

Speakers' Profiles



Hon. Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u is the Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury and Planning, Government of Kenya. He is an Associate Professor of economics at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, and a distinguished researcher and trainer. He is the immediate former Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya, where he served for two terms from 2007 to 2015. He has been a member of Global Advisory Council (GAC) of the World Economic Forum and a Visiting Fellow of Practice at the Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University. Prior to his appointment as Governor, he was the Director of Training at the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). He also worked at the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) in 2001 and the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) in 1999. He holds a PhD in economic from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and has published widely in international journals as well as chapters in various books on economic policy issues.



Hon. Prof. Mthuli Ncube is the Minister for Finance and Economic Development in Zimbabwe. Professor Ncube is a financial, economics, investment, and public policy expert with vast experience in both the private and public sectors. He was Professor of Public Policy at Oxford University, Professor of Finance and Dean at the Witwatersrand University, as well as Lecturer at London School of Economics. Prof Ncube served as Vice President and Chief Economist of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) where he led the strategic thinking within the bank on economic development issues for the entire African continent. He led and guided the development of the Bank's 10 term Strategy (2013-2022) and was a member of the senior management team at AfDB. He has extensive experience in the private sector as an investment banker and fund manager. He holds a PhD in Economics from Cambridge University, UK and has published numerous books and articles.



Hon. Eliud Owalo is the Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communication and the Digital Economy, Kenya. He is an economist, management consultant and strategy expert. He was the Managing Consultant of Eliud & Associates (E&A) Management Consultants, an International Management Consultancy and Training firm. Hon. Owalo is a Fellow of the Institute of Human Resource Management (FIHRM); Member of the Professional Trainers' Association of Kenya (PTAK); and a Former Director/Council Member of the Kenya School of Government (KSG). He has more than two decades' experience in management consultancy. He has been a lead consultant in major consultancy assignments in both the public and private sectors. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics and business studies from Kenyatta University, an MBA in human resource management from the University of Nairobi. He is currently a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) candidate in strategic management at the University of Nairobi.



Prof. Théophile T. Azomahou is the Acting Executive Director, and the Director of Training at the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). His research resonates around development economics at the frontier of evidence-based policy, quantitative empirics, and economic theory. He has a proven track record of publications in peer-reviewed journals and is he is a guest editor for several academic journals. Prior to joining AERC in January 2021, he was Senior Research Fellow at the United Nations University, UNU (2008-2018) in which capacity he led the UNU research group on 'Economic Development, Innovation, Governance and Institutions', Professor of Development Economics at the Maastricht University School of Business and Economics (2010-2020), Professor of Research at the National Centre for Scientific Research, CNRS (2018-2020), and Professor of Economics at the University Clermont Auvergne, CERDI (2015-2021) among other positions. Prof. Azomahou holds a PhD and a master's degree in Economics, both from the University of Strasbourg, France. He also received an executive education on 'A Cutting Edge of Development Thinking' from Harvard Kennedy School, USA. He is a Senior Fellow of the Pan-African Scientific Research Council and has been serving as AERC resource person since 2019.



Dan Peters is an advisor in the foundation's Development Policy and Finance team and manages the foundation's partnership with the World Bank. During the COVID pandemic, Dan coordinated the foundation's participation in the Access to COVID Tools Accelerator (ACT-A). Dan formerly worked in the U.S. government, including positions at the State and Treasury Departments. Most recently, Dan established and led the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Development Results and Accountability to help U.S. policymakers monitor and evaluate the impact of the \$120 billion in annual financial commitments by multilateral development banks. Prior to that, Dan served as the Senior Advisor to the U.S. Executive Director at the World Bank, and the Director of the Africa Office at the U.S. Treasury Department. He also was the chair of the Steering Committee of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFFSP) – a \$1.5 billion multi-donor trust fund focused on improving the lives of smallholder farmers in the world's poorest countries. Earlier in his career, Dan worked at the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer with assignments in Syria, Honduras, and the Economic and Business Affairs Bureau.

