



# Value Chain Development, Trade and Economic Transformation in Africa

## Regional Policy Forum Speaker Profiles

12 March 2025 | 08:00 - 17:00 Hrs GMT+3



## Session I: Opening Ceremony



### **Dr. Abbi Kedir**

Dr. Abbi M. Kedir is the Director of Research at the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). He joined AERC in 2023 from the University of Sheffield, UK, where he served as an Associate professor of International Business since 2016. In addition to long years of service in UK academia since 1999, he has experience 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 the Journal of Development Studies and Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research. He is co-editing a Routledge Handbook on Development Economics and Development Finance. He is a member of the IMF, Climate and Development Taskforce, and the Technical Advisory Group of AUDA-NEPAD.

## Session II: Synthesis Paper Presentation



### **Prof. Alemayehu Geda**

Prof. Alemayehu Geda is a Professor of Economics at the Department of Economics, Addis Ababa University. Also, he is a research associate of the University of London (SOAS, CDPR, London), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA, Addis Ababa), African Economic Research Consortium (Nairobi), The Kenyan Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA, Nairobi), Central Bank of Kenya and Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC, Kampala). He has worked as a consultant for several international organizations including the UN ECA, The UNDP, the World Bank, SIDA, DFID, and the governments of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia. He has taught Macroeconomics, Macroeconometric Modelling, and International Economics at the University of London, Addis Ababa University, Haramaya University, and the African Economic Research Consortium. He has widely published on African and Ethiopian Economy in major international journals, including a book by Macmillan (2002) and a forthcoming book on International Trade for Developing Countries (2011) by Palgrave-Macmillan and Applied Time Series Econometrics for Africa, the University of Nairobi Press (2011) and Reading on Ethiopian Economy, 2011, Addis Ababa University Press.

## Session I: Opening Ceremony



### Prof. Oliver Morrissey

Prof. Oliver Morrissey is a Professor of Development Economics at the University of Nottingham. He joined the university in 1989 and was promoted to his current position in 2004. He is also the Director of the Centre for Research in Economic Development and International Trade (CREDIT) at the School of Economics. His research focuses on aid effectiveness, trade policy reform, conditionality and adjustment, and agricultural supply response, particularly in Africa. Before joining Nottingham, Morrissey was a Research Assistant at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) from 1982 to 1984. He later obtained his MSc and PhD from the University of Bath. He has published extensively on aid and trade policy in international journals, mainly on Africa.



### Prof. Tabitha Kiriti-Ng'ang'a

Tabitha Kiriti Ng'ang'a is a Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics and Development Studies (DEDS) at the University of Nairobi, specializing in International Trade, Gender, African women studies, Poverty, and Food Security. She is the Coordinator of UNCTAD VI, Chair of the WTO Chairs Program, member of the National Consultative Committee on Trade Facilitation, National Consultative Committee on TBT, National Consultative Committee on University Education, Chair of the Post Graduate Studies Committee in the DEDS, and member of the Post Graduate Studies Committee in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. She is the Leader of the UoN AWSC Women in Leadership Program and the PI: Participation of Women in Economics in Leadership & Management in Academic Institutions in Kenya. Tabitha is a Senior Fellow at the Pan African Scientific Research Council. She has done extensive research and authored and co-authored papers in international trade, food security, poverty, gender and women studies, advocacy, social protection, gender-based violence, affirmative action, education, and health. She has received the Vice Chancellors' Award of Excellence for three years since 2022.

## Session III: High-level Value Chain and Trade Practitioners Panel



### Dr. Scholastica Odhiambo

Dr. Scholastica Odhiambo is a Research Manager at the African Economic Research at the African Economic Research Consortium. She oversees thematic research and several collaborative projects focusing on Growth, Poverty, Inequality, and Redistribution Relationships in African economies. She is currently on leave from her position as a Senior Lecturer of Economics at Maseno University, Kenya. Dr. Odhiambo has worked as a Technical Advisor for Health System Strengthening in Kenya's Nyanza Province, a Health Economics Advisor for UNITED at the University of Nairobi, HIV Fellowship Programme, and a lead Health Economist in maternal health projects. Additionally, she has been involved in green energy research and economic policy projects. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Nairobi and a Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Malawi.



### **Mr. Ato Ewnetu Taye**

Mr. Taye is a seasoned executive with 33 years of leadership experience in logistics, trade facilitation, and maritime transport. Holding an MBA in International Management from South Bank University, UK-London, Mr. Ato Ewnetu Taye has played a crucial role in shaping Ethiopia's transport and trade infrastructure. For the past two years, he has served as the Ethiopia Country Director at Trademark Africa, a leading Aid-for-Trade organization in Africa. Before this role, he was the Deputy Director at the Ethiopian Logistics Transformation Office (LTO) under the Ethiopian Maritime Authority, contributing to national logistics reforms. He also serves as Deputy CEO at Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics (ESL), overseeing key shipping and freight operations. Earlier in his career, Mr. Ato Ewnetu Taye was the General Manager of Maritime Transit Service (MTS) in Djibouti, managing import-export transit and ship operations. He also served as the General Manager of the Ethiopian Dry Ports Services Enterprise (DPSE), where he was instrumental in establishing and designing operational systems for Ethiopia's dry ports, including Modjo Dry Port. Additionally, he spent six years as the General Manager of Lake Tana Transport Enterprise (LTTE), overseeing passenger, tourist, and cargo transport on Lake Tana. With extensive experience in trade logistics, port development, and maritime transport, Mr. Ato Ewnetu Taye has been a driving force in modernizing Ethiopia's logistics sector, facilitating trade, and improving infrastructure to support economic growth.



### **Ms. Sharon Modiba**

Sharon Modiba is a Chief Economist at the International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa (ITAC), with extensive expertise in the automotive industry, industrial policy, labor economics, and international trade economics. She oversees the monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment of South Africa's trade instruments and policies, playing an essential role in shaping economic development and promoting fair trade practices. She previously served as an Executive in South Africa's Automotive Industry Business Council, contributing to strategic policy development, automotive standards development, and industry growth.



### **Dr. Birasa Nyamulinda**

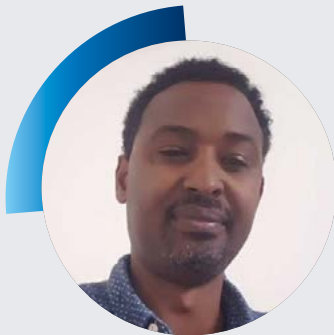
Dr. Birasa holds a BSc in Development Economics and an MSc in Applied Economics, both obtained from the University of Rwanda, and a PhD in Economics from the University College Dublin, Ireland. He has nearly 20 years of blended teaching experience at university, research, advisory and consulting services. He has ample experience in policy analysis, macroeconomic analysis, agribusiness, financial analysis, strategic planning, design of business plans, writing project proposals, value chain analysis, impact assessment, entrepreneurship, and project evaluation. He has been working as a Lecturer at the University level for over 16 years now and worked with International Organizations such as Crown Agents, USAID, FAO, AGRA, WACDEP, GWP, BRAC, FARA and others in different capacities. Besides, he worked with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) as an Investment Advisor for over five years; the position was more related to establishing and coordinating public and private partnerships and facilitating private investors and SMEs for the implementation of various projects in the agriculture space. In addition to his university teaching experience, Dr. Birasa has extensive proficiency in capacity building and support to smallholders, and startups.

## **Session IV: Policy Paper Presentations**



### **Dr. Josaphat Kweka**

Dr. Josaphat Kweka is an Independent Consultant and founder of Talanta International Ltd, an Advisory and Research firm in Tanzania. He is also a Senior Research Associate with ESRF and REPOA, with over 23 years of experience in East Africa development policy research, evaluation, and advisory work. His expertise spans tourism, industrial development, private sector growth, SMEs, trade, and regional integration. He is researching green industrialization and the competitiveness of Tanzania's manufacturing sector. He has consulted for the Tanzanian government, donor agencies, international organizations like the World Bank, and leading research institutions. A recognized tourism economist, Dr. Kweka has contributed to Tanzania's National Tourism Policy revision and domestic tourism marketing strategy. He served as Tanzania Country Director for TradeMark East Africa, Senior Economist at the World Bank, and Senior Research Fellow at ESRF. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Nottingham and an MA and BA degree from the University of Dar-es-Salaam.



### **Dr. Mengesha Yayo**

Dr. Yayo is an Assistant Professor at the Addis Ababa University, Department of Economics. He obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy. Moreover, he has earned his MSc in Economics from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, and BA in Economics from BahirDar University, Ethiopia. He has taught various undergraduate and graduate-level courses at different universities. His research area is on Poverty and Inequality, Health and Education, Trade and Regional Integration, Impact Evaluation, climate change, and Green Economy Model.



### **Prof. Njikam Ousmanou**

Prof. Njikam Ousmanou is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics & Management Science, University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon. Expertise: Microeconomic Modelling of Cross-section and Panel data, International Trade, and Economic Development. He holds a PhD in Economics (International Economics).



### **Andrea Ariu**

Andrea Ariu is an Assistant Professor at the University of Milan. He got his PhD from the Université Catholique de Louvain. His research focuses on international trade (with a focus on services trade) and international migration. Before joining the University of Milan, Andrea held an Assistant Professor position at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich and Post-Doc positions at the Geneva School of Economics and Management and the McDonough Business School, Georgetown University.



### **Dr. Flora Yselle Malah Kuete**

Dr. Yselle Malah Kuete is a distinguished researcher and lecturer in development economics. With a Ph.D. in the field, her expertise lies in human capital development, structural transformation, and labor market inequalities. She has collaborated with international organizations like the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Currently a lecturer at the University of Yaoundé 2 in Cameroon, Yselle's research focuses on improving primary education systems in Sub-Saharan African countries. She has undertaken projects analyzing factors affecting elementary school performance and studying regional and gender inequalities in education quality.



### **Prof. Gideon Ndubuisi**

Prof. Gideon Ndubuisi is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Delft University of Technology (TU Delft). Before joining TU Delft, he worked as an Economist at the German Development Institute (DIE) in Germany, where he contributed to setting up the “Research Network Sustainable Supply Chain Network”. He also has several years of experience in research, teaching, and policy advocacy. He has worked and consulted for different local and international organizations, including the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), the Kiel Institute for World Economy (IfW), the European Center for Economic Research (ZEW), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB), European Commission, African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET), and International Finance Corporation (IFC). He holds a PhD in Economics from Maastricht University. His research interests are Value Chain, Structural Change, (Green) Industrial Development & Policy, and Transition Minerals.



### **Prof. Solomon Owusu**

Solomon Owusu is an Assistant Professor of Global Economic Policy at the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University and a Core Faculty Member of the Global China and Global Economic Governance Initiative at the Global Development Policy Center. Before joining Boston University, he was a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Oxford Martin Program on the Future of Development at the University of Oxford. He also held a Research Economist position at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability in Bonn, Germany. He has worked with the World Bank, UNIDO, and Ghana Statistical Service on projects for the European Commission and Asian Development Bank. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Maastricht University/UNU-MERIT in the Netherlands. His research interest focuses broadly on development economics in areas such as the economics and measurement of structural transformation, jobs, and inclusive growth, global value chains, and trade. He also has a strong interest in research areas at the intersection of technology adoption, climate change, and productivity in developing countries, focusing on countries in Africa.



### **Ms. Benhilda Dube**

Ms. Benhilda Dube is the Chairperson of the Department of Economics at Binudra University of Science Education, Zimbabwe. Before this, she was a lecturer at the Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University (ZEGU) and Great Zimbabwe University. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Economics (2017) and A Bachelor of Science in Economics (2011).



### **Dr. Teresa Nyika**

Dr. Teresa Nyika is an Economist with over 15 years of expertise in developing and carrying out cross-disciplinary studies in economic development, with a particular emphasis on gender, livelihoods, food security, macroeconomics, health economics, and agricultural economics. She is skilled in developing strategies, enhancing capacity, managing programs and projects, monitoring and evaluating them, creating budgets, reporting, and teaching at the university level. Proficient in qualitative and quantitative research, including the design of data-gathering techniques, including experiments (randomized control trials), desk reviews, key informant interviews, focus groups, observations, consultative meetings, and questionnaire-based surveys. Highly proficient in data analysis, conducting rigorous statistical and econometric modeling using Excel, Stata, E-Views, and SPSS. Adept at composing and disseminating technical papers, research grants, book chapters, policy briefs, scientific articles, and proposals.



### **Dr. Michael Takudzwa Pasara**

Dr. Michael Pasara is an economist interested in macroeconomics, international economics (trade and finance), and sustainable development using mathematical, simulations, and econometric applications. He is mainly interested in research, consultancy, and policy advocacy. He has consulted and participated in high-level negotiations for various stakeholders, including government ministries and departments, especially in Zimbabwe and South Africa, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), international finance institutions (IFIs), and the private sector. Michael believes that Africa's development is tied to high levels of political will and sound institutions that implement research-based policies.

## ***Session IV: High-level Value Chain and Trade Policy Panel***



### **Dr. Isaac Shinyekwa**

Dr. Isaac Shinyekwa is the Head of Trade and Regional Integration at the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC), where he has been a researcher since 2010. He previously worked as a Coordinator for Market Research Studies at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries and as a resident consultant at EPRC. Dr. Shinyekwa has conducted research for global institutions such as the World Bank, IFPRI, UNCTAD, and the Brookings Institution. He has contributed to policy development, including the EAC Regional Trade Policy, Uganda's National Industrial Development Plan, and the EAC Common External Tariff. At the continental level, he is an AU Malabo CAADP scorecard expert. He holds a BA from Makerere University, an MSc in Natural Resource Economics from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, and a PhD in Economics from Makerere University. His research focuses on trade, regional integration, and industrialization, with publications in leading journals and publishing houses such as Oxford Press and Routledge.





### **Ms. Diane Sayinzonga**

Mrs. Diane Sayinzonga is the Chief of the UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa. She has extensive work experience in development-related areas such as trade and Investment promotion, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), SME support, and gender promotion. Before joining UNCTAD, she worked for the Rwanda Development Board (RDB). She also served as an Advisor in the office of the Executive Director at the International Trade Center (ITC) under the Mo Ibrahim Leadership Fellowship program. She also worked for the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in Rwanda. She has a Master's in International and Development Economics from the Economic School of Louvain – Belgium.



### **Mr. William Agyei - Manu**

William Agyei-Manu is The Vice President of the All Africa Association of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (AAASME) responsible for the West African Region. He is also the Chairman of the Agribusiness Sector at the Association of Ghana Industries-AGI and a Founding member of the Ghana Cassava Business Network. William is the Founder and Executive Chairman of the Ghana Chamber of Commerce. He is currently the General Secretary of the Agricultural Sector Skills Council. Mr. William Agyei-Manu founded the Ghana Cassava Centre of Excellence, GCCE, and the Youth In Modern Agribusiness Programme (YIMA). Agyei-Manu has previously worked in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and as a consultant for United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), The Louis Bolk Ghana (A Dutch Development Organization), Obuoba Energy, Ampomah Farms and Industry Limited, Bill Clinton Foundation, World Bank, National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (NEIP) of the Ministry of Business Development, Ghana Export School, Ghana Enterprises Agency (GEA). Agyei-Manu holds an MBA in Finance from Coventry University, UK, and a BSc in Agribusiness.



### **Mr. Okesade Olajide Mamud**

Mr. Olajide Mamud OKESADE was born on September 11, 1966, in Lagelu Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria. He completed his secondary education at Ibadan Municipal Government Grammar School and Urban Day Grammar School (1980–1985) before obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in English Studies from Obafemi Awolowo University in 1994. He later earned a Postgraduate Diploma and a master's in public administration from the same university in 2011 and 2014, respectively. His civil service career began in 1996 at the Oyo State Primary Education Board. He progressed through various director-level roles in finance, administration, planning, research, and intergovernmental relations across multiple ministries, including Special Duties, Women's Affairs, Commerce, and the Executive Governor's Office. In April 2022, he was appointed Permanent Secretary in the Oyo State Civil Service, serving in key ministries such as Education (2022), Establishments and Training (2023–2024), and Investment, Trade, Cooperatives, and Industry (2025). Mr. OKESADE has significantly contributed to governance and public administration throughout his career. A devout Muslim, he firmly believes in civil service as a tool for good governance in Africa. He is conducting a comparative analysis of civil service structures across various Nigerian states, Rwanda, the USA, the UK, and Singapore.



### **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.