March 14, 2017, Dr. Sahar temporarily assumed the charge of the post of Minister of Public Business Sector.

Dr. Nasr earned her Professorship from the Supreme Council of Universities. She is a Professor of Economics at the American University in Cairo and a Lecturer at several Egyptian and foreign universities. Throughout her academic career, she published over 60 research papers, technical reports and books merging her technical and practical expertise in the fields of international finance, economic development, private sector and SME development, as well as the fields of financial reform, the labor market, women empowerment, and economic legislation. These papers and reports were published in scientific periodicals, including those of Cambridge and Oxford University in the UK, Berkley University in the USA, and scientific periodicals published by the World Bank. Some of these studies and research papers have contributed to drafting and structuring economic policies in various developing countries and emerging markets, including Egypt.

Since assuming her role as Minister of International Cooperation on September 19, 2015, Dr. Nasr has made several strides in restructuring and reforming the Ministry, such as the establishment of a unit for monitoring and evaluation and a policy development and strategic planning unit in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Egypt.

Furthermore, Dr. Nasr has focused on strengthening Egypt’s ties with its existing international partners, as well as exploring new opportunities for cooperation, all through the establishment of mutually-beneficial partnerships. This has involved consolidating Egyptian-Gulf relationships, expanding and deepening ties with African states, and exploring new relationships with Asian partners.

She is the National Coordinator of the National Committee for the Follow-Up on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. Nasr also serves as Governor of Egypt to several institutions such as The World Bank, The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Dr. Nasr has been a member of the Economic Development Council of the Presidential Office through which she provided economic consultations to the President and drafted several proposals for the development of Egypt’s economic policies, boosting economic development efforts, coordinating and streamlining development initiatives and programs across different ministries and authorities, as well as to ensure the modernization of the economic performance.
system. Her Excellency was granted the 2015 prize of the most influential woman in the Arab economic sector.

Dr. Nasr has extensive experience in negotiating and securing international grants and loans, especially within her role as Lead Economist at the World Bank. She has managed funds exceeding US$ 4.3 billion that were injected into the Egyptian economy in the areas of economic reform, economic policy development, small and medium enterprise (SME) development and social housing.

Furthermore, she has broad expertise in organizing and heading committees of several international economic aid and foreign investment funds, as well as in the coordination with several international organizations, on top of which is the United Nations.

Dr. Nasr’s career heavily involved designing and supervising numerous reform and finance programs in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Central and Eastern Europe. She has accomplished numerous success stories in the areas of economic and financial strategy design; monitoring progress and implementation of financial sector programs including legislative, supervisory and structural reforms; development of micro, small and medium enterprises to promote inclusive growth and job creation, design and management of social housing finance programs, as well as constructing partnership schemes between the World Bank Group, Governments of a diverse group of developing countries and other local/international organizations.
Women in Agriculture

Moderator

Ms. Bronwyn Nielsen
Head of Programming, Executive Director, CNBC

Bronwyn Nielsen has been with CNBC Africa since its launch in 2007. Nielsen has over 13 years of experience in the South African broadcasting industry with numerous accolades to her name including the 2006 Telkom ICT Journalist of the Year.

She is best known for her weekday evening programme Business Tonight, wrapping up the days business news and speaking to some of the most influential personalities in business.

Some of her highlights at CNBC Africa include the hosting of the live CNBC Africa Debate at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2013, the first time that an African broadcaster was represented in the official WEF Agenda at this event, and presenting Captains of Industry, a programme that features weekly interviews with top leadership of African companies.

Africa Business News (ABN) appointed Nielsen as an executive director to the group in 2012. Her role of executive director involves setting the content agenda for all the companies within the ABN Group (this includes CNBC Africa, Forbes Africa - ABN Publishing, ABN Pictures, ABN Digital and ABN Productions), as well as working closely with senior management on all strategic growth opportunities.
Dr. Charles Boamah  
Senior Vice-President, AfDB

His immediate past role at the AfDB Group was as Director and Controller. Since joining the AfDB in 1996, Mr. Boamah has assumed a variety of responsibilities and also initiated, participated in or served as an executive sponsor to a number of Bank-wide initiatives. These include management of the budgeting and financial policy function, annual discussions with major international rating agencies, the Euro-readiness of the ADB Group, the senior management steering committee for the reorganization of the African Development Bank Group in 2001, and the development of a business continuity plan for the ADB, which was successfully implemented when the AfDB had to temporarily relocate from Abidjan to Tunis in 2003. In addition to his controllership responsibilities at that time, Mr. Boamah also successfully directed a multimillion dollar multi-year Bank-wide ERP-enabled business innovation and change initiative.

Mr. Boamah is appointed to and actively participates in the work of several Bank-wide committees, including the Senior Management Committee, the Asset/Liability Management Committee, the Information Systems Steering Committee, the Staff Retirement Plan, the Medical Plan Board, the Private Sector Investment Committee and the Senior Management Committee on Operations. In July 2004, Mr. Boamah was appointed to the Board of Directors of the African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank), a continental trade financing institution built on a model of public/private partnership.

Prior to joining the AfDB, Mr Boamah worked for 11 years with First Interstate Bank (merged with Wells Fargo Bank), starting as a Senior Financial Analyst and subsequently serving as Vice President and Manager of Accounting Policy and Research. Prior to First Interstate Bank, Mr. Boamah worked for over 5 years with PricewaterhouseCoopers (then Coopers & Lybrand) in Accra and Los Angeles, where he started as a staff accountant and was promoted to a supervisor. Mr. Boamah’s clients included companies in the insurance, mortgage banking, retail, entertainment and manufacturing industries as well as city and county administrations.
H.E. Macky Sall  
President of Senegal

H.E. Macky Sall is a Senegalese politician who has been President of Senegal since April 2012. Under President Abdoulaye Wade, Sall was Prime Minister of Senegal from April 2004 to June 2007 and President of the National Assembly of Senegal from June 2007 to November 2008. He was the Mayor of Fatick from 2002 to 2008 and held that post again from 2009 to 2012. He was a long-time member of the Senegalese Democratic Party (PDS). After coming into conflict with Wade, he was removed from his post as President of the National Assembly in November 2008; he consequently founded his own party named APR, and joined the opposition. Placing second in the first round of the 2012 presidential election, he won the backing of other opposition candidates and prevailed over Wade in the second round of voting, held on 25 March 2012.

Ms. Kemi Adeosun  
Minister of Finance of Federal Republic of Nigeria and AfDB Governor for Nigeria

Kemi Adeosun has been the Minister of Finance of Nigeria since 11 November 2015

Kemi was born in London, United Kingdom to Nigerian parents from Ogun State. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of East London and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Financial Management from the University of London. She qualified as a Chartered Accountant with the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales in 1994.

in 2010 and 2011, she was appointed the Commissioner of Finance in Ogun State, from 2011 till 2015. She is currently the minister of finance of federal republic of Nigeria, from 2015 till date

**Ms. Fatma Ben Rejeb**  
CEO, Pan-African Farmers’ Organization (PAFO)

Fatma Ben Rejeb is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Pan-African Farmers’ Organization (PAFO). Previously, she was the General Secretary (CEO) of the Maghreb and North African Farmers’ Union (UMNAGRI). She was also in charge with International Cooperation and Partnership at the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries (UTAP) where she also held the post of the Director of Administrative and Financial Affairs. Fatma received a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Political Science at the University of Law and Political Sciences of Tunis, a Masters in Juridical Sciences and a Certificate of Specialized Studies in Political and International Studies at the University of Legal, Political and Social Sciences of Tunis.

**Ms. Monica Musonda**  
CEO Java Food

Corporate lawyer turned entrepreneur, Monica Musonda is CEO & Founder of Java Foods, a Zambian based food processing company. Java Foods vision is to become a leading food processors, committed to providing high quality and nutritious food from local products at affordable prices. Java Foods first product was “eeZee Instant Noodles”, which has become Zambia’s leading instant noodle brand. Java Foods also manufactures and distributes eeZee Supa Cereal (a fortified instant cereal/porridge) and Num Num’s corn snacks.

By way of background, Monica is a dual qualified English solicitor and Zambian advocate with over 16 years post qualification experience. She has held senior positions in private practice with Clifford Chance & Edward Nathan as well as worked as in house corporate counsel at International Finance Corporation and for the Dangote Group. Her experience working with Aliko Dangote, one of Africa’s most successful entrepreneurs gave her the impetus to start Java Foods.

Monica currently serves as non-executive director on the Boards of Airtel Networks Zambia Plc (where she is chair), Zambia Sugar Plc, Dangote Industries Zambia Limited and sits on the Global Advisory Board for Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network. She was appointed by the UN Secretary General to be a member of the Lead Group of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. She is the recipient of the 2017 African Agribusiness Entrepreneur of the Year award, which is an award conferred annually to entrepreneurs who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in agricultural input and value addition in Africa. She is a 2013 Young Global Leader (World Economic Forum) and Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow. Forbes Magazine and Africa Investor named her as one of the leading Young Power Women in Business in Africa in 2013 and 2014 respectively. She is one of the few Zambian women involved in manufacturing/agro-processing and because of this experience, is working with
Lima Links a social enterprise that is building an agriculture technology platform that brings real time market prices, promotions & trading to rural smallholder farmers.

She holds a LL.B from the University of Zambia and an LL.M from the University of London.

Dr. Florence Wambugu
CEO of Africa Harvest

Dr. Florence M. Wambugu is the Founder Director and Chief Executive Officer of Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International (AHBFI) known as Africa Harvest (www.africaharvest.org) since 2002. She is a plant pathologist with specialization in virology and genetic engineering. She has an honorary PhD, Doctor of Science, from the University of Bath, UK, and has conducted postdoctoral research at the Monsanto Life Sciences Center, USA. For over 30 years, she has dedicated her life to agricultural research, where she made significant contributions to the improvement of sorghum, maize, pyrethrum, banana and sweet potato.

Over the last 15 years, Dr Wambugu has successfully provided leadership in public/private partnership and scientific consortium for implementation of various major projects for crops, with significant impact on the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Africa. By leading in the establishment of local & international research institutions partnerships, Africa Harvest continues to expand its work on promoting, disseminating and adoption of improved dry land cereals & legumes (including sorghum & millets) technologies targeting smallholder farmers in ASALS, as well as its flagship project The Tissue Culture (TC) banana project. This has impacted over a million smallholder farmers from poverty to sustainable livelihoods with the projects still ongoing and expanding impact.

Ms. Yana W. Kakar  
Global Managing Partner at Dalberg Global Development Advisors

Yana Kakar is the Global Managing Partner of Dalberg. In this role, Yana stewards the firm’s global strategy and oversees activities across Dalberg’s offices worldwide. In her client work, Yana advises leaders across the public, philanthropic, and private sectors on inclusive business strategies, economic development, and investment in emerging and frontier markets. She and her team recently supported the African Development Bank in its development of the Feed Africa and Jobs for Youth strategies. Her perspectives have been published in a number of media outlets including the Financial Times, Devex, Bloomberg, Huffington Post, and The Guardian. Yana is a member of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO). She serves as an Advisor to the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) and is a member of the Frontier Markets Council for the Emerging Markets Private Equity Association (EMPEA). Yana also serves on the Boards of Convergence, Speak Up Africa and Agora Fund. Yana holds a BA from McGill University and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.
Creative Energy Solutions to Boost African Agriculture

Moderator

Mr. Ibrahima Cheikh Diong
Founder/CEO, Africa Consulting and Trading, Senegal

Mr. Ibrahima Cheikh Diong is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Dakar-based pan-African management consulting and commercial facilitation firm, Africa Consulting and Trading (ACT).

Prior to that he was Minister, Senior China Adviser to the President of the Republic of Senegal on Chinese affairs and financing of large projects, Ambassador and Director General of the International Cooperation Department of Senegal.

He served in 2009 as the first Chairman of Senegal Airlines (SAL), for which he has coordinated the steering committee that helped set up the airline from a conceptual phase to a full implementation, leading to the launch of the first flight of the airline in January 2011.

Prior to this he was a Manager at IFC where he led efforts to provide financing and advisory services to African SMEs through one-stop shops referred to as SME Solutions Centers. Mr. Diong has also held the position of Regional Coordinator for Africa of the World Bank-managed multi-donor facility, the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) where he assisted African governments in attracting private investments and management into their infrastructure.

Before joining the World Bank Group, Mr. Diong was with the world's third largest management consulting firm, Booz Allen and Hamilton (BAH). Before BAH, Mr. Diong served as an independent consultant to a number of private, bilateral and multilateral organizations and NGOs on strategic and relevant Africa-related domains.

He has been a Manager of the Environment Unit of the Dakar-based Pan-African Agency for Research and Consulting (PARC) and the Water Department of the African Network for Integrated Development (ANID). While living in Taipei, he had established a consulting firm, Africa Consulting in Taiwan (ACT), whose main purpose was to advise Taiwanese businessmen on investment opportunities in Africa.
Mr. Amadou Hott

Vice-President Power, Energy, Climate Change and Green Growth, AfDB

Mr. Amadou Hott is the Vice-President for Power, Energy, Climate Change and Green Growth of the African Development Group. He is a top-notch management executive who has twenty years of experience in the private sector that span structured finance, investment banking, infrastructure investments and development of integrated energy solutions. He was the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Sovereign Wealth Fund of Senegal, where he is spearheading major infrastructure investments, including energy projects and renewable energy.

Hott is experienced in structuring finance for power and energy projects and passionate about solving Africa’s power and energy needs, especially in renewable energy and balanced energy mix. As an Investment Banker, he advised on various oil and gas and power projects at the ABN Amro Bank in London and at the Millennium Finance Corporation in Dubai.

Hott served as the Chief Executive Officer of the investment-banking subsidiary of United Bank for Africa (UBA) PLC, with presence in 20 African countries. He served as Chairman of AIBD SA, Senegal’s new international airport project. He had worked as Director for Africa for the Millennium Finance Corporation, where he was responsible for project finance transactions covering energy, mining, ICT and banking, etc. in Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Davidi Vortman, CEO, Lumos Global

Experienced executive, focusing on fast turnaround of early stage companies. Proven track record of hyper growth business results managing and leading acquisitions within public companies. Building strong management teams with commitment to results, having a holistic view of the market with customer first culture.

Ms. Cheryl Anderson  
Acting Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Africa, USAID

Cheryl Anderson is the Acting Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Africa. She joined the Bureau as Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator in October 2016. Before joining the Africa Bureau, she served as the Mission Director for USAID/Southern Africa from August 2013, and prior to that, she was Mission Director in Ghana and the East Africa Regional Mission.

Ms. Anderson has over 20 years of development experience, mostly in Africa. Her experience in Africa began in Ghana as a Peace Corps volunteer. Since joining USAID as a Foreign Service Officer in 1988, she has worked in USAID missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Sudan, and East Africa. She served as the deputy director in the East Asia Office in USAID headquarters in Washington DC. Before her career at USAID, she worked as a program manager for Healthlink Worldwide, a UK-based non-governmental organization.

Ms. Anderson received a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, and a Master’s of Science in International Development Management from American University in Washington, DC.

Mr. Max Bankole Jarrett,  
Director-in-charge of the Africa Progress Panel

Mr. Max Bankole Jarrett is the Director-in-charge of the Africa Progress Panel. He has over twenty-four years of professional experience in the field of political and socio-economic affairs as an international broadcaster, writer and analyst in the media sector; and, as an Executive Office aide, speech writer and team leader in the United Nations system. His most recent duties as a UN officer included serving as an Adviser to the Executive Director of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA), a policy-oriented think tank that brings together a range of stakeholders to promote dialogue, and, provides a platform for African voices to be heard.

Between 1990 and 2001 Max worked with the BBC World Service in London, editing, producing and presenting “Network Africa” and “Focus on Africa”, the BBC’s award winning daily current affairs radio programmes for its African audience. During that period, he also wrote country analyses and reports for the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Max is currently a member of the Governing Council of Africa 2.0, a Pan-African Civil Society network of young and emerging leaders from Africa and the Diaspora. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the Washington DC-based Center for Sustainable Development in Africa.
Mr. Jesse Moore  
Co-Founder and CEO, M-KOPA, Kenya

Jesse Moore is co-founder and managing director of M-KOPA, a Nairobi-headquartered company that offers credit to low-income earners to buy solar power systems. Jesse was a Managing Director of Signal Point Partners and the director of the GSMA Development Fund.

Jesse Moore moved to Kenya in 2010 to start M-KOPA and has overseen the company’s growth to nearly 500 employees. Prior to M-KOPA, Jesse was the Director of the GSM Association Development Fund in London, where he worked with mobile network operators in Africa and Asia to adopt new business models that drive business growth and benefit low-income consumers, such as mobile money.

M-KOPA Solar saves off-grid customers money by replacing kerosene with affordable renewable energy. In less than 2 years since its launch, M-KOPA has connected more than 100,000 homes to solar power across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, and is adding over 10,000 more homes each month.

Mr. Thomas Gottschalk  
CEO and Founder, Mobisol, Germany

Thomas Gottschalk is the founder and managing director of Mobisol GmbH, a company that combines solar energy with innovative mobile technology and microcredit to provide high-quality solar home systems to developing countries. He is a visionary entrepreneur with a solid background in renewable energy technologies. Gottschalk implemented solar thermal systems in Egypt and spent 18 months driving around the world in a solar-powered car called Solartaxi. Gottschalk holds a Master's degree (Dipl.-Ing. FH) in renewable energy engineering from the Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft University of Applied Sciences in Berlin. From 2009 to 2010 he worked as a project manager for Al Shorouq and from 2007 to 2009 as head of engineering for the Solartaxi initiative.
H.R.H Princess Abzeita Djigma
CEO, AbzeSolar S.A, Burkina Faso

The Mossi Princess H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma founds AbzeSolar. She is a direct descendant of the famous warrior and legendary Princess Yennenga, considered the mother of the Mossi people of Burkina Faso and who’s son Ouedraogo founded the Mossi Kingdoms.

H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma is also the Initiator and leader of the ‘MAMA-LIGHT® Initiative for Sustainable Energy”, a Worldwide program that provides access to affordable energy for women, small business and children. It empowers the informal sector, it drives the generation of new jobs and it creates a sound basis for gender equality and women empowerment. The program is selected by the United Nations as one of the 14 global breakthrough solutions for achieving the new Sustainable Development Goals.
African Economic Outlook 2017

Moderator

Mr. Wallace Kantai
Anchor, NTV, Kenya

Wallace Kantai is the Business Editor at the Nation Media Group, East Africa’s biggest and most respected media company. He has interviewed and interacted with dozens of Kenya’s and the world’s business leaders and policymakers, including Presidents and the heads of the WTO and IMF. He also has moderated high level round tables. Kantai has held roles in the information technology, non-profit and public relations fields in Kenya, South Africa and the United Kingdom. He is also a columnist for Kenya’s leading newspapers.

Statement about the 2017 AEO

Mr. Abebe Shimeles
Acting Director, Macroeconomics Policy, Forecasting And Research, AfDB

Abebe Shimeles is currently the acting Director and Manager of Development Research Division, African Development Bank. Previously Mr. Shimeles has worked for The World Bank, UNECA, ACTIONAID, and Addis Ababa University in different capacities. His recent research interest includes labour market integration, migration issues in Africa and impact evaluation of policy interventions. He holds a PhD in economics from University of Goteborg, MSC from Delhi School of Economics and undergraduate degree in economics from Addis Ababa University.
Mr. Mario Pezzini
Director of the OECD

Mr. Mario Pezzini is Director of the OECD Development Centre. Moreover, he is also currently the Acting Director of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate.

The OECD Development Centre is an institution where governments, enterprises and civil society organisations informally discuss questions of common interest. Its Governing Board includes most of the OECD countries but also developing and emerging economies as full members. The Centre helps policy makers in OECD and partner countries find innovative solutions to the global challenges of development. (www.oecd.org/dev)

Before joining the Development Centre in 2010, Mario Pezzini held several senior management positions in the OECD, where he has been working since 1995.

Prior to joining the OECD, Mr. Pezzini was Professor in Industrial Economics at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris as well as in US and Italian Universities. Also, Mr. Pezzini served as an Advisor in the field of economic development, industrial organisation and regional economics in international organisations and think tanks (e.g. ILO, UNIDO, European Commission and Nomisma in Italy). Mr. Pezzini started his career in the Government office of the Emilia-Romagna Region.

Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye
Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP New York

Abdoulaye Mar Dieye was appointed Assistant Administrator and Director of UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Africa by the United Nations Secretary-General in July 2013.

He was previously Chief of Staff and Director of UNDP’s Executive Office. Until 2009, Mr. Dieye was Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director of UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Arab States in New York, overseeing UNDP programme portfolios in the Middle East, Northern Africa and the Gulf Countries.

From 2003 to 2006, Mr. Dieye served as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in the UN Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (UNOCI) followed by appointments as UN Resident Coordinator, UN Designated Official for Security, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in the country.

Prior to that, he held several senior positions with UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Africa from 1995 to 2003, respectively as Senior Economist, Chief of Staff, Chief Economist and Chief of Policy and Country Director of Programmes and Operations for West Africa.
Ms. Kemi Adeosun
Minister of Finance of Federal Republic of Nigeria and AfDB Governor for Nigeria

Ms. Kemi Adeosun has been the Minister of Finance of Nigeria since 11 November 2015.

Kemi was born in London, United Kingdom to Nigerian parents from Ogun State. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of East London and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Financial Management from the University of London. She qualified as a Chartered Accountant with the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales in 1994.

Hon. Philip Isdor Mpango  
Minister for Finance and Planning, United Republic of Tanzania

Hon. Philip Mpango is the Minister for Finance and Planning of the United Republic of Tanzania, and has been in office since November 2015. He previously held positions as the Acting Commissioner General of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), the Executive Secretary in the President’s Office (Planning Commission), the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs, the Personal Assistant to the President (Economic Affairs), the Head of the President’s Economic Advisory Unit, Senior Economist for the World Bank, Visiting Lecturer in Public Economics, Collaborative Master’s program for Anglo-phone Africa, AERC, Nairobi-Kenya, and Lecturer, Economics Department University of Dar es Salaam.

Some of his notable publications include: Macro-micro Linkages in the Fight Against Poverty: Missing Links and Enabling Bridges (2004); Some Reflections on Semi-privatization of Customs Administration in Tanzania (1996), and a chapter on Spatial Dimensions of Economic Growth published in Tanzania Sustaining and Sharing Growth.

Hon. Hadji Baba Ammi  
Ministre des Finances de l'Algérie

Hon. Hadji Baba Ammi, est un haut fonctionnaire et actuel ministre des Finances de l'Algérie


En 1983, il devient gérant de la société Inter Service avant de devenir chef de département des études sectorielles à la Banque algérienne de développement de 1983 à 1984.

Mr. Abdalla Hamdok,
Acting Executive Secretary, ECA

Mr. Hamdok takes the reigns effective 1 November 2016, following the departure of Carlos Lopes of Guinea-Bissau on 31 October. Mr. Lopes served the ECA for four years with commitment and dedication and leaves the United Nations after 28 years of service in various capacities.

With over 30 years’ experience in the areas of public sector reforms, governance, regional integration and resource management, Mr. Hamdok has headed major portfolios, addressing diverse development challenges of the African policy landscape.

Mr. Hamdok has served as Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist of the ECA since 2011 prior to which, he successfully headed ECA’s portfolios of activities on development policy management, NEPAD and regional integration, and governance and public administration.

From 2003-2008, he served the International IDEA as its Regional Director for Africa and the Middle East.

Book launch: “Beating the Odds: Jump-Starting Developing Countries

Panellists

Dr. Célestin Monga
Vice-President and Chief Economist, AfDB

Dr. Célestin Monga is the Bank’s Chief Economist and Vice President, Economic Governance and Knowledge Management. He has held various board and senior executive positions in academia, financial services and international development institutions. At UNIDO, he has served as Vice Chair of the Strategy Committee and helped reposition the Organization as an indispensable stakeholder in the implementation of the 2030 Global Agenda.
Dr. Monga joined the World Bank in 1997 where he held positions in both the operations and research departments, including as Lead Economist in Europe and Central Asia, and as Manager of the policy review team in the Development Economics Vice Presidency. He has served as Senior Economic Advisor (Director-level) to the World Bank Senior Vice President and Chief Economist. He was also the Senior Advisor (Director-level) for structural transformation in the offices of the Vice President for Africa and Senior Vice President and Chief Economist.

He is a world-renowned economist and acclaimed author, scholar and innovator. He was named as one of Africa’s top five economists by Jeune Afrique weekly news magazine in 2012. He has published cutting-edge analytical and policy-oriented economic work with some of the world’s most renowned economists, including Nobel Prize winners in economics, amongst other leading economists.
His latest book is the two-volume Oxford Handbook of Africa and Economics (2015), co-edited with Justin Yifu Lin, former Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of the World Bank. He is currently co-Director of the forthcoming Oxford University Press Handbook of Structural Transformation. Dr. Monga was the Economics editor for the five-volume New Encyclopedia of Africa (Charles Scribner’s, 2007). His books, which cover various dimensions of economic and political development, have been translated into several languages and are widely used as teaching tools by academic institutions around the world.

Monga has worked effectively with African government leaders, international and other corporate entities to design and implement practical and realistic policy reforms. He has a strong record of intellectual leadership and has demonstrated the ability to provide senior management and client countries with integrated, innovative approaches to resolving complex and sensitive economic policy, strategy and development issues.
His works have been featured and acclaimed in many international media outlets, including *The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, the New York Times, Finance and Development, Les Echos, Le Monde, The Guardian* and *Brasil Economico*. 
Prof. Justin Yifu Lin
Director, Center for New Structural Economics, Peking University

Prof. Justin Yifu Lin has been Chief Economist and Senior Vice President of Development Economics at The World Bank Group since February 2008. Prof. Lin has been a Professor of Peking University since 1993 and serves as its Honorary Dean. He serves as Vice Chairman of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce and Vice Chairman of the Committee for Economic Affairs of Chinese People's Political Consultation Conference. He serves as a Member of Advisory Council at Asian Development Bank. Mr. Lin serves on several national and international committees including the United Nations Millennium Task Force on Hunger, the Eminent Persons Group of the Asian Development Bank, the Working Group on the future of the OECD, the Reinventing Bretton Woods Committee and the World Bank Chief Economist's Advisory Council, an outside group of eminent experts. He serves as Founding Director of the China Centre for Economic Research at Peking University. He is well known for his work on fiscal decentralization, enterprise reform, urban and rural modernization and agricultural innovation and reform.

Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
Chairperson, GAVI Alliance Board

A development economist and former Finance Minister of Nigeria, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has served as Board Chair of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, since January 2016. Dr Okonjo-Iweala brings more than 30 years of development and financial expertise to the Gavi Board. She has twice served as Nigeria’s Finance Minister, most recently between 2011 and 2015 – a role that encompassed the expanded portfolio of the Coordinating Minister for the Economy. In 2006 she served as Foreign Affairs Minister. She has also held several key positions at the World Bank, including as Managing Director.

As a former Finance Minister, Dr Okonjo-Iweala’s experience and expertise are particularly valuable as Gavi strives to ensure that immunisation programmes are financially sustainable. Her strong commitment to finding private sector solutions to development challenges further contributes to Gavi’s mission.
Dr. Kingsley Y. Amoako

President, African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)

Dr. K.Y. Amoako, Founder and President of the African Center for Economic Transformation and former Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, has dedicated his career to solving the development challenges of the world’s poorest countries, especially those in Africa. He began his career in 1974 at the World Bank, becoming the Bank’s Director for Education and Social Policy from 1992-1995. From 1995-2005, Amoako served as Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at the rank of Under Secretary General of the UN; during which he transformed the institution to more effectively serve African policy-makers, to amplify the African voice internationally and to influence African partners. After his 10-year stint at ECA, Amoako spent 2006 as a Distinguished African Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. Dr. Amoako has worked with leading development experts and political leaders on high-level international commissions and task forces that address the development prospects of Africa and many of today’s central global issues. Among many others, he chaired the Commission for HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa, convened by Kofi Annan.
Civil Society Panel

Moderator

Ms. Julie Gichuru
Host, African Leadership Dialogues, KBC

Julie Gathoni Sumira Gichuru is a Kenyan journalist and Host, African Leadership Dialogues formerly worked for Royal Media Services as Group Digital Business Manager and talk show host. She's now at KBC.

Gichuru initially worked at Capital FM before moving to television as a reporter and news anchor at Kenya Television Network, part of The Standard Group. During her time there, she the launched investigative series The Inside Story, focused on corruption, crime injustices and inequity in Kenya. She later worked at NTV before moving to Royal Media Services. She is currently the founder and CEO of Arimus Media.

Setting the Context

Dr. Alberic Kacou

Vice-President Human Resources and Corporate Services, AfDB

Dr. Kacou Alberic is the Vice-President Human Resources and Corporate Services of the African Development Bank Group. He’s a seasoned administrator with over 25 years of international experience within the United Nations System, where he has distinguished himself as a well-respected leader and manager of people, processes, systems and resources.

He was the Chief of Staff and Director of the Executive Office of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in New York. In this role he provides managerial support to the UNDP Administrator in the management of UNDP globally and within the United Nations Development Group. He has played significant roles in supporting the UNDP in the drive for structural reform and organizational change for a leaner and nimble organization to respond to the rapidly changing development landscape. He
served as a member of the High-level group of the United Nations Secretary General tasked with the UN system-wide reforms to ensure sustainable development effectiveness. He has extensive senior leadership experience in Africa. He has served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program in four African countries (Nigeria, Tanzania, Senegal and Guinea Bissau). He worked previously as Deputy Executive Secretary and Director of Operations of the United Nations Capital Development Fund, with large managerial responsibility and involvement in inter-institutional negotiations around the world. Dr. Kacou combines experience in managing large international and country personnel, resources and systems in complex multicultural and multinational organizations, as well as a sound grounding in programs and development.

Panellists

Mr. Sudarshan Surywanshi
CEO, Indian Society of Agri-Business Professionals (ISAP)

Sudarshan Suryawanshi is co-founder and CEO of ISAP. He has 25 years' of experience in agriculture and rural development and has expertise in community mobilization for forming producer organizations, integrated farming systems, market linkages, supply chains, water resource management, small & micro enterprises, international consulting and training across 27 countries across Asia and Africa.
Dorothy Mukhebi
Deputy Director, Fellowships And Institutional Partnerships

Dorothy leads a team of staff in implementing the AWARD Fellowship, leadership, training, mentoring and alumnae engagement activities. She also provides overall strategic and management support to the program. With 35 years’ experience working with African agricultural networks, Dorothy previously worked as the Mentoring Coordinator of AWARD.

Before joining AWARD, Dorothy was Coordinator of the Regional Agricultural Information Network (RAIN) of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA). She started her career as a Planning Officer with the Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture, and later served for 10 years as a Program Manager with the African, Caribbean and Pacific / European Union (ACP/EU) Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), based in Wageningen, the Netherlands. She has also previously worked with the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Nairobi, Kenya. Dorothy holds a masters in Information Sciences from Loughborough University of Technology, U.K., and a bachelors in Agriculture from the University of Nairobi.

Ms. Lucy Muchoki
CEO, Pan African Agribusiness and Agroindustry Consortium, Kenya

Lucy Muchoki is the Chief Executive Officer of the Pan African Agribusiness Consortium, (PanAAC) an agribusiness platform for Africa. Her various high-level agribusiness forum commitments include being the Private Sector Representative to the Executive Boards of Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) and the Global Forum for Agriculture and Research (GFAR). She is a member, representing the private sector, of the African Union Commission ex- pert task force on markets and infrastructure. She is the Vice Chair of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme’s (CAADP) Non State Actors’ Taskforce and also a member of the thematic working group on the Agribusiness, Value Addition and Market Access Programme in Kenya’s Agricultural Sector Coordinating Unit. An accomplished entrepreneur, Ms Muchoki is a founding member of the Kenya Country Business Incubator programme KEKOBI.
Mr. David Wilcox
Social Change Leader and the Founder of ReachScale

David Wilcox is a social change leader and the founder of ReachScale (www.reachscale.com), a purpose-built global network that is scaling innovative social enterprises as well as building networks and ecosystems to shift significant resources into sustainable models for solving the world’s most intractable challenges. Wilcox has been a high visibility advocate for how sustainable models developed by social entrepreneurs—those who are steeped in the actual problems and solutions—can be combined with underutilized resources and supportive policy changes to scale solutions that become fully sustainable. The Guardian has identified Wilcox as a top ten sustainability leader in America.

ReachScale’s global activities are driven by a clear understanding of the knowledge around scale that resides in the innovative social enterprises and high efficiency NGOs. ReachScale advocacy highlights the importance this critical knowledge to real progress in solving the world’s toughest challenges.

The direct corollary is that this desired progress, which was just canonized in the Sustainable Development Goals, depends on the rest of the world discovering this reality. ReachScale works with scaling social enterprises in India, Africa and globally to demonstrate scale success and move resources to sustainable models.

With a dual interest in business and social progress, Wilcox has been a CEO, CMO and head of business development for a number of technology start-ups, consulting firms, think tanks and digital enterprises. He graduated with an MBA from Harvard Business School. He lives with his wife, artist Deborah Barlow, in Brookline Massachusetts.
Creating Wealth through Fashionomics

Moderator

Namakau Mukelabai
Tv News Anchor, ZNBC

Panellists

Mr. Pathé Ouédraogo
Fashion designer, Burkina Faso and Côte d’Ivoire; Designer of famous Mandela shirts


Mr. Sidahmed Alphadi
African designer and UNESCO Artist for Peace

Alphadi, "The Magician of the Desert", is one of the African designers the most known in the world.

Native of Mali, raised in Niger, he was trained at Atelier Chardon Savard in Paris and was knighted by the biggest designers: Yves Saint-Laurent, Christian Lacroix, Paco Rabanne who helped him to make his first steps into the Fashion Haute Couture and to reach an international fame. The originality of its style is based on the alliance between ancestral know-how of the ethnic groups of Sahel and design inspired by the western world. In his mind, the Tuareg spirit, Songhai, Bororo, Hausa, Fulani, Bambara, Arab and Massai revisits the western trends. Paying tribute in the beauty of the woman and the man, creations of Alphadi reflect the cultural diversity because they go beyond borders. He expresses his art since Niamey, Casablanca, Paris and New York.

In 2004 he presented his Haute Couture collection in Paris at Palais Galliera with bustiers in silver plates engraved by Tuareg craftsmen, coats bogolan. In 1994, Alphadi is named President of the African Federation of the Fashion Designer. In 1998, Alphadi created the International Festival of the Fashion in Africa - FIMA, supported by the UNESCO and the OIF, in the desert of Tiguidit, in Niger. After receiving distinctions by Niger, France and the United States, in 2016, Alphadi is named by UNESCO as "Artist for Peace"
Ms. Helen Hai
CEO, Made in Africa Initiative (China)

Ms. Helen Hai is the CEO of the Made in Africa Initiative and adviser to the governments of Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Senegal for investment promotion and industrialization. She is a senior adviser on South-South cooperation for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and works closely with the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID), the World Bank, the Gates Foundation, the Tony Blair African Governance Initiative and other multilateral players involved in development issues in Africa.

Ms. Hai is an experienced business executive and an expert in the field of development. For over two years, she worked in Ethiopia where she served as the Vice President and General Manager for overseas investment for the Huajian Company, one of China’s biggest shoe makers. The shoe factory she established in the capital, Addis Ababa, started production in January 2012 and, within two years, employed 3,500 workers. She recently supported Rwanda to set up the first garment factory for export, which created hundreds of jobs in a few months’ time. She launched the Made in Africa Initiative with the aim of assisting African countries to capture the opportunity of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. As UNIDO’s Goodwill Ambassador, HAI Helen is focusing on Africa’s industrialization.

Hai was trained as an actuary in the United Kingdom and with 15 years international experience in FTSE100 companies, previously served as Vice President and Chief Actuary for Zurich Financial Services in China, and Partner in Jardine Lloyd Thompton Group in London. World Economic Forum elects her as one of the 2015 Global Young Leader.

Mr. David Suddens
CEO, Vlisco Group

David Suddens is the CEO of Vlisco Group. The opinion of the Workers Council is positive. Most recently David was CEO of the Dr Marten’s footwear and clothing brand, leading the successful turnaround of that business. David Suddens has started in his new role as of 15 September 2015.

The Vlisco Group is pleased to have the benefit of David's experience and management skills, which are ideally suited to Vlisco at this stage of the Group's growth. David Suddens: this company has a remarkable heritage. Through its designs it has been inspiring West African self-expression for most of its history. I am really honored to play a role in the future success of the Vlisco Group.'

David Suddens spent 30 years in Europe's textile and clothing industry. He was CEO of companies in the UK, France and Germany, both public and private. One of his roles was as CEO of DMC (France), which was the world's largest textile printer, also with interests in West Africa. The turnaround of the iconic brand Dr. Martens has been recognized around the world as a significant achievement.
Mr. Nick Earlam  
CEO Plexus Cotton Group

Since launch in 1990, Plexus Cotton- a cotton producing, ginning, and merchandizing company based in UK, has rapidly grown into a global network of partnerships, with an annual turnover approaching half a billion dollars. Its influence and activities comprise farming, ginning, warehousing, logistics and marketing operations. The Group through its overseas operations employs approximately 2,000 people worldwide. Mr. Nick Earlam, founder, is the current Chairman of the Group. He has held several posts in the International Cotton Trade, namely President of the International Cotton Association (formerly the Liverpool Cotton Association) 1995 & 2003; Chairman of the Association of Cotton Merchants of Europe 1997; Inaugural Chairman of the Private Sector Panel of the International Cotton Advisory Committee 2000. Besides cotton world he also has been member of the China Advisory Committee to the Evian Group; Chairman of Liverpool Associates for Tropical Health (LATH); member of the Board of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and trustee of Liverpool Cathedral Centenary Trust.

Ms. Neelam Chhiber  
Managing Director & Co Founder

Neelam Chhiber, an Industrial Designer from National Institute of Design is widely known as a leader in the social entrepreneurial and retail space through her undertakings- Industree and Mother Earth. She is also an alumnus of Social Impact International as well as Global Social Benefit Incubator, Santa Clara University, USA.

Neelam planted the seeds of her entrepreneurial journey in rural India in 1994 and has never looked back. Through her undertakings Industree and Mother Earth she has created a flourishing handicraft manufacturing and retail business effectively closing the gap between rural artisans and the retail market.

Industree is a social enterprise that links rural producers to urban markets. Industree has obtained investment from Future Group (India’s largest retail chain) to build a retail brand called Mother Earth, which is part (14%) producer owned. Industree is converging backwards to createa complete solution for fair and equitable distribution of returns from consumer to producer.

Neelam believes that Mother Earth will provide a strong marketing platform for Food, Fashion and Home which will augment producer incomes, increase the potential of ownership and will drive efficiency.

She is of the firm view that Design education has been key to 360 degree thinking. Neelam believes Mother Earth’s biggest challenge and reward has been to facilitate and enable producers to manage themselves in changing scenarios.

In the last two decades, for her outstanding work in social livelihood sectors, she has received various awards such as The Indian Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award for 2011 from Schwab Foundation and L’Oreal Paris Femina Women Awards 2012 for Social Impact.
Ms. Oboli Omoni
Nigerian Actress, Director and Producer

Omoni Oboli is a popular Nigerian actress, scriptwriter, director and producer. She is a trained digital filmmaker at the New York Film Academy. She is a gifted writer, with several intriguing screenplays to her credit: including 'Fatal Imagination', 'Being Mrs Elliott', 'The First Lady' and 'Wives on Strike'.

Omoni began her formal movie career with her first movie role in 'Bitter Encounter', 1996, where she played a secretary. Her next was 'Shame'. She then went on to play the lead female character in three major movies; 'Not My Will,' 'Destined To Die' and 'Another Campus Tale.'

After enjoying a brief but interesting and fulfilling career in 1996, Omoni left the movie industry to complete her university education. She got married immediately after school and didn’t return to the industry till a decade later.

Since her return to the industry, Omoni has fast risen to the top, playing a number of lead and supporting roles in major movies. She brings – dignity, poise, class, smooth delivery, and extreme professionalism to the varied roles she’s played. She is a gifted screenwriter, with several intriguing screenplays to her credit. These include the current blockbuster movie, 'Wives On Strike'. In June 2007, The Rivals, a movie she co-produced with her friend, won the coveted prize for Best International Drama at the New York International Independent Film & Video Festival. It was the first Nigerian film to be premiered since the festival’s inception in 2003. The movie was given a 3 star rating out of 4 by the festival’s judges.

Omoni has shot into prominence as the class act of Nollywood because of her professional demeanor and strong work ethics. Playing lead roles in wave making, blockbuster movies like ‘The Figurine,’ ‘Anchor Baby’, ‘Being Mrs. Elliott’, and the soon to be released movies, ‘Feathered Dreams,’ and Mo Abudu’s ‘Fifty’ has set her apart as one who knows how to choose good screenplays. She has also set the bar higher by being the first actress from Nollywood to bag such international awards as Best Actress in two international festivals in the same year (2010) that are not organized by Nigerians or Africans. This she did at the Harlem international film festival and the Los Angeles Movie Awards for her lead role in the movie, ‘Anchor Baby’.

Panellists

Changing Perceptions on Agriculture: The Role of the Entertainment Industry (“Nollywood Meets Bollywood”)
Ms. Mira Nair  
Film Director/Writer/Producer from India and Uganda

Mira Nair is the writer, director, and producer of award-winning films such as Salaam Bombay, Mississippi Masala, and Monsoon Wedding. Her films are studies in cross-cultural identity as her characters negotiate the complexities of life while also honoring their heritage. Born in India, educated in the United States, and having lived in Africa since 1991, Nair is intimately aware of the conflicts and joys associated with nostalgia for home and outsider status. She explained to David Sterritt of the Chicago Tribune, "I'm interested in marginal people, or people who are considered marginal…. I'm interested in capturing the complexity of people and the complexity of life."

Mr. Letaief Brahim  
Director of the Carthage Film Festival (Tunisia)

Ibrahim Letaief's has produced and directed a number of films, documentary and fiction, as well as sitcoms for television. His short films include Un Rire de Trop (2001), Guelta (2000), and his documentaries include Néjib Mahfoudh Témoin de Son Temps. He has also directed a sitcom for Canal 7 to be aired this fall, and a weekly program on cinema, entitled "MAD'ART", for Hannibal TV. He is currently working on his long feature, Flouss Academy and producing 10 short fiction films each 5 minutes long by emerging Tunisian talents.
Ms. Mélita Toscan du Plantier  
**Director of the Marrakech International Film Festival (Morocco)**

Elle a sept ans et demi lorsque sa mère meurt dans des conditions tragiques. La petite fille qui n’a connu que la violence est alors placée dans un foyer de la Ddass dans un manoir près d'Etre-tat. C’est un couple d'instituteurs à la retraite qui veille alors sur son éducation. A 18 ans, déterminée, optimiste et impatiente, la jeune femme décide de partir à Rouen pour trouver du travail. Mannequin d'un jour, elle s'envole ensuite pour les Etats-Unis où elle passe une année comme jeune fille au pair et parfait son anglais. Elle se fait ensuite engager comme hôtesse au Festival de Cannes. Son audace lui permet d'aborder les personnalités qu'elle y croise dont Yannick Noah, c'est une rencontre déterminante pour la suite de son parcours. Quelques semaines plus tard il lui propose de devenir son attachée de presse.


Quelques mois après, Mélita Toscan du Plantier décide de poursuivre l'œuvre de son mari et reprend la direction du Festi-val international du film de Marrakech (créé en septembre 2001). Depuis elle s'est fait un prénom dans le milieu du cinéma et dirige avec passion ce festi-val qui lui permet de rendre hommage à la mémoire de Daniel Toscan du Plantier.

Mr. Ronnie Screwvala  
**Indian film Producer, UTV Motion Pictures**

Rohinton Soli "Ronnie" Screwvala is an Indian entrepreneur and philanthropist. He is the cofounder of UpGrad, an online education company. He was the founder and CEO of UTV Group (UTV Software Communications, Bloomberg UTV, and UTV Motion Pictures), which was founded in the year 1990. Screwvala was the Managing Director of UTV India, Managing Trustee of the Swades Foundation and Founder & Advisor: at Unilazer Ventures Ltd., (a privately held PE/VC & Business Company).

In January 2014, Ronnie exited the company he founded and in the process he also exited media and entertainment sector.

He has been named on Esquire's List of the 75 Most Influential People of the 21st Century (September 2008) and ranked 78 among the 100 most influential people in the world on the Time 100 (compiled by Time Magazine, 2009). He was also listed amongst 25 Asia’s Most Powerful by Fortune Magazine, titled the Jack Warner of India by Newsweek, and named Entrepreneur of the year by Ernst & Young.
Screwvala founded the UTV Group in 1990 providing television content to broadcasters. In a span of less than 2 decades, UTV expanded into broadcasting, gaming, film and other businesses. The first film produced by his company was Dil Ke Jharoke Main. He also launched the Hungama Channel in 2004 that was highly successful and become one of the leading children's television channels in India. UTV group became listed on the Indian Stock Exchange in 2005.

Mr. Shahrukh Khan
Indian Actor & Producer

Shah Rukh Khan also known as SRK, is an Indian film actor, producer and television personality. Referred to in the media as the "Baadshah of Bollywood", "King of Bollywood" or "King Khan", he has appeared in more than 80 Bollywood films, and earned numerous accolades, including 14 Filmfare Awards. Khan has a significant following in Asia and the Indian diaspora worldwide. In terms of audience size and income, he has been described as one of the most successful film stars in the world.


As of 2015, Khan is co-chairman of the motion picture production company Red Chillies Entertainment and its subsidiaries, and is the co-owner of the Indian Premier League cricket team Kolkata Knight Riders. He is a frequent television presenter and stage show performer. The media often label him as "Brand SRK" because of his many endorsement and entrepreneurship ventures. Khan's philanthropic endeavours have provided health care and disaster relief, and he was honoured with UNESCO's Pyramide con Marni award in 2011 for his support of children's education. He regularly features in listings of the most influential people in Indian culture, and in 2008, Newsweek named him one of their fifty most powerful people in the world.
Ms. Rekha Rana

Bollywood Actress, Theatre Artist, Winner of Miss Delhi

Rekha Rana is an International Award Winning Actress. Born and brought up in Delhi. She has received 25 International awards as Best Actress all over India and abroad.

Rekha Rana started performing in theater and has done 200 theatre shows in India and overseas of the famous play “Jis Lahore Nahim Dekhlya” and “Hai Mera Dil” directed by late Shri. Dinesh Thakur.

Her first film “Tara The Journey of Love & Passion” (where she played the title lead) was nominated for Oscar from West Africa from the President of Togo as Best Film in foreign Language category for 87th Academy Award.

Her second film “Yahan Ameena Bikti hai” (where she played title lead Ameena) was also the official entry to Oscars 2016 from Cameroon Central Africa.

Rekha Rana has studied “Acting for Film” from New York Film Academy Los Angeles 2015.

Ms. Omotola Jalade Ekeinde

Actress and Philanthropist

Omotola Jalade Ekeinde, born Omotola Jalade on 7 February 1978) is a Nigerian actress, singer, philanthropist and former model. Since her Nollywood film debut in 1995, the leading actress has appeared in 300 films, selling millions of video copies. After receiving numerous high-profile awards, launching a music career, and amassing an enviable fan base, the press has reverenced the Screen Nation "Best Actress" as the "African Magic". She is the first African celebrity to receive over 1 million likes on her Facebook page. She currently has a total of 3 million followers on Facebook.

Beyond her show business accomplishments, she is also applauded for her remarkable humanitarian efforts. Omotola is one of the pioneers of the video film era of Nigerian cinema, becoming the most watched actress in Africa. In 2013, she was honored in Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world alongside Michelle Obama, Beyoncé and Kate Middleton.

In early 2013, Omotola made her US television debut in VH1's scripted series, Hit the Floor. On 2 November 2013, she spoke at the 2013 edition of the WISE Summit, held in Doha, Qatar.
In 2014, she was honoured by the Nigerian government as a Member of the Order of the Federal Republic, MFR for her contributions to Nigerian cinema.

Some of Omotola's recent awards are:

- Most outstanding performance 2004/05 - API Washington DC
- Most outstanding performance Africa 2005 - Academy of television and sciences North Hollywood, CA
- Most friendly actress - Youths Benefactor's award, Nigeria
- Best Actress African collaboration - Ghana Movie awards 2011
- Pan African Best Actress 2011/2012 - Screen Nation awards, UK
- Film actress Icon of the year 2012 - Beffta awards UK
- Model citizen (Humanitarian) - Today's Woman 2012
- Actress of the Year 2012 - Eloy awards
- Ebony vanguard Award - Mvisas award Birmingham film festival 2013
- Recognition of the Icon - AGN 2013 (Actors guild of Nigeria)
- Silverbird Unique personality award 2013 - Silverbird group
- Viewers choice actress award - Nollywood movies Awards 2013
Pascal Lokua Kanza set aside a few hours each day to teach himself guitar, he soon began playing with friends in local bands. As he got older, his approach to music grew more serious. After studying at the Kinshasa Music Conservatory and performing with Abeti in Zaire, Kanza moved to the Ivory Coast for a fresh start. For three years, he played guitar and handled vocal duties for a handful of African bar bands. After being accepted to Paris’ prestigious CIM, Kanza moved there to study jazz and was given the opportunity to perform with many of his role models. Working with Franky Vincent, La Mafia, Ray Lema, and Papa Wemba, Kanza continued to carve out his own style while making valuable connections. In 1991, he joined the Soul Makossa Gang after adopting his middle name as his performance moniker. 1992 saw Kanza debut his own material, first in a performance with Angélique Kidjo and later on his first solo offering. Intent on honoring his musical heritage, Kanza crafted an album of honest and intimate songs in a small studio, while keeping post-production to a minimum. The accolades that followed helped Kanza attract the attention of Youssou N'Dour, who invited Kanza to sing on Womat. In 1994, he reunited with Papa Wemba at Peter Gabriel's Real World Studios to lend his talents on Emotion. His experiences that year culminated at the African Music Awards when in December, he was awarded Best African Album for his solo debut. In 1995 Kanza released his second effort, Wapi Yo. After working with Geoffrey Oryema later that year, Kanza picked up his second African Music Award. In 1998, he appeared on Natalie Merchant's Ophelia and began work on his third album. 3 expanded where Wapi Yo left off, featuring a broader, more orchestral sound. In 2002, he returned to subtlety, releasing Toyebi Te'. Although the folk-tinged album was a more restrained affair than 3, Kanza brought in a variety of guests ranging from his own children to Sylvain Luc, to lend their talents.
Mr. Richard Bona

Richard Bona is a Grammy Award-winning jazz bassist.

Bona immigrated to Germany at the age of 22 to study music in Düsseldorf, soon relocating to France, where he furthered his studies in music.

Whilst in France, he regularly played in various jazz clubs, sometimes with players such as Manu Dibango, Salif Keita, Jacques Higelin and Didier Lockwood.

In 1995, Richard left France and established himself in New York, where he still lives and works. In New York he played bass guitar with artists like Joe Zawinul, Larry Coryell, Michael and Randy Brecker, Mike Stern, George Benson, Branford Marsalis, Chaka Khan, Bobby McFerrin, and Steve Gadd.

In 1998, Richard was the Musical Director on Harry Belafonte's European Tour. His debut solo album, Scenes from My Life, was released in 1999. He has also been prominently featured in Jaco Pastorius Big Band albums, as well as many other albums by various top-tier jazz musicians.

In 2002 Bona went on a world tour with the Pat Metheny Group. The release of the successful Speaking of Now album that year had marked a profound change in the group's direction by adding younger musicians to the band, notably with Bona as bassist, vocalist, guitarist and percussionist, along with drummer Antonio Sanchez and trumpet player Cuong Vu.

In 2005 Bona released his fourth solo album Tiki, which included a collaboration with John Legend on one track, entitled "Please Don't Stop." The album was nominated for Best Contemporary World Music Album at the 49th Grammy Awards. He held a professorship of jazz music at New York University.

In 2015, with restaurateur Laurent Dantonioin, he opened Club Bonafide.

Richard Bona's music took on a distinctive Afro-Cuban flavor with the 2016 release of the Heritage album with Cuban band Mandekan Cubano. The album was released under Quincy Jones' Qwest label.