

# 2024 UNESCO Forum on Higher Education in Africa: A driver for Sustainable Development

10 and 11 December 2024, Nairobi, Kenya



## 2024 UNESCO Forum on Higher Education in Africa: A driver for Sustainable Development

### Panelist Biographies

Mr Borhene Chakroun

Director of the Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems Division at UNESCO

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Borhene Chakroun is Director of the Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems Division at UNESCO, where his expertise lies in driving global education and training agenda in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Recognized for his contributions to the field of skills development and lifelong learning, he has authored and co-authored numerous articles and books. His recent work includes analyzing education reform trends and shaping the global direction for skills development through the twin digital and green transitions, within the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda. Borhene spearheads UNESCO's Global Education Coalition, a critical initiative that mobilizes multi-stakeholder collaboration to accelerate progress towards SDG4, respond in crises, and enable equitable digital transformation in education and training systems. Prior to his work with UNESCO, Borhene served in pivotal roles as a trainer, chief trainer, and project manager. His experience includes consultancy work with the EU, World Bank, and various international organizations. He contributed significantly as a Senior Human Capital Development Specialist for the European Training Foundation (ETF) after joining in 2001. An engineer by training, Borhene earned a Ph.D. in Education Sciences from Bourgogne University in France.



## Dr Dennis Mwigusa, Executive Director, Africa Research Institute for AI

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Dr Mwigusa is an Applied AI Researcher with extensive expertise in Image Processing, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Cognitive Computing, Computer Vision, Pattern Recognition, Neural Networks, Computational Intelligence, Deep Learning and Machine Learning techniques. He is an Enterprise Board Level Mentor and International Conference Speaker who travels the world to teach AI. He is also known for his skills in rescuing failing IT projects. Dr Mwigusa holds a PhD in Image Processing, MEng. in Signal and Information Processing, BEng. (Hons) in Computer Engineering and a Higher National Diploma in Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Computing.



He is a Certified Project Management Professional, Researcher, Practitioner and Registered Consulting Engineer in Computer/ICTs. He is currently associated with Africa Research Institute for AI (ARIFA) as the Executive Director. He is the Board Member of Rice Council of Tanzania, Institution of Engineers Tanzania Editorial Board. He is also a member of the IET Panel of Experts. He has over 15 years of practice and has been instrumental not only within African governments but also international organizations to reform policies, strategies and guidelines on ICT & AI.

## Prof Mohamed Ayman Ashour

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt

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Prof Mohamed Ayman Ashour is currently the Minister of Higher Education and scientific Research of Egypt. He served as the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dean of the faculty of Engineering at Ain Shams University and a professor of Architecture at the University of Clemson, USA. His expertise in Urban Planning and Architecture contributed deeply in many National Projects inside and outside Egypt. Prof. Ashour received many awards and recognitions from highly recognized Architectural and planning competitions. Prof. Ashour received his PHD in Architecture and Housing from the Institute of Architecture in Moscow after graduating from Ain Shams University. Moreover, Prof. Ashour has received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of East London for his significant contributions in the field of Planning and Architecture.



Dr Eva Shayo

Lecturer, Department of Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering,  
University of Dar es Salaam

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Eva Shayo is a Lecturer in the Department of Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), where she also serves as the Head of Industrial Liaison. She holds a PhD in Electronics and Information Technology Engineering from UDSM, specializing in LoRaWAN technology, as well as both a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Telecommunications Engineering from the same institution. Shayo teaches and supervises both undergraduate and postgraduate students and plays a key role in managing UDSM's industry collaborations. She has previously served as the Postgraduate Coordinator in the Department of Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering and a judge of different innovation competitions. Currently, she is the Coordinator of the Challenge Driven Education Hub, which connects students with real-world industry challenges, and a coach at the UDSM ICT Incubator, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. Dr. Shayo leads significant projects such as the "Information Management System for Street-Connected Children in Tanzania" funded by UDSM grants and the "YouthTeamUp" project sponsored by the European Commission. She is also actively involved in organizing meetings for UDSM's Industry Advisory Committee and advancing various University-industry programs, including staff placement and adjunct staff initiatives.



Prof Pauline Byakika-Kibwika

Vice Chancellor, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)

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Prof Pauline Byakika-Kibwika is the Vice Chancellor of Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST). She is a Professor of Internal Medicine and Epidemiology. Before joining MUST, she was the Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Makerere University. Pauline holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, a Master of Science (MSc) in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, a Master of Medicine in Internal Medicine, from Makerere University, a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Clinical Pharmacology from Trinity College Dublin, Ireland and a certificate in Leadership from Harvard School of Public Health, USA. She is a Fellow of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences, and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Her research focusses on infectious diseases of high priority including malaria, HIV, TB, Ebola, and COVID-19. She is co-Principal Investigator on the Clinical Trials of Natural Therapeutics (CONAT) program in Uganda.



Pauline has worked on various in country assignments with the Ministry of health, National Malaria Control Program and is a member of the Ministerial Scientific Advisory Committees on Malaria, COVID-19, and Ebola. She is the past Vice President of Uganda Medical Association and the Association of Physicians of Uganda. She was Medical Advisor to Tullow Oil Uganda Pty and TOTAL Exploration and Production. She is a Commissioner of the East African Health Research Commission.



## Dr Habtamu Mulugeta Andualem

Deputy Director General, Research and Community Service, Federal Technical and Vocational Training Institute

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Dr Habtamu Mulugeta Andualem has Master's and PhD degrees in TEFL (English language Education-Advanced Research). He is the Deputy Director General for Research and Community Service of the Federal Technical and Vocational Training Institute. He is also an Assistant Professor and Senior Researcher. He has involved in different TVET and employability related studies under different Ministries in Ethiopia. Similarly, he involved in different community service activities, and served various public and private higher education institutions in different capacities. He has fruitful leadership experiences in both private and public higher education institutions, including the TVET sector. He worked as an Acting President, graduate and undergraduate programs dean, academic programs coordinator, and research and quality assurance head for more than 10 years. He involved in various national, regional, and institutional committees and contributed his fair share during policy development, national curriculum preparation, national educational program design and educational material preparation.



Dr Dominique Dumet  
Scientific Advisor for Africa  
IRD French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development

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Dr Dominique Dumet holds a PhD in life sciences from the University of Paris VI, specialising in plant genetic resources conservation and sustainable use. Previously, Dr Dumet worked as a scientist in several research and higher education institutions in Europe and Africa (University of Abertay Dundee, UK; University of Kwazuku Natal, South Africa; International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Nigeria; Institut National d’Horticulture, France). Since joining the IRD in 2011, she has served as the head of the partnership department and as the IRD representative in Burkina Faso and East Africa. Recently, she was appointed Scientific Advisor for Africa.





Prof Alain Souza

General Directorate of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education Scientific Research and Technological Innovation in Gabon

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Professor Alain Souza, Full Professor, holds a PhD in Physiology and Pharmacology. Teacher-Researcher at the University of Science and Technology of Masuku (USTM) in Franceville, Gabon, he has held the positions of Director of the Institute of Pharmacopoeia and Traditional Medicine (IPHAMETRA) at the National Center for Scientific and Technological Research (Gabon), Director General of the National Higher Institute of Agronomy and Biotechnology at USTM and Vice-Rector in charge of Administration and Cooperation in the same University. He sits as a director in numerous administrative bodies in Gabon and internationally. He has been elevated, for the years 2023 and 2024, to the titles of Associate Professor of the University of Liège (Belgium), and Knight of the International Order of Academic Palms (OIPA) of CAMES.



He currently presides over the destiny of the General Directorate of Higher Education of the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Innovation in Gabon, as DIRECTOR GENERAL.

## Ms Doreen Irungu Founder, Ustawi Afrika

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Doreen Irungu, founder of Ustawi Afrika, is an ecosystem enabler dedicated to empowering rural women and youth through agriculture, technology, and entrepreneurship. Ustawi Afrika trains women in regenerative farming, water harvesting, and climate-smart practices, while Ustawi Eco-Venture equips youth with entrepreneurial skills. Under her leadership, Ustawi Afrika has transformed the lives of over 10,000 women farmers, increasing food security and climate resilience. |A 2024 World Food Prize Top Agri-Pioneer and TechWomen Fellow, Doreen co-founded Mentor Match, an award-winning initiative connecting women STEM graduates with mentors and role models. As a 2024 UNESCO speaker and Leading African Woman in Food Fellow, she advocates for equity and inclusion, bridging the gap between potential and opportunity for women in STEM and entrepreneurship. A co-author of *We Took the Risk*, Doreen highlights the challenges women entrepreneurs face, advancing mentorship, sustainable development, and inclusive networks that empower future leaders.



## Ms Ahirirwe Leticia

### Communications Officer, Women for Green Economy Movement

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Ahirirwe Leticia, 23, is a Ugandan trailblazer in agriculture, climate action, innovation and gender equality. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture and Livelihoods from Mbarara University of Science and Technology, she is also a former president of Mbarara university Agriculture students Association, and she is a founder of Food and Agribusiness Management Association of Uganda. Leticia promotes sustainable agriculture and empowers small-scale farmers. She is a Communications Officer for Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda, where she advocates for climate justice, sustainable development, and women's empowerment. Leticia organizes initiatives to raise awareness about climate change and intersectional feminism. She is an Award winner for the University Quiz Championship, a fellow of the Leadership Advancement Programme and Shine Africa. She represented Ugandan youth at the 2023 Climate Summit in Nairobi and she was selected as a delegate to attend the prestigious summer school program in Slovenia at the University of Maribor. Leticia inspires a new generation of leaders to drive meaningful change and create a sustainable future. Her dedication to climate action, gender equality, and sustainable agriculture is transforming her community and beyond.



## Prof Yang Wenming

Professor and Coordinator of UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET,  
Shenzhen Polytechnic University

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Yang Wenming, Ph.D of Education, Professor, Coordinator of UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET, a Chief Expert at UNEVOC Center, Shenzhen Polytechnic University, China, a project consultant of UNESCO China Funds-in-Trust Phase III in Higher Education, an advanced researcher in University of Michigan, an education consultant of Regional Association of Vocational and Technical Education in Asia and CDRI-Cambodian National Think-tank, a member of the Advisory Board of Cambodia University of Technology and Science, a standing director of China-ASEAN TVET Research Center, a consultant of Belt & Road TVET International Communication Institute, Deputy director of Comparative Education Professional Committee of The Guangdong Society of Education, etc.

He hosted 20 UNESCO, EU, national and provincial research projects, published 26 monographs and textbooks and 30 research papers, winning two second level China National Education Awards. Now he mainly engages in academic research and cooperation on TVET Digital Transformation, International and Comparative TVET, International Exchange and Cooperation.



Prof Gaspard Banyankimbona  
Executive Secretary, Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA)

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Mr Banyankimbona is the 5th Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), an institution of the East African Community, a position he has held since April 2021. With over a decade of experience in higher education, he has made significant contributions in enhancing the development and management of education policies at both national and regional levels. Throughout his career, Mr Banyankimbona has held various leadership roles in higher education, including Vice-Chancellor of the University of Burundi and Minister of Education in his home country, Burundi.



In these capacities, as well as in his current role at IUCEA, he has played a pivotal role in shaping higher education reforms, advancing policy development, and coordinating and implementing various multi-donor higher education and research projects across the region. His extensive leadership experience, combined with his expertise in higher education, positions him as a key advocate for the advancement of higher education in Africa and beyond. In addition to his administrative roles, Mr Banyankimbona is also an Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Burundi, where he continues to contribute to academic excellence.

Ms Priscilla Gatonye

Programme Officer of Inclusion and Youth Employability, UNESCO-UNEVOC

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As Programme Officer for Inclusion and Youth Employability at UNESCO-UNEVOC, Ms. Priscilla Gatonye leads global initiatives to advance inclusive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). She shapes strategic programs on Inclusion, Gender, Migration topics while embedding Entrepreneurship, and Career Guidance and youth perspectives across all initiatives. Priscilla also coordinates regional UNEVOC Network activities in Africa, forging key partnerships and driving policy research, advocacy, and resource mobilization. With over 13 years of experience in skills and economic development, she is dedicated to empowering disadvantaged groups and enhancing youth employability in TVET globally.



H. E. Ms. Yang Xinyu

**Ambassador and Permanent Delegate, People's Republic of China to UNESCO**

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H. E. Ms. Yang Xinyu is the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the People's Republic of China to UNESCO. She began her career with the Chinese Ministry of Education in 1986 and joined the China Scholarship Council (CSC) in 1998, where she served as Deputy Secretary-General from 2003-14, and spearheaded the development of many study-abroad programs. She then served as Minister Counsellor for Education at the Chinese Embassy in Canada in 2014, and held the same position at the Chinese Embassy in the US from 2018-22. In recognition of her substantial contributions to advancing Canada-China education cooperation, she received a Certificate of Recognition from Global Affairs Canada.





## Prof Hermine Matari

Doctor of Educational Sciences University of Picardie Jules Verne in Amiens

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Professor Hermine Matari holds a PhD in Educational Sciences from the University of Picardie Jules Verne in Amiens. She is a teacher-researcher, sociologist of education in the Department of Sociology and member of the Research Group in Education, Knowledge and Socialization of the Sociology Laboratory of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences of the Omar Bongo University of Libreville. She is a Cames Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Master's Degree in Education Policy Management and Planning, and Deputy Coordinator of the UNESCO/CFIT III-UOB Project.

Her research focuses on schools, teachers, violence in schools and the relationship between school and society.

With the opening of the UOB to professionalization through the reform of training offers, Prof. Hermine Matari has a particular interest in the issues of developing the skills of teacher-researchers in active pedagogies and the writing of curricula in a university environment and intensifies his participation in collaborations and webinars on quality assurance, results-based management, dual training, competency-based assessment.



## Mr Kouadio Olivier OBROU

Doctor of State in Physical Sciences, Full Professor Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB)

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Mr OBROU Kouadio Olivier, Doctor of State in Physical Sciences, is a Full Professor at the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB) in Cocody, Abidjan. An expert in space physics, he is distinguished by his research on the equatorial ionosphere and its impact on satellite navigation. With more than 25 years of experience, he has collaborated with prestigious institutions such as NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (USA) and ICTP (Italy). Author of more than 35 publications, including several indexed by Scopus, and cited more than 500 times, he has been recognized with major distinctions, including the Fulbright Research Scholar Award, the URSI Young Scientist Award, and the National Award of Excellence of Côte d'Ivoire (2nd prize, 2023).



President of the African Geophysical Society (AGS), he plays a key role in scientific development in Africa and contributes to academic evaluation through CAMES. His work focuses on space weather and improving the use of GNSS systems in developing countries. Through the CFIT-III project, he developed skills in professional integration and graduate monitoring, strengthening the impact of research on socio-economic development.

Dr Lamine Gueye

Executive Secretary, National Authority of Quality assurance in Higher Education, Research and Innovation

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Dr Lamine GUEYE is a full professor of physiology, a neurologist and a Neuroscientist. He is currently the Executive Secretary of the National Authority of Quality assurance in Higher Education, Research and Innovation in Senegal (ANAQ-Sup) and He is the President of Addis Convention Committee. He is also President of the African francophone network of Quality assurance (RAFANAQ). He held various university positions in Senegal: Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Gaston Berger University (UGB), the Vice-Chancellor of UGB, the Vice-Chancellor of Alioune Diop University of Bambey. He was Vice-President of African Quality Assurance Network. He represents Senegal in the implementation of various activities within the framework of Quality Assurance and Qualification projects in Africa (HAQAA, ACQF). He is a member Advisory Council of the Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance of the European Public Law Organization.



## Dr Yufeng Liu

Research Professor, Loaned Expert CFIT III at UNESCO, Vocational Education Development Center, Ministry of Education, China

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Dr Yufeng Liu is a research professor at the Vocational Education Development Center, Ministry of Education, China, and currently serves as a loaned expert for CFIT III at UNESCO Headquarters. Previously, Dr Liu served as the Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Comparative Education Research at the center. She was a visiting scholar at Dortmund University in Germany, NCVET in Australia, and the Institute of Education (IOE) at University College London (UCL) in the United Kingdom. In 2015, Vocational and Technical Education magazine honored her as one of the Ten Most Influential Figures in Vocational Education in China. Dr Liu has published over 100 research papers and three monographs. She has also contributed to 17 books, both in China and internationally. As a team leader or deputy leader, Dr. Liu has successfully implemented over 40 vocational education projects, including collaborative projects with UNICEF, APEC, ADB, NCVET, and BC, as well as vocational education projects for training senior African officials and principals from Africa. Dr Liu's research expertise spans a wide array of areas, including system development, apprenticeships, curriculum development, teacher professionalization, green and life skills, and the internationalization of education



## Mr Gideon Murenga Senior TVET and Labour Markets Advisor, GIZ

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Gideon Murenga is a distinguished Education and Training professional with over 15 years of dynamic experience driving innovation in workforce development across Kenya and beyond. As the Senior TVET and Labour Markets Advisor at GIZ Kenya under the TVET project, he coordinates the Dual TVET Rollout, a transformative initiative bridging the gap between TVET education and industry demands. He has been instrumental in catalyzing partnerships with over 2,000 industries, directly impacting thousands of students and redefining the trajectory of Kenya's skilled workforce. Gideon's influence extends beyond borders and through the TVET project, groundbreaking collaborations between Kenyan, Finnish & German TVET institutions have been initiated, fostering global mentorship and knowledge sharing.



An advocate for inclusive and future-ready education, Gideon integrates policy advisory, institutional capacity building, and private sector engagement to design systems that empower youth, including women and persons with disabilities. His passion for education is matched by his vision for a skilled, employable, and competitive workforce. A thought leader and strategist, Gideon continues to champion innovative approaches to TVET, making him a key voice in shaping Africa's higher education and skills development agenda.

Rino Pugliano

Director, ITS Biotechnology Foundation Addis Ababa Branch, Bergamo Italy

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Rino Pugliano is the Director of the Addis Ababa branch of the ITS Biotechnology Foundation of Bergamo (Italy), leading the first Italian Higher Technical Education program abroad in Industrial and Civil Plants. With extensive experience as a consultant for Italian training institutions and a strong commitment to cooperation, he has been working in Ethiopia with a particular focus on strengthen ties with industrial companies. A graduate in Electronic Engineering with additional studies in the humanities, Rino combines a passion for education and youth development with expertise in technology-driven fields.

His background includes roles in biomedical service management and human resource development, which he applies to fostering innovative and personalized learning experiences.



Prof Sylvestre Kwahou  
Professor of Public Law, National University of Gabon

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Professor of Public Law, holder of a Doctorate in Public Law obtained at the University of Rouen in 2004 (France). Currently, working at the Faculty of Law and Economics of the National University of Gabon ("Omar Bongo University"), I teach courses in administrative law, administrative litigation, public finance and taxation.

As part of the pedagogical supervision functions, I am Deputy Director of the Center for Research and Studies Constitutional, Administrative, Parliamentary, Political and International (CRECAPPI) and Editorial Director of the Gabonese Journal of Law and Legislation (RGDL).





## Prof. Hervé Ndoume Essingone

### Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Innovation of Gabon

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Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Innovation of Gabon, Professor Hervé Ndoume Essingone is a pure product of the Gabonese education system, which has traced its path towards academic excellence. After obtaining his master's degree in management sciences, specialising in Finance, at the Institut National des Sciences de Gestion in 1990, he flew to France. At the University of Nancy 2, he successively obtained a DESS in 1991, a DEA in 1992, then a doctorate in 1997 with honors. His academic rise then led him to become Major in the Agrégation des universités competition organized by CAMES in 2003, before becoming a Full Professor of the Universities. Hervé Ndoume Essingone is not only a scholar, but also a dedicated educator. He has shared his knowledge at the Omar Bongo Ondimba University and in several higher institutions in Gabon. His commitment also led him to launch and direct "BBS", a school specialising in banking professions, for four years, thus contributing to the training of the country's future financial elite.



Dr Chérifa Abdelbaki

Senior Lecturer in Water Sciences, Department of Hydraulics, Faculty of Technology,  
University of Tlemcen

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Dr Chérifa ABDELBAKI is a Senior Lecturer in Water Sciences at the Department of Hydraulics, Faculty of Technology, University of Tlemcen, Algeria. She leads the "Water Resources and Mobilization" research team at the EOLE Research Laboratory, University of Tlemcen. From December 2018 to January 2024, she served as the Coordinator for Water and Climate Change Programs at the Pan-African Institute for Water and Energy Sciences including Climate Change (PAUWES), Tlemcen. Since February 2024, Prof. Abdelbaki has been heading a multidisciplinary research team under the collaboration of the Ministry of Hydraulics and the Ministry of Higher Education. This team brings together academic institutions and stakeholders in water and agriculture to address critical challenges.



With over 20 years of experience in Water Resources, Climate Change, and GIS applications in water resource management, she has participated in numerous national and international conferences, exhibitions, and doctoral schools. She has supervised over 70 research projects (Engineer, Master's, and Ph.D.) and conducted GIS training sessions for various ministries. Prof. Abdelbaki has contributed to several research initiatives and authored over 50 publications in her field. A recognized consultant and expert in hydraulics, her work continues to impact water resource management and policy development.

## Prof Ballo Zié

Professor of Economics, specialising in Development Economics, at the University Felix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB)

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Ballo Zié is Professor of Economics, specialising in Development Economics, at the University Felix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB). He defended a doctoral thesis in economics at the University of Toulouse I in 2007. He has held the position of President of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny University since January 20, 2021 and is a member of the Competition Commission of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the National Credit Council. From 2016 to 2021, he was the Director of the Training and Research Unit of Economics and Management Sciences (UFR-SEG). In this UFR, he teaches microeconomics, industrial economics, game theory, operations research and development economics. He was a researcher at the Economic Policy Analysis Unit of the Ivorian Center for Economic and Social Research (CAPEC) from 2008 to 2016. His research focuses on development economics, conflict economics, transport economics and decentralization.



Dr Moustapha Sidibé

Deputy Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations at the Institut National Polytechnique Houphouët-Boigny (INP-HB)

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Moustapha Sidibé is a lawyer, doctor of private law, specialising in corporate tax law, obtained at the University of Toulouse 1 Capitole and lecturer and researcher in tax law, business law and corporate taxation, at the Institute National Polytechnique Félix Houphouët Boigny de Yamoussoukro (INP-HB) and at the University of Toulouse 1 Capitole. Since 2023, he has held the position of Deputy Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations at the Institute National Polytechnique Houphouët-Boigny (INP-HB). In this capacity, he coordinates the management of litigation, supervises the drafting of contracts and manages national and international partnerships, actively contributing to the internationalization of the institution. He has recognized expertise in the fields of legal and tax advice, tax litigation and corporate law, thanks to his experiences in various law firms in Côte d'Ivoire and France. With his commitment to the promotion of his country's youth, Moustapha Sidibé has been Vice-President of the National Youth Council of Côte d'Ivoire (CNJCI) since 2021.



Prof Salam Sawadogo

Director of the Doctoral School of the Ecole Polytechnique de Thiès

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Professor of the Exceptional Class, Mr. Salam SAWADOGO is currently the Director of the Doctoral School of the Ecole Polytechnique de Thiès in Senegal. He is also the Institutional Coordinator of the UNESCO – CFIT III project entitled "Higher Technical Education in Africa for a Technical and Innovative Workforce" at the Ecole Polytechnique de Thiès since November 2021. He was a member of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) "Engineering Sciences and Techniques" (STI) of the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES) from 2018 to 2023 and assumed the function of the first report of the STC from 2021 to 2023. Professor SAWADOGO has held the position of Editor-in-Chief of the journal "Applied and Engineering Sciences (SAI) of the RAMReS journal of CRUFAOCI since 2018. He was Director of Studies at the Ecole Polytechnique de Thiès (EPT) (2012-2018). Professor Salam SAWADOGO is a Knight in the National Order of the Lion of the Republic of Senegal.



## Ms Ropafadzo Sandra Shoko Legal and Innovation Manager at Elevate Trust

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Ropafadzo Sandra Shoko ,StartUpBae' is the Legal and Innovation Manager at Elevate Trust. She works with young entrepreneurs and innovators building their ideas into viable profitable businesses and networks to create a start-up ecosystem for budding and existing entrepreneurs. Her recent focus is on capacitating her fellow African youth by leading programs like the Student Start-Up Summit which brings together over 500 students under 25 years old from across all 10 provinces in Zimbabwe and working with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education to establish Innovator Hub Clubs that complement the formal education systems. In 2024 she has also pioneered the African Girls Can Code initiative in Zimbabwe with UN Women Zimbabwe, placing Zimbabwe as a self-starter. She is also leading the innovation hubs capacity-building program with the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education.

Ropafadzo is completing an LLM in Law and Business in Africa at the University of Capetown with her dissertation centering on establishing an effective legal framework for SMEs within the AfCFTA. She also trains innovators across Africa on IP. In 2024 she was listed as one of the top 100 female lawyers in Africa for the Courtroom Mail 100 Women 2024.



Prof Thomas Anyanje Senaji  
Digital Transformation Expert, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
(UNECA)

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Prof Thomas Anyanje Senaji, PhD is an ICT/telecommunication and digital transformation expert/consultant at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) with over 33 years in academia and ICT sector. Professor Senaji has consulted for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Universal Postal Union (UPU), COMESA, Africa Development Bank (AfDB), Decision Analysis Partners LLP (USA), the World Bank (with Cambridge Economic Policy Associates, CEPA), and for various governments in Africa. He has served as international consultant for Regional Economic Communities and countries in Africa including in the East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). His works include assessment of supply and demand of digital skills in Africa, and development of broadband and digital transformation policies and strategies for Namibia, Eswatini, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, The Gambia, South Sudan, and “SADC Guidelines for Development of National Broadband Plans”. He is a professor of strategic management, knowledge management and ICT strategy, and founder of Senaji Consultancy and Senatus Enterprises Limited whose consultants offer various solutions to business and government.





Prof Nicaise Manfoumbi Boussougou  
Doctor in Wood Mechanics from the University of Limoges

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Professor Nicaise MANFOUMBI BOUSSOUGOU holds a PhD in Wood Mechanics from the University of Limoges. He is a Teacher-Researcher in Wood, Metal and Reinforced Concrete Structures at the Masuku Polytechnic School (EPM) of the Masuku University of Science and Technology (USTM). At the base, Prof. Nicaise MANFOUMBI BOUSSOUGOU is a Civil Engineer with a Master's degree in Inspection, Maintenance and Repair of Structures obtained at the University Center of Égletons in France. He is a Cames Associate Professor and is in charge of the Research Unit in Mechanics and Materials. He has served as Director General of the EPM and is currently the General Coordinator of the Provincial University Center of Ogooué Lolo affiliated to the USTM. His research focuses on the study of the delayed behaviour of tropical woods in variable climates and on eco-materials. He is the Coordinator of the UNESCO China Funds In Trust Project in its Phase III (CFIT III), on behalf of USTM.



Mr Timothy Musoke Ssejjoba

Acting Commissioner of University Education and Training at the Ministry of Education and Sports

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Timothy Musoke Ssejjoba is the Acting Commissioner of University Education and Training at the Ministry of Education and Sports. He is a trained Teacher turned Administrator and for the last 13 years and worked at the Ministry of Education and Sports. He holds a Bachelor of Arts with Education degree; a Master of Higher Education Management and Administration as well as other certifications. He is a family man, recently widowed and has three teenage daughters. He is a Rotarian, a Past President of the Rotary Club of Kansanga and a serving Assistant Governor.



Mr El Hadj Hussein TAPILY

Vice President for West Africa within the All-Africa Students Union (AASU)

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El Hadj Hussein TAPILY is currently the Vice President for West Africa within the All-Africa Students Union (AASU). In this role, he advocates for inclusive educational reforms, placing students at the center of education policies. Hussein is a doctoral student at the Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, where he conducts research on climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture while remaining deeply engaged in educational issues. His vision is rooted in the belief that education is the cornerstone of sustainable development. His commitment extends beyond defending students' rights; he also strives to transform educational institutions into hubs for innovation and youth empowerment. TAPILY focuses on mobilizing resources and fostering partnerships to develop modern school infrastructures and programs adapted to African realities. Through his initiatives and his ability to inspire young people, he has become a key figure in international discussions on education, combating inequalities, and building a better future.



## Prof Aloys N Mvuma

Associate Professor and Vice Chancellor of Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST)

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Prof. Aloys N. Mvuma is Associate Professor and Vice Chancellor of Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) since February 2019. Prior to his appointment as Vice Chancellor, he served in various University managerial positions, including Principal of College of Informatics and Virtual Education (CIVE) and Dean of School of Informatics (Sol) in 2014-2019 and 2008-2014, respectively, at the University of Dodoma (UDOM). In 2007 to 2008, he served as Deputy Director of Centre for Virtual Learning (CVL) at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM). Prof. Aloys N. Mvuma worked as a Research Associate at Hiroshima University, Japan from April 2003 to March 2005 before joining UDSM as Lecturer at the Department of Telecommunications Engineering from April 2005 to September 2008. He joined



College of Informatics and Virtual Education at the University of Dodoma as Senior Lecturer in September 2008 and was promoted to Associate Professor rank in April 2013. Prof. Aloys N. Mvuma joined UDSM to pursue Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Electrical) studies in September 1989 and graduated in November 1994. He was enrolled in a Master of Science in Computer and Information Science at Graduate School of Science, Shimane University, Japan from April 1998 to March 2000. In April 2000 he was registered in a Doctor of Engineering programme at Hiroshima University, Japan and graduated in March 2003.

He has successfully supervised over 30 Masters theses and dissertations and six PhD theses at UDSM and UDOM. He has also served as external examiner at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (2009 – 2013), Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (2011 – 2014), and Busitema University (2010 – 2013). He has published over 28 papers in peer reviewed journals, 35 conference proceedings papers, two book chapters and several research and consultancy reports. Prof. Aloys N. Mvuma has served as a member in several boards including Mbeya Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Mbeya WSSA), e-Government Authority (eGA), Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA), Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA) and African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD). Prof. Aloys N. Mvuma is a member of Tanzania Engineers Registration Board (ERB) and Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).

Dr Dereje Engida Woldemichael  
President of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University

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Dr Dereje Engida Woldemichael is the President of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Ethiopia. He is an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering by Profession. He is trainer in the areas of Engineering Education and Quality Education.



Prof Olivier Sagna

Director of Studies and Cooperation (DEC) at the General Directorate of Higher Education (DGES) of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI)

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Full professor of information and communication sciences at the School of Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists (EBAD) of the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD), Olivier Sagna is Director of Studies and Cooperation (DEC) at the General Directorate of Higher Education (DGES) of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI). Interested in issues related to the Information Society, her research focuses on issues related to the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in higher education as well as public policies in the field of ICT. He also worked at USAID/Senegal as Coordinator of the Leland Initiative (1998-2000), at the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) as Regional Training Officer (2000-2003) and Director of the Francophone Digital Campus in Dakar (2003-2004) and as Program Officer at the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) from 2006 to 2012.

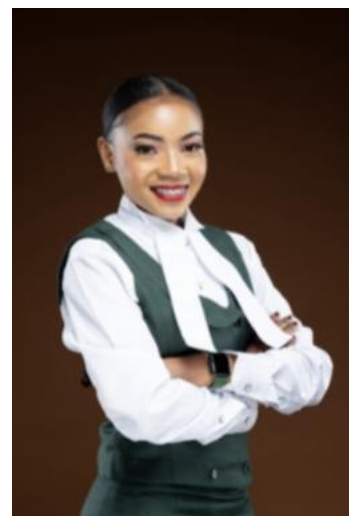


## Ms Cynthia Nyongesa

### Advocate of the High Court of Kenya, Leading Global Voice in Education and Lifelong Learning

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Cynthia Nyongesa is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a leading global voice in education and lifelong learning. Her commitment to transforming education is evident throughout her career, as she integrates legal expertise, communication strategy, and digital skills to champion educational equity. Cynthia's journey as a Legal Researcher for judges and lawyers in Africa at the University of Cape Town, her role as a Journalism Researcher at BBC, and her position as a Communication Advocacy & Partnerships Assistant at UNICEF all underscore her dedication to social impact and education advocacy. She founded her digital platform, Cynthia Untamed, which focuses on education, global citizenship, and sustainable development goals. She shares stories of emerging leaders and champions technology-assisted education through this platform. In her offline role as a mentor, she empowers young people, opening doors to global opportunities such as higher education at prestigious institutions.



Dr Kedrace Rwankore Turyagyenda  
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports Uganda

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Dr Kedrace Rwankore Turyagyenda holds a PhD in Education Management, Master of Science from Leicester University (UK), Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Mathematics, Diploma in Education from Makerere University and various short trainings. She is currently the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports. Prior to this, she served as Commissioner in Education Policy Review Commission, Director Education Standards, Commissioner Secondary Education Standards, Lecturer and Tutor at National Teachers College Kabale, High School Headteacher, and Secondary School teacher of Chemistry and Mathematics. She has presented papers in International, Regional and National conferences and workshops, and published six Articles. She has been a member of Boards and Councils in various institutions and organizations. Kedrace is married to Canon Henry Turyagyenda, has adult children and grandchildren. She accepted Jesus while in Primary school and has been guided by Biblical Principles of integrity, excellence, hard work, goal and result orientedness. She has been a mentor, preacher and teacher.





Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko

Director of Innovations and Technology Transfer at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)

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Dr. Medard Twinamatsiko is Ugandan with a great passion and research experience in Higher Education for youth employability, conservation and development, climate smart agricultural innovations and livelihoods, value addition and protected area management. Dr. Twinamatsiko has a PhD in Policy Management and Natural Resource Governance. He is the Director of Innovations and Technology Transfer at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) and the Institutional Coordinator for UNESCO CFIT Project at MUST. He is also a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Environment and Livelihood Support Systems. He has previously worked as the Head of Socio-ecological Research Department, Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation. Dr. Twinamatsiko has held other several managerial positions as the Ag. Deputy Director- Directorate of Research and Graduate Training and Graduate Studies Coordinator, MUST; Associate Director for Postgraduate Studies and Research Directorate in Charge of Research, Innovations, Extensions and Publications, (KIU); Head of Department at both MUST and other Universities in Uganda; Child Development Officer for a community-based Compassion International charitable organisation. Dr. Twinamatsiko has published widely (<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=zPpan0gAAAAJ&hl=en>) and has won grants and awards on top of supervising postgraduate students. He is an Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx) fellow since 2018. More detailed information - <https://www.must.ac.ug/ucobs/Medard%20Twinamastiko.pdf>.



Ms Louise Haxthausen

Director of the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi

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Louise Haxthausen (Denmark) was appointed Director of the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi in September 2024. She previously served as UNESCO's Representative to the European Union and Director of the Liaison Office in Brussels. Ms Haxthausen has worked on conflict and crisis response at country-level in Afghanistan and in Palestine, and as Director of the UNESCO Office for Iraq. At UNESCO Headquarters, she has served in key roles including Focal Point for the Middle East in the Office of the Director-General, Senior Coordinator for Crisis Response in the Arab World within the Bureau of Field Coordination, and Senior Coordinator for Crisis and Transition Response in the Director-General's Office. Ms. Haxthausen joined UNESCO in 1993, starting her career as an Associate Expert in the Human Rights Division at the Organization's Headquarters in Paris. She has an academic background in political science and international public law.



**Mr Ayenika Godheart Mbiydzenyuy**  
Statistician, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's African Centre for  
Statistics (ACS)

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Mr Ayenika Godheart Mbiydzenyuy joined the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's African Centre for Statistics (ACS) in 2010 as a Statistician. He holds an MSc. Degree in Demography from the Bamenda University of Science and Technology (BUST), a Master's Degree in GIS/Remote Sensing, and a Diploma in Global Satellite Navigation Systems (GNSS) and Location Based Services (LBS) from the United Nations, African Regional Centre for Space Science Technology in English (ARCSSTEE), Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria. His most recent work at ECA has focused on Geospatial Information Technology, United Nations Geospatial Information Management-Africa (UNGGIM-Africa) activities, 2020 Population



and Housing Census cartography and other census concerns and in projects including but not limited to geo-statistics, spatial data analysis, and geospatial data science. He is especially interested in the integration of geography with statistics, as well as novel data collection techniques, geospatial data processing, and knowledge development.

Dr Dinku Seyoum

Dean of Engineering College, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University

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Dinku Seyoum is an assistant professor in Addis Ababa Science and Technology University's mechanical engineering department. He graduated from National Taiwan University of Science and Technology with a doctorate in mechanical (aeronautical) engineering. He has over 18 articles that are indexed by Scopus and is currently the dean of the Engineering College. He received more than seven certificates from both domestic and international organizations in mechanical engineering and aviation. He is also a focal person of the CFIT-UNESCO project at Addis Ababa Science and Technology University.



Dr Muluken Tadesse Waza

Academic Staff and Senior Researcher at the Federal TVT Institute

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Dr Muluken Tadesse Waza is an academic staff member and senior researcher at the Federal TVT Institute, located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He has been teaching graduate students, advanced automotive, and vehicle design, and also supervises students in the thematic areas of renewable energy, mechanical design, simulation, and manufacturing. Furthermore, he led the postgraduate students' research office as an officer and guided the research writing process of graduate students. Recently, Dr. Muluken is the CFIT-III project coordinator at TVT Institute. He demonstrated outstanding leadership capability to implement the project activities.



Dr Joseph Kihedu

Senior Lecturer, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (MIE),  
University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM)

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Dr Joseph Kihedu is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (MIE), College of Engineering and Technology (CoET), University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), in Tanzania. He took over as coordinator of CFIT Coordinator at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) in May 202, in quest for fast tracking of project activities. Dr Kihedu, has vast experience in coordinating South-South-North institutional partnerships, with focus in joint curriculum development, capacity building and students and staff exchange. Dr Kihedu has background in Electro-Mechanical Engineering from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), and PhD in Energy Conversion Technologies from Nagoya University in Japan. His research interest includes energy conversions, renewable energy, combustion of fuels and flow in pipelines. He has published a number of papers around these fields.



Prof Kouakou Romain Fossou

Senior Lecturer, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (MIE),  
University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM)

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Prof Kouakou Romain Fossou is an Assistant-Professor in Agronomy, Microbiology and Biotechnology at the Institut National Polytechnique Félix HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY (INP-HB) in Côte d'Ivoire. He is working on the selection of rhizobia-based bioinoculants, as an alternative to chemical fertilizer to promote a sustainable agriculture in Côte d'Ivoire. His key projects are the selection of rhizobia bioinoculants for Ivorian smallholder farmers and the Mapping of the African Soil Microbiome. Prof Kouakou Romain Fossou is also a member of a research group which focuses on the selection of indigenous microbial communities for the valorization of agricultural underutilized biomass in developing countries of Africa (CEA-VALOPRO). Currently, he serves as the International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME) Country Young Ambassador, Chairman of the « Environmental Microbiology and Biodiversity » Committee of the Ivorian Society of Microbiology (SIM), Member of the International conference of the African association for biological nitrogen fixation (AABNF). He is passionate by contributing to the Excellence of higher education in Africa.



## Ms Chepkemai Magdaline CEO and Founder of Eldohub

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Chepkemai Magdaline is a Kenyan tech innovator and entrepreneur with over a 12 years of experience in technology, business development, and mentorship. As the CEO and Founder of Eldohub, she spearheads initiatives that empower youth, women, and marginalized groups through digital skills, business coaching, and innovative technology solutions. With a solid academic foundation, including a Master's in Mobile Telecommunication and Innovation from Strathmore University, she blends technical expertise with entrepreneurial vision. Chepkemai has led transformative projects such as the Miliki Business Accelerator, Sasakazi digital platform, and North Rift Women in STEM, impacting thousands of beneficiaries across Kenya and beyond. Her leadership extends to roles like, former Chairperson of the Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs, former world ambassador Women Entrepreneurship Day, Current Chairperson Innovation and Digital Economy at Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Director at the Uasin Gishu Chamber of Commerce. Recognized with awards like the Head of State Commendation, and the Anita Borg Pass It On Award, she is celebrated for her contributions to science, technology, and economic empowerment and was Named among top 25 women in the digital space and among the 20 faces of science in Kenya. A Mandela Washington Fellow, Techwomen fellow, Alibaba e-founders fellow and advocate for STEM.





Ms Rachel Kamana  
Founder, Pamoja na Watoto Foundation (PAWA)

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Rachel Kamana is a distinguished advocate for child protection and education transformation in rural and conflict-affected regions. Driven by a vision to equip every child and young person with holistic skills, she is dedicated to fostering empowered, resilient communities through equitable access to education. In 2018, Rachel established Pamoja na Watoto Foundation (PAWA), a grassroots organization based in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since its inception, PAWA has provided thousands of children both girls and boys with access to quality education in underserved rural areas and internally displaced camps. The organization's initiatives prioritize foundational learning, peace education, and social cohesion, addressing the unique challenges faced by children affected by conflict and displacement. Rachel serves as the Africa Youth Representative for the SDG4 Youth & Student Network, a global platform that amplifies the voices of youth and student groups in shaping education policies within the framework of the Global Education Cooperation Mechanism (GCM). This network champions the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all. Rachel holds a Master of Arts in Sociology, specializing in Human Rights, Culture, and Social Justice, from Goldsmiths, University of London, where she was awarded the prestigious Chevening Scholarship. She also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Daystar University in Kenya. Rachel's leadership and advocacy underscore her unwavering commitment to advancing education equity, empowering young people, and building sustainable solutions for marginalized communities.



Dr Ababacar Gueye

Chief of Staff of the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation

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Ababacar Gueye Doctor of Public Law, Lecturer and Researcher at the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Trainer at the ENA, Chief of Staff of the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation.

## Mr Samuel Mue

### Youth Education Advocate

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Samuel Mue is an award-winning young professional with extensive experience in leadership, sustainability, project and event management, youth engagement and social impact driven to build a more sustainable future for all. He has been at the forefront of the climate movement in Kenya and Africa having been part of the secretariat for the African Youth Climate Assembly, the official youth engagement mechanism for the Africa Climate Summit. He is actively working on the nexus between education and climate change with a keen focus on green jobs and skills as the Co-chair of the Education for Sustainable Development working group at the UNESCO SDG4 Youth & Student Network and a member of the Generation Unlimited Young People's Action Team. At the moment, he is the Continental Program Leads for Green Generation Initiative, a youth-led organization working on ecosystem restoration and the Executive Director for Kenya Ni Mimi, a youth-led campaign localizing and personalization the sustainability conversation.



Mr Jondo Koffi

Previous President of the National Commission for the Recognition and Homologation of Diplomas, Degrees, Titles and Certificates

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Born in Togo, I am married, father of one child. After my master's degree in Physical Sciences at the School of Sciences of the University of Benin (now the University of Lomé) in Togo, I went to Lyon (France) where I successively obtained a diploma of advanced studies in Industrial Sciences and Technologies of Chemistry and a unique doctorate from the University of Lyon I, specialty: Physical Chemistry. I then returned to Togo where, in April 1995, I obtained a position as an assistant at the University of Lomé. I became a full professor of universities in July 2012 and successively held the positions of :



Head of Information and Guidance Division from 2005 to 2013 at the Directorate of Academic and Academic Affairs of the University of Lomé (Togo)

Director of Academic and Academic Affairs at the University of Lomé from 2013 to 2018;

Currently, since 2018, I have held the positions of President of the National Commission for the Recognition and Homologation of Diplomas, Degrees, Titles and Certificates in 2018, and Director of Higher Education. In addition, I had to hold the position of President of the Bureau of the Addis Convention Committee from December 2021 to October 2023.

Prof Georges Loum  
Deputy Director General of INP-HB

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Professor Georges LOUM is an engineer in Electrical Engineering and a doctor in Image Processing. He is currently the Deputy Director General of INP-HB in charge of Pedagogy and Student Life. A teacher-researcher at the Ecole Supérieure d'Industrie of the Institut National Polytechnique Félix Houphouët-Boigny (INP-HB) in Yamoussoukro, he held the position of head of the electrotechnical sector and then headed the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering at the INP-HB. He also directed the Regional Center for Higher Training in Metrology opened at INP-HB with the support of UEMOA. His research interests are emerging electrical technologies and image processing. Professor LOUM is a member of the CAMES Specialized Technical Committee for Engineering Sciences and Techniques.



## Prof Lepengue Alexis Nicaise

### Vice-Rector in charge of Pedagogy and Research at USTM

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LEPENGUE Alexis Nicaise is a CAMES Full Professor of Plant Physiology, Phytopathology and Food Processing at the University of Science and Technology of Masuku (USTM) in Gabon. Former Director of the Department of Biology at the Faculty of Science, he also held the positions of Scientific Coordinator of the Doctoral School in Fundamental and Applied Sciences (EDSFA), then that of Director of this institution. Professor Alexis Nicaise LEPENGUE is currently Vice-Rector in charge of Pedagogy and Research at USTM. Expert Knight of the International Order of Academic Palms (OIPA CAMES), he holds a patent (OAPI) on food supplements (Wave-Fortex) from the Gabonese forest. He is also a writer and has already published a scientific book (Corrected Exercise of Plant Physiology; Nutrition (Editions EUE, London 2021; 120 pages) and two literary novels: *Le voyage de Tonda* (Editions Harmattan, Paris 2023; 216 pages) and *Dernières Vacances d'Afrique* (Editions Lys Bleu; Paris 2024; 364 pages). Author of numerous scientific publications, Professor Alexis Nicaise LEPENGUE is also a CAMES expert in Quality Assurance (QA), Inter-State Advisory Committees (IACs), Equivalence of Diplomas (PRED) and CAMES University Olympiads (COU).



Mr Victor Konde

Scientific Affairs Officer, Technology and Innovation Section, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

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Victor Konde is a Scientific Affairs Officer at UNECA and ECA's focal point on science, technology and innovation. He holds a PhD in Biochemistry (United Kingdom) and is a post-doctoral alumnus of Harvard University. He is the founder of the African Technology Development Forum (ATDF, Geneva/Switzerland) and its Entrepreneurship Hub in Zambia, and a Fellow of the World Academy of Arts and Science. He works closely with AUDA-NEPAD, AU and about 70 universities and R&D institutions in Africa and beyond; and has inspired several high-impact pan-African initiatives such as the Alliance of Entrepreneurial Universities in Africa, African Biomedical Engineering Consortium, and Origin Research and Innovation Hubs. He is a member of the UN Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board and UN Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs. Victor has over 25 years of post-graduate work experience in the private and public sectors. His current areas of interest include promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship policies and strategies, intellectual asset management, and development of business models, especially for the youth.

