Maureen Achieng, Chief of Mission and International Organization for Migration Representative to the African Union, UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in Ethiopia

Maureen Achieng is currently Chief of Mission for the IOM Special Liaison Mission to Ethiopia and Representative to the African Union, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Prior to her current posting, Achieng served as Head of the International Partnerships Division at IOM Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland (2008 to 2015). In this position, she led IOM’s institutional support to global and regional migration dialogue and cooperation platforms, and was responsible for sustaining and expanding partnerships with other UN agencies, Regional Economic Communities and civil society actors.

From 2004 to 2007, she served as IOM Chief of Mission to Haiti, having earlier served in IOM country offices in Senegal, Kosovo and Kenya, in program management and technical support capacities.

Yonatan Araya, Senior Solutions and Development Officer, UNHCR Kenya

Yonatan Araya is a Senior Solutions and Development Officer with UNHCR. Based in Nairobi, he advises UNHCR country operations in the East and Horn of Africa on strategic and operational partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs) and multilateral development banks. Before joining UNHCR in 2015, Araya spent six years with the World Bank’s Global Program on Forced Displacement supporting World Bank’s efforts to address the development dimensions of forced displacement in its analytical, operational and partnership activities. As a member of the World Bank’s Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Group, Araya contributed to a number of World Bank studies and lending operations benefiting refugees and host communities. Araya has two Master’s degrees (LL.M from George Washington University in the U.S and MA in International Studies from the University of Birmingham in the U.K.) and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. He is admitted to practice law in New York.
Ruchika Bahl, Chief Technical Adviser, Migration and Employment, International Labour Organization, Ethiopia

Ruchika Bahl is the Chief Technical Advisor for the European Union Emergency Trust Fund Project, “Addressing the Root Causes of Migration in Ethiopia”. The project is strengthening National public employment programs and developing youth employability services. It is piloting systems on information generation about employment opportunities and jobs for youth in Ethiopia and offering trainings on soft skills, allowing them to participate in local labour markets and thereby making migration an informed choice for them.

Bahl has over 20 years’ experience on development cooperation and policy advocacy with leading INGOs, bilateral and UN agencies across Asia, South America and Africa. Over the last two decades she has worked with diverse stakeholders on labour migration, advocated for migrant workers’ rights and designed financial inclusion and economic development programs for vulnerable groups at National and regional level. In her last role with the UN Women Regional Office for Asia Pacific as the Regional Programme Manager on Migration she carried out regional programming on migration and economic development, supervision of country migration projects in Asia and was instrumental in advocating for women migrant workers’ rights.

A British Chevening and J.N. Tata Scholar, Bahl is a lawyer with additional qualifications in Gender and Social Policy, Social Work and Psychology. She is an alumna of London School of Economics and Political Sciences, Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Delhi University.

Arthur Bainomugisha, Executive Director, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment

Dr. Arthur Bainomugisha is the Executive Director of Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), one of the leading public policy research think tanks in Eastern and Southern Africa Sub Region. Until recently he has been a Technical Advisor for Uganda Peace Support Team on South Sudan and was involved in brokering a peace deal between Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLA-IO) and the Government of Uganda when fighting broke out in December 2013 in South Sudan. He is also a Lecturer of Peace and Conflict Studies in the Faculty of Religion and Peace Studies at Makerere University.

Before joining ACODE, he worked as a Civil Society Fellow at the International Peace Institute, a New York-based public policy think tank. He has authored several research publications and
contributed chapters and articles on peace, security and natural resources. Bainomugisha holds a Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies, and a Master’s degree in Peace Studies and a Post Graduate Diploma in Research Methods from the University of Bradford, United Kingdom. He also holds a Diploma in National Security from Galilee Institute of International Management, Israel, and a Bachelor’s degree in Mass Communication from Makerere University.

Riadh Ben Messaoud, Principal Fragility and Policy Analyst, Transition States Coordination Office, AfDB

Riadh Ben Messaoud has worked with the African Development Bank Group since August 2008. He is currently Principal Fragility and Policy Analyst at the Transition States Coordination Office, which oversees the strategy of the Bank Group for addressing fragility and building resilience in Africa. He served the resource allocation framework of the African Development Fund under the Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Department, and was previously involved as an individual consultant in the Research and Private Sector Operations Departments.

Prior to joining the Bank, he was an Associate Professor at Université de Carthage, Tunisia, and Assistant Professor at Université Lumière Lyon II, France. A citizen of Tunisia, he holds a Ph.D. in Business Intelligence and a Master’s degree in Knowledge Management from Université Lumière Lyon II, France. He is also an engineer in Statistics and Data Analysis graduated from Université de la Manouba, Tunisia.

Richard Danziger, Regional Director for West and Central Africa, International Organization for Migration

Richard Danziger, a British national, joined the International Organization for Migration in 1994 and was appointed Regional Director for West and Central Africa in January 2016. He was previously Chief of Mission and Special Envoy of the Director General for the United Nations in Afghanistan between 2013 and 2016, and Chief of Mission in Sri Lanka and the Maldives from 2010 to 2013. Prior to that, Danziger was Chief of the Returns and Counter-Trafficking Management Division at IOM Headquarters in Geneva.
His special assignments include the management of a reintegration program for ex-rebels in Mindanao, the Philippines in 1999, and the oversight of overseas voting for Afghans residing in Pakistan and in Iran for the 2004 presidential elections.

Mr. Danziger was IOM’s original focal point for the Bali Process on Migrant smuggling, human trafficking and the related transnational crime. He was also a founding member of the Steering Committee of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT). He chaired the Global Program Council of the World Economic Forum on Illicit Trade from 2008 to 2011 and is now a member of their World Future Council on Migration.

He writes and hosts numerous conferences on human trafficking and the protection of migrants.

Idrissa Diagne, Senior Economist of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Côte d’ivoire

Mr. Idrissa Diagne, a Senegalese national, is a macro-economist and a specialist in development issues, with basic training in mathematics, statistics, econometrics and development planning. During his career he has had to work on various development issues, including the management of complex projects in countries emerging from crisis or facing a crisis.

Since 2015, Mr. Diagne has been the Senior Economist of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Côte d’ivoire, a function he has already assumed in other African countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo (1997-1999), Benin (2006-2009), Togo (2009-2012) and Guinea (2012-2015).

Between 1999 and 2006, as an Inter-regional adviser in socio-economic policy and development management in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York, he piloted a programme of cooperation technology of several tens of millions of US dollars for the benefit of several African countries, including Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo.


He also conducted, between 1994 and 1997, several consultations on behalf of the United Nations in Mali, Niger and Guinea.
Mr. Diagne is an Economist Statistician (ESDC) of the National School of Statistics and Economic Administration (ENSAE). He carried out his preparatory classes (higher and special mathematics) at the Lycée Janson de Sailly in Paris (France).

Sévé Diomandé, Project Manager (Community Stabilization), International Organization for Migration, Niger

Mr. Sévé Diomandé holds a Master’s degree in Business Law from the University Alassane Dramane Ouattara of Bouaké. Recruited in December 2008 as project assistant at IOM, he worked on the “1000 microprojects for UNOCI (United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire)” program in Seguela and Yamoussoukro.

From July 2010 to July 2014, Diomandé served as a Reintegration Officer at IOM in South Sudan, and worked on the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programme and the reintegration of South Sudanese returned from the North after division. At the outbreak of the crisis in December 2013, Diomandé coordinated the management of displaced persons camps of Warrap state.

In July 2014, Diomandé was transferred to Central African Republic to support IOM’s community stabilization activities. He participated in the ex-Séléka voluntary return program in their regions of origin and in the stabilization and recovery projects of communities funded by the European Union.

Since February 2017, Diomandé has been at IOM Niger where he coordinates the community stabilization projects including the “Initiatives for Community Stabilization in Northern Niger” project.

Al-Hamdou Dorsouma, Division Manager, Climate Change and Green Growth, AfDB

Al-Hamdou Dorsouma works as Manager for Climate and Green Growth Division at the African Development Bank. He is responsible for managing a team of Climate Change and Growth Officers and leading Bank’s efforts on climate change in Africa, including building climate resilience and low carbon opportunities into Bank’s investments, and supporting the Bank’s engagement on climate resilience and green growth. His academic background is Geography and Environmental Management.
Recently, Dorsouma worked as the Officer-in-Charge of the Bank’s Climate Finance Division, leading Bank’s climate finance initiatives, including the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Climate Investment Funds, among others. Before that, he worked as the Team Leader for Energy Efficiency under the AfDB’s Presidential Task Force on the New Deal on Energy for Africa, after serving at various positions at the AfDB since 2009, including as Chief Climate Change Officer.

Dorsouma also worked for two other international organizations, namely the Observatory of Sahara and Sahel from 2005 to 2009 as Environment and Climate Change Officer and the World Meteorological Organization from 2012 to 2014 as Senior Programme Manager for Resource Mobilization and Development Partnerships.

**Alexander Dougan**, Head Corporate Digital Solutions, International Organization for Migration

Alexander Dougan, Head Corporate Digital Solutions at the International Organization for Migration, is responsible for the development of IOM’s first mobile app “MigApp”, which won at the CIO 2018 awards. He is also responsible for the mobile apps roadmap of the organization.

Prior to joining the IOM, Dougan worked in the banking sector, with responsibilities for business development of banking applications across Africa. He has held several key positions in the private and public sectors. He has also been involved in several IT start-up companies over the past 15 years. In 2000, he started ComQuest, which he successfully sold in 2006.


Ashraf El Nour is the Director of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Office to the United Nations in New York. He has held this position since May 2015. In this capacity, El Nour oversees IOM’s strategic engagement with the United Nations System, Member States, and civil society. In addition, he leads IOM New York’s policy development work in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and supports IOM’s
engagement in current UN reforms. He has led and continues to facilitate IOM's entry into the United Nations.

El Nour has 25 years of work experience in diverse positions at both headquarters and field level; working on policy development as well as crisis management and post conflict recovery. Prior to his current appointment, El Nour was IOM’s Regional Director for East and Horn of Africa from 2013-2015, Regional Representative for East and Central Africa from 2007 to 2012 and a Special Assistant with the Office of the Director General from 2006 to 2007. He has worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a Senior Recovery Adviser at the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery in Geneva.

**Abdel Nasser Ethmane, Political Adviser of the Liaison Office of the African Union in the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire**

Abdel Nasser Ethmane is Political Advisor of the Liaison Office of the African Union in the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire. A Mauritanian national, he is a diplomat and expert in multidimensional prevention of religious extremism, who has expertise in the areas of elections and good governance. He has served as Political Advisor in the Liaison Office of the African Union in the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire since 2010.

From 2007 to 2009, Ethmane was political advisor in charge of security, observers of the United Nations Joint Commission between Cameroon and Nigeria on the Bakassi Enclave in the United Nations Office in West Africa in Dakar, Senegal. Ethmane also served as Personal Advisor to former Mauritanian President Mokhtar Ould Daddah.

Ethmane has been actively involved in several human rights NGOs, and was responsible, in particular, for the external relations of SOS Slaves-Mauritania (France, Paris) from 1995 to 2007.

**Papa Demba Fall, Director of the African International Migration Studies Network**

Dr. Papa Demba Fall is the Director of Research at the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal. He is the Head of the Human Sciences Department of the Institut Fondamental d’Afrique Noire (IFAN), Cheikh Anta Diop University, and Director of the Network of African International Migration Studies or African International Migration Network.
Salvatore Farfaglia, Regional Specialist for Resilience and Livelihoods (Sahel and Lake Chad regions), International Committee of the Red Cross

Salvatore Farfaglia, an Italian national, is currently based in Dakar, where he is covering the post of International Committee of the Red Cross Regional Specialist for Resilience and Livelihoods (Sahel and Lake Chad regions). He is also the Economic Security Coordinator for the ICRC regional delegations in Dakar and Abidjan. As an Anthropologist, with an expertise in Human Development and Food Security and superior studies in the geopolitics of the Mediterranean area, he has undertaken almost 20 years of professional experience, in Conflict and Post-Conflict Management (Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, East Timor and the Balkans) as well as in the management of Relief and Early Recovery Operations (Guatemala, Pakistan, Central African Republic and Nigeria). He has academic interests in social capital for resilience-building, enhancement of the humanitarian-development nexus and promoting cooperatives for inclusive growth.

Patrick Guillaumont, President of the Fondation pour les Etudes et Recherches sur le Développement International (Ferdi)

Patrick Guillaumont, President of the Fondation pour les Etudes et Recherches sur le Développement International (Ferdi), is Emeritus Professor at the University of Auvergne and founder of the Revue d’Economie du Développement. He was a member of the Committee of Development Policy at the United Nations, where he chaired various expert groups on the Least Developed Countries and has worked for many international institutions. Patrick Guillaumont has published many books and papers on development. Recent works are focused on development finance, aid allocation and vulnerability. They include Caught in a Trap, Identifying the least developed countries (2009), Out of the trap. Supporting the least developed countries (2019), Financing Sustainable Development: Addressing Vulnerabilities (2015) edited with Matthieu Boussichas, and, as a co-author, Linking security and development. A Plea for the Sahel (2016).
**Cheikh Kane, Climate Resilience Policy Advisor, West Africa Region, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre**

Cheikh Kane holds the position of Climate Resilience Policy Advisor for the West Africa region at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCRCCC), where he supports programs in West Africa at the national and regional levels. The RCRCCC’s overarching mission is to help the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its partners reduce the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on vulnerable people.

Kane is also leading a RCRCCC climate risk management strategy relating to impact-based forecasting approach which ensures funding is made available, at a time of a weather or climate forecast of a potential disaster, automatically triggering humanitarian action when such forecast indicates high risk of extreme events.

Kane brings considerable and diversified experience in climate research, policy, investment and practice with specific interest in climate services development. His career led him from the French National Institute of Health-INSERM to University Paris 13, before joining the French Institute of Research Development (IRD) to focus on developing countries.

**Patrice Kiiru, Equity Bank Group, Associate Director, Diaspora Banking and Remittances, Kenya**

Patrice Kiiru is a career banker with 15 years in the banking industry in the United States and Kenya. His professional career in commercial banking has primarily focused on growing profitability through banking solutions designed to give clients access to their credit, treasury, liquidity, trade and foreign exchange information. He has worked at Wells Fargo Bank in commercial real estate financing, as well as Bank of America Merrill Lynch as a Vice-President in the Commercial Banking division.

He is currently the Group Associate Director in charge of Equity Group’s Diaspora Banking, Remittances and Cross Border Payments. Kiiru has spoken on the issue of remittances and migrant investment on many occasions, most notably at the Global Forum on Remittances, Investments and Development (GFRID 2017 & 2018) as well as at the Global Migration Group during the negotiation for the Global Compact for Migration at the UN Headquarters.
Mr. Issiaka Konaté is the Director General of Ivorians from Abroad within the Ivorian Ministry of African Integration and Ivorians from Abroad. He was the former Head of Cabinet at the Ivorian Ministry of Communication and is also a member of the diaspora, having lived and worked for 18 years in London.

He was recruited by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation to open and run his current office in Abidjan, returning to his country to promote human rights and train the young leaders of tomorrow.

Konaté worked on the national consultations of the Ivorian diaspora in 2015 and 2017. He is at the origin of the national efforts for the return of Ivorians in destress from several countries. His efforts have earned him support from international organizations on migration issues. He regularly speaks on national and international issues on migration issues, but also on the involvement and role of the diaspora in the development of countries of origin and many other subjects. Konaté is currently enrolled at Sciences Po Paris, and is preparing to finish an Executive Master’s in Policy Development and Management, focusing on Africa’s potential.

Amara Konneh currently serves as Advisor on Fragility, Conflict, Violence and Forced Displacement at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, DC. He joined the World Bank Group in May 2016 and served as head of its Global Hub for Fragility, Conflict, Violence and Forced Displacement (FCV) serving more than 35 countries in Nairobi, Kenya. In this position Amara successfully implemented the following top three priorities: (i) coordinated the World Bank’s strategic priorities in countries affected by fragility, conflict, violence, and refugees (ii) led the Nairobi-based team to provide operational and analytical support on fragility, conflict, violence and refugee issues to affected
Before joining the Bank, he served as Minister of Finance and Development Planning of Liberia. He is credited with helping to stabilize the Liberian economy from the effects of a protracted civil conflict and after nearly 30 years of decline growing it 8.9 percent in 2012, 8.7 percent in 2013 and was on track to grow it at 8.3 percent in 2014 when the Ebola Virus Disease struck. Through this crisis, he worked tirelessly to keep the economy stable by keeping inflation low at 7 percent, exchange rate stable, timely payments of domestic and external debts, timely payment of civil servants’ salaries, and robustly financing the fight against Ebola leading to WHO’s declaration of Liberia Ebola free in record time. Konneh also championed reforms that increased Liberia’s development budget from 7 percent of the budget in 2011 to about 25 percent of the budget, creating the fiscal space to finance development projects.

When he was 18 years old, several members of his immediate family including his father and three siblings were killed during Liberia’s protracted civil war and he became a refugee in Guinea, where he established a school for Liberian refugees. Earlier in his career, he also worked as Project Manager for the Vanguard Group of Investment Companies, a fortune 500 company in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, from 1999 to 2006.

**Joel Kaigre, President, Hamap-Humanitaire, France**

Joël Kaigre is a former senior officer of the French army. He graduated from the School of Military Engineering and worked for the Defense, in various countries affected by war, including Lebanon and the former Yugoslavia. In 1999, he created the NGO HAMAP-Humanitaire with, among others, former Congolese Minister Boniface Matingou and Director Marc Simonon. The mission of HAMAP-Humanitaire has been able to help women, children and men around the world, in the areas of access to water and sanitation, education and vocational training, health and, to take action against anti-personnel mines. Kaigre is a Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honour, the National Order of Merit and the Order of Agricultural Merit and holds many civil and military decorations.
**Ben Leo, CEO, Fraym**

Ben Leo is CEO and Co-Founder of Fraym, a geospatial data company that delivers hyper-local data and insights for 50+ African countries. Fraym helps fast-growing companies, development organizations, and government agencies answer high-priority questions about where to focus and how to reach specific populations. Previously, Leo served as a Senior Fellow at the Center for Global Development, where he conducted applied research on African statistical systems, data acquisition methods, and African trade and investment issues. His work has been cited in numerous major media outlets, including The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Financial Times, Forbes, USA Today, Mail and Guardian, CNBC Africa, Business Day, This Day, The Standard, and Daily Nation. He also has served in the White House, US Treasury, and African Union, where he focused on a variety of Africa-related economic, investment, and security-related issues.

**Amanda Loeffen, Director General of Waterlex**

Amanda Loeffen is a water governance expert, leading a qualified team of lawyers, policy-makers, and technical experts with expertise in water law and policy at WaterLex. Prior to joining WaterLex, Loeffen directed a water resource project management company in New Zealand, where she oversaw the design, environmental consent and multi-stakeholder engagement for a large community-owned hydro-irrigation scheme. She has also worked in business management in the private sector, predominantly in natural resources. She has a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Chemistry from the UK, and an MBA in Finance from Chicago Booth University.
**Hervé Lohoues, Lead Economist for the Central Africa Regional Department, AfDB**

Dr. Hervé Lohoues currently works at the African Development Bank (AfDB), as Lead Economist for the Central Africa Regional Department.

Dr. Lohoues holds a PhD in economics from the University of Montreal (Canada), a Master’s degree in Statistics and Quantitative Economics from the École Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d’Économie Appliquée (ENSEA) of Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, and a Bachelor’s degree in Mathematics from the then École Nationale Supérieure des Travaux Publics (ENSTP, and now INPHB) of Yamoussoukro, Côte d’Ivoire.

Prior to joining the Bank, Dr Lohoues served for about five years at the ECOWAS Commission, in Abuja, Nigeria, as the Coordinator of the ECOWAS Community Development Programme (CDP), heading the CDP Unit. In this position, he was in charge of conducting the formulation of the CDP, the regional integration and development strategy of the ECOWAS Region, under the leadership of the Commissioner in charge of Macroeconomic Policy.

Prior to ECOWAS, Dr. Lohoues worked for Analysis Group, Inc., (a U.S. consulting firm in Strategy, Economics and Finance based in Boston, USA), the Government of Quebec, Canada (Finance, Transport, and Statistics Quebec).

In Côte d’Ivoire, Dr Lohoues served as a Deputy-Director at the Direction de la Conjoncture et de la Pr évision Économique (DCPE), at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and was the first Permanent Secretary of the National Economic Policy Committee (NEPC/CNPE) of Côte d’Ivoire. He also worked at the Ministry of Planning and Industrial Development and at the Economic Department of the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA/ADRAO).

Dr. Lohoues has also taught economics at the University of Montreal, in Canada and at ENSEA Abidjan, in Cote d’Ivoire.

**Linguère M’Baye, Senior Research Economist, Macroeconomics Policy, Forecasting and Research, AfDB**

Linguère Mously Mbaye is Senior Research Economist at the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. Before joining the African Development Bank, she was Research Associate and Deputy Program Director for Employment and Development at the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Bonn, Germany. In 2017, she was appointed by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) as one of the 36 researchers of the Migration Research Leaders Syndicate in support of the 2018 Global Compact for safe, orderly
and regular migration. She is also a member of the Technical Committee of the High-Level Panel on International Migration in Africa. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Center for Studies and Research in International Development, University of Auvergne, France.

**Eric Mabushi, Regional Coordinator, Fragile and Conflict Situations, West Africa, International Finance Corporation**

Dr. Eric Mabushi is Regional Coordinator for West Africa Hub at IFC’s Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations Africa Unit, based in Dakar, Senegal. He is leading the IFC-FCS program in Western Africa fragile countries. Mabushi has over 20 years of diverse experience and has been with the World Bank Group (WBG) since 2005 working in various positions, including country economist at the World Bank in Burundi and Washington, DC for five years. Prior to joining the World Bank Group, Mabushi has worked as Researcher at the Social and Economic Research Institute (IRES) in Belgium and as a Professor of Economics in several universities in Burundi. He has also worked as an international consultant for the United Nations focusing on economic infrastructure in the Great Lakes Region, Africa. Mabushi holds a Ph.D. in Economics and a Master of Arts in Macroeconomics from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium.

**Hugh MacLeman, Policy Advisor and Head of the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) Secretariat, Development Cooperation Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**

Hugh MacLeman supports OECD-Development Assistance Committee Member States and their partners to translate political commitments to risk and resilience into more effective programming on the ground. MacLeman also heads the INCAF Secretariat, which brings together DAC members and key multilateral agencies to address the complex challenges of delivering results in fragile and conflict-affected contexts through better policy and practice.

Prior to joining the OECD, MacLeman worked in academia, with the Humanitarian Futures Programme at King’s College, London; for government, as a Director in the Humanitarian Branch of Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs; and as Head of Humanitarian Policy at the British Red Cross. Hugh holds a Master’s degree from the London School of Economics and his
policy expertise builds on more than 10 years field-based experience in development and humanitarian contexts in Asia, the Pacific and West and Central Africa.

Veronica Kalunda Mahiga, Regional Officer, Private Sector Partnerships in Africa, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Veronica Kalunda Mahiga is a Regional Officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Private Sector Partnerships service in Africa. She contributes to the development and execution of UNHCR’s LuQuLuQu Movement – a communication and branding campaign launched across the continent in 2017.

Mahiga is responsible for utilizing the LuQuLuQu campaign to engage Africa’s private sector to raise funds and increase awareness of forced displacement, in support of families rebuilding their lives after fleeing from violence and persecution.

Since 2002, her experience in the private sector, humanitarian field and development sector have enhanced her understanding of the nexus between social issues, and economic development from both a commercial and humanitarian perspective, enabling her role in bridging the gap between UNHCR’s institutionalized approach and cultural expectations in corporate Africa.

Mahiga holds Master’s degrees in International Health and International Development, and a B.Sc. in Biomedical Sciences.

Jamie John Messner, Executive Director, Fund for Peace

J.J. Messner is the Executive Director of The Fund for Peace. He co-directs FFP’s Fragile States Index, an annual ranking of 178 countries that tracks performance on social, economic, and political indicators. Messner has also led development of conflict and risk indicators for multilateral financial institutions and has delivered training on conflict assessment to a variety of government agencies in multiple countries. Messner also leads FFP’s work on responsible business, security sector reform and human rights, including training programs and site-level assessments in partnership with various multinational corporations and security forces in complex environments. Since 2011, Messner has been a Board Member of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Initiative and has chaired the Initiative’s global civil society coalition and has led the Initiative’s national-level implementation in Ghana. Prior to
joining The Fund for Peace, Messner was Director of the International Stability Operations Association. Messner received his B.A. in Politics and International Studies from the University of Adelaide, Australia, and a M.Sc. (Peace Operations) from George Mason University.

**Binouri Brice Monnou, Senior Consultant, Expert on Migration and Development**

Binouri Brice Monnou is Senior Consultant and Expert in Migration and Development.

She has 15 years of active service in non-governmental contexts, in the exercise of missions. She has contributed in international negotiations on migration and development with the United Nations, development agencies, Ministries and other state institutions, platforms of non-governmental organizations in France, Europe and internationally.

Monnou is President of the FECODEV network (Women and Contribution to Development) which she founded in Paris in 2005 and which federates 40 development associations, led by women from the African diaspora in France, from 20 African countries, the Comoros and Haiti.

FECODEV’s mission is to strengthen and promote the capacities of action of the organizations and the people, to pool skills and initiatives in order to valorize the participative dynamic of the women around the challenges of the 2030 and 2063 agendas.

**Gloria Moreno-Fontes, Regional Labour Migration and Mobility Specialist, International Labour Organization**

Originally from Mexico, Gloria Moreno-Fontes Chammartin has a Ph.D. in International Studies from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. From 1993 to 1997, she worked in the Active Labour Market Policies Branch of the Employment Department of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on wages, employment flexibility, maquiladoras (companies that allows factories to be largely duty- and tariff-free) and trade liberalization in Mexico. In November 1997, she joined ILO’s Labour Migration Branch (MIGRANT) and worked there until April 2018. In May 2018, Moreno-Fontes Chammartin moved to Africa to work as Regional Labour Migration and Mobility Specialist and is based in Abidjan.
Ms. Vanessa Moungar is Director of the Gender, Women and Civil Society Department at the African Development Bank Group. She leads the Group’s strategy on gender and investment for women in Africa, with a view to accelerating the transformation of the continent through inclusive growth.

She is also in charge of civil society engagement, with the aim of ensuring the impact of development programs across all sectors of society, as well as strengthening the capacity of sector players for greater transparency in governance.

A Senior Executive at the World Economic Forum between 2013 and 2017, she led major public-private collaboration initiatives and facilitated partnerships between African government officials and private sector and civil society leaders, across industries – including health and education, mining, infrastructure, agriculture and energy. She also defended the demographic dividend agenda by managing a group of world experts, in charge of supporting the development of public investment policies for the education, empowerment and employment of women and youth. From 2006 to 2013, she held various positions with Terrafina Agribusiness in the United States, including Director of Sales and Marketing. She began her career at AV Consulting, which she co-founded in 2004 to support small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa and the Middle East.

Ms. Moungar is a graduate of the INSEEC Group in Paris, France, and Harvard University. She has completed the Global Leadership Fellows Program of the World Economic Forum and obtained a Master’s degree in Advanced Global Leadership from Columbia University, New York, USA; Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA; China Europe International Business School; London Business School, United Kingdom; and the European Institute of Business Administration (INSEAD).
Tapera Jeffrey Muzira, Coordinator, Jobs for Youth in Africa (JFYA), African Development Bank

Tapera Jeffrey Muzira is an employment and labour market specialist who is currently the Coordinator of the Bank-wide Jobs for Youth in Africa (JFYA) Strategy at the African Development Bank.

Prior to joining the AfDB, Muzira designed and implemented employment promotion projects for International Labour Organization (ILO) and other UU Agencies over the last 18 years, working in more than 12 African countries. His experience covers leading multi-faceted teams, working with the private sector, governments, donors and non-state actors. In that capacity, his last assignment was in Kigali, Rwanda, as Chief Technical Advisor and Senior Representative for the ILO where he was instrumental in promoting decent work for youth in the informal economy.

Muzira holds a Master of Business Leadership from the University of South Africa School of Business Leadership, a B.Sc. in Mathematics and Chemistry from the University of Zimbabwe, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Marketing from the Institute of Marketing Management, South Africa. He is currently a Ph.D. Scholar with the Swiss Management Centre in Switzerland.

Fatoumata Nafo-Traoré, Director Africa Region International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Kenya

Fatoumata Nafo-Traoré is the Regional Director, Africa at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC). Her role as head of Secretariat in Africa Region provides vision, leadership, strategic and management cutting across 49 countries in the continent.

Nafo-Traoré is responsible for the Secretariat’s activities in the region along the continuum from crisis prevention and disaster risk reduction and preparedness, to development and building safe, healthy and resilient communities, to disaster and crisis response and recovery. Constantly providing guidance in the areas of Programmes and Operations, Partnerships, and Management, she ensures organizational excellence in support of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and vulnerable people and communities.

Nafo-Traoré most recently served as the Executive Director of Roll Back Malaria, the global platform for coordinated action against malaria. She has more than 25 years of experience in national health development, and regional and international public health.
Between 2000 and 2002, she served as Mali’s Minister of Health and also Minister of Social Affairs, Solidarity and Elderly. She was then appointed the first Roll Back Malaria Executive Secretary in 2003, before working in a number of roles with the World Health Organization, including as representative in the Republic of Congo and Ethiopia.

Stefan Nalletamby, Director, Financial Sector Development Department, AfDB

Mr. Stefan Nalletamby is the Director for the Financial Sector Development Department at the African Development Bank since its creation in September 2014. He oversees three Divisions spanning Financial Inclusion and Intermediation, Capital Markets Development, and Trade Finance.

Nalletamby was previously the Coordinator of the Making Finance Work for Africa (MFW4A) Partnership, a unique platform for African governments, the private sector, and development partners to coordinate financial sector development interventions across the continent. Prior to his position at MFW4A, he spent 10 years in the Finance complex of the African Development Bank. During his tenure as Advisor to the Vice-President, Finance, he designed and launched the African Financial Market Initiative (AFMI) to further develop local currency bond markets on the continent.

Prior to that, Nalletamby spent nine years in the Treasury Department, in positions ranging from Bond Portfolio Manager to Group Treasurer. Before joining the Bank, he spent 12 years in the international capital markets as a Bond Trader and Head of Bond Trading and Sales with BNP Paribas in Paris, Tokyo and Madrid.

Khady Sakho Niang, President Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT)

Khady Sakho Niang is the President of the Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT), a Europe wide network of the African Diaspora Development Organisations based in 28 EU countries, Norway and Switzerland that are engaged in development actions in Africa. From 2013-2016, Niang has been the first woman President of the French national platform of Migrant International Solidarity Organisations (FORIM). Niang also co-chairs the Migration
and Development working group of the French National Council for the development and international solidarity (CNDSI), a framework of regular dialogue between Government and development actors. An expert in migration and development, Niang is also a member of the GFMD Steering Committee starting with 2009, and was member of several Boards of platforms, such as Joint Africa-EU Strategy, the Pan African Network in Defense of Migrants Rights and the ‘Gender in action’ platform.

Currently, Niang provides expertise on diaspora engagement and migration on the MIEUX (MIgration EU eXpertise) implemented by the EU and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development.

**Joel Odigie, African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa)**

Joel Odigie Akhator is an activist and trade unionist with over two decades’ organizing experience. He is a Nigerian and the Coordinator for Human and Trade Union Rights at the African Regional Organization of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa) an organisation currently representing over 18 million workers in 51 of the 55 African countries. Odigie has a Master’s degree in Labour and Globalization from the Berlin School of Economics and Law.

**Joseph U. Dassus Orega, Coordinator of the Champion Project**

Joseph U. Dassus Orega is Coordinator of the Champion Project. In that role he has been offering consulting advice to companies and institutions in Africa on transition management, strategic and commercial development, project coordination and design. His expertise is in the telecommunications, construction, industry, financial sectors.

Prior to his current role, he was Managing Director, Société Malienne de Financement Mali, Giefca Group France; Managing
Director, Société Burkinabé de Financement Burkina, Groupe Giefa France; Chief Financial Officer, SAFCA Group; Regional Administrative and Financial Director, AT&T, West and Central Africa; Director of Audit and Operations, The Chase Manhattan Bank; and Auditor at Arthur Andersen & Co.

Daniel Williams Oulaï, CEO, Grainothèque, Côte d’Ivoire

Identified by Forbes Africa magazine as one of the 30 most promising young entrepreneurs on the African continent in 2018, Daniel Oulai is CEO of the startup “Grainothèque”, a social enterprise that works to promote the genetic biodiversity of peasant seeds and the de-ruralization of peasant agriculture by offering decent jobs to rural youth.

Member of the Young Africa Leaders Initiative network, and alumina of the Changemakers program of the Ashoka organization, Daniel Oulaï is the winner of several awards:

- Pierre Castel Prize, established by the Pierre Castel Bordeaux Africa Endowment Fund, awarded to young African entrepreneurs whose action or project in the field of agriculture has a great impact.
- 2018 winner of the Orange Prize for Social Entrepreneurship Côte d'Ivoire.
- The climate initiative prize for French-speaking Africa with the green entrepreneur trophy at COP22 in Morocco.
- Innovative Entrepreneur Award from the Tony Elumelu Foundation.
- Prize for the 100 climate projects of Ségolène Royal, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, France.

Oulaï plans to launch 1000 agripreneurs, an ambitious programme to empower thousands of young people in the agricultural sector.
Jonathan Papoulidis, Executive Advisor on Fragile States, World Vision

Jonathan Papoulidis is Executive Advisor on Fragile States at World Vision where he provides broad leadership on the agency’s policy, programming and multi-stakeholder partnerships for fragile states. He has held appointments as visiting scholar at Stanford University, Columbia University and York University’s Center for Refugee Studies. He previously served with the United Nations, including in Indonesia as Chief of Policy and Programs in the Office of the UN Recovery Coordinator and then as Special Advisor and UN Coordinator for Aceh and Nias and Security Coordinator for Sumatra. From 2004-2006, he served in the UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia as advisor to the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Governance and Recovery. Before that, he was the senior UN OCHA representative in Turkey preparing for the 2003 Iraq humanitarian response. Prior to these postings, Papoulidis served at UN headquarters in New York, focusing on protection of civilians, conflict prevention, private sector partnerships and post-crisis transitional planning. He has written for the Harvard International Review, Yale Journal of International Affairs, Brookings Institution, Devex and the Cambridge Review of International Affairs. He has a Master’s degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge.

Harisoa Rakotondrazafy, Coordinator of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Regional Africa Adaptation Initiative

Harisoa Rakotondrazafy is the WWF Africa Adaptation Initiative Coordinator, based in Madagascar. She has worked on adaptation for over 10 years, developing, promoting and mainstreaming climate change adaptation in the conservation work of WWF-Madagascar. Rakotondrazafy was also the co-chair of the national platform for climate change gathering over 40 organizations from government, NGOs, civil society and donor communities. She currently sits on the core team of the World Commission on Protected Areas climate change specialist group as well, where she represents Africa. She has been a strong voice for climate change adaptation in Africa. Rakotondrazafy is now bringing her expertise to the wider Africa to incorporate adaptation into WWF and its partner’s conservation and development work.

Mr. Massimo Angelo Ramazin is the Project Coordinator, Integrated Border Management, with the International Organization for Migration in Senegal. He has over 25 years of experience in Border Security, Operations and Management, and more than 17 years of experience working in post-conflict and developing countries within United Nations, European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and IOM, in the Balkans, North, Central and Western Africa, and the Middle East.

Ramazin is a security sector reform expert with specific skills in “Rule of Law” national strategic and legal frameworks, and integrated border management. During the last four years, he has been based in Senegal coordinating the implementation of border security programs, counter terrorism community engagement projects, and assisting in the implementation of these programs in Mauritania, Mali, Guinea, Niger, Burkina Faso and The Gambia.

Eric Rwigamba, Director General of the Financial Sector Development at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda

Mr. Eric Rwigamba is a seasoned financial management professional with 18 years’ experience in both public and corporate finance. He is the Director General of Financial Sector Development for the Rwanda Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. Before joining the Ministry, he was the Technical Manager for Access to Finance Rwanda (financial inclusion program funded by the UK Department for International Development, World Bank, KfW, Mastercard Foundation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and USAID). He also served as the General Manager for GroFiN Rwanda (SME financier via debt and Equity); the Country Head, Audit and Compliance, Ecobank Rwanda, and as Senior Auditor at Ernst & Young, Uganda.

He is a Board member of Development Bank of Rwanda, Alternate Board member of Africa Import-Export Bank, a Board member and Vice-Chair of Capital Market Authority (CMAC), Chairperson of the National Steering Committee for the Deposit Guarantee Fund and Advisory Board member of the Financial Intelligence Authority.
Babacar Sambe, Manager, African Development Bank Migration and Development Fund

Babacar Sambe is manager of the Migration and Development Fund within the Division for Financial Inclusion at the African Development Bank. Previously, Sambe was the Director of the Mission Africa programme funded by the Ford and MasterCard Foundation in Cotonou, Benin. In 2008, Sambe joined the Grameen Foundation as a Resident Representative for West Africa.

From 1998 to 2008, Sambe worked with African Development Bank Group as a microfinance specialist, and served as a technical adviser for the UNDP MicroStart Programme from 1997 to 1999. Sambe studied at the University of Dakar, at the Ecole Internationale de Bordeaux and has an MBA from the African and Mauritian Management Centre.

Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, Assistant Director General and Regional Director for Africa of the International Labour Organization

Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon is the Assistant Director General and Regional Director for Africa of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the only tripartite United Nations agency.

Prior to her appointment to this position, Samuel-Olonjuwon was the Deputy Regional Director for Africa. She joined the ILO in 1995, where she has held different positions in Geneva and the field, including Chief of the ILO Programming Unit for Africa and Deputy Director of the ILO Office in Pretoria, South Africa.

She has more than 33 years’ experience of dedicated and passionate service to promote: decent work for women and men, gender equality, youth employment, SME development, elimination of child labour and enhanced labour migration. She served along with the AfDB President, on the High Level Panel on International Migration in Africa chaired by President Sirleaf Johnson.
**Solange Sanogo épse Koné, Director, NGO ASPSU (Association for the support of health and urban self-promotion)**

Solange Sanogo épse Koné is the Director of the NGO ASPSU (Association for the support of health and urban self-promotion). She has received the Medal of Merit as an Officer of the Ivorian National order for her 19 years of the service in the Ivorian public administration from 1976 to 1995 as social worker and 24 years of the service as an active member of Ivorian civil society (from 1995 to 2018). From May 2014 to 23 November 2018, she has served as Executive Director of ASAPSU (Association for the support of health and urban self-promotion) responsible for the mobilization of resources and the management of the Organization. Currently she also oversees ASAPSU’s policy and advocacy section.

**Ashad Sentongo, Director of African Programs at the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation**

A citizen of Uganda, Dr. Ashad Sentongo joined the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation in 2013 as the Director of Africa Programs. He works with the Africa Union Commission to build the African Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, including provision of training and technical assistance to national and regional mechanisms in AU Member States.

Sentongo earned a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University, an M.A. in Coexistence and Conflict from Brandeis University, and postgraduate Management Diploma from Damelin School of Management in South Africa. As a Drucie French Cumbie Fellow, his research work focused on power-sharing and ethnic conflict in Africa.

Sentongo previously worked with the Genocide Prevention Program at George Mason University as Program Officer on Prevention of Genocide attached to the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), and helped to establish the Regional and National Committees in Member States. Sentongo’s publications focus on managing ethnic conflicts, conflict transformation, and traditional approaches to conflict resolution in Africa, resilience and relationship-building towards violence prevention among the youth and early warning and early response. He also worked as consultant peace and security in East Africa and is a lecturer at Makerere University and the Uganda Management Institute.
**Khaled Sherif**, *Vice-President, Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery, African Development Bank Group*

Dr. Khaled Sherif is Vice-President, Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery, at the African Development Bank Group. He oversees the Bank’s sovereign operations via five regional hubs – North, South, East, West, and Central – 32 country offices and five liaison offices. In this capacity, Dr. Sherif also guides the Bank’s regional integration agenda and its engagement in fragile situations.

An Egyptian national, Dr. Sherif is a highly respected and experienced economist and manager with more 25 years of experience within the African Development Bank and the World Bank, spanning strategic, operational and technical expertise in development and development finance. He has deep knowledge and extensive experience in project development, portfolio management and regional operations management.

Prior to joining the African Development Bank in 2016, Dr. Sherif was the World Bank’s Chief Financial/Administrative Officer for the Africa Region, overseeing a team of 250 professionals in 38 offices across Africa.

Dr. Sherif studied Economics and Public Policy, earning his Bachelor’s (1981) and Master’s degree in Economics (1983) and a second Master’s degree in Political Science from the American University of Cairo (1989), and a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management from Boston University in 1986.

**Maman Sambo Sidikou**, *Permanent Secretary, G5 Sahel*

Maman Sambo Sidikou is a journalist, political scientist and educational educator. From 1976 to 1999, he served the Nigerien administration as Director of National Television (1979-1981), Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister (1983) and Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration (1997-1999).

the country offices of Save the Children UK in Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda in 2010-2011, before returning to Washington as Ambassador of Niger from 2011-2014.

Sidikou also worked in support of pan-African integration within the AU as Special representative of the Chairman of the Commission for Somalia and Head of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) from 2014-2015.

His steps led him from the Horn of Africa to Central Africa where he was Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and head of the UN Mission for stabilization in the DRC (MONUSCO) between 2015 and 2018. On February 6, 2018, the Heads of State of the G5 Sahel entrusted him with the mandate of Permanent Secretary.

**Olufunso Somorin, Principal Climate Change Officer, African Development Bank**

Olufunso Somorin is the Principal Regional Officer in charge of mainstreaming climate change and green growth in all Bank policies and operations within the East African region. He leads the Bank’s regional work on supporting access to climate finance, capacity building and implementation of national climate actions.

Prior to his current role, he was a Senior Policy Officer in charge of the Bank’s work on addressing fragility and building resilience within the Horn of Africa region. In this capacity, he co-led the work in Somalia, including developing and implementing projects within the Somalia Infrastructure Fund – a Fund he was directly involved in its establishment and resourcing. He was also the focal point for the Bank’s strategic responses to the drought and humanitarian crises within the Horn of Africa – managing all partnerships with governments, Regional Economic Communities and development partners.

Before joining the Bank in 2011, Somorin worked as an Associate Professional Officer with the Center for International Forestry Research based in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He led a multidisciplinary project funded by the Canadian International Development Research Centre on Congo Basin forests and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

Somorin holds a Ph.D. in International Environmental Policy from Wageningen University, the Netherlands. He has undertaken a number of executive education and advanced training in many leading institutions, including Cambridge, Oxford and Bradford universities in the U.K.
Sibry Tapsoba, Director of the Transition States Coordination Office, AfDB

Dr. Sibry Tapsoba joined the African Development Bank in 2000 after a decade at the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) West and Central Africa Office in Dakar, Senegal, where he served as Regional Director from 1997 to 2000. Before joining IDRC, he taught at the Institute of Educational Sciences of the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso.

At the African Development Bank, he served in many positions as Advisor to the Vice-President of Policy and Planning; Manager of the Higher Education, Science, Technology; Head of the African Development Institute; and as the Bank’s Resident Representative in Egypt. Since 2013, he has served as Director of the Transition Support Department in charge of countries in fragile situations. A member of committees and boards, he is the author and co-author of several articles and books. Tapsoba holds a Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Planning from SUNY Buffalo and a Master’s in International Finance from Time Université of Tunis, Tunisia.

Modibo Tolo, Secretary-General to the National Council of Employers of Mali (CNPM); Deputy Secretary-General of Business Africa (Organization of African employers)

Mr. Modibo Tolo, holds an MBA in business management. To this day, he has an administrative career rich in 24 years of continuous service in an organization of employers including the National Council of Employers of Mali (CNPM).

He is currently the Secretary general of CNPM. As a result, he regularly and actively participates in international meetings and forums on labour and social dialogue. He represents the CNPM at the ILO International Labour Conference and actively participates in the activities of the international organization of Employers in Geneva, Switzerland.

He is an assessor at the social Chamber of the Bamako Court of Appeal since 1995.
He is also the Deputy secretary general of Business Africa, the Organization of African employers.

As an expert on the ILO's regional GERM project, Mr. Tolo is known internationally and sub-regional as a master trainer. He regularly hosts training sessions for trainers on the different GERM program.

Cheikh Tidiane Wade, Geographer, Researcher, Migration and Climate Change

Cheikh Tidiane Wade works on issues of climate change, territorial development and migration. He holds a Ph.D. in Geography and has undertaken several years of research on climate change.

He worked with UN-Habitat and the City of Saint Louis on the Cities and Climate Change Initiative, which aimed to strengthen the preparedness and adaptive capacity of cities in developing countries. Wade has worked for the Programme "Towards territories that emit less GHGs and are more resistant to Climate Change" to support territories in promoting sustainable livelihoods and local development, based on a strategy that has taken into account the risks and opportunities offered by climate change.

Between July 2014 and October 2018, he coordinated a multi-country research program on the resilience of economies in semi-arid zones (PRESA). It is implemented as part of the African and Asian Adaptation Collaborative Research Initiative funded by the International Development Research Centre (Canada) and the United Kingdom Department for International Development.

Wade has also been the Team Leader of a research project on migration, climate change, transfer, adaptation and resilience in West Africa and Asia. In this role, he has carried out several coordination missions in the sub-region, participated in international scientific meetings and developed a wealth of expertise on climate change adaptation issues, particularly on community resilience and response strategies, and the role of migration and migrant remittances in adaptation.
**Gilles Yabi, Political Analyst and Economist, Founder of the think tank WATHI**

Gilles Yabi is a political analyst and doctor in development economics. Dr. Gilles Olakounlé Yabi is the founder and president of WATHI, a West African think tank. WATHI is an open platform for the exchange of ideas, knowledge and formulation of action to transform West African societies.

Yabi worked as a political analyst then as Senior Director of West Africa office of the International Crisis Group, an international non-governmental organization working to prevent and resolve armed conflicts. He holds a Ph.D. in Development Economics from the University of Clermont-Ferrand (France). Yabi was a journalist for Jeune Afrique in Paris before moving to Dakar. Gilles Yabi is also an independent consultant in the areas of conflict analysis, security and political governance in West Africa, and a regular speaker for 15 years in the international media on issues of peace, security, political and economic governance in West Africa.

**Ayman Zohry, Demographer and Expert on Migration Studies**

Ayman Zohry (Ph.D. University of Sussex) is an Expert on Migration Studies based in Cairo, Egypt. He is the Founding President of the Egyptian Society for Migration Studies (EGYMIG). Following his early interests in Arab and Egyptian demography (1987-1998), Zohry’s research interests have shifted to the study of migration. His current research interests include migration and labour circulation, migration and society, migration policies in Middle East and North Africa, and Europe. Zohry has, additionally, provided various consultant services and technical advice to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Bank, the Arab League, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia, Academy for Educational Development, USAID, and many other national, regional, and international organizations and NGOs. Currently, Zohry is the president of the Egyptian Society for Migration Studies. He is also the chair of the scientific panel on migration, Union for African Population Studies.