



**“Strong Women – Strong Economies:  
Unlocking the Potential of Women’s Entrepreneurship in Africa”**  
Monday, 21 June 2021, 4.00 – 5.30pm (CEST)

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**Speakers:**



**Anne-Marie Descôtes**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany

Ambassador Anne-Marie Descôtes is a graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure and the French National School of Public Administration (“Saint-Exupéry” Year). In addition to being a qualified German teacher, she also holds a post-graduate diploma in Germanic Studies and a Bachelor’s Degree in History of Art.

After her university studies, she taught German for two years before working for three years as a cultural attaché at the French Embassy in Bonn (1987-1990).

After graduating from the French National School of Public Administration (ENA), she was appointed to the European Cooperation Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where she worked on issues such as extra-community relations and then intra-community affairs (1994-1997), before becoming a technical adviser in the office of Pierre Moscovici, Minister Delegate for European Affairs (1997-2001).

From 2001 to 2005, she held the positions of Special Advisor for Central and South-Eastern European enlargement at France’s Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels. She was then appointed Special Advisor for Europe and the ex-USSR in Washington (2005-2008), and then Director of the Agency for French Education Abroad (AEFE) from 2008 to 2013.

During her time as Director-General for Global Affairs, Culture, Education and International Development from 2013 to 2017, she focused on mobilizing the Directorate-General and sous sherpa for G7 and G20, its network and its agencies and partners for economic and soft diplomacy, the environment and sustainable development.

She has held the position of French Ambassador to Germany since 6 June 2017.

She received the decoration of Officer in the National Order of Merit on 15 November 2018 and Chevalier in the Legion of Honour on 18 April 2014.



**Dr Ingrid Hamm**

Co-Founder and CEO of Global Perspectives Initiative

Dr Ingrid Hamm is Co-founder and CEO of the Global Perspectives Initiative. She is deeply involved in the international dialogue on global development. Dr Hamm has been working in major German foundations for three decades, including 15 years at the Bertelsmann Foundation.

Most recently, from 2003 to 2015, she headed the Robert Bosch Foundation. In addition, Ingrid Hamm has served and continues to serve on German and international boards, including the University Council of the University of Tübingen, the General Assembly of the Goethe Institute, the Board of the European Forum Alpbach Foundation, and the Board of Trustees of the Karl Schlecht Foundation.



**Katherine Hay**

Deputy Director, Gender Equality at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Katherine Hay is the deputy director, gender equality, at the Gates Foundation, where she leads several initiatives for women's economic empowerment. That work includes addressing barriers such as women's unpaid care work, closing gaps in women's employment and

enterprise, scaling successful platforms such as women's empowerment collectives, and closing gender data gaps. She supports her team to work with local experts to build sustainable in-country gender institutions and to identify and test local solutions. Katherine spent two decades in South Asia working on large scale women's empowerment, livelihoods, and health programs, bringing an intersectional gender lens to that work – asking, 'who is being left behind?' Before joining the foundation, she was an evaluation specialist at Canada's International Development Research Centre, where she led work on women's collectives, livelihoods, economic inclusion, and health equity. Katherine coined 'evaluation field building,' positioning evaluation as transformative, and wrote on, and led work in feminist evaluation and policy. Recent publications include work on gender norms and health systems, intimate partner violence, and women's groups.



**Pauline Koelbl**

Founder & CEO of AfriProspect GmbH and ShEquity Ltd

Founder and CEO of AfriProspect GmbH and ShEquity Ltd, Pauline is an innovation expert in developing & emerging economies, impact investor and seasoned impact-driven team leader with over 20 years' experience in international affairs and venture philanthropy. Pauline's passion lies in innovation, entrepreneurship and empowerment of youth and women.

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A double Fulbright -Scholar and Fellow-, Pauline is currently serving on a variety of Boards of companies/organizations connected to business, entrepreneurship and innovation in Africa. Pauline holds an Executive Education in Innovation for Economic Development from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government; a Master's Degree in Poverty & Development, Institute of Development Studies (IDS) from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies (Honors) from the University of Arizona, USA.



**Angela Lungati**

Co-Founder of AkiraChix, Executive Director at Ushahidi

Angela Lungati is a technologist, community builder and open-source software advocate who is passionate about building and using appropriate technology tools to create an impact in the lives of marginalized groups. She has over 10 years' experience in software development, global community engagement, and non-profit organizational management.

She currently serves as the Executive Director at Ushahidi a global non-profit technology company that builds tools for democratizing information, increasing transparency and lowering barriers for individuals to raise their voices. She previously served as the Director of Community Engagement, creating and managing programs for Ushahidi's diverse global community.

She is also a co-founder of AkiraChix, a non-profit organization that nurtures generations of women who use technology to develop innovations and solutions for Africa.



**Sherifah Tumusiime**

CEO & Co-Founder of Zimba Women

Sherifah Tumusiime is the CEO and Co-founder of Zimba Women, a startup tech company based in East Africa providing technical and software solutions for SME's that enable them to manage and scale their businesses more professionally. The organization seeks to establish a business environment that provides full support of women entrepreneurs using technology. They are currently working with over 10,000 female entrepreneurs from the East African region (Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda).

With over 10 years of technology experience, Ms Tumusiime is also the founder of thebabystoreug.com, the first specialty retail e-commerce site for baby products and apparel in Uganda. She has spoken at numerous international conferences like RightsCon in Silicon Valley and the Shoko Digital Festival in Harare. Sherifah Tumusiime is a certified Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt, a 2015 Mandela Washington Fellow, a 2016 African School of Internet Governance Fellow and a 2018 Commonwealth Youth Awardee (Europe and Africa) for excellence in community development.

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**Moderator:**



**Sannssi Cissé**

Head of Collaboration at the GreenTec Capital Africa Foundation

Sannssi Cissé is Head of Collaboration at the GreenTec Capital Africa Foundation and a successful Berlin-based start-up founder. With roots in Guinea and Germany, he connects Africa and Europe in his work with a special focus on the youth of both continents.

In his former role at the German-African Business Association (AV), Mr. Cissé was instrumental in the planning and execution of the first G20 Investment Summit focused on Africa with the participation of 12 African Heads of State and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

As a professional public speaker and moderator focusing on the topics of economic relations between Europe and Africa as well as the youth of both continents, Mr. Cissé leads international high-level dialogues between the private sector, politics and civil society (including the German-African Infrastructure Summit, Afrolynk, EntrepreneursOnTheMove, Seedstars World Summit) as well as trainings in management education programs.