

WORKSHOP ON BUILDING CAPACITY AND EXPLORING RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTING STI4SDGS ROADMAPS

OCT. 8-9, 2024
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA



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CO-ORGANIZED BY DESA AND ECA SUPPORTED BY UNESCO, FUTURE AFRICA, EC/JRC, INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL (ISC), AFRICA EUROPE SCIENCE AND INNOVATION COLLABORATION PLATFORM (AERAP), AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER OF BIG DATA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (CBAS) CONFERENCE ROOM 6, UN CONFERENCE CENTRE, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

1. Introduction

The theme of the Workshop on Building Capacity and Exploring Resources for implementing STI4SDGs Roadmaps is on “harnessing the potential of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to deliver on the SDGs”, with a focus on “building partnerships and STI capacity in developing countries”. It is jointly organized by UN DESA and ECA, supported by UNESCO, Future Africa, EC/JRC, International Science Council (ISC), Africa-Europe Science and Innovation Collaboration Platform (AERAP), and the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS).

Building on last year's UN workshop, this meeting will frame the discussion around roadmaps as a catalyst for sustainable development and the SDGs. In order to ensure strong and sustainable roadmaps, inclusive processes and voluntary funding models/mechanisms need to be established. In this connection, the workshop could discuss how to mobilize youth, the Diaspora, innovators, the private sector and others to engage in the development of STI roadmaps. The STI roadmap workshop will also inform the development of the Guidebook for the Development and Implementation of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDGs Roadmap for the Six Transitions

2. Key Issues

The workshop will discuss the following key challenges and issues that the STI roadmaps are aiming to address:

- Mapping national STI stakeholders, skills, capacities, and activities in transition areas;
- Identifying opportunities for strengthening STI networks and partnerships and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration to support national priority transitions;
- Assessing initiatives and investments to build STI capacities to accelerate priority transitions, including capacity to analyse and address SDG synergies and trade-offs;
- Identifying impediments to the application of scientific knowledge in SDG policy-making, and defining the roles of stakeholders such as funders, publishers, policymakers, and research infrastructure providers to leveraging STI for the SDGs;
- Ensuring adequate funding for R&D, identifying voluntary funding models on STI for the SDGs, and channeling resources to empower women and girls in science.

3. Objectives

The Workshop will interrogate some of the complex issues, and explore potential collaboration among participants and beyond. It has three objectives:

- To learn about country level experiences in the region that can contribute to the development of a global Guidebook for STI4SDGs Roadmaps;
- To understand the needs for support in the region and existing initiatives that could be leveraged;
- To engage the UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and government officials that could benefit from and support capacity development project next year in 2025.

DAY 1

9:00-9:30 Welcome and registration

9:30-10:00 Opening Ceremony

Moderator: Dr. Wei Liu (Mr.), Coordinator, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Welcome remarks:

- Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov (Mr.), Assistant Secretary-General, UN Resident Coordinator for Ethiopia
- Mr. Robert Lisinge, OIC, Technology, Innovation, Connectivity and Infrastructure Development Division (TICID), UN ECA
- Keynotes: Prof. Chakanetsa Mavhunga, MIT, Visiting Professor, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Nairobi, Kenya
- Ms. Motoko Kotani, UN SG's10-Member Group, Professor, Tohoku University, Japan, and Vice President, International Science Council

10:00-10:45 High-level Segment: STI Policy and investment for advancing the SDGs towards National and Regional Strategic Blueprints for Advancing STI

Moderator: Prof. John Mugabe, Professor of Science and Innovation Policy at the University of Pretoria's Graduate School of Technology Management (GSTM), South Africa

- H.E. Yeshurun Alemayehu, State Minister of Innovation and Technology and Digital Economy, Ethiopia
 - Her Excellency Leslie Olivia, Irish Ambassador to Ethiopia
 - Mr. Yacoub El-Hillo, Regional Director, UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) Africa
 - Prof. Saidou Madougou, Director of Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union
 - Ms. Rita Bissoonauth, Director of UNESCO Addis Ababa Office
- (Group photo – outside UN Conference Centre)

10:45-11:00 Coffee/tea break

11:00-12:30 Thematic Session 1: Overview and mapping exercise to understand the landscape of skills, capacities and activities related to STI Roadmaps

Moderator: Dr. Victor Konde, STI4SDGs Focal Point, Scientific Affairs Officer, UN ECA

Keynote introduction: Dr. Farai Kapfudzaruwa, Research and Strategic Partnerships Manager at Future Africa, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Panelists:

- Prof. Gong Ke, Head of the Task Force for Strategic African Programs, World Federation of Engineering Organizations
- Professor P. Kioni, Vice Chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) in Nyeri, Kenya
- Dr. Mosoka Fallah, Chief Scientist, Acting Director for the Science and Innovation Directorate at Africa CDC
- Mr. Eric Agyei, Planning Analyst for National Development Planning Commission, Ghana

Lead discussants:

- Ms Jane Chinkusu, Director, Science and Technology Department, Ministry of Technology and Science, Zambia
- Mr. Jonathan Kemp, Program Specialist with Engineering for Change (E4C) and with the Engineering Global Development department at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Malawi (virtual)

12:30-14:30 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Thematic Session 2: Deep dive of challenge led STI4SDG Roadmaps

Moderator: Dr. Habtamu Abera Goshu, Chief Executive Officer, the National Research Development, Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Research Grant Council (RGC) Secretary, Ethiopia

Keynote introduction: Dr. Angela Sarcina (Ms.), STI for SDGs Project Leader, EC/JRC Joint Research Centre, European Commission (EC/JRC) (virtual)

Panelists:

- Ms. Motoko Kotani, UN SG's10-Member Group, Professor, Tohoku University, Japan, and Vice President, ISC
- Dr. Mario Cervantes, Senior Economist, Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy, Science and Technology Policy Division, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, OECD (virtual)
- Prof Walter O. Oyawa, Director General/CEO, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), Kenya
- Prof. Sun Zhongchang, Head, Cooperation & Development Office, International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS)
- Ms. Priscilla Kolibea Mante, Co-Chair, Global Young Academy, Germany, & Associate Professor, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

Lead discussants:

- Mr. Solomon Getachew Mekonnen, Technology Authority General Director, Chairman of the Policy Drafting Committee and a member of the Strategy Drafting Committee, Ethiopia
- Prof. Zhengzhong Xu, Deputy Director and Professor of Economic Department, Chinese Academy of Governance (virtual)

15:30-15:45 Tea/coffee Break

15:45-17:00 Thematic Session 3: UN Project on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Integrated Climate Action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Moderator: Dr. Xavier Estico (Mr.), Founder of the Seychelles Centre for Innovation, and Sustainable Development; SG's 10 Member Group, Seychelles

Keynote introduction: Ms. Lisa Singh, UN Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles (virtual)

Panelists:

- Ms. Anya Ihsan Thomas, Sustainable Development Officer, SIDS Unit, DSDG, DESA (virtual)
- Mr. Antonio Palazuelos Prieto, SIDS Expert, UN ECA (virtual)
- Prof. Dhanjay Jhurry, Managing Director of Unicity Education Hub, Mauritius
- Dr. Yu Chen, Associate Professor, International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals, CBAS

Lead discussants:

- Mr. Adilson Semedo, Deputy Director for Planning and M&E, Ministry of Finance, Cabo Verde
- Mr. Agostinho Moisés, National Director for Strategic Planning, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Guinea Bissau
- Mr. Cedney Vicente Vaz d'Almeida, Expert, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Sao Tome (virtual)
- Mr. Jurgen Gafke, Senior Programme Management Officer, DSDG, DESA (virtual)

17:30-19:00 Evening reception

Hosted by Her Excellency Leslie Olivia, Irish Ambassador to Ethiopia at the Irish Embassy. Facilitated by Mr. Declan Kirrane, Managing Director, Africa-Europe Science Collaboration and Innovation Platform (AERAP) (by Invitation only)

DAY 2

9:00–10:30 Thematic Session 4: The evolution of science systems as a prerequisite for the six transitions

Moderator: Prof. Chakanetsa Mavhunga, MIT, Visiting Professor, Dedan Kimathy University of Technology, Nairobi, Kenya

Keynote introduction: Dr. Vanessa McBride (Ms), Science Director, International Science Council

Panelists:

- Prof. Gretchen Kalonji (Ms), Special Adviser, CBAS, former Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences at UNESCO
- Mr. Kgomotso Matjila, Senior Policy Analyst, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa
- Mr. Rowland Opisa, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer, African Academy of Sciences (AAS)
- Prof. Marleen Temmerman (Ms), Director of the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, East Africa, Aga Khan University, Kenya (virtual)
- Dr. Solomon Benor Belay, AGRA Flagship Program Coordinator, and Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Agriculture, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Lead discussants:

- Ms. Adem Blen Bedru, Policy Assistant for Research and Innovation, EU Delegation to the African Union
- Ms. Nancy Wangari, Projects Development Engineer at CSI Energy Group, Mauritius
- Ms. Mirjana Pović, Ethiopian Space Science and Technology Institute, the inaugural laureate of the Nature Estée Lauder Inspiring Science Award

10:30–10:45 Coffee/tea break

10:45–12:30 Thematic Session 5: Voluntary funding models on STI for the SDGs, STI Policy Instruments and Capacity Building in support of national implementation of the STI Roadmaps

Moderator: Mr. Manuel Ricardo Galindo Moreno, Expert, the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Section of UNESCO, Paris

Keynote introduction: Mr. Declan Kírrane, Managing Director, Africa Europe Science Collaboration and Innovation Platform (AERAP), ISC Intelligence, Brussel, Belgium

Panelists:

- Prof. Jian Zhang, Vice President of Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Tsinghua University, and Deputy Secretary-General of Global Alliance of Universities on Climate, China
- Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Associate Professor, Editor, South Asia Economic Journal, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India
- Dr. Dickson Andala, CEO, Kenya National Research Fund, Nairobi, Kenya
- Dr. Eugene Mutimura, Executive Director, National Science and Technology Council, Rwanda

Lead discussants:

- Mr. Mezung Akamba, Minister Plenipotentiary First Counselor, Cameroon Permanent Mission to the United Nations
- Mr. Solomon Getachew Mekonnen, Technology Authority General Director, Chairman of the Policy Drafting Committee and a member of the Strategy Drafting Committee, Ethiopia

12:30–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:30 Thematic Session 6: Towards STI Agenda in National Development Planning with UN Development System Support

Moderator: Mr. Masheleni Hambani, UNESCO Liaison Office, Addis Ababa

Panelists:

- Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov (Mr.), Assistant Secretary-General, Resident Coordinator for Ethiopia
- Ms. Lisa Kurbiel, Head of Secretariat, Joint SDG Fund, United Nations (virtual)
- Mr. Julius Chokerah, Chief Economist, UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Kenya (virtual)
- Mr. Derrick Muneene, Unit Head, Capacity Building and Collaboration, Digital Health and Innovation Department, World Health Organization
- UN DCO Africa

Lead discussants:

- Mr. Domingos Neto, Associate Professor, the Agostinho Neto University, Consultant, the Angola Node of the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL), former State Secretary (Deputy Minister) for Science, Technology and Innovation (2017 - 2022), Angola
- Mr. Wondwossen Belete, President of Society for Technology Studies, National coordinator of African Technology Policy Studies Network, STI Consultant, Ethiopia
- Ms. Monica Nogara, Chief of Programme Development, Capacity. Development Programme Management Office (CDPMO), DESA (virtual)

15:30–15:45 Tea/coffee Break

15:45–17:00 Closing Session 7: Closing and the way forward – regional networks and other mechanisms for promoting multi-stakeholder approach with localized STI4SDGs and bottom-up community inputs

Moderator: Dr. Victor Konde, STI4SDGs Focal Point, Scientific Affairs Officer, ECA

Panelists:

- Dr. Xavier Estico, Founder of the Seychelles Centre for Innovation, and Sustainable Development; SG's 10 Member Group, Seychelles
- Mr. Arif Neky, Senior Advisor, UN Strategic Partnerships Founding Coordinator - SDG Partnership Platform, Kenya Office of the UN Resident Coordinator (virtual)
- Mr. Mezung Akamba, Minister Plenipotentiary First Counselor, Cameroon Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Cameroon
- Prof. Gong Ke, Head of the Task Force for Strategic African Programs, World Federation of Engineering Organizations

Closing Remarks:

- Dr. Astra Bonini (Ms.), Chief, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) (virtual)

SPEAKERS AND KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Eric Agyei



Eric Agyei is a Development Policy and Planning Analyst at the National Development Planning Commission, in Ghana. He is a member of the technical team at the Commission responsible for coordinating the preparation of reports on implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), A U Agenda 2063 and the New Urban Agenda. He is an urban planner, policy designer and urban designer, and has contributed to preparing and reviewing national and sector policies including National Urban Policy, and Nation Science, Technology and Innovation Policy of Ghana

Dickson Andala



Prof. Dickson Andala is the CEO of the National Research Fund (NRF), which mobilizes resources for research, capacity development, and the advancement of Science, Technology, and Innovation for sustainable national development. An Associate Professor of Materials/Inorganic Chemistry at Multimedia University of Kenya, his research focuses on nanomaterials for sensors, catalysis, and environmental remediation. Supported by organizations like NACOSTI and OPCW, he has held leadership roles at the Kenya Nuclear Regulatory Authority (KNRA), African Materials Research Society (AMRS), and is a member of various professional associations, including the African Academies of Science (AAS).

Kgomotso Matjila



Ms Kgomotso Matjila is the Chief Director, Science and Technology Investment, at the Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa. In this role, she works on national research and development (R&D), business innovation, and Intellectual Property and technology transfer surveys, and other STI surveys, econometric modelling of R&D intensity, Sector R&D Planning, and she administers the R&D tax incentive to promote private sector R&D investment in South Africa. She also plays a role in STI policy development and implementation, as well as facilitates national, SADC, Africa-wide and global stakeholder engagement on STI measurement. She has also worked on financial stability analysis of the banking sector at the South African Reserve Bank, responsible for stress testing econometric models.

Mezang Akamba



Mezang Akamba serves as the Minister Plenipotentiary and First Counselor at the Permanent Mission of Cameroon to the United Nations. His work focuses on sustainable development, international diplomacy, and ocean conservation, contributing to global forums like the UN Ocean Conference. Akamba's efforts emphasize multilateral cooperation to address pressing issues such as climate change, overfishing, and habitat loss, particularly in relation to SDG 14 (Life Below Water). He represents Cameroon in high-level international discussions aimed at fostering environmental resilience and sustainability.

Chakanetsa Mavhunga



Chakanetsa Mavhunga, PhD, is tenured Full Professor of Science, Technology, and Society at MIT and affiliate professor at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Kenya. Professor Mavhunga is a member of UNESCO's Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), his professional interests lie in the history, theory, and practice of science, technology, and innovation in the international context, with a focus on Africa. He has written four books on African STI, including Dare to Invent the Future: Knowledge in the Service of and through Problem-solving (2023) and the edited volume entitled What Do Science, Technology, and Innovation Mean from Africa?

Adilson Semedo



Adilson Semedo is the Deputy Director for Planning and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) at the Ministry of Finance. His role involves overseeing the strategic planning process and ensuring that policies and programs are effectively implemented and assessed. He works on aligning financial and development strategies to national goals, focusing on performance monitoring to ensure efficient resource use. His responsibilities contribute to the financial governance and economic planning of the country, playing a key role in advancing national development objectives

SPEAKERS AND KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Agostinho Moisés



Agostinho Moisés is the National Director for Strategic Planning at the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Guinea-Bissau. His responsibilities include overseeing strategic initiatives related to national development and ensuring that policies align with the country's economic goals. He plays a key role in driving sustainable growth and implementing development strategies aimed at improving the nation's socio-economic conditions.



Eugene Mutimura

Dr. Eugene Mutimura is Executive Secretary for Rwanda National Council for Science and Technology. Earlier, Dr. Mutimura was the Minister of Education in the Republic of Rwanda. He was also the coordinator the 24 Eastern and Southern African Centers of Excellence funded by the World Bank in 8 countries. Dr Mutimura obtained numerous awards including 5 years D43 Grant by NIH to provide scientific training to Rwandan scientists in HIV- associated Cardiometabolic research. He an accomplished leader who has published in several peer reviewed journals. He is committed to prioritize fund for research and innovation growth through policy and implementation.

Domingos Neto



Dr. Domingos da Silva Neto, was born in Angola, obtained his PhD in Biology “Plant Physiology” by the Russian Academy of Sciences (1998), did his post-doctoral studies “Plant Ecophysiology” by University of Lisbon (1999 – 2002, FCT PRAXIS BPD/20220/99). He is an Associate Professor at the Agostinho Neto University, Angola, a Consultant for the Angola Node of the SASSCAL, a former State Secretary (Deputy Minister) for Science, Technology and Innovation (2017 - 2022), Angola. He was part of different international scientific research teams (1999 – 2009: plant adaptation to stress, coastal monitoring, biodiversity assessment of estuaries and inland waters).



Xavier Estico

Xavier Estico is founder of the Seychelles Centre for Innovation and Sustainable Development (SCISD), a not-for-profit organization, promoting science, technology and innovation with a focus on STEM, innovation and sustainable development. He is currently serving on the United Nations Group of Ten High-level Representatives of Civil Society, Private Sector and Scientific Community to Promote Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (“10-Member-Group”), a component of the UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM). He previously served as Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute for Science Technology and Innovation (NISTI) and Director General of the Division of Science Technology and Innovation (DSTI).

Jane Chinkusu



Mrs. Jane Mubanga Chinkusu is a Director with the Public Service Management Division and the former Director of Science, Technology and Innovation at the Ministry of Technology and Science in Zambia. She holds a Master of Science in Water Environment Resource Management from the International Institute of Infrastructural Hydraulic and Environment engineering in the Netherlands, A Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Science, Chemistry and a post graduate Diploma in Limnology from the Institute of Limnology Austrian Academy of Science in Austria. She holds several qualifications in training in Policy Development, Strategic planning and management Post her graduate training.



Dhanjay Jhurry

Dhanjay Jhurry is the Managing Director of Unicity International Education Hub at the Medicine Group. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius (2017-2022) and formerly held the National Research Chair position, heading the Centre for Biomedical and Biomaterials Research. He earned his PhD in Polymer Chemistry from Bordeaux University in 1992. Before joining the University of Mauritius in 1995, he worked as a Research Chemist at Flamel Technologies in Lyon, France. With 30 years of experience in academia, his expertise spans higher education, research, innovation and leadership. He served on the Association of Commonwealth Universities Council (2027-22) and was designated to champion the SDGs in 2020.

SPEAKERS AND KEY CONTRIBUTORS



Solomon Benor Belay

Dr. Belay has 25+ years of experience in agriculture and higher education. He coordinates AGRA-supported programs at Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture, focusing on partnerships, resource mobilization, and agricultural R&D. He is also active in national and international STI policy. Previously, he worked at the Ministry of Education, managing research, technology transfer, and university-industry linkages. An Associate Professor of Plant Biotechnology at Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, he serves as Ethiopia's National Coordinator for Horizon Europe. He holds a PhD in Molecular Genetics and has 45+ scientific publications.



Wondwossen Belete

Wondwossen Belete heads Ethiopia's Society for Technology Studies (STS) and coordinates the National Chapter of African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) in Ethiopia. Belete was previously with the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office (EIPO) serving as the Director of Intellectual Property Policy and Planning. He has undertaken a range of advisory assignments with national, regional and international institutions including WIPO, EPO and GIZ.



Solomon Getachew

Dr. Solomon Getachew is the Director General of the Ethiopian Technology Authority (ETA). Under his leadership, the ETA focuses on regulating and overseeing technological developments to ensure the safety of people, the environment, and property in Ethiopia. The authority addresses issues related to nuclear and radiation technology, and other scientific advancements, ensuring their responsible use within the country. Dr. Getachew is responsible for setting goals and policies that align with ETA's mission to safeguard public health and safety through rigorous oversight of emerging technologies



Gretchen Kalonji

Professor Gretchen Kalonji has a long-term history of leadership in international collaborations in science for sustainable development, in innovations in engineering education, as well as in strategic approaches to strengthening our higher education systems. She currently serves as Special Advisor to the International Center for Big Data for the Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS). Kalonji previously served as the Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences at UNESCO, and in multiple professorial roles, including as Dean of the Sichuan University – the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction (IDMR), and at the University of California, the University of Washington and MIT.



Yeshurun Alemayehu

His Excellency, Dr. Yeshurun Alemayehu Adde, is currently the State Minister of Innovation and Technology and Digital Economy for Ethiopia. He previously served as Deputy General Director of the Ethiopian Space Science & Geospatial Institute (ESSGI) and has held various leadership roles at ESSGI since 2017, including Associate Researcher and Project Manager of the Satellite Manufacturing & AIT Center Project. In addition to his government role, Dr. Alemayehu has been an advocate for STEM education, lecturing at several Ethiopian universities since 2009. He holds a PhD in Business Administration and is pursuing another in Mechanical Design Engineering.



Sun Zhongchang

Dr. Zhongchang Sun is a professor in the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS). He also serves as head of Cooperation & Development Office at the CBAS, as well as deputy director of the Key Laboratory of Digital Earth Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences. He was honored as Nanhai Young Talent in 2020 and CAS Distinguished Core Researcher in 2022. His research interests focus on urban remote sensing and urban sustainability. He has published about 100 papers in different academic journals, as well as 6 books as an associate editor. He is the awardee of 3 international and domestic prizes.

SPEAKERS AND KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Declan Kirrane



Declan Kirrane is the Founder and Managing Director of ISC Intelligence in Science, a Brussels-based advisory firm specializing in science and technology policy. He is deeply involved in facilitating global science collaboration, particularly through organizing events like the Science Summit at the United Nations General Assembly. His work focuses on bridging public and private research funding and evaluating the impact of such funding on R&D performance. Kirrane also chairs the Africa Europe Science Collaboration Platform (AERAP) and co-founded Medicines for Future (MAF), furthering his influence in science policy and innovation initiatives



Vanessa McBride

Dr. McBride, previously Head of Research at the South African Astronomical Observatory, is an active researcher in the field of massive stars and serves as an adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Astronomy at the University of Cape Town. Her focus resides in the dynamics of stellar objects in binary systems, which in astronomy refer to two bodies, usually stars, that are gravitationally bound and orbit each other around a common centre of mass. At the ISC, Dr. McBride leads the Science Division, leveraging her expertise in integrating natural and social sciences.

Motoko Kotani



Motoko Kotani is Executive Vice President for Research, Tohoku University, Japan. Her interest has been in mathematics (geometric analysis), related to mathematical physics. She was awarded the 25th Saruhashi Prize for “Study of crystal lattice via discrete geometric analysis” in 2005. While she works in pure mathematics, she is active in communication with researchers in other scientific fields. She has led several big research projects bridging mathematics and materials science. Based on her experience and achievement both in research and management, she was appointed as Director of the Advanced Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University in 2012, an institute with 200 researchers, first established under the national program “World Premier International Research Center Initiative” in 2007.

Priscilla Kolibea Mante



Priscilla is an Associate Professor at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. Her research focuses on developing improved therapeutic options for resistant epilepsy. As a registered Pharmacist with 13 years of experience, she also leads research and innovations in healthcare supply chain optimization and pharmaceutical systems strengthening in Ghana. As immediate past co-Chair of the Global Young Academy (GYA), Priscilla has been at the forefront of advocating for young scientists' voices worldwide. She actively contributes to science policy and advice through collaborations with organizations like the InterAcademy Partnership, the International Science Council and UNESCO.

Du Xiaolan

Ms. Du Xiaolan serves as the Delegation Coordinator and Officer at the Cooperation & Development Office of the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS). In this capacity, she supports efforts to enhance international collaboration on the use of big data to address challenges aligned with the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The center aims to leverage big data to provide scientific and technological solutions for global issues like climate change, resource management, and inequality

SPEAKERS AND KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Leslie Olivia

Her Excellency, Olivia Leslie is Ireland's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union, and Ireland's Ambassador designate to South Sudan and Djibouti. Ireland's Embassy in Ethiopia is committed to deepening bilateral engagement in Ethiopia and to working with the African Union to support region to region connections and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Olivia previously served as Asia Pacific Director at Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and as Ireland's Ambassador to Indonesia and to ASEAN.

Mosoka Fallah

Dr. Mosoka Fallah has been recently appointed as the Acting Director for the Science and Innovation Directorate at Africa CDC, marking a significant stride towards enhancing health security and innovation across the African continent. With a distinguished career in global health and a commitment to scientific excellence, his vision is to transform Africa's R&D and clinical trial landscape through three pivotal components: Financing, Coordination/governance, and Human Capacity Development.

Farai Kapfudzaruwa

Dr Farai Kapfudzaruwa is the Research and Strategic Partnerships Manager at Future Africa, University of Pretoria. He previously worked as a Grants and Partnerships Specialist in the Department of Research and Innovation, where he facilitated global partnerships through the African Global University Project (AGUP). Prior to joining UP, he served as a programme coordinator for the Education for Sustainable Development in Africa (ESDA) initiative at the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) in Tokyo, Japan. Dr Kapfudzaruwa also worked as an Old Mutual Emerging Markets lecturer at the Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town. He holds a PhD in Business and Political Science from the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Rowland Opisa

Rowland Opisa serves as the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Officer at the African Academy of Sciences (AAS). In this role, he focuses on assessing the effectiveness and impact of various programs within the AAS, which is dedicated to promoting science and technology across Africa. His work contributes to the Academy's efforts to build research capacity and innovation on the continent.

Gong Ke

Professor Gong Ke is the Executive Director of the Chinese Institute for the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Strategies at the Chinese Academy of Engineering. He served as President of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations from 2019 to 2021 and currently chairs the Task Force for Strategic African Programs of WFEO. With over 30 years of experience in engineering education and research, he has held leadership positions at Tsinghua University, Tianjin University, and Nankai University. He earned his doctorate from Technical University Graz, Austria, in 1986. Additionally, he was a member of the UN Secretary General's Scientific Advisory Board from 2014 to 2017 and is an honorary fellow of the International Science Council.

SPEAKERS AND KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Nyu Wang



Nyu Wang is a researcher at MIT and a staff member at the United Nations New York headquarters. She is also a PhD candidate at Virginia Tech, with a focus on AI and policy. Nyu Wang has published on topics related to AI, robot judges, and social justice with top publishers including Springer Nature, IEEE, and ACM. She has also worked at the World Bank Group CISO's office and the United Nations German campus.

Anya Ihsan Thomas



Anya Ihsan Thomas is a Sustainable Development Officer in the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) Unit within the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Her work focuses on advancing sustainable development initiatives and policies specifically tailored for SIDS, supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and fostering international cooperation. Anya has been involved in discussions and forums concerning sustainable development strategies for Caribbean nations.

Asel Abdurakhmanova



Asel Abdurakhmanova is a Sustainable Development Officer at the Regional Development Coordination Office (DCO) for Africa. She is committed to advancing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by ensuring that no one is left behind. Asel provides strategic policy advice to the Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team, enhancing organizational efficiency through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Her expertise includes fostering partnerships with governments, donors, and civil society organizations, focusing on resource mobilization, program design, and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to promote sustainable growth and resilience across the region.

Victor Konde



Victor Konde is a Scientific Affairs Officer at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in the Green Economy Innovation and Technology Section. He holds a PhD in Biochemistry from the UK and is a post-doctoral alumnus of Harvard's Kennedy School. Victor founded the African Technology Development Forum and co-founded the Zambian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He is a Fellow of the World Academy of Arts and Science and has advised on innovation policies globally. His expertise includes promoting entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and developing business models, particularly for youth.

Wei Liu



Dr. Wei Liu is the Coordinator of the UN Inter-agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA from 2016 to present. In his role, Dr. Liu provides both substantive and organizational support to the implementation of the science, technology and innovation (STI)-related decisions contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other related global processes. He has also developed effective partnerships with main partners in the STI field and advancing the implementation of STI roadmaps/actions and strengthening partnerships including the Coalition on STI for Africa's Development.

Adeladay Solomon



Adeladay Solomon is a Staff Assistant at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA). They have been with the organization since 2011, and are involved in various administrative and coordination tasks that support the ECA's mission to promote economic and social development across its member states.

SPEAKERS AND KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Ndirangu Kioni

Professor Ndirangu Kioni is a prominent academic and engineer currently serving as the Head of Research-Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education (RIEED) Office at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT) in Kenya. He was the founding Vice Chancellor from 2012 until recently, playing a key role in establishing DeKUT as a leading technology institution in Africa, including the development of research centers and technology parks. He holds a B.Sc. from the University of Nairobi and a Ph.D. from Cambridge University.

Angela Sarcina

Angela Sarcina is Economic and Policy Analyst at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, currently leading the project on STI for SDGs roadmaps in Africa. Her interests focus on the design and testing of methodologies aimed at strengthening Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) systems to address sustainability challenges. She worked also at UNESCO on STI Policy, Open Science, and Science Diplomacy issues, as well as with universities and research institutions in Italy and China on the analysis of innovation systems and technology transfer dynamics.

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Hambani Masheleni is currently the A.g. Head of Science and Technology and Innovation Division as well as Head of Education Division in the Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of the African Union Commission. Mr. Masheleni is involved in the formulation of education policies and coordinating implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa, (CESA 16-25) and STI Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) within the context of the AU 2063 Agenda. Both CESA 16-25 and STISA 2024 set out strategic objectives for education and training; and science and technology systems in Africa to provide qualified human resources required to drive sustainable development of the continent.

John Mugabe

John Ouma Mugabe is Professor of Science and Innovation Policy at the Graduate School of Technology Management (GSTM) at the University of Pretoria, and a Senior Associate Fellow at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex, UK. He is an Associate at the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) Geneva, founding Director of the Foundation for Innovation and Technology-Africa (FIT-Africa), Pretoria and Nairobi; and Member of the Board of Directors/Trustees of the Calestous Juma Legacy Foundation (CLF), Boston USA. He is former Executive Director of the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) Nairobi, Kenya, and former Director of the Office of Science and Technology of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Midrand, South Africa.

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Zhang Jian is Vice President of the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at Tsinghua University, Executive Director of the Low Carbon Energy Laboratory at Tsinghua University, and Deputy Secretary General, Global Alliance of Universities on Climate. His research interests include global climate governance, sustainable development, as well as international and comparative education. He is member of a number of research projects including the China mid-century low carbon transition strategy project, the Synergizing environmental and climate actions research program in collaboration with UNEP, the Green Belt and Road project, and China's healthcare decarbonization pathway initiative. He is translator of the Chinese version of "A Clean Planet for All: A European Long-term Strategic Vision for a Prosperous, Modern, Competitive and Climate Neutral Economy", published in China.

Walter Oyawa

Prof. Walter O. Oyawa, is currently the Director General of the National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation, and also a member of several international and national Governing Boards of institutions. He is a Professor of Civil Engineering, a holder of a PhD in Civil Engineering, and a Registered Professional Engineer. Prof. Oyawa has served in various senior leadership and management positions and has vast experience in research work, as evidenced by extensive publications in peer reviewed journals, presentations in conferences, and Keynote Lectures. His core area of research embraces Sustainable Construction Materials and Technologies, as well as Frontier Technologies.


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Dr. Habtamu Abera is National Research and Development CEO and Research Grant Council Secretary of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology Ethiopia. He is a senior researcher of animal genetics and molecular breeding at the Bio and Emerging Technology Institute Ethiopia. Dr. Habtamu has authored and coauthored a total of 52 publications. Currently, he works on the Science, Technology, and Innovation implementation policy, the national research and development legal framework, and the coordinators of research and development of Ethiopia to ensure the sustainability of the country's development by creating an environment in which research and innovation systems are implemented.

Teketel Anshebo Yohannes




Prof. Teketel Anshebo Yohannes is the Executive Director of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences. He obtained his BSc, MSc, and PhD from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, and has served in higher education since 1984. Starting as a Graduate Assistant at Bahir Dar Teachers College, he later pursued advanced leadership and management training, including the Advanced Leadership Seminar at Haggai Institute, USA, and a Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Education Management from the University of Melbourne, Australia.

Andrea Heath London




Andrea Heath-London is the Coordination and Development Planning Specialist at the UN Development Coordination Office – Regional Office for Africa – Ethiopia. She is an ardent capacity development specialist with a love for knowledge transfer and skill-building, particularly in the field of Results Based Management.

Jonathan Kemp




Jonathan is a Program Specialist with Engineering for Change (E4C) and with the Engineering Sustainable Development department at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). In this role, he manages various programs advancing engineering for social impact and global development, including the E4C Fellowship and Impact Projects. He is also currently a Technology Focal Point with the Major Group for Children and Youth's Science-Policy Interface platform. Prior to his work with E4C and ASME, Jonathan worked as the Technical Manager for Malawian NGO Eagles Relief and Development Programme, where he worked on projects involving solar energy, irrigation, and water supply for community development. He is passionate about community ownership of technology and the application of human- and user-centered design processes in the development of new technologies and implementation of technology-based projects by NGOs.

Nancy Wangari



Nancy Wangari is a Projects Development Engineer at CSI Energy Group, where she focuses on designing and developing energy infrastructure projects. She is skilled in project management, engineering design, and implementing sustainable energy solutions, particularly in the African energy sector. With expertise in renewable energy technologies and system optimization, Nancy contributes to CSI Energy Group's mission of providing innovative energy solutions across the continent. She holds a background in engineering and is passionate about fostering efficient and sustainable energy development.

Opeyeolu Timothy Laseinde



Dr. OT. Laseinde is a tenured faculty at the Mechanical & Industrial Engineering Technology Department, University of Johannesburg. He has about seventeen years of experience in projects involving competitiveness improvement, quality management systems, performance evaluation, data analysis, engineering life cycle management, machine design, Virtual Reality (VR), robotics, and automatic control. He has worked as an engineering consultant in Sustainability Development Goal's (SDG) projects. He is currently working as an academic within the teaching and research sector, exploring avenues for pioneer innovations in the fourth industrial revolution.

SPEAKERS AND KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Adem Blen Bedru

Ms. Adem Blen Bedru serves as a Policy Assistant for Research and Innovation at the European Union Delegation to the African Union. In her role, she supports policy initiatives that foster research collaboration and innovation between the EU and Africa, helping to drive scientific cooperation and technological development across sectors. Her work focuses on enhancing partnerships to address shared global challenges, particularly in areas related to sustainable development, innovation, and capacity-building within Africa.

Sabyasachi Saha

Dr. Sabyasachi Saha is Associate Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi since 2021. He has been Assistant Professor at RIS (2014-2020) and full-time Consultant at RIS during 2013-14. He specialises in innovation economics, trade and technology, international trade, technology and development policy. He has co-edited two volumes published by Springer and has made extensive academic contributions in the form of research articles and policy briefs.

Manuel Ricardo Galindo Moreno

Manuel Ricardo GALINDO MORENO is a Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Policy Expert currently working with UNESCO. With extensive experience in STI governance at national and international levels, he has conducted policy reviews for organizations such as UNESCO, the World Bank, UNTBLDC, and EC-JRC. His work includes mission-oriented approaches to policymaking and supporting countries in designing and implementing STI policy instruments. Manuel's current interests also include modernizing public research systems, strengthening public research institutes, and exploring using large language models (LLMs) to support the policymaking process.

Hikma Telsem

Dr. Hikma Telsem is the Medical Activity Manager at Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF-Holland), where she oversees medical programs and coordinates healthcare activities. In her role, she manages MSF's medical interventions, focusing on providing essential health services in crisis regions. Her responsibilities likely involve supervising healthcare teams, ensuring the delivery of quality care, and contributing to strategic planning for medical programs in response to humanitarian emergencies. Dr. Telsem plays a vital role in implementing MSF's mission to provide medical assistance to vulnerable populations.

Marleen Temmerman

Prof Marleen Temmerman is the Director of the Centre of Excellence in Women and Child Health, AKU East Africa. She is a health professional and researcher who started her international career in HIV/AIDS in Kenya, 1985. She managed to combine academic leadership including research (large track record of research projects and over 600 books and publications), clinical work (over 18,000 deliveries), teaching and mentorship (over 50 PhD students) across Europe, Africa, and China, with global leadership (Elected Senator Belgian Parliament - Chair Committee Foreign Affairs, Development and Defense; WHO Director; Founding Director International Centre Reproductive Health), and advocacy to the benefit of the scientific world and the community at large.

SPEAKERS AND KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Hua Shi



Hua Shi is an Associate Professor at ShangHai Dianji University. In this role, he is involved in both teaching and research, contributing to academic advancements in her field. Hua Shi received the M.S. degree in Management Science and Engineering from Shanghai University, Shanghai, China, in 2017. His research interests include operations management, quality management, and decision making theory and application.

Yu Chen



Yu Chen is currently an Assistant Researcher at the Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS). He leads cross-sectional chapters of the "Big Earth Data Supporting SDGs Report" and is a key member of the CAS "Big Earth Data Science Engineering" program. His research focuses on integrating Big Earth Data with SDG indicators, including developing grid-scale assessment methods. He has published over 40 SCI papers related to this work.

Ramiz Alakbarov



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov of Azerbaijan as the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia. With 28 years of experience in leadership, strategic planning, and humanitarian work, Dr. Alakbarov previously served as Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan with UNAMA. He has also held various roles at UNFPA, including Deputy Executive Director and Director of Policy and Strategy. A former Assistant Professor and physician, he holds M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Azerbaijan Medical University and a Master's in international relations from the Fletcher School.

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Cedney Vaz d'Almeida is an Economic and Political Analyst at the Ministry of Planning and Finance of São Tomé and Príncipe with more than 10 years of experience in public finance and foreign trade. He is currently a senior technician at the Planning Directorate in the Department of Macroeconomic Policy. Previously, he worked as a professor of Economics and Mathematics at the University Institute of Administrative Accounting and IT of São Tomé and Príncipe.

Lisa Singh



Lisa Simrique Singh is the UN Resident Coordinator for Mauritius and Seychelles, overseeing resident and non-resident agencies' programs. With over 25 years of experience in international development across Asia and Africa, she has held senior roles in Chad, Mali, and the Mekong Region. Her expertise spans economic transformation, regional integration, and disaster resilience. Lisa holds a master's degree in Economics from Simon Fraser University and a bachelor's in Liberal Arts from Mount Holyoke College.

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Robert Lisinge

Mr. Robert Lisinge is the acting OIC of the Private Sector Development and Finance Division at ECA. He holds a BSc degree in Civil Engineering and an MSc degree in Transportation Engineering. He also holds an MPhil and a degree of Doctor of Business Administration from the Maastricht School of Management in the Netherlands. Prior to his current position, he was the Chief of the Operational Quality Section of the Strategic Planning and Operational Quality Division of ECA. He has over 15 years of experience in undertaking research and advising African countries and organizations on infrastructure policy as well as transport and trade facilitation issues. He delivers courses on transport infrastructure development at the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning in Dakar, Senegal.



Antonio Palazuelos Prieto

Antonio Palazuelos Prieto is a SIDS (Small Island Developing States) Expert at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA). In this role, he focuses on addressing the unique challenges faced by SIDS, such as climate change, sustainable development, and economic resilience. His expertise contributes to the development of policies and initiatives that support the growth and sustainability of these vulnerable regions.



Yacoub El-Hillo

Yacoub joined Development Coordination Office (DCO) as Regional Director a.i. on 1 August 2021 after he had completed his tenure as DSRSG/RC/HC in Libya in December 2020. He wrote the nexus/complex emergencies play-book having served his 32 years in some of the UN's largest humanitarian and most complex peacekeeping operations, including in his native Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Iraq, Tanzania, the Gulf, Liberia, Libya, among others. Before Libya, he served as DSRSG/RC/RR in Liberia and led the post-mission transition there. He played a critical role as RC/HC/RR in Syria from 2013 to 2016. Yacoub has been the quintessential RC/HC. A Sudan national, he will be holding the reins of the DCO Africa Regional Office for at least four months from 1 August 2021.



Zulmira Rodrigues

Zulmira Rodrigues is a leading advocate for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) within UNESCO. Her work focuses on addressing the unique challenges these vulnerable nations face, including climate change, disaster risk, and education. Rodrigues has authored numerous publications, organized events, and contributed to UNESCO initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development and resilience in SIDS.



Saidou Madougou

Professor Madougou Saidou is the Director of the African Union Department of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI). In this role, Professor Madougou leads efforts to advance research and publication in science and technology, foster cooperation among member states in education and training, and promote youth participation in the continent's integration. Professor Madougou oversees the implementation of continental educational policies and strategies, including the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), the Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), the TVET Continental Strategy, and the AU School Feeding initiative.



Zhaoying Ye

Zhaoying Ye is an experienced junior specialist focused on resource mobilization, project management, and coordination, with a background in organizations such as UNDP and UNESCO, as well as leading Chinese corporations. Her work is dedicated to advancing sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), particularly in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and enhancing infrastructure resilience.

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Jurgen Gafke



Mr. Jürgen Gafke is responsible for capacity building support to Member States to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into national strategies and plans and on SDG localization including Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). Mr. Jürgen Gafke has been with the United Nations in the areas of capacity development, programme planning, budget and finance, and ICT in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Thailand, the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials in Cambodia and the Department of Management in New York. Previously, Mr. Jürgen Gafke was in the private sector working on ICT solutions at Siemens, Germany. Mr. Jürgen Gafke holds a master's in mathematics.

Astra Bonini



Astra Bonini is Senior Sustainable Development Officer with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in the Division for Sustainable Development Goals. She leads policy analysis work to strengthen the science-policy interface for SDG implementation including support for the Global Sustainable Development Report and the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development.. Astra earned her PhD in sociology from the Johns Hopkins University and has a Master of International Affairs Degree from Columbia University as well as a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

Rita Bissoonauth



Dr. Rita Bissoonauth is currently the UNESCO Director to the Liaison Office to the African Union & UNECA as well as the Representative to Ethiopia. She previously headed the African Union International Centre for Girls and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 2014–2022. In 2020, Rita was honored as one of the 100 Most Influential African women. Her previous roles include Senior Policy officer at the African Union Commission as well as a Senior lecturer at the Mauritius Institute of Education and Université du Québec à Montreal.

Mario Cervantes



Mario Cervantes is a senior economist and head of Secretariat for the OECD's Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy (TIP). He has more than two decades of experience in the area of STI policy and has drafted numerous reports and studies on topics such as IPRs and innovation, open innovation, demand-side innovation policies, smart specialization, commercialisation of public research, international mobility of talent, and innovation and development. He has also advised national governments on research and innovation policies. Prior to joining the OECD, Mr. Cervantes worked as an economist at Columbia University's Centre for Tele-Information (C.I.T.I.) carrying out contract research for the US Congress Office of Technology Assessment (OTA).

Lisa Kurbiel



Since joining the Fund in 2019, Kurbiel is responsible for leading this flagship development fund at the UN, currently capitalized to US\$ 275 million, to accelerate SDGs achievement in the global south. Kurbiel brings over 22 years of experience, having served across the UN system, including in Somalia, South Sudan, Mozambique and Kenya. Her skills include public policy and legislative reform, strategic communications and advocacy and innovative financing solutions. Lisa received her Juris Doctor from Saint John's University Law School and a Bachelor of Arts from Niagara University.

Arif Neky



Arif is the Senior Advisor for UN Strategic Partnerships at the Resident Coordinator's Office and the National Coordinator of the SDG Partnership Platform in Kenya – co-created by the UN system and the Government of Kenya. He is also Chairman of the Task Force for the National Advisory Board (NAB) for Impact Finance in Kenya and Deputy Chairman of the East African Board of the Africa Venture Philanthropy Alliance. He is Deputy Chairman of the Finance, Trade & Investment Network and a Trustee of the Agriculture Sector Network of Kenya.

SPEAKERS AND KEY CONTRIBUTORS



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Monica Nogara is a focal point for RCO/DCO coordination and support. Previously she served as Chief of Programme Development in the UN-DESA Capacity Development Offices and held various positions related to policy analysis, programme management, strategic planning, and monitoring and evaluation within the Department. She also worked at the World Bank and in UNFPA. She has a master's degree in international political economy from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Padua, Italy.



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Mirjana Pović is an assistant professor at the Ethiopian Space Science and Technology Institute (ESSTI), an associate researcher at the Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía in Spain, and an honorary lecturer at Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda. She obtained her PhD in astrophysics in 2010 from the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (Spain). Her main research interests are related to active galaxies and galaxy formation and evolution. In addition, over more than 10 years, she worked on development in astronomy, science, and education in different parts of Africa through different projects and initiatives related to research collaborations, institutional development, students supervisions, training, lecturing, regulation development, women in science, and outreach.