

AERC 61st Plenary Session

“The Financial Technology (FinTech) Revolution in Africa” Plenary Speakers’ Profiles

Opening Ceremony



Dr. Kamau Thugge C.B.S

Dr. Kamau Thugge C.B.S., is the tenth Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK). Dr. Thugge joined CBK after a long and distinguished career in the international and Kenyan public service. He previously worked for the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Dr. Thugge has held various senior roles in Kenya, including being the Head of the Fiscal and Monetary Affairs Department at the National Treasury, as Economic Secretary and as Senior Economic Advisor. He also served as Principal Secretary at the National Treasury, and lately as Senior Advisor to the President and Head of Fiscal and Budget Affairs. He also served on various boards including that of the Central Bank of Kenya, the Monetary Policy Advisory Committee, the Kenya Revenue Authority and the Capital Markets Authority. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the Colorado College, and master’s and PhD Degrees in Economics from Johns Hopkins University in the United States.



Professor Ernest Aryeetey

Professor Ernest Aryeetey has been integral to the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) since its inception in 1988, serving as a Resource Person, Group Chair, Programme Committee member, thought leader, and, since 2021, as AERC Board Chair and “Director at Large.” He is an Emeritus Professor of Development Economics at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research at University of Ghana. He was, until recently, Secretary-General of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana. Professor Aryeetey has also directed the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution and ISSER at the University of Ghana. Professor Aryeetey studied Economics at University of Ghana and then undertook graduate studies at the Universitaet Dortmund, Germany completing his PhD in 1985.



Professor Victor Murinde

Professor Victor Murinde is the Executive Director of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). He joined AERC from SOAS University of London, where he had been serving as the AXA Professor of Global Finance. Prof Murinde is a distinguished financial economist with more than 25 years of experience post-PhD, mainly involving university research and teaching, but also including senior-level stints in practitioner, policy, and consultancy roles for governments and leading international organizations. In his scholarly endeavours, Prof Murinde has contributed over 120 research papers on economics, banking, and finance topics. He was also the founding Director of the African Development Institute at the African Development Bank (2011 - 2014). He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society.



Dr. Abbi Kedir

Dr. Abbi M. Kedir is the Director of Research the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). He joined AERC in 2023 from the University of Sheffield, UK where he was serving as an Associate professor of International Business since 2016. In addition to long years of service in UK academia since 1999, he has experience of working in government (Ethiopia); the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and on various consulting assignments with the World Bank, UNDP, UN Women and the African Development Bank (AfDB). He has published more than 50 journal articles and several book chapters. He is an editorial board member of *Journal of Development Studies* and *Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research*. Currently, he is co-editing a Routledge Handbook on Development Economics and Development Finance and is a member of the IMF, Climate and Development Taskforce and the Technical Advisory Group of AUDA-NEPAD.

Plenary Session 1: Keynote & Prof. Benno Ndulu Memorial Lecture



Professor Thankom Arun

Professor Thankom Arun is the Faculty Dean for Research in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Essex. A distinguished scholar, he holds the title of Professor of Global Development and Accountability at Essex Business School, serves as a Professor Extraordinaire at the Stellenbosch Business School in South Africa, and is a Research Fellow at IZA in Bonn. Previously, he was a Professor and Director of the Institute of Global Finance and Development at Lancashire Business School. Renowned for his interdisciplinary approach, Professor Arun's research goes beyond traditional academic boundaries to address pressing global challenges, particularly in developing and emerging economies. His recent work focuses on critical contemporary issues such as Fintech innovation, financial inclusion, climate change, and sustainability, making significant contributions to both academic knowledge and real-world impact.



Mr. Jared Osoro

Mr. Jared Osoro is the Director of Credit Markets at FSD Africa. Prior to this role, Jared held positions at Kenya Bankers Association, where he served as the Director of Research and Policy, as well as the Director of the KBA Centre for Research on Financial Markets & Policy. Before joining the Kenya Bankers Association, Osoro worked at East African Development Bank as a Bank Economist. Jared has two decades of experience as a practicing economist in the financial sector. He spearheaded analytical work on policy and market dynamics to support market deepening and policy engagement. Jared holds a Master of Science Degree in Economics from the University of Zimbabwe and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Nairobi has published widely.

Plenary Session 2: Plenary Paper Presentation



Dr. Maureen Were

Dr. Maureen Were is the Acting Deputy Director of Real Sector Analysis Division in the Research Department, Central Bank of Kenya (CBK). She previously served as Manager in the Macroeconomic Modelling and Forecasting Division, Research Department at the CBK and worked for United Nations University-World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) as a Research Fellow. Before joining the Central Bank, she was a policy analyst at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) for eight years, having previously taught Economics at the Egerton University as an Assistant Lecturer. She has extensive experience in research, policy analysis, and macroeconomic modelling. She has published and co-authored numerous research papers on topics such as monetary policy, trade, exchange rates, financial inclusion and gender. She holds PhD and Master's degrees in Economics, both acquired under the collaborative PhD and Master's programmes (CPP and CMAP) of the AERC.



Dr. Samuel Tiriongo

Dr. Samuel Tiriongo is the Director of Research at Kenya Bankers Association (KBA). Before joining KBA, he worked as an economist with the Central Bank of Kenya for 13 years. Dr. Tiriongo has conducted various research assignments that have helped shape industry discourse and policymaking. He has published extensively in peer-reviewed research outlets, focusing on market microstructure, economic responses to crises, monetary policy communication, and credit market analyses, among other areas. Dr. Tiriongo has a PhD in Economics from the University of Dar es Salaam-Tanzania. He was conferred this degree under the Collaborative PhD Programme in Economics for Sub-Saharan AERC.



Dr. Rodgers Ocheng

Dr. Rodgers Ocheng is a Lecturer in the Department of Economic Theory at Kenyatta University, Kenya. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Dar es Salaam and the University of Nairobi under the African Economic Research Consortium. His research focuses on macroeconomics, fintech, market microstructure, and econometrics, particularly in the African banking sector. Dr. Ocheng has published on public debt, stock market liquidity, and fintech's impact on bank risk-taking. He has trained on short courses at leading institutions, including the London School of Economics, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, and the Florence School of Banking and Finance, specializing in financial markets, macroeconomics, and econometrics. His work bridges academic rigor and practical insights into financial markets and policy in sub-Saharan Africa.

Plenary Session 3: Voices of Today and Tomorrow in the FinTech Space



Mr. Leon Kiptum

Mr. Leon Kiptum is the Board Member and Deputy Secretary General of the Association of FinTechs in Kenya (AFIK). With a strong background in financial technology and digital innovation, Leon plays a key role in promoting the growth and development of Kenya's FinTech ecosystem. He is committed to fostering collaboration among industry stakeholders, advancing policy initiatives, and supporting the adoption of innovative solutions that drive financial inclusion. Leon's leadership and strategic insights have positioned him as an influential figure in Kenya's evolving FinTech landscape.



Ms. Emily Odindo

Ms. Emily Odindo is the founder of Pim Company Limited, where she leverages her expertise in fintech and digital strategy to empower small and medium enterprises (SMEs). She is a certified fintech practitioner with extensive experience in retail banking and digital financial solutions. Her work focuses on enabling SMEs to streamline processes, improve efficiency, and achieve growth, positively impacting their bottom lines. Emily is particularly passionate about fostering financial inclusion and innovation. She has highlighted the transformative role of mobile money in reaching underserved communities, enabling efficient financial services, and supporting rural and low-income businesses to access credit and scale their operations.



Ms. Phyian Karinge

Ms. Phyian Karinge is an award-winning techie, a passionate product manager and a founder with an odd and insatiable need for sunlight. She built YoungTechiez, a platform with 3000+ members to make tech familiar through inspiring tech stories and digital content. She also runs upskilling programs with partners like Zindua School and NOORA education to position young people for better opportunities in the tech industry. Aside from her work with Youngtechiez, she is skilled at building intuitive products for various segments. She believes that to build an intuitive and usable product you must understand people and design. This is clear in her work with leading the development of multiple B2B and B2C platforms. She is also an exceptional global moderator and speaker, with global events like AMF, WIDS, PATF, FEMSA and more under her belt.



Mr. John Kiptum Juma

Mr. John Kiptum Juma is the Co-Founder and CEO of Churpy Inc., a Kenyan fintech startup established in 2020. Churpy is revolutionizing how businesses automate mundane finance operations through its SaaS-based platform, which automates payment and invoice reconciliation processes and provides working capital financing in conjunction with commercial banks. John has extensive experience in technology, data analytics, banking, and risk management, having previously worked with organizations such as Citibank. His deep understanding of the inefficiencies in traditional financial processes inspired him to create innovative solutions tailored to African businesses. Under his leadership,

Churpy has connected businesses with major regional banks like Citibank, Stanbic, and NCBA through its API integration. The platform provides tools for real-time reconciliation, streamlining financial operations for companies, and helping SMEs access working capital financing through an SME productivity toolkit. Recently, Churpy secured \$1 million in seed funding to support its expansion to Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa.



Mr. Pheneas Munene

Mr. Pheneas Munene is the Chief Executive Officer of Phindor. He has previously served as Machine Learning Engineer and UI Developer in the same organization. Pheneas Munene holds a 2016 - 2020 Bachelor of Technology - BTech in Electrical and Electronics Engineering @ Technical University of Kenya. Pheneas is enterprising young innovator that has developed an AI app that supports business process for the small scale enterprises.

**Plenary Session 4: High-Level Practitioner Round Table by Bank CEOs
(Kenya Bankers Association)**



Professor Sandrine Kablan

Professor Sandrine Kablan holds a PHD from the university of Nanterre, Paris La défense. She is currently associate professor at the university of East Paris Creteil, where she teaches fields related to economics and finance. She is an invited professor at Faculté Universitaires d'Abidjan, where she teaches financial markets in developing countries and financial theory. She formerly worked as an economist at the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO). She works as a consultant with United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNUWIDER) on foreign aid for climate change. She was also a visiting scholar at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). She works with the African Economic research Consortium (AERC) on collaborative research projects. She has written several articles in various international journals. Her research topics are the following : banking, microfinance, financial markets, financial resource curse, commodity markets, green finance and the economic impact of natural disasters. She also wrote several book chapters on various topics in books published by international editors, like Palgrave McMillan, Edward Elgar Publishing and Word Scientific.



Ms. Betty Korir

Ms. Betty Korir is The Chief Executive Officer of Credit Bank PLC. She is an award-winning leader, recognized as the “Banking CEO of the Year - East Africa” by The European Global Banking & Finance Awards in 2019. As a transformational leader she is dedicated to driving social impact, with a strong track record in formulating business resilience frameworks, strategy development, merchant banking, cross-border trade, structured finance, change management, credit policy, and operational efficiency. She was named among the Top 100 Women CEOs in Africa. Mrs. Korir holds two bachelor’s degrees (Honours), a postgraduate master’s in business administration, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Policy at the University of Nairobi. She is an

accredited Risk Expert, an Associate of the Kenya Institute of Bankers. Additionally, she is a certified Chartered Credit Analyst (CCA) and a member of the Global Association of Finance and Management (GAFM). Currently, she serves as Vice Chairperson of the Kenya Bankers Association and was a Finalist in the Inclusive Leader East Africa category at the Gender Mainstreaming Awards in 2024.



Ms. Audrey Mnisi Mireku

Ms. Audrey Mnisi Mireku is a seasoned Information Security Professional and accomplished banking executive with 23 years of experience in cybersecurity, financial services, and strategic leadership. She currently serves as the Chief Information Security and Risk Officer at the Ghana Association of Banks, where she plays a pivotal role in fostering collaboration among financial institutions, promoting regulatory compliance, and driving initiatives that enhance financial inclusion and digital banking innovation. Audrey is also a board member for FIRST.org, an international forum of cybersecurity incident responders, and the Vice President of the Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS) West Africa Affiliate, a sisterhood dedicated to recruiting, mentoring, and advancing women in cybersecurity. With a passion for ethical banking and sustainability, she has been instrumental in promoting corporate governance, risk management, and operational efficiency in Ghana’s banking sector, ensuring its regional and international competitiveness.



Ms. Jamila Aroi

Ms. Jamila Aroi is a Partner at PwC Kenya, where she specializes in assurance and advisory services. With over a decade of experience in the financial sector, Ms. Aroi is known for her expertise in risk management and corporate governance. She is committed to driving sustainable growth for clients and fostering a culture of innovation within her team. An advocate for diversity and inclusion, Ms. Aroi actively mentors young professionals in the industry.



Mr. Moses Nyabanda

Mr. Moses Okoth Nyabanda is an accomplished finance professional with over 20 years of experience in accounting, auditing, and consulting. A former partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), he holds CPA and CPS credentials along with a first-class honours degree in finance from the University of Nairobi. His career at PwC, which began in 2001, saw him progress from manager to partner, where he led high-performing teams in assurance, tax, advisory, and consulting services for clients ranging from startups to multinational corporations and government agencies. In April 2024, Moses transitioned from his role as PwC Rwanda’s country manager to Group Chief Finance and Strategy Execution Officer at Equity Bank. After five months, he advanced to the acting Managing Director role, where he continues to leverage his strategic expertise to drive growth and innovation.



Mr. Kelvin Mukabi

Mr. Kelvin Mukabi is an experienced and highly skilled ICT professional with over 17 years in the banking and financial services sector. As the Assistant Head of ICT (Infrastructure & Security) at Middle East Bank Kenya, Kelvin plays a pivotal role in overseeing ICT operations, implementing robust security solutions, and leading digital transformation initiatives. His responsibilities span the management of infrastructure, the integration of advanced technologies, and ensuring the security of banking systems and operations. Kelvin has spearheaded significant projects, such as the deployment of Core Banking Systems, integration of alternative banking channels like Mobile and Internet Banking, Visa Card services, and the recent migration of the SWIFT system from MT to ISO 20022, a major step in modernizing cross-border payment systems. His extensive expertise in ICT infrastructure, security, and project management is backed by a strong foundation of professional certifications, further complementing his leadership in driving strategic technology initiatives. Kelvin is known for his ability to build and lead high-performing teams, successfully deliver complex projects within deadlines and budgets, and continuously enhance operational efficiency. Passionate about leveraging technology to foster innovation, Kelvin is committed to helping organizations thrive in the digital age by providing scalable and secure IT solutions that support their long-term success.



Mr. Gituku Kirika

Mr. Gituku Kirika joined Integrated Payment Services Limited (IPSL) in January 2021. He is a financial services and payments professional with extensive banking and fintech leadership experience in delivering innovative solutions, managing stakeholder engagements, taking on new initiatives and leading teams, having worked across East Africa with Standard Chartered Bank and DTB, primarily in product development. Prior to joining IPSL, Gituku was Director for Digital Payments (Sub-Saharan Africa) at Mastercard. A digital payments expert, Gituku spearheaded strategy and execution for Mastercard's fastest growing line of business by putting together and leading cross-functional teams to launch various solutions enabling millions of new consumers across Sub-Saharan Africa. He has also led various partner, vendor and regulatory discussions and negotiations that culminated in the launch of various market first solutions whilst at DTB. Gituku holds a Bsc. (Hons) in Computer and Business Studies from the University of Warwick.

Plenary Session 5: Paper Presentation



Professor Peter Muriu

Prof. Peter Muriu holds PhD in Financial Economics from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom. He is an associate Professor at the Department of Economics & Development Studies, University of Nairobi. Besides being an alumnus of the African Economic Research Consortium, and Collaborative Masters Programme (CMAP) Scholarship Award for African Scholars, he is also an active member of the AERC network. He is also an external reviewer for Oxford Development Studies, Financial Regulation and Compliance and Transnational Corporations Review Journals. As a policy analyst, he has been engaged by several African governments on matters of financial inclusion, banking and institutional reforms.



Professor Markos Zachariadis

Prof. Markos Zachariadis is the Chair of Financial Technology (FinTech) and is Full Professor of Information Systems at Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS), at the University of Manchester. He is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Financial & Monetary Systems; Chief Fintech Advisor to the President of the Hellenic Competition Commission, Greece's competition and markets authority; and a FinTech Research Fellow at the Cambridge Centre for Digital Innovation (CDI), University of Cambridge. His research sits at the cross-section of economics of digital innovation, financial technology studies, and network economics. He studied economics at the University of Patras, Department of Economics and holds an MSc and PhD from the London School of Economics.



Dr. Rose Ngugi

Dr. Rose Ngugi is the Executive Director of the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) and serves as the Secretary to the Board. She is involved in providing technical guidance and capacity building on policy and strategy formulation to the Government of Kenya and other stakeholders, with the overall aim of contributing to the achievement of national development goals. Before then, she was a Senior Advisor in the Office of Executive Director, Africa Group 1, International Monetary Fund, and Washington D.C. Dr. Ngugi has been a member of Central Bank of Kenya, Monetary Policy Committee and has vast teaching experience in the University of Nairobi, School of Economics. Dr Ngugi has published widely. Her research interests are in public policy, financial sector, investments, reforms and institutional issues. She holds a PhD from Business School Birmingham University, UK specializing in Financial Markets, a Masters and Bachelors degree in Economics from the University of Nairobi, Kenya.



Professor Meryem Duygun

Prof Meryem Duygun is a Professor of Banking and Finance at the Nottingham University Business School. She holds an endowed chaired professor in Risk and Insurance funded by the UK largest insurance company, Aviva. Her expertise is in the areas of banking, risk, financial technologies and Insurtech, and she is the Founder and Co-director of the Research England-funded INFINITY, the Inclusive Financial Technology Innovation Hub at the University of Nottingham. Her research was funded by Research England, UKRI-ESRC, British Academy, Experian and Royal Academy of Engineering. She is the Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Meryem is the Founder and President of the global research society, International Finance and Banking Society (IFABS). She has been named on the "Women in FinTech Powerlist" in 2020, 2022 and 2023 by UK Innovate Finance. In 2019 she was listed among the seventeen most influential women in Insurtech by FinTech Global. As a renowned expert in banking and finance, Meryem is a regular consultant for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Indonesian Supreme Audit Board (BPK). She works closely with Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) on small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) access to finance research.



Professor George Kararach

Prof. George Kararach is a lead economist at the African Development Bank. He is also a Non-Resident Fellow at Payne Institute, Colorado School of Mines; a Visiting Professor at the Wits School of Governance and a Visiting Professor in Practice at The London School of Economics and Political Science, (LSE). He holds a PhD in economics from Leeds University, U.K. George has published on public policy and macro-economic policy reform in developing countries.

Plenary Session 6: Central Bank Governors Forum I - "Central Bank Digital Currencies: Where Are We?"



Professor Sheri Markose

Professor Sheri M. Makose is a Professor of Economics at the University of Essex and has a PhD from the London School of Economics. As founder director of the Centre for Computational Finance and Economic Agents (CCFEA), she pioneered a multidisciplinary postgraduate curriculum on FinTech and digital economy where the design of digital economy infrastructure, especially for payments and settlements and financial systemic risk detection are her main areas of expertise. Since January 2024, Sheri is a member of the UK CBDC Academic Advisory Group of the Bank of England and HM Treasury. Sheri is building a population scale data driven agentbased model for UK CBDC adoption. Sheri has been Senior Consultant at the Financial Stability Unit of the Reserve Bank of India where she oversaw the digital mapping of the Indian financial system for systemic risk management. She has been consultant to the IMF for systemic risk from derivatives and was an academic advisor to the G20 OTC Derivatives Regulatory Reforms. Sheri works on the digital foundations of intelligence and has given keynote

talks at 2019 Bio Inspired ICT (BICT) Conference at Carnegie Mellon University and at C3 Complexity Symposium of Sydney University. Since 2017, Sheri has been an Associate Editor of the Frontiers journal for Computational Intelligence: Robotics and AI.



Dr. James Alic Garang

Dr. James Alic Garang is the Governor of the Bank of South Sudan. Previously, he served as the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Social Studies at Upper Nile University and was a Senior Economist with the Ebony Center for Strategic Studies. Additionally, he held the position of Senior Advisor to the Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board in Washington, DC. Dr. Garang holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Utah and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.



Dr. Wilson Banda

Dr. Wilson Banda is the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Malawi. Prior to this role, he served as the Senior Advisor to the Executive Director for the Africa Group at the World Bank. He was also the General Manager of the Central Bank and has held positions as the Director of the Malawi Stock Exchange, a member of the Economics Association of Malawi, and Chairman of both the Malawi Knowledge Network (MAKNET) and Malawi Payment Systems. Wilson Banda earned his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Manchester, a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Harvard University, and an M.Phil. in Monetary Economics from Glasgow University.



Dr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou

Dr. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou is the Governor of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO). He earned his first master's degree in economics from the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny in Côte d'Ivoire, followed by a second master's degree in economics, an MBA in finance and a doctorate in economics from the University of Cincinnati, USA. Dr. Brou began his career at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where he held various roles, including Senior Economist responsible for Guinea-Bissau, Togo, Cape Verde, and Senegal, and later as the IMF's Resident Representative in Senegal. He also served with the World Bank as a representative in Chad and held the position of Minister of Industry and Mines in Côte d'Ivoire.

Dr. Kombe Kaponda



Dr. Kaponda is a leading regional finance, Central Banker and technology professional who is a highly motivated digital financial services and financial markets networks infrastructure specialist, current lead of the team researching on the feasibility of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in Zambia and the Chairperson of the Fintech WG. I'm a scholar for a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), have a Master's Degree in ICT Regulation, Policy and Management (MEng.), a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSc.), a certified Chartered Digital Finance Practitioner (CDFP) in Zambia certified by Tufts University under the Fletcher School of Law and diplomacy. Kombe is a very active

contributor to SADC and the global fintech and digital innovations agenda and is a member of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) Technology Community of Practice (CoP) deliberating on CBDC, currently sitting on the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) Architecture Interoperability committee, Taxonomy & CBDC, Digital Currency Ecosystem Global Initiative Working group.



Dr. Rashad Cassim

Dr. Rashad Cassim is the Deputy Governor of Southern African Reserve Bank. At the Bank, he oversees Markets and International Cluster, which includes the Financial Markets Department, International Economic Relations and Policy Department, Legal Services Department and National Payment System Department. Served as the Head of the SARB's Economic Research and Statistics Department and Chief Economist from March 2011 – July 2019. Before joining the SARB, he served as the Deputy Director-General at Statistics South Africa, responsible for economic statistics. He was also a professor and Head of the School of Economics and Business Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) from 2003 to 2006. Prior to that he was Head of the Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (a think tank) and held various research positions at the University of Cape Town. On the international front, he was the chairperson of the international Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics under the auspices of the BIS for a three-year period between 2019 and 2022. He serves on the Markets Committee of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and chairs the Corporation for Public Deposits (CPD).



Dr. Dunstone Ulwodi

Dr. Dunstone Ulwodi is a distinguished economist with over 17 years of experience in the Public Sector. His work has significantly shaped financial management policies and strategies, particularly in sovereign debt management. Dr. Ulwodi was instrumental in developing Kenya's sovereign retail bond market and the sovereign green bond framework. As an accomplished scholar, Dr. Ulwodi has co-authored several influential papers notably "Barriers of Financial Inclusion in sub-Saharan Africa". He holds a PhD in Economics, a Master of Arts in Economics, a Master of Science in Population Studies, and a Bachelor's degree in Education, all from the University of Nairobi. He is also recognized as an AERC scholar, having received the prestigious scholarship for his Economics studies. Currently, The National Treasury has seconded him to the Kenya National Entrepreneurs Savings Trust (KNEST), where he promotes financial inclusion through focusing on the informal sector. His professional interests encompass Economic Analysis, Applied Statistics, and Economic Demography, areas where he applied his expertise to drive impactful solutions. His career reflects a strong integration of policy development academic insight and practical application.

Plenary Session 7: Central Bank Governors Forum II - Debt Restructuring and SDR Reallocation in African Economic Recovery



Dr. Dianah Ngui Muchai

Dianah Ngui Muchai is a Collaborative Research Manager at the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). A distinguished researcher and a trainer, before joining AERC, she was Senior Lecturer of Economics at Kenyatta University - Kenya, a member of the Advisory Committee of the Environment for Development (EfD) Initiative in Kenya, and a senior researcher with various multinational organizations. Dr. Dianah also worked as a policy analyst at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA). She has over 20 years of experience conducting high-quality empirical research on issues related to industrial policies, enterprise performance and natural resources in developing countries. Since joining the consortium, she has worked on sub-Saharan African countries' topical and emerging issues, such as climate change, poverty, inequality, gender, financial inclusion, Special Drawing Rights, and human capital. She has authored and co-authored over fifty (50) academic articles and other publications. She is a member of the Task Force on Climate, Development and the International Monetary Fund. She holds a PhD in Economics from Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.



Prof. Abebe Shimeles

Prof. Abebe is an Honorary Professor, University of Cape Town and Senior Economic Advisor. Previously, Abebe served as the Director of Research at the AERC. He has also worked for The African Development Bank, The World Bank, UNECA, ACTIONAID, Addis Ababa University, and Institute for the Study of Ethiopian Nationalities in different capacities. His recent research interest lies in the broad areas of development economics with a focus on Africa.



Hon. Dr. Abdullah Hasnu Makame

Hon. Dr. Abdullah Hasnu Makame (PhD) is an Honourable Member of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) where he is a commissioner and a former Chairperson of the Standing Committee in Agriculture, Environment, Tourism and Natural Resources. Dr. Makame has served in various senior capacities in both the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and Zanzibar; academically, his doctorate is from Birmingham UK and MSc from Strathclyde - Scotland, he holds a Professional Certificate in International Trade from Adelaide and has published both locally and internationally. Dr Makame serves on various boards across the EAC region.



Dr. Daouda Sembene

Dr. Daouda Sembene is the CEO of AfriCatalyst, a Dakar-based global development firm, and serves as a Distinguished Non-resident Fellow at the Washington-based Center for Global Development (CGD). His extensive career includes leadership roles at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), representing 23 African countries on the Executive Board. Notably, he chaired committees aimed at enhancing collaboration between the IMF and global institutions like the World Bank, the United Nations, and the WTO. He also advised the President of Senegal on economic matters and was appointed as Special Advisor to the Chair of the African Union on food security. Daouda's expertise is sought globally, providing testimony to US Congress and consulting for major international organizations. He holds a PhD in development economics from American University and has authored numerous publications focusing on macroeconomic policies and low-income countries' developmental challenges.

Professor Robert Mudida



Professor Robert Mudida is the Director, Research Department. He is a member of the Royal Economic Society and Society for Financial Econometrics. Prior to joining the Bank, Prof. Mudida was the Professor of Political Economy and Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Governance at Strathmore University. Prof. Mudida has published widely in top international journals in his core areas of research which are macroeconomics, financial economics, political economy and industrial organisation. Prof. Mudida has also served as the lead consultant for several projects in various institutions such as the World Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Financial Sector Deepening and the Rwandan and Ugandan Governments amongst others. He has also been awarded the IMF academic fellowship for his research on economic issues. He holds a PhD and an MA in International Studies as well as a BA in Economics from the University of Nairobi. He also has an MSc in Financial Economics from the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies.

Ms. Serah Makka



Ms. Serah Makka is ONE's Executive Director for Africa where she leads ONE's advocacy and strategic engagement with key stakeholders, guided by a passion to build an impactful and authentic presence across the Continent. Serah's previous roles at ONE include leading our supporter engagement and deepening the participation of people, citizens from all walks of life to act upon their agency to bend the world towards justice. She has been recognised in the 'Global Top 35 Under 35 in International Affairs' for her work in global foreign policy, and became an Archbishop Desmond Tutu Fellow, for her leadership in amplifying citizen voices for better governance. Serah holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of North Florida and a master's degree in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.



Mr. Jason Rosario Braganza

Jason Rosario Braganza, AFRODAD's Executive Director, previously served as the Co-Head and Programme Director of Tax at the International Lawyers Project (ILP). Prior to joining ILP, Jason served as the Deputy Executive Director and Head of Research at Tax Justice Network Africa where he led its work on research and advocacy on illicit financial flows and tax justice at the continental and global level. Prior to this, Jason worked as a Senior Analyst at the Development Initiatives – Africa Hub and Economist at the Ministry of East African Community in Kenya. Jason holds a master's degree in development economics from the University of Sussex (UK), and an Undergraduate Degree in Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Jason also serves as Co-Chair of the Youth for Tax Justice Network (YTJN) and Associate Governor at St Ignatius College.