



The Africa Roundtable

Europe and Africa: Together for a Just Green Transition

by the Global Perspectives Initiative

30. November – 2. December 2022 | Dakar, Senegal

An event hosted by the Global Perspectives Initiative and the Ministry of the Economy, Planning & International Cooperation of Senegal



RÉPUBLIQUE DU SÉNÉGAL
Un Peuple - Un But - Une Foi
★
MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE
DU PLAN ET DE LA COOPÉRATION

Supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, McKinsey & Co., the African Center for Economic Transformation and the Federation of German Industries.



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The Africa Roundtable

With *The Africa Roundtable*, the Global Perspectives Initiative (GPI) has established a high-level programme that brings together decision-makers from Africa and Europe who are active in politics, business and civil society to develop joint, sustainable solutions.

The Africa Roundtable consists of three pillars: encounter, communication and research. It provides a dialogue platform for decision-makers and thought leaders and engages with current pressing issues and challenges of the neighbouring continents as well as partnership-based approaches to solutions and models of future cooperation.

The first edition of *The Africa Roundtable* on 9 June 2021 was opened by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, Federal President Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier and WTO Director-General Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. In May 2022, GPI welcomed more than 30 high-level representatives from both continents in Berlin, among them former Minister of Economy of Senegal H.E. Amadou Hott, six German State Secretaries, former UNECA Executive Secretary Dr Vera Songwe, and the President of the European Investment Bank Dr Werner Hoyer.

This December, *The Africa Roundtable* will for the first time take place in an African country: Senegal, the current Chair of the African Union. Together with our partners from both continents, we want to discuss a *Just Green Transition* with special emphasis on energy and agriculture, as well as the gender dimension of health and nutrition, and turn proposed solutions into tangible recommendations and action.

We thank all our partners for supporting *The Africa Roundtable* and making this event possible.



Dr Ingrid Hamm

*CEO, Global Perspectives Initiative and
Co-Host of The Africa Roundtable*

Dear participants of *The Africa Roundtable*,

It is my pleasure to welcome you and to spend the next days discussing important issues and developing plans of action for a *Just Green Transition*. My greatest thanks and appreciation to all our partners and especially the Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation for inviting us to Dakar and co-hosting this Roundtable.

Cooperation and collaboration are absolutely necessary to finding solutions for climate change. In Africa, the impacts are becoming much more severe than in the Global North, but the threat is growing globally. Good reasons to realise the green transition as soon as possible – not to mention a wide range of options for economic growth.

When it comes to implementation, large-scale investments and joint projects between Africa and Europe are needed. Technical innovations can simplify and lower the cost of these processes. Africa, blessed with sun, wind and water, appears predestined for change. But the necessary efforts are meeting a continent that the pandemic has driven into recession, and that since the beginning of the Ukraine war must cope with high inflation rates, while grain shortages threaten millions of people. To drive economic growth and industrialisation, many countries understandably continue to rely on available and affordable fossil fuels.

McKinsey's research analyses this situation in a *The Africa Roundtable* White Paper explaining the scope of joint financial efforts and why this effort would be worthwhile for all. Not only would it bring us closer to our global net-zero goal, but it would also put Africa on an economic growth path to prosperity, while enabling countries' energy and food self-sufficiency.

Preface

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The African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) additionally analyses the COP27 outcomes for Africa and formulates policy recommendations for impact-oriented roadmaps following major international summits.

According to the experts' findings, agricultural production can be more than doubled, green energy can be used for supply but also as an export commodity, and many jobs can be generated. Achieving these goals requires a financial architecture that allows for affordable loans, frontloaded investments and loss and damage compensation for climate change. It needs technical innovations in storage and cross-border networks, and – above all – it needs honest and trusting cooperation between Africa and Europe. After G7, G20 and COP27, the time has come to walk the talk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cécilia Fournier', with a stylized, flowing script.

Programme Overview

#TheAfricaRoundtable
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Wednesday, 30. November 2022

7⁰⁰ – 9⁰⁰ pm

Reception

at the Residence of the German Ambassador

Thursday, 1. December 2022

10⁰⁰ – 12³⁰ pm

Bilateral meetings

*at Radisson Blu Hotel Dakar Sea Plaza, respective ministries,
business partner premises*

1⁰⁰ – 2³⁰ pm

Lunch reception & welcome remarks

at Radisson Blu Hotel Dakar Sea Plaza

3⁰⁰ – 7⁰⁰ pm

Africa & Europe: Together for a Just Green Transition

at Radisson Blu Hotel Dakar Sea Plaza

8⁰⁰ – 10⁰⁰ pm

Dinner reception by the Ministry of Economy of Senegal

at The Union Club

Friday, 2. December 2022

10⁰⁰ – 12³⁰ pm

Side Event: Empowering women to feed a continent

at Radisson Blu Hotel Dakar Sea Plaza

1⁰⁰ – 2³⁰ pm

Informal lunch

at Radisson Blu Hotel Dakar Sea Plaza

3³⁰ – 6⁰⁰ pm

A glimpse into Dakar's art scene

at Loman Art House Dakar

Programme Details

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Thursday, 1. December 2022

Lunch Reception

at Radisson Blu Hotel Dakar Sea Plaza

1⁰⁰ – 2³⁰ pm Welcome remarks

Dr Ingrid Hamm

CEO, Global Perspectives Initiative

H.E. Sönke Siemon

*Ambassador of the Republic of Germany to Senegal,
Gambia & Guinea-Bissau*

Programme outline & logistics

Short round of introductions

Christine Mhundwa

Moderator & News Anchor, Deutsche Welle

**Setting the scene: a journalistic perspective on
the green transition**

Florent Kossivi Tiassou

Journalist, Deutsche Welle

Commentary: COP 27 outcomes for Africa & way forward

Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi

*Executive Vice-President, African Center for Economic
Transformation*

Programme Details

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Thursday, 1. December 2022

Africa & Europe: Together for a Just Green Transition

at Radisson Blu Hotel Dakar Sea Plaza

3⁰⁰ – 3²⁰ pm Opening remarks by co-hosts

H.E. Oulimata Sarr

*Minister of Economy, Planning & International Cooperation
of Senegal*

Dr Ingrid Hamm

CEO, Global Perspectives Initiative

Keynote by Dr Angela Merkel

Former Chancellor of Germany

Presented by:

Christine Mhundwa

Moderator & News Anchor, Deutsche Welle

3²⁰ – 4⁴⁵ pm Energy & green transition: A chance for partnership?

*Energy crisis, green transition, climate finance, G7/G20
commitments, scenarios, reconciling climate action & economic
growth*

With inputs from:

Koen Doens (virtual)

Director-General International Partnerships, EU Commission

Hauke Engel (virtual)

Partner Nairobi Office, McKinsey & Co

Dr Jörg Kukies (virtual)

State Secretary & G7/G20-Sherpa, German Federal Chancellery

Dr Vera Songwe (virtual)

Chair, Liquidity & Sustainability Facility

Included in an open discussion with all participants

4⁴⁵ – 5¹⁵ pm Break including refreshments

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5¹⁵ – 6³⁰ pm

Agriculture as a pillar of the green transition

Agricultural intensification, trade, agro-policy cooperation, sustainable agriculture, food systems

With inputs from:

H.E. Thokozile Didiza (tbc)

Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development of South Africa

Maciej Golubiewski

Head of Cabinet of Commissioner for Agriculture, EU Commission

Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven (virtual)

Managing Director, GLZ

Included in an open discussion with all participants

6³⁰ – 7⁰⁰ pm

Appeal for action & take-aways

Mo Ibrahim

Entrepreneur & Founder, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Followed by participants remarks

8⁰⁰ – 10⁰⁰ pm

Dinner reception by the Ministry of Economy, Planning & International Cooperation of Senegal

at The Union Club

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Friday, 2. December 2022

High-Level Side Event: Empowering Women to Feed a Continent

at Radisson Blu Hotel Dakar Sea Plaza

10⁰⁰ – 10¹⁵ am Welcome by host

Dr Ingrid Hamm

CEO, Global Perspectives Initiative

10¹⁵ – 10³⁰ am Women's and children's health and nutrition

H.E. Prof. Awa Marie Coll Seck

Minister of State to the President of the Republic of Senegal

Food policy for resilience: Investments, innovations, opportunities for women

Prof. Joachim von Braun

Chair of the Scientific Group, UN Food Systems Summit

10³⁰ – 11³⁰ am Land rights & private sector involvement

Key insights and open discussion

11³⁰ – 11⁴⁵ am Coffee break

11⁴⁵ – 12³⁰ am Vocational training

Key insights and open discussion

The role of women in international cooperation

H.E. Fatou Diané

Minister of Women, Family, and Child Protection

1⁰⁰ – 2³⁰ pm Informal lunch

at Radisson Blu Hotel Dakar Sea Plaza

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Friday, 2. December 2022
A glimpse into Dakar's ART scene
at Loman Art House

3³⁰ – 4⁰⁰ pm **Arrival and Opening**

4⁰⁰ – 6⁰⁰ pm **Discussion with artists, Loman Art House tour, get together**

With artists and creative industry experts:

Sarah Diouf

Fashion Designer, Tongoro

Loman Pawlitschek

gallerist and art expert, Loman Art House

and Young artists exhibiting during the 11th edition of Partcours

The 11th edition of Dakar's Art Festival Partcours takes place from 25. November to 5. December 2022.

This event is realised with the kind support of the
Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation



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FOUNDATION** For Freedom.
Sub-Saharan Africa

The Africa Roundtable will continue to provide a dialogue platform for African-European cooperation.

Please visit **globalperspectives.org/en** to learn more
and follow the discussion on Twitter via
#TheAfricaRoundtable and **@gpi_germany**

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H.E. Oulimata Sarr

Minister of Economy, Planning & International Cooperation of Senegal

Oulimata Sarr was appointed the Senegalese Minister of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation in September 2022, making her the first woman to hold the position. Prior to that, she spent three years as the Regional Director for West and Central Africa of UN Women as well as ten years at the International Finance Corporation, a member institution of the World Bank. She also has experience in the private sector as Administrative and Financial Director of Interair South Africa and with EY.



Dr Ingrid Hamm

CEO, Global Perspectives Initiative

As Co-Founder and CEO of GPI, Ingrid Hamm is deeply involved in the international dialogue on global development. She has worked in major German foundations for three decades, including fifteen years at the Bertelsmann Foundation. From 2003 – 2015, she headed the Robert Bosch Foundation. In addition, Ingrid Hamm serves on German and international boards, including the University Council of the University of Tübingen, the General Assembly of the Goethe Institute, and the Board of Trustees of the Karl Schlecht Foundation.



Keynote

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Dr Angela Merkel

Former Chancellor of Germany

Dr Angela Merkel (CDU) was the first female chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. She grew up in the former GDR. With a doctorate in physics, she was sworn in as Chancellor for the first time in front of the German Bundestag on Nov. 22, 2005. Angela Merkel shaped politics in Germany for four electoral periods. After 16 years, the second-longest chancellorship after that of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, her duty as chancellor came to an end in 2021.



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Steffen Kugler

Moderation

Christine Mhundwa

News Anchor, Deutsche Welle

As a journalist, Christine Mhundwa has covered current affairs, politics, and financial markets in Sub-Saharan Africa. She has worked for CNBC Africa as well as the Bloomberg Europe headquarters in London. Currently, she is based in Brussels where she presents Germany's international broadcaster Deutsche Welle's flagship Africa News bulletin as well as general news programmes.



Speakers & Participants

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Dr Daniela Beckmann

Head of Division North Africa, KfW Group

Daniela Beckmann is currently Head of the Division North Africa at KfW Group and has held various positions at the bank focusing on sustainable economic development, financial sector development, decentralisation and renewable energy. In addition to her many years of experience in the MENA region, she has worked for the KfW in East Africa, South Asia and Latin America. She Chair of the SANAD Fund for MSME and a member of the SANAD Fund's Debt Investment Committee and holds doctorate from the Faculty of Economics at Leibniz University in Hanover.



Romain Charlot

Director Francophone Africa, GAUFF Engineering

Romain Charlot has been working for the GAUFF Group since 2009. Since 2014 he has been the Sales Director for French-speaking Africa of GAUFF GmbH & Co. Engineering KG and since 2019 Managing Director of GAUFF Power Engineering GmbH & Co. KG. He is honorary representative of Afrika-Verein der deutschen Wirtschaft in Senegal. Before working in and for Africa, he worked in industry and consulting at Brüel & Kjaer Vibro, Avanade in Germany.



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H.E. Prof. Awa Marie Coll Seck

Minister of State to the President of Senegal

A medical doctor and specialist in infectious diseases and virology, Prof. Awa Marie Coll Seck has served as Minister of Health of Senegal twice, from 2001 – 2003 and 2012 – 2017. Before that, she was Director of the Department of Policy, Strategy and Research of UNAIDS. She is a Member of the Board of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, chairs the National Committee of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and serves on the jury of the German Virchow Prize. Among the many awards she has received is the Legion of Honour of France.



Cica Dadjo

*Chief Gender Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer,
International Rescue Committee*

Cica Dadjo is IRC's Chief Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer. She oversees the organisation's commitment to deliver gender transformative and inclusive programming serving the most marginalised people, with a focus on women and girls, across 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Europe, and the US. She is an intersectional feminist who has spent most of her career working with INGOs, governments and UN agencies to address systemic inequalities and centre the power and voices of women and girls in emergency and development settings.



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Nathalie Delapalme

Executive Director, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Since 2010, Nathalie Delapalme has been the Executive Director of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. Her previous position was General Inspector of Finances at the French Ministry of Economy and Finance. Prior to this, she served the French Government as an advisor for Africa and development in the offices of various Foreign Affairs Ministers. Nathalie Delapalme sits on the Board of the Africa-Europe Foundation, the Institut Français de Relations Internationales, and the International Crisis Group.



H.E. Fatou Diané

Minister for Women, Family & Child Protection of Senegal

Fatou Diané has been Minister of Women, Family and Child Protection since September 2022, after serving as coordinator of PROMISE (Programme de Développement de la Microfinance Islamique au Sénégal) since March 2021. Previously, she held senior positions in the Ministry of Finance and Budget and the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning between 2006 and 2021. Fatou Diané holds a DEA in applied economics and is a specialist in microfinance.



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Amadou Diaw

President, Forum de Saint-Louis

Economist Amadou Diaw is the founder and president of ISM Group, now integrated into Galileo Global Education, the second largest private education group in the world. After serving as Executive Director of the National Council of Employers of Senegal, he co-founded the Association of African Business Schools, and was President of the Conference of Grandes Écoles and of the Virtual University of Senegal. He presides over the Forum de Saint-Louis, a platform for reflection and action inviting people to rethink humanity from Africa and its history.



Modou Diaw

Regional Vice President, International Rescue Committee

Modou Diaw joined the IRC in 2012 and after working in Chad, Haiti and the Great Lakes Region was appointed Regional VP for West Africa, comprising nine different countries, in 2021. A graduate of Paris East, his areas of expertise and interest are project and people management as well as evaluating programme quality. Prior to working with the IRC, he worked as a Monitoring & Evaluation specialist and as Head of Mission of Islamic Relief Worldwide in Chad and Senegal.



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H.E. Thokozile Didiza (tbc)

Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development of South Africa

Angela Thokozile Didiza is currently a Member of Parliament (MP), serving as Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development in the sixth administration under the leadership of President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa. She has recently been elected as the Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Ministerial Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.



Evelyne Dioh Simpa

Managing Director, WIC Capital

Evelyne Dioh Simpa is the Managing Director of WIC Capital, the first investment fund in West Africa that exclusively targets women-led small and growing businesses. She is an experienced investment professional who joined WIC Capital from FONSI, Senegal's sovereign wealth fund, where she was responsible for managing +EUR 100 million transactions in several sectors, including industry, energy, agriculture. She formerly worked at the General Inspection of the Société Générale Group.



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Koen Doens

*Director-General International Partnerships,
EU Commission*

A Belgian diplomat, Koen Doens has served as Director-General for International Partnerships in the EU Commission since 2019. Prior to that, he has served as Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid as well as Head of the Spokespersons' Service. Koen Doens has been part of the Belgian diplomatic service in Syria, Iran and the Russian Federation as well as part of the Cabinets of the Belgian Minister for Foreign Trade, the Vice President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Dr Al-Hamndou Dorsouma

*Acting Director of Climate Change & Green Growth,
African Development Bank*

As Acting Director, Al-Hamndou Dorsouma is responsible for leading and managing the AfDB's team of climate change and green growth specialists and Climate Finance Officers in the headquarters and regional hubs. Before joining AfDB, he worked at the Sahara and Sahel Observatory in Tunis and the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva. A national from Chad, he holds degrees in Geography, International Development and Business Administration.



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Simeon Ehui

Director for Sustainable Development for Africa, World Bank

Simeon Ehui, a national of Cote d'Ivoire, has been the World Bank's Regional Director for Sustainable Development for Africa since 2019 and Regional Director for West and Central Africa since 2020 – covering agriculture, environment, social, water, urban, and climate. His main responsibility is to provide vision, coherence, and focus for sustainable development in West and Central Africa consistent with the regional/country strategies.



Hauke Engel

Partner Nairobi Office, McKinsey & Co.

Hauke Engel is a partner in our Nairobi office. He focuses on supporting organizations as they navigate and shape the transition to a zero-carbon economy. He serves investors and banks, governments and NGOs, mobility and industrial players, and sectoral and cross-sector net-zero coalitions across the globe with his expertise on climate and sustainability topics.



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Maciej Golubiewski

*Head of Cabinet of Commissioner for Agriculture,
European Commission*

After obtaining degrees in Political Science and Economics, Maciej Golubiewski joined the European Commission in 2008 in as desk officer responsible for political and economic cooperation with the Horn, Eastern and Southern Africa in the Directorate-General for Development and Relations with ACP Countries. Before becoming Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski, he also served as Deputy Chief of Mission of the EU Delegation to Lebanon and Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York.



Dr Robert Gouantoueu Guei

*Subregional Coordinator for West Africa,
Food & Agriculture Organization*

Robert Gouantoueu Guei holds a master's degree in Agronomy and a PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics from Kansas State University, USA. He began his career as a maize geneticist at Kansas State University, then a rice geneticist at AfricaRice. He joined the FAO in 2005 as a seed industry development officer and in 2011 became the Secretary of the Committee on Agriculture. In 2019, he was appointed Head of the West Africa Office of the FAO and representative in Senegal.



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Nadja Håkansson

Managing Director Africa, Siemens Energy

Nadja Håkansson was appointed Managing Director for Africa at Siemens Energy in 2021. Based in Morocco, she is responsible for supporting Siemens Energy's business across the continent and developing opportunities to meet the challenges of the energy transition while improving access and diversity. Prior to this, Nadja Håkansson was Country Division Lead for Power Generation Services in Thailand and Myanmar and Managing Director for Morocco and Ivory Coast at Siemens Energy.



Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven

Member of the Management Board, GIZ

Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven is a development economist with more than 30 years of international experience with a strong focus on sustainability and climate issues. Before joining the GIZ in October 2020, she served as World Bank Executive Director for Germany and as Director-General for Global Issues in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.



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Dr Mo Ibrahim

Entrepreneur, Founder & Chair, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Telecommunications entrepreneur Mo Ibrahim is the Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, which he established in 2006 to support good governance and exceptional leadership on the African continent. Born in Sudan, he has had a distinguished business career. In 1989, he founded Mobile Systems International, a world-leading cellular consulting and software provider, and in 1998 Celtel International, one of Africa's leading mobile telephone companies which was acquired by Zain in 2005.



Dr Jörg Kukies

State Secretary & G7-Sherpa, Federal Chancellery

Since December 2021, Jörg Kukies has served as State Secretary and G7-Sherpa at the German Chancellery. From 2018 – 2021 he was State Secretary responsible for financial market and European policy at the Federal Ministry of Finance. Previously, the economist was Co-CEO of Goldman Sachs AG and Managing Director of the Frankfurt branch of Goldman Sachs International. Jörg Kukies has also served as Head of Equity Derivatives for Europe, the Middle East and Africa for Goldman Sachs International.



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Matthew Magwede

Group Director Middle & Southern Africa, WILO SE

Matthew Magwede startet his career in 2003 as a mechanical engineer at a gold mining company in South Africa and has since held various management roles within the manufacturing industry until joining German high-technology company WILO SE in 2020 as Group Director for Middle and Southern Africa. He is responsible for overseeing operative and strategic growth initiatives to ensure business remains agile while offering energy efficient, smart and environmentally friendly solutions for building services, water management, and the mining sector.



Seyni Nafo

Spokesperson, African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change & Coordinator, Africa Adaptation Initiative

Seyni Nafo has served as Spokesperson for the African Group of Negotiators since 2011. He is also the coordinator of the African Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and was appointed High Representative for Climate Change to the President of Mali in 2019. He has made significant contributions to Africa in the fields of climate change, renewable energy and sustainable development throughout his career. In 2015, he played a key role in the launch of the AAI and acted as negotiator for the AGN and the Group of 77 & China during the 2015 Paris COP.



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Everlyne Nairesiae

Africa Region Director, Landesa

Everlyne Nairesiae has over 18 years of experience working with communities, governments, CSOs, the UN and the private sector in promoting responsible land governance, women's land rights, natural resource rights for climate justice, food security and the SDGs. She previously worked as Women's Land Rights Advisor at Oxfam, and as Coordinator of the Global Land Indicators Initiative at UN-Habitat. She is now the Africa Region Director for Landesa. She holds a BA in Education, and a MPhil in Guidance and Counselling from Moi University, Kenya.



Wolfgang Niedermark

Member of the Executive Board, Federation of German Industries

Since October 2020, Wolfgang Niedermark has been a member of the Executive Board of the BDI in Berlin. From 2006 – 2015 he served as Vice President at BASF, The Chemical Company, with main responsibilities for government relations as head of the BASF Berlin office. From 2016 – 2020, Wolfgang Niedermark was Member of the Board of the German Chamber of Commerce Abroad (AHK) Greater China in his capacity as Delegate of German Business in Hong Kong.



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Dr Macoura Oulare

Principal Advisor on the Sahel, UNICEF

Macoura Oulare has more than two decades of experience working with UNICEF in Rwanda, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Mali where she was as Chief of Health, Nutrition and HIV as well as Deputy Representative before becoming Principal Advisor on the Sahel. She holds a medical doctorate as well as a graduate degree in Public Health and has previously served in the Guinean Ministry of Health.



Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi

Executive Vice-President, African Center for Economic Transformation

Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi is Executive Vice-President at the African Center for Economic Transformation, an African think tank supporting countries to develop and implement sustainable growth strategies. Prior to joining ACET, she was Director of Investments at Power of Nutrition; her other roles include Director of Programme Policy and Quality for Save the Children UK and 12 years as a private sector specialist at the UK's Department of International Development. Mavis is a Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow with an MPhil from the University of Sussex.



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H.E. Jean-Marc Pisani

Ambassador of the European Union to Senegal

As graduate of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and holder of a master's degree in European and international law from the Sorbonne, he joined the European Commission in 1997, where he worked on the major policies of the European Union. In 2010, at the European External Action Service, he specialized in countries in political and economic transition, and in the European Common Security and Defense Policy. Jean-Marc Pisani is Ambassador of the European Union to Senegal since September 2022.



Steven Pope

*Group Head of Trade Facilitation (GoTrade),
Deutsche Post DHL*

Steven Pope joined Deutsche Post DHL in 2011 as Vice President for Customs and Regulatory Affairs for Europe, eventually becoming Group Head of Trade Facilitation. GoTrade aims to support international trade and sustainable economic growth by increasing SME trade across borders. Before DHL, Steven Pope spent 26 years in the public sector working for the Customs, Treasury and Foreign & Commonwealth Offices of the UK Government as well as the IMF. Additionally, he is a member of the Steering Groups of the German and Global Alliances for Trade Facilitation.



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H.E. Sönke Siemon

Ambassador of the Republic of Germany to Senegal, Gambia & Guinea-Bissau

Sönke Siemon was appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Germany to Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau in August 2021. Prior to that, he served at the German Embassies in Rome, Washington, Cotonou and Cairo, the latter two as Deputy Head of Mission, and has Head of Cabinet of the Minister of State in the German Federal Foreign Office. He has been a member of the Foreign Service since 1992 after completing his studies in Anglistics and History.



Dr Vera Songwe

Chair, Liquidity & Sustainability Facility

Vera Songwe is an economist and banking executive from Cameroon who has worked for the World Bank Group since 1998, including as Western and Central Africa's regional director for the International Finance Corporation. In 2017, she was appointed Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, making her the first woman to head UNECA at the level of Under-Secretary-General. After leaving the position in August 2022, she assumed the role of Chair of the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility.



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Florent Kossivi Tiassou

Journalist, Deutsche Welle

Florent Kossivi Tiassou is a Togolese-born journalist, trainer and consultant based in Bonn, who produces programmes and environment-related reports for Deutsche Welle, Germany's main international broadcaster. He is the founder of Green Radio World, an organisation that trains journalists on sustainable development. He specialises in disseminating best practices on climate change adaptation and sustainable land management (SLM) and energy management and was awarded the Carl von Carlowitz Sustainability Prize 2019/20 by the Senate of the Economy.



Dr Ellen Van de Poel

Senior Health Economist, Global Financing Facility

Ellen Van de Poel is leading the Health Financing work within the GFF. She leads a team within the GFF that aims to support countries in developing and implementing strategies to increase domestic resources for health and improve the efficiency of health spending. Before joining GFF, Ellen was an Associate Professor of Health Economics at Erasmus University Rotterdam. Her research focused on evaluating health financing reforms and measuring equity in health and has been published in leading journals. She received her PhD in 2009 from the Erasmus School of Economics.



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Prof. Joachim von Braun

Chair of the Scientific Group, UN Food Systems Summit & Professor for Economic & Technological Change, Bonn University

Joachim von Braun is Professor for Economic and Technological Change at Bonn University, focusing on economic development, science and technology, food and nutrition security, agriculture, resource economics, and trade. He is member of various academies of science, incl. in Asia and Africa, a board member of AGRA, Co-Chair of the Malabo-Montpellier Panel on Agriculture in Africa, and Chair of the Scientific Group of the UN Food Systems Summit. He was Director-General of the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, DC.



Global Perspectives Initiative (GPI)

As a non-profit and independent platform, GPI works towards enhanced engagement and responsibility for sustainable development by German and European decision-makers. At the same time, the initiative aims to strengthen African perspectives in policymaking.

To this end, GPI regularly brings together decision-makers from politics, business, civil society, academia and media to discuss new approaches, provide new impulses and raise awareness on the common opportunities and challenges the two neighbouring continents are facing.

Global Perspectives Initiative

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