

# ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

## Keynote Speaker



### **Obiageli 'Oby' Ezekwesili**

*Senior Economic Advisor,  
Open Society Foundations*

Dr Obiageli 'Oby' Ezekwesili is a Senior Economic Advisor at Open Society Foundations (OSF). She also serves as Senior Economic Advisor for Africa Economic Development Policy Initiative (AEDPI), a programme of the OSF. In these roles, she advises nine reform-committed African heads of state including Presidents Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia. Before joining OSF, she was Vice President of the World Bank (Africa Region) in Washington, D.C. From 2002–2007, Dr Ezekwesili worked for the federal government of Nigeria as Minister of Education, Minister of Solid Minerals and head of the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit. Dr Ezekwesili is also a founding Director of Transparency International, a global anti-corruption body based in Berlin. [@obyezeks](#)



### **Lillian Madeje**

*Conference Host*

Lillian Madeje is Managing Director of Professional Approach Development. She also serves as the current Chapter Head for Africa 2.0 in Tanzania, sits on the board for GEW Tanzania, and is a part of the community of Global Shapers for the Dar Hub where she serves as Secretary. She is a member of Smart29er and #LetsReadTanzania, in addition to being a host for a popular weekly youth-business radio show, *The Link*, on 102.5 Choice FM that has been airing for more than 3 years. Her work is rooted in the belief and understanding that change starts with a movement of people with the same vision. [@sece8714](#)

## Keynote Speakers/Panellists



**Hon. January Yusuf Makamba**  
*Deputy Minister for Communication,  
Science and Technology,  
Government of Tanzania*

January Yusuf Makamba is a Tanzanian CCM politician and has been Member of Parliament for Bumbuli constituency since 2010. He is

the Deputy Minister of Communication, Science and Technology. After graduating in 2004, January joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he worked with then Foreign Minister Jakaya Kikwete. When the latter was elected President, January joined him at State House as one of his appointed senior aides and a speechwriter. As aide to the President, he has attended Cabinet meetings, as well as National Executive Committee meetings, the top decision-making body of the ruling party CCM. He is widely known as an innovative and dynamic young politician, has headed innovative technology based anticorruption initiatives and was one of Forbes '10 Most Powerful men in Africa in 2014'. [@JMakamba](#)



**Marième Jamme**  
*CEO, SpotOne Global Solutions*

A regular speaker of Women of the World (WOW), recently named as one of the 100 most influential Africans of 2014 by the *Africa Business Magazine*, and *Forbes* magazine, Marième Jamme is a Senegalese-

born British businesswoman. Her company SpotOne Global Solutions helps international tech companies selling enterprise software solutions to get a foothold in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Marième was also named one of *Forbes* '20 youngest power women in Africa 2012', nominated by the Guardian African community network as one of the African women to watch in 2013 and recently honoured as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in Davos. [@mjamme](#)



**Cina Lawson**  
*Minister of Post and Digital Economy,  
Government of Togo*

Cina Lawson is Minister of Posts and Digital Economy of Togo, building on 14 years of experience in the area of telecommunications. Previously, as Manager

of Corporate Strategy and Business Development at the Orange Group in New York City, she was in charge of identifying business opportunities by monitoring markets and innovative technologies. Prior to that, she worked at Alcatel-Lucent in Paris, providing insight into the communication tools linked to supply chain reforms that were being implemented at the corporate level. In 2012, *Forbes* magazine ranked her among the 20 most powerful young women in Africa. [@cinalawson](#)



**Susan Mashibe**  
*President and CEO, VIA Aviation*

Susan Mashibe is President and CEO at VIA Aviation Limited. An avid aviator and entrepreneur, she built her business to serve private aviation needs in three countries across the African continent. Susan became the first

female FAA-certified commercial pilot and aircraft maintenance engineer in Tanzania. She is a Tanzania Country Chair for Global Dignity, an initiative driving to realise the universal right of every human being to live a dignified life, and the Africa Regional Lead for the National Business Aviation Association, which represents 10,000 companies and provides more than 100 products and services to the business aviation community. [@smashibe](#)

# ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

## Panellists A-Z



### **Yaw Ansu**

*Chief Economist, the African Center for Economic Transformation*

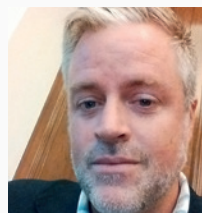
Yaw Ansu is Chief Economist at the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), where he leads an extensive research programme focused on promoting economic transformation in African countries. Prior to joining ACET, Dr Ansu spent over 26 years working at the World Bank in various capacities including Research Economist, Country Economist, Country Director and Director for Economic Policy. During his career Dr Ansu has overseen flagship economic policy studies, has directed a team of senior economists providing technical support to World Bank country economic teams and delivered World Bank programmes in Africa focusing on education, skills development, health and social protection. [@AcetforAfrica](#)



### **Alex Awiti**

*Director, East African Institute, Aga Khan University*

Alex Awiti is the Director of the East African Institute, a policy research, analysis, capacity building and public engagement platform of the Aga Khan University. He is also an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, contributing to the design and implementation of one of the most innovative liberal arts oriented undergraduate programmes in Africa. Awiti has authored several scholarly articles and technical reports ranging from soil fertility, deforestation and spectroscopy to natural resources policy, rural development and climate change. As public intellectual he writes a weekly column for *The Star*, a Kenyan daily and contributes regularly to the *East African*, a regional magazine. [@alexawiti](#)



### **Andre Bald**

*Senior Urban Specialist, World Bank*

Andre Bald is a Senior Urban Specialist managing the World Bank's urban portfolio in Tanzania. He has worked in the World Bank's urban sector for 10 years, also based in Vietnam and Indonesia. He previously worked at the Urban Land Institute in the transport policy division, and was a Peace Corps Volunteer working as an urban planner in the Philippines. He has a bachelor's degree in Urban Planning from the University of Maryland, and master's degree in International Affairs from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. [@WorldBankAfrica](#)



### **Steve Ball**

*Tanzania Country Director, Farm Africa*

Steve Ball is a passionate leader and an innovative project manager with extensive experience in rural development in East Africa, leading Farm Africa's programme in Tanzania. In this role he has developed innovative programmes that build on core competencies of productivity increase, farmer organisation and natural resource management to help smallholders gain improved access to markets and maximise post-harvest value. He has experience of programme design, organisational development and management, and previously led the Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative since founding it in 1995. In addition, Steve brings technical expertise from his time working in the commercial IT sector. [@FarmAfrica](#)



**Stefanie Bauer**  
*Senior Manager, Intellectap*

Stefanie Bauer is Senior Manager at Intellectap, a global advisory firm developing market-based solutions to development and leading the Africa work of the Business Consulting and Research team. Stefanie brings over 8 years of experience in the field of Private Sector Development in Europe, Africa and Asia. Throughout her professional life, she has been engaged in a diversity of projects that aim at fostering innovation at the "Bottom of the Pyramid". Stefanie has designed and implemented a variety of projects with banks, investors, and eco-system players such as incubators and accelerators to address financial and technical gaps in the start-up and MSME eco-system. [@StefBauerTweets](#)



**Kamal Bhattacharya**  
*Vice President and Distinguished Engineer, IBM Africa*

Dr Kamal Bhattacharya, Vice President and IBM Distinguished Engineer, is the inaugural director of IBM Research Africa, IBM's 12th research presence globally and the first commercial research center in Africa, located in Nairobi. Dr Bhattacharya joined IBM in 1999 after completing his PhD in Theoretical Physics at the University of Göttingen, Germany. Since 2001, he's held several technical and management leadership positions at IBM Research in the US, India and now Africa. Throughout his career he has consistently delivered differentiating science and technology-based innovations to solve real world problems. Dr Bhattacharya has received multiple IBM Outstanding Technical Achievement Awards and multiple best paper awards at international computer science conferences. [@kabhatta](#)



**Barbara Birungi**  
*Executive Director, Hive Colab*

Barbara Birungi is the Executive Director of Hive Colab in Uganda, a business incubator for East African Startups. Its mission is to create a collaborative environment that promotes experimentation with scalable business ideas which have positive social and economic returns. Prior to this she also worked for Appfrica International, an innovative global consultancy specialising in market research studies, custom technology solutions and investment in emerging markets. Barbara founded Women in Technology Uganda (WITU) in 2010. WITU encourages, inspires and trains women in the Ugandan technology sector through networking, training, mentoring and partnering in order to increase the number of women employed there. [@BarbsBirungi](#)



**Jakkie Cilliers**  
*Executive Director, The Institute for Security Studies*

Dr Jacobus Kamfer Cilliers is the Executive Director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and Head of the African Futures and Innovation Section. Dr Cilliers co-founded the ISS in 1990 and played an important role in the transformation of the South African armed forces and the institution of civilian control over the military in the period 1990 to 1996. At present most of Dr Cilliers' interests relate to the emerging security architecture in Africa as reflected in the developments under the banner of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union as well as issues around African long-term future. [@JakkieCilliers](#)

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



**Ambassador Alfred Majaye Dube**  
*Managing Director,  
Gravitas Holdings (Pty) Ltd.*

Alfred Majaye Dube is a distinguished former Diplomat who represented Botswana's interests on the world stage via 17 ambassadorships including appointments in the UK and China, and four years as Botswana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, before taking early retirement in December 2005. Ambassador Dube serves as Non-Executive Director on the Board of Barclays Bank Botswana and is President of the American Chamber of Commerce, Botswana. Ambassador Dube also represents the Botswana Confederation of Commerce, Industry and Manpower, as Sector Coordinator on Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, on the High Level Consultative Council, a consultative forum between Government and the Private Sector chaired by H.E. The President.



**Claude Grunitzky**  
*Chairman, TRUE*

Claude Grunitzky is the Founder of TRACE, and Chairman of TRUE, a New York and London-based transcultural marketing agency. The TRACE brand is now being leveraged globally across various television, event and interactive platforms and reaches an audience of more than 80 million people across 150 countries. Grunitzky is also the founder of TRUE AFRICA, a new digital media venture. An MIT Sloan Fellow and a French American Foundation Young Leader, Grunitzky also sits on the board of Humanity in Action, a foundation that works internationally to build global leadership, defend democracy, protect minorities and improve human rights.  
[@claudegrunitzky](#)



**Hala Hattab**  
*Associate Professor in Entrepreneurship,  
The British University of Egypt*

Dr Hala Hattab is an Associate Professor in Entrepreneurship at the British University in Egypt. Dr Hattab's specific areas of interest include female entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship education and youth entrepreneurship. She has published articles in international journals discussing these topics and teaches modules which explore them at the British University in Egypt. Dr Hattab has been a judge in different business plan competitions to support start-ups in Egypt and Middle East, is a Founding Member of the Middle East Council for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship, and a mentor for start-ups providing support and coaching. [@halahattab](#)



**Amini Kanjuju**  
*President and CEO,  
The Africa-America Institute*

Amini Kanjuju is President and CEO of the Africa-America Institute (AAI), a US based non-profit organisation dedicated to strengthening human capacity in Africa through education, training and dialogue. With 20 years of experience in entrepreneurial and economic development, Amini joined AAI from the Workshop in Business Opportunities (WIBO), a New York-based non-profit small business development service where she served as Executive Director for 10 years. Amini previously served in programme positions at the International Executive Service Corps and Social Science Research Council and interned at the Center for Humanitarian Outreach & Intercultural Exchange, and The Carter Presidential Center. [@AminiKanjuju](#)



### **Christian Kingombe**

*Chief Infrastructure & Regional Integration Officer, African Development Bank*

Dr Christian Kingombe is Chief Infrastructure & Regional Integration Officer at the NEPAD and the Regional Infrastructure Division of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Prior to that he was Chief Regional Trade & Integration Officer in the AfDB's Trade Division. Before joining the AfDB, Dr Kingombe was Senior Research Officer of the International Economic Development Group at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), which he joined in 2010. Dr Kingombe has written more than 50 articles, working papers, book chapters, policy briefs and newsletter articles. He has also written on economic issues for UNCTAD, the ILO, and the OECD. Dr Kingombe's operational activities and recent research focus on a number of topics related to regional integration in Africa. [@christiankingo1](#)



### **Stephen Kirimi**

*CEO, Peace and Development Network Trust*

Stephen Kirimi is CEO of the Peace and Development Network Trust (PEACENET Kenya), a national network of civil society organisations and conflict prevention

practitioners. He has previously worked for Resource Alliance (UK) as the East and Southern Africa Regional Representative, supporting civil society fundraising and resource mobilisation capacities; National Council of NGOs Kenya as Policy Advocacy Officer and later as CEO. He is a Senior Chevening Fellow in Conflict Prevention and Resolution (University of York-UK), and holds a Masters degree in Leadership from the Pan Africa Christian University as well as a Bachelors in Economics and Political Science from the University of Nairobi.



### **Modupe Ladipo**

*CEO, Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access (EFInA)*

Modupe Ladipo is the CEO of Enhancing Financial Innovation & Access (EFInA). EFInA is a financial sector development organisation that promotes financial

inclusion in Nigeria. Data from the EFInA Access to Financial Services in Nigeria surveys was a key source of information in the development of the Central Bank of Nigeria's National Financial Inclusion Strategy and is also widely used by a diverse range of stakeholders, including regulators, as a benchmark for financial inclusion in Nigeria. Modupe has over 25 years financial services experience, predominantly in investment banking in the UK, covering corporate strategy & development, product development & implementation, mergers & acquisitions, retail and institutional brokerage.



### **Amanda Lenhardt**

*Research Officer, Overseas Development Institute*

Amanda Lenhardt is a Research Officer at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). She is working with ODI's Development Progress, a project that aims to better understand

what works in development and why. Amanda's research interests include rural livelihoods, agricultural development, and the measurement of multidimensional poverty and inequality. Amanda has a background in integrated approaches to social and economic development, poverty reduction, political science and human rights. She has also worked on projects related to urban refugees' livelihoods, health service delivery in remote areas, and sustainability education. She has worked in Kenya, Indonesia, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Costa Rica. [@amanda\\_lenhardt](#)



## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



**Jay Loschky**

*African Regional Research Director, Gallup*

Jay Loschky is Africa Regional Research Director for Gallup. His work focuses on the Gallup World Poll, the world's largest available source of key survey data, providing access to the voices, hearts, and minds of citizens in more than 160 countries. Since joining Gallup in July, 2011, Jay has been involved in consulting and research related to employment, financial inclusion, and global media. Much of his research centres on global topics, particularly in Africa, the Middle East, and majority-Muslim societies. Jay's research in Africa has been cited by publications such as *The Economist*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.



**Iris Macculi**

*Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA*

Iris Macculi is Economic Affairs Officer at the Social Development Policy Division of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, in Addis Ababa. In this tenure, Iris is responsible for carrying out analytical and policy research in economic and social development, and for providing technical assistance to African countries in the implementation of development policies and programmes, with a particular focus on employment and social protection. She has previously worked as Research Economist at the ILO International Institute for Labour Studies in Geneva, as well as Social Policy Specialist with UNDP in Benin. Iris holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Geneva. [@ECA\\_OFFICIAL](#)



**Modesta Lilian Mahiga**

*Managing Director, Professional Approach Group*

Modesta Lilian Mahiga is at the forefront of private sector and civil society interventions to develop Tanzania's human resource and institutional capacity, with the aim of spearheading its economic renaissance. She serves as Managing Director of Professional Approach Group, consulting in media, human resource and organisational transformation, capacity building for SME and civil society groups as well as labour relations. Modesta is a respected speaker, writer and mentor and works with a range of civil society organisations. She serves as Board Director of the Foundation for Civil Society and also works with the Tanzania Gatsby Trust and the Independent Grant Committee of the Human Development Innovation Fund Tanzania. [@ProApproachGRP](#)



**Maurice Makoloo**

*East Africa Representative, Ford Foundation*

Maurice Makoloo joined the Ford Foundation in January 2012. Previously, Maurice was the Director of the Institute for Law and Environmental Governance (ILEG) a leading environmental research and advocacy institution based in Nairobi that has been a longstanding grantee of the Foundation. At ILEG, Maurice initiated and led a range of research and advocacy campaigns to advance sustainable development and effective governance over natural resources. As a legal practitioner, he also prosecuted many public interest cases on behalf of local communities and other vulnerable groups. Maurice also served a six-year term (2004-2010) as the secretary to Kenya's Public Complaints Committee on the Environment.



**David McGinty**  
*Team Leader, Human Development  
 Innovation Fund*

David McGinty is the Team Leader of DfID's Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) in Tanzania, which invests in private sector innovations in health, education and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene). Prior to this role David served as Principal with H14 Development, where he designed, implemented and advised partners on multinational, cross-sector investments focusing on innovative approaches to market-led and participatory development. Other prior roles include serving as Director of Public Private Partnerships at World Vision, Adjunct Professor of Nonprofit Law at Villanova University, international mergers and acquisition consultant with Deloitte, and Director of Operations for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna. [@davidBmcginty](#)



**Melissa Menke**  
*CEO and Founder, Access Afya*

Melissa Menke is CEO and Founder of Access Afya, an innovative healthcare and wellness social enterprise operating in the slums of Nairobi. Access Afya builds, stocks, staffs and runs micro-clinics in the slums offering a higher quality healthcare option to residents, and is now developing additional field-based health and wellness as a service programmes. Melissa runs product and strategy, bringing her background in financial modelling, analysis and human centred design to ensure that Access Afya's operations reflect real needs and are financially viable. Melissa has an MPA from NYU Wagner and has spoken and written widely about Access Afya, social business models, and technology in low-resource settings. [@melissa\\_menke](#)



**George Mulamula**  
*CEO, DarTeknohama Business Incubator*

George Mulamula is CEO of the Dar Teknohama Business Incubator (DTBi) for entrepreneurship. He is also the Senior Government Advisor on Information Communication Technology (ICT), Entrepreneurship & Innovation and infrastructure for growth in the ICT sector. Prior to that he was the first Principal Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Development Board and Senior Advisor in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry where he worked on SME and Entrepreneurship Policy. George has run several ICT companies, has written extensively on ICT and technology transfer for sustainable development, has taught at various higher learning institutions and is regularly consulted by international and regional organisations. [@DtbiTz](#)



**Marcos Athias Neto**  
*Team Manager, Private Sector and  
 Foundations, UNDP*

Marcos Athias Neto is Team Manager of the Private Sector and Foundations Team Bureau for Policy and Programme Support in UNDP. Prior to joining UNDP, Marcos was Global Technical Advisor for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction at ChildFund International, where he has also served as Regional Development Officer for the Northeast US. Marcos spent 17 years at CARE International on assignments ranging from as Regional Manager for Asia and Latin America at CARE UK, where he focused on resource mobilisation, programme design, monitoring and evaluation and supporting country offices, to leading CARE USA's process of establishing a presence in Brazil. [@marcosathias](#)



## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



**Milagre Nuvunga**  
*Executive Director, MICAIA*

Milagre Nuvunga is Co-founder and Executive Director of MICAIA Foundation. Since 2008, when she moved back to Mozambique to launch MICAIA, Milagre has established the Foundation as a

leading NGO in central Mozambique, now reaching more than 16,000 families through a mix of sustainable livelihood programmes. Milagre has extensive experience in government, the UN, foundations and NGOs, and prior to 2008 was working with the Ford Foundation as Program Officer for Environment and Development in East Africa where she supported work on natural products, community tourism and environmental justice.

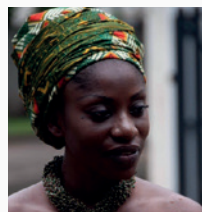
[@18mila60](#)



**Alex Nyingi**  
*Microsoft International's Citizenship and Community Affairs Department*

Alex Nyingi is Academic Programs and Community Affairs Manager for Microsoft East and Southern Africa. In this role Alex contributes to the creation of opportunities

for youth that empower them to both imagine and realise their potential. He also works with non-profits to widen affordable access to the technology that they need to support their work in local communities and to leverage technology, helping them to be more efficient, effective and innovative. Part of Alex's role at Microsoft is to promote responsible working practices in order to ensure good corporate citizenship and to promote the notion that how a company works is as important as what it does to support local communities. [@anyingi](#)



**Nana Yaa Ofori Atta**  
*Senior Communications Specialist, Afrobarometer*

Nana Yaa Ofori Atta is a Senior Communications Specialist for the Afrobarometer. She has consulted for CDD-Ghana and the Afrobarometer on media

training, the release of Afrobarometer findings and outreach activities. A communications specialist with more than 20 years' experience of working as an award-winning multi-media journalist covering business and finance as well as current affairs for national and international media, Nana Yaa taught Broadcast Journalism at the School of Communication Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. She has consulted in nine African countries for the World Bank Groups' Investment Climate Reform Team and has worked as a Director delivering wins in Government Relations, Public Policy and Taxation for two multinational companies based in Ghana. [@nfaoforiatta](#)



**Linda Omanyia**  
*Coordinator, Usalama Forum*

Linda Omanyia is a currently acting Coordinator at the Usalama Forum, an authoritative organisation in the fields of crime & violence prevention and security sector

reforms in Kenya. Linda is a communications and public relations expert with proven skills in capacity building, decentralisation processes, crime & violence prevention and facilitating public participation. She has provided technical assistance to the National Police Service and has contributed to the National Police Reserves policy and the Community Policing Policy. In 2010, she successfully supported the public campaign of the IPOA bill to the public under the British high commission. [@usalamaforum](#)



### **Oshita-Oshita**

*Director General, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution*

Prof. Oshita O. Oshita is the Director General of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) based in Abuja, Nigeria.

The IPCR is a research centre, think tank and

an agency for strengthening Nigeria's capacity for the promotion of peace. He belongs to many professional associations, including the British International Studies Association (BISA), the Network for African Peace-builders, Nigerian Philosophical Association, and he is 2nd Vice-President of the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP), Nigeria. His current research interests are in peace-building, the nexus of peace-security-conflict and development, resource conflicts, systems design for conflict prevention, conflict-sensitive planning and policy programming. He has lectured in various universities in Nigeria and abroad.



### **Lettice Rutashobya**

*Professor, University of Dar es Salaam Business School*

Prof. Lettice Kinunda Rutashobya, is a Professor of Business and Entrepreneurship at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, former Dean of the now University of Dar

es Salaam Business School and a 2015 Legatum Fellow. As an experienced researcher, Prof. Rutashobya has won a number of research awards from several competitive regional and international research organisations, including the Investment Climate and Business Environment Research Programme administered by TRUSTAFRICA. Prof. Rutashobya serves as non-executive chairperson and board director in a number of government organisations and business enterprises, both local and foreign, including the Bank of Tanzania. Currently she is chairperson of the Tanzania Postal Bank Board.



### **Evans Rweikiza**

*Executive Director, Tanzania Financial Services for Underserved Settlements*

Dr Evans Rweikiza is the Executive Director of Tanzania Financial Services for Underserved Settlements (TAFSUS). TAFSUS is a national local finance facility in Tanzania whose

primary goal is to solicit for resources and promote bankable upgrading projects for those who live in slums. Prior to his work with TAFSUS, Dr Evans was the Executive Director of Tanzania Private Sector Foundation which aims to be the leading voice for the promotion of a vibrant, innovative and competitive Tanzanian private sector. He is also an accountant and private sector advocate for effective aid and an enabling business environment.



### **Suleman Sumra**

*Freelance Educational Consultant*

Following a 25 year career as a professor and teacher at the University of Dar es Salaam, Suleman Sumra consults for various organisations and has written widely on primary education in Tanzania.

Sumra holds a PhD from Stanford University and has held several senior posts in his career including Associate Dean for Research and Publications, Director of the Bureau of Research and Evaluation (BERE) and the National Coordinator for the Language of Instruction in Tanzania and South Africa (LOITASA). He has numerous publications to his name with many featured in peer-reviewed international journals. He held the position of Coordinator of Uwezo Tanzania from August 2008–April 2012.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



**Obinna J. Ukwuani**  
*Founder, The Makers Initiative*

Obinna Ukwuani is the Founder of The Makers Initiative, which will equip Africans to participate in and contribute to the new global economy of technological innovation and lower cost manufacturing. The cornerstone of this effort is the Makers Center for Leadership & Innovation. The Center will be a world-class academic campus located in Enugu, Nigeria, comprised of two symbiotically related establishments: Makers Academy, a college preparatory residential high school with a focus on technology and project-based learning, and Maker Labs, a community learning and co-making space equipped with cutting edge prototyping machines and software. Obinna also founded, raised more than \$350K for, and has directed the Exposure Robotics Academy in Lagos, Nigeria for three years. [@Oukwuani](#)



**Kubwimana Venuste**  
*Secretary General, International Transformation Foundation*

Kubwimana Venuste is the Secretary General of the International Transformation Foundation. Born in 1985, he grew up in Southern Rwanda. Struggling with poverty, especially in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide, which forced him into job market at age of 14 to meet daily needs, none would give an unexperienced and unknown boy employment. Kubwimana has grown into an inspiring social entrepreneur and youth activist. He currently lives in Nairobi, Kenya, where International Transformation Foundation is headquartered, an international youth lead non-profit organisation he established in 2009 providing self development programmes for young people focussing on leadership and entrepreneurship. [@kvest005](#)



**Samuel Mwita Wangwe**  
*Executive Director, REPOA*

Prof. Samuel Mwita Wangwe is the Executive Director of REPOA, an independent research institution based in Dar es Salaam. REPOA creates and uses knowledge to facilitate socioeconomic development, produces high-quality research, provides training, facilitates knowledge sharing, and promotes the use of accurate research-based information in policy development. Previously, he was the Policy Advisor on Coordination of Reforms in the Office of the President, a post he took after eight years as Executive Director of the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF). He has over 40 years' experience as an economist, policy researcher and analyst and has authored, co-authored or edited 13 books and over 70 published articles on development and economic management. [@WangweSamuel](#)



**Daudi Were**  
*Project Director, Ushahidi*

Daudi Were is Project Director for Ushahidi, a global technology company founded and headquartered in Kenya which specialises in developing free and open source software for information collection, visualisation and interactive mapping. He is a Kenyan technology, data and information strategist and social rights defender based in Nairobi. Daudi spends most of his time working on innovative ways technology can be used as an effective tool to bring about positive change in communities across the world. His current role at Ushahidi is the Project Director of Making All Voices Count, a USD55m global initiative aimed at boosting and enriching the spheres of transparency and accountability. [@mentalacrobatic](#)



### **Samantha Williams**

*Director for Regional Growth, Strategy and Development in Africa, Teach For All*

Samantha Williams is the Director of Regional Growth Strategy and Development—Africa at Teach For All, where she leads the organisation's external work on the continent. The Teach For All model, pioneered by Teach For America and Teach First (UK), seeks to develop a pipeline of leaders to drive transformational change in education. Samantha supports African social entrepreneurs to launch aligned, locally-driven programmes, and leads on engagement with regional stakeholders in the public and private sectors to build a network of champions who support the mission that one day, all children will be able to attain an excellent education. @\_sosamantha



### **Gisèle M. Yitamben**

*Economist, GRACE and President, Association pour le Soutien et l'Appui à la Femme Entrepreneur*

An economist by training, Gisèle M. Yitamben is a dynamic leader and a senior international consultant well known on questions of entrepreneurship development, information communication technology (ICT) and gender. Gisèle is a researcher for GRACE, the Founder and President of the Association for the Support of Women Entrepreneurs, and was also Vice President of the board of Diaspora Digital Initiative (UNIFEM), to name a few of her roles. She is a widely published and respected economist and the recipient of many awards including the International Quality Crown ICQ by Business Initiative Direction in Madrid and the Social Innovator Prize from DIGITAL Partners in Seattle, USA.