

### **H.E. Anna Karin Eneström**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative and Co-facilitator of the Global Digital Compact  
Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in New York



Ambassador Karin Eneström is a distinguished Swedish diplomat with extensive experience in top diplomatic roles worldwide. She has served as the Representative to the Political and Security Committee at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union in Brussels, held the position of Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, and served as the Swedish Ambassador to both nations. Prior to her current role as Permanent Representative to the UN, she was the Director-General for Political Affairs at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) and led Sweden's successful candidacy to the UN Security Council. Ambassador Eneström holds a Master of Law from Uppsala University in Sweden.



### **H.E. Chola Milambo**

Ambassador and Permanent Representative and Co-facilitator of the Global Digital Compact  
Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations in New York

Ambassador Chola Milambo has served as Zambia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations since May 2022, bringing almost three decades of experience in global and national macroeconomic management and development. He was appointed by the President of the General Assembly as a Co-Facilitator to lead the intergovernmental process on the Global Digital Compact. His distinguished career includes roles at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group in Washington, D.C., where he served as Senior Adviser for Africa Group 1 Constituency. As a key contributor, he facilitated Zambia's selection as the host for the World Bank Group's International Development Association's eighteenth replenishment in 2018. Ambassador Milambo, a Fulbright Scholar, holds a doctorate in economics from Howard University, a Master's in economics from the University of Nairobi, and a Bachelor's in economics from the University of Zambia.

## H.E. Yeshurun Alemayehu

State Minister of Innovation and Technology  
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



Dr. Yeshurun Alemayehu is Deputy Minister of Innovation and Technology in Ethiopia, bringing extensive expertise in space science and technology. Formerly Deputy General Director of the Ethiopian Space Science & Geospatial Institute (ESSGI), he now oversees the nation's space capabilities. With a background in teaching at various universities and a robust academic portfolio including a PhD in Business Administration and ongoing PhD studies in Mechanical Design Engineering, Dr. Alemayehu is deeply committed to advancing STEM education and space exploration. He is also the founder of "The African Aeronautics & Astronautics Center," championing aerospace sciences across the continent.



## (TBC) H.E. Belete Molla

Minister of Innovation and Technology  
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Belete Molla is a prominent figure in Ethiopian academia and politics, known as the founder and Chairman of the National Movement of Amhara (NMA). With a PhD in Philosophy from Addis Ababa University (AAU) and a background in lecturing at Addis Ababa University's Department of Philosophy, Mr. Molla has made significant contributions to education and philosophical discourse. He holds additional academic qualifications, including an MA in Applied Ethics from Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and Linköping University (Sweden), and a Certificate of Competency for Teaching in Higher Education Institutions from AAU. Recognized for his academic achievements, Mr. Molla received an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Award from the European Union. Active in international bodies and academic circles, Mr. Molla's research interests span ethics, political economy, intercultural philosophy, hermeneutics, and African philosophy.

## **H.E. Hans Henric Lundquist**

Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti, Permanent Representative to AU, IGAD and UNECA  
Embassy of Sweden in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Ambassador Hans Henric Lundquist, currently serving as Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti, as well as Permanent Representative to the AU, IGAD, and UNECA at the Embassy of Sweden in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, boasts a distinguished career in diplomacy and international development. With previous roles including Ambassador of Sweden to Sudan and South Sudan, Director and Deputy Head of Department at the Department for International Development, and Deputy Director for the Afghanistan and Pakistan task force at the Government Office of Sweden's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Lundquist brings a wealth of experience to his current position. His extensive diplomatic portfolio also includes roles as Political Advisor to the Minister, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission in Kabul (Afghanistan), Desk Officer for Aid Effectiveness, and Head of Office/Resident Representative in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova). Ambassador Lundquist holds a degree in Russian Language and History from St. Petersburg State University (SPGU) and a Master's degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of Umeå.



## **Myriam Said**

Digital Economic Advisory  
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Office of the Prime Minister

Myriam Said is currently at the Office of the Prime Minister focusing on, and coordinating efforts in transitioning Ethiopia to a Digital Economy. Previously she was the Director of the National Digital Transformation Program at the Ministry of Innovation and Technology where she led the development of “Digital Ethiopia 2025”; an Inclusive National Digital Transformation Strategy. Before she joined the government, Myriam spent over 15 years in the private sector. She started in a leading ICT System Integration Company implementing National IT Infrastructure projects and was then the co-founder of a Digital Financial Service Provider that built several digital platforms to enable payments and bring efficiency on how people transact.

## **Moses Jere**

Communications and Cyber/Digital Diplomacy Expert  
Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations in New York



Moses Jere is a seasoned expert in Communications and Cyber/Digital Diplomacy, currently serving at the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations in New York. With a diverse professional background, Mr Jere has held key roles including Project Manager at E-Biz Zambia Limited, Technical Manager at Stallion Security (Pty) Ltd, and Network Management Centre (NMC) Team Lead at MTN Zambia. He also served as Manager for IT and Research at the Zambia Institute of Mass Communications (ZAMCOM). Mr Jere is well-equipped for his diplomatic endeavors, holding a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Arts in Contemporary Diplomacy from the University of Malta.



## **Agnes Julin**

Counsellor, Political Affairs  
Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN

Agnes Julin serves as the Counsellor for Political Affairs and is the designated Focal Point for the Global Digital Compact at the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations.

## **Yilkal Abate**

President  
ICT-ET



Yilkal Abate is a technology and business professional and manager with over 20 years' experience in the development of IT solutions, software applications, mobile content, process improvement, ERP/CRM, risk management tools, digital skills management, private sector development, telecom, and web technologies: in the financial, education, telecoms, manufacturing, service, mobile, and consulting industries. He has experience working on four continents with companies/organizations such as Liberty Mutual, AIG, Richmond University, Analysis International, Transsnet, Nokia Solutions and Networks. Currently, Mr. Abate is serving as President for ICT-ET, a private sector association for ICT companies in Ethiopia. He was also the Founding Curator of Addis Global Shapers Hub, a World Economic Forum Initiative, and holds an MBA from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering and Mathematics from Richmond, the American International University in London.



## **Abere Shiferaw Abegaz**

Independent Consultant on ICT  
UNDESA

Abere Shiferaw Abegaz is an Independent Consultant on ICT currently affiliated with UNDESA. With a wealth of experience spanning over 15 years, Abere is a seasoned Information, Communications, and Technology professional specializing in IT project management, Digital Economy, stakeholder engagement, strategy development, communications, and public relations. His extensive track record includes pivotal roles such as Operations, Communication, and Resource Manager for the Digital Transformation Program at FDRE Ministry of Innovation & Technology (MInT), Research and Capacity Building Director at the Addis Ababa Science and Technology Agency, and ICT Community Development and Incubation Director at the Addis Ababa ICT Agency. Mr. Abegaz has also served as an E-Commerce Manager at Kifiya Financial Technology PLC and as a Private Sector ICT Principal Expert at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in Ethiopia. He holds a BA in Ethiopian Languages and Literature from Addis Ababa University and an MSc in Computer Science from HiLCoE School of Computer Science & Technology.

## **Teki Akuetteh**

Founder and Executive Director  
Africa Digital Rights Hub



Teki Akuetteh is a seasoned Information and Communications Technology (ICT) lawyer with over fifteen years of experience, specializing in privacy and data protection consultancy. Leading the firm's ICT Law team, she has played a pivotal role in shaping Ghana's ICT sector through her work as an ICT Legal Expert in the Ministry of Communications under the World Bank e-Ghana Project. Ms. Akuetteh's expertise has contributed to the development and passage of key legislations, including the Data Protection Act, 2012 (Act 843). She has extensive knowledge of ICT policy, law, and compliance, and has taught seminars on various ICT-related topics. Additionally, Ms. Akuetteh is the Founder and Executive Director of the Africa Digital Rights Hub, a member of the UN Global Pulse Privacy Advisory Group, and a non-resident fellow at the Center for Global Development in Washington DC. Holding an LLM in Information Technology and Telecommunications Law from the University of Strathclyde and a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Political Science from the University of Ghana, Ms. Akuetteh is a prominent figure in the international ICT legal community, having spoken at various prestigious conferences and contributed to numerous publications.



**Souhila Amazouz**  
Senior Policy Officer  
African Union Commission

Ms. Souhila Amazouz is a Senior ICT Policy Officer; she works for the Information Society Division within the African Union Commission (AUC), where she contributes to the elaboration and formulation of continental policies, strategies, and regulations on issues related to ICTs, Radio Communications, and Emerging Digital Issues. Currently, she is the project manager for PRIDA / part related to Harmonization of ICT Policies and Regulations and also a member of the Panafricaine task force on digital infrastructure within the framework of the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). Before joining the AUC, she worked for more than 15 years with the Algerian Broadcasting Corporation as a Chief Engineer, specializing in radio spectrum management and design of the National Digital Terrestrial TV Network. Ms. Amazouz holds a Master's Degree in Contemporary Diplomacy with a specialization in Internet Governance and Cybersecurity as well as a State Engineer Diploma on Telecommunications.

## **Dereje Ashenafi**

Junior Associate

Tadesse Kiros Law Office



Dereje Ashenafi joined Tadesse Kiros Law Office in April 2018 as an intern. As of August 2018, he has been working as a Junior Associate focusing on energy and mining, arbitration, finance and foreign exchange laws and procurement laws. Prior to joining Tadesse Kiros Law Office, Mr. Ashenafi served as a Paralegal at the Addis Ababa University, Child justice Project and as an intern at Addis Ababa Women and Children Affairs Bureau. Mr. Ashenafi graduated from Addis Ababa University College of Law and Governance Studies with an LL.B in 2018 (with Great Distinction).



## **Mesenbet Assefa**

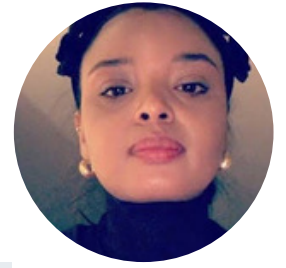
Attorney at Law and Consultant, and Professor of Law  
Ababa University School of Law

Mesenbet Assefa has extensive experience in international development law, international law, right to development, comparative constitutional law, criminal law, and human rights. Mesenbet has published in numerous international and local journals. He has presented his research findings in leading centers of excellence including at Yale School of Law, London School of Economics, University of Pretoria and University of Seville. His particular research interests include development, Security/counter terrorism, violent extremism, human rights, constitutional law and freedom of expression. Mr. Assefa has served in numerous positions including as Head of the School of Law Addis Ababa University, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies of Addis Ababa University School of Law and Director of Mekelle University Human Rights Centre. Mr. Assefa has also extensive experience in consulting governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations at various levels. Currently, he also serves as a committee member in the National Legal Reform Council of Ethiopia. Mr. Assefa earned his LL.B from Bahir Dar University in 2006, studied his LL.M in 2008 at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, and received his PhD at the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) in 2017.



## **Sorene Assefa**

Internet Governance and Cyber Security Expert  
UNECA



Sorene Assefa is a distinguished Internet Governance and Cyber Security Expert at UNECA, also serving as the EU Cyber Diplomacy Fellow at the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative. With certification in Cybersecurity, Ms. Assefa leads transformative programs in Digital Public Infrastructure, Internet Governance, AI, and Cyber resilience across Africa. As the founder and Managing Director of Cyber Czar, she drives initiatives like the PAYAIG initiative to empower African Youth in digital governance and the NAWC initiative to inspire African Women in cybersecurity roles.



## **Helinna Ayalew**

Head of Innovation Partnerships  
Liquid Intelligent Technologies

Helinna Ayalew is the Head of Innovation Partnerships at Liquid Intelligent Technologies, leveraging her expertise to drive transformative projects. With a background in digital education and skills development, she previously served as Head of Digital Education and Project Manager for Skills & Learning at Liquid Intelligent Technologies. Prior to her current role, Ms. Ayalew held positions as Business Development Lead at Kwesé and Project Manager for the Yale Young African Scholars Program. She holds an M.A. in African Studies from Yale University and a B.A. in International Studies from Macalester College.



## **Blaise Bayou**

Senior Fellow and Technical Lead  
Africa Center for Economic Transformation



Blaise Bayou is a versatile tech and public policy researcher with a diverse background in development planning, software development, entrepreneurship, and digital innovations. With a track record of building global software companies in Africa, including in ecommerce and web3, he brings a unique perspective to his research endeavors. Mr. Bayou expertise spans innovation, technology, and public policy in emerging economies, where he has contributed to publications on social innovation, web3 development, and cross-border trade implications. He has collaborated with organizations like the Tony Blair Institute, Smart Africa, and I4Policy to develop digital policy tools for policymakers in Africa. Mr. Bayou holds a Master's in Innovation and Sustainable Development from Lund University, Sweden, and a professional certificate in software and entrepreneurship from the Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology, Ghana.



## **Bahta Bekele**

Program Coordinator Technology and Innovation  
UNECA

Bahta Bekele, currently serving as the Program Coordinator for Technology and Innovation at UNECA, brings over a decade of experience across government, private, and non-profit sectors. With a background in Economics and Social Works, Ms. Bekele has honed strong decision-making skills and a proven track record of goal-setting and achievement. Notable accomplishments include supervising change management processes for Ethiopian Airlines Passenger Service unit and conducting organizational culture reports for the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Agency. Ms. Bekele has also excelled in managing administrative, procurement, and logistics tasks for various conferences and events, including those related to sustainable development goals, internet governance, and population development. Past roles include positions at the Danish Red Cross, BRIDGES Program by Mastercard Foundation, and IPPF Africa Region. Ms. Bekele holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master of Social Work from Addis Ababa University.

**Renata Dwan**

Special Adviser  
Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology  
United Nations



Renata Dwan is Special Adviser to the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology United Nations and a senior consulting fellow at Chatham House. Until July 2022, she served as the institute's deputy director, where she oversaw its research agenda and programmes. She is also a non-resident fellow at New York University's Center on International Cooperation (CIC). From 2018–20, Ms. Dwan was director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in Geneva where she developed programmes linking arms control to conflict management, gender, and emerging technologies. During her years in the UN she worked on peace operations and complex emergencies in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mali, and Syria. Furthermore, Ms. Dwan has led major UN-wide policy initiatives on peacekeeping, security sector reform, and crisis management capacities.



**Yesunew Hailu**  
Vice President  
FARIS Technology Institute

Yesunew Hailu, Vice President of FARIS Technology Institute and Co-Founder of Intersoft Technology Group, is a dynamic leader in the field of technology. With a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Hawassa University and a Certificate in Project Management from Addis Ababa University, Mr. Hailu brings a strong educational background to his roles. His leadership and expertise drive innovation and excellence in both organizations, contributing to their success in the technology sector.

## **Karuti Kanyinga**

Director

Institute for Development Studies

University of Nairobi



Karuti Kanyinga is a distinguished Research Professor of Development Studies at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi. With extensive experience both nationally and internationally, Mr. Kanyinga is renowned for his scholarly contributions to governance and development. His seminal work encompasses diverse topics such as ethnicity and development, devolution's impact, and electoral politics. Beyond academia, Mr. Kanyinga engages in consultancy roles, collaborating with organizations like the World Bank and UNODC on projects ranging from devolution to education strategy. His dedication to advancing development discourse and policy is reflected in his ongoing commitment to research and consultancy endeavors, marking him as a prominent figure in the field.



## **David Karunda**

Advisor, Data Policy

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), [Focal point for Africa Digital Compact at African Union Commission]

David Karunda serves as an Advisor in Data Policy at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), with a focus on the African Digital Compact at the African Union Commission. With a keen interest in leveraging data for development, Mr. Karunda brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his role. His work entails shaping policies and strategies that harness the power of data to drive socio-economic progress across the African continent. As a focal point for the Africa Digital Compact, Mr. Karunda plays a pivotal role in fostering collaboration and coordination among stakeholders to realize the transformative potential of digital technologies. Through his dedication and leadership, Mr. Karunda contributes significantly to advancing the digital agenda and promoting inclusive development initiatives in Africa.

## Mesfin Kifle

Associate Professor  
Department of Computer Science  
Addis Ababa University



Mesfin Kifle is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Addis Ababa University. He holds a PhD in IT (Software Engineering) and an MSc Degree in Computer Science, both earned from Addis Ababa University. With a professional journey spanning 25 years, Mr. Kifle has garnered experience in both industry and academia. He began his career as a programmer, system analyst, and senior consultant in water utility applications in Addis Ababa, which laid the foundation for his subsequent academic endeavors. Since 2004, as a faculty member of the Department of Computer Science, Mr. Kifle has been actively involved in teaching, research, consultancy, and community service. His teaching portfolio includes courses in programming, software engineering, distributed systems, security, and research methods at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Additionally, Mr. Kifle has supervised numerous master's thesis works covering areas such as requirements engineering, software architecture, interoperability, security, and enterprise systems. He has also contributed to various projects, serving as a project manager and lead consultant.



## Varaidzo Faith Magodo-Matimba

Grants and Program Manager  
Policy

Varaidzo Faith Magodo-Matimba is a seasoned legal professional with a wealth of experience in both the non-profit and private sectors. Admitted to practice by the High Court of Zimbabwe, she holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Zimbabwe. Ms. Magodo-Matimba has held various key roles throughout her career, including Head of Legal Compliance at CW Advisory, where she spearheaded efforts to provide access to international student financing for young Zimbabweans focusing on the US and Canada. Prior to this, she served as the Head of Grant Management and Corporate Governance at INZI Foundation, playing a pivotal role in its expansion and attainment of 501(c)(3) status. Ms. Magodo-Matimba's career journey also includes positions such as Legal Associate at T. Pfigu Attorneys, where she transitioned from the non-profit sector, and as a Help Desk Legal Assistant at the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association, specializing in strategic litigation. She began her professional career as a Policy and Advocacy Assistant at the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe. With her extensive background and expertise, Ms. Magodo-Matimba continues to make significant contributions to both the legal and social sectors.

**Alexander B. Makulilo**

Senior Lecturer of Information Law and Communications  
Open University of Tanzania



Alexander B. Makulilo is a distinguished Senior Lecturer of Information Law and Communications at the Open University of Tanzania. With a robust educational background including a Doctorate in Political Science from Leipzig University and a Bachelor of Laws from The Open University of Tanzania, Mr. Makulilo's expertise spans various fields. He has held prestigious positions such as Georg Forster Research Fellow at the Arnold Bergstraesser Institute in Germany and Professor at the University of Dar es Salaam. Mr. Makulilo's contributions to academia have been recognized through numerous awards, including the Georg Forster Research Fellowship and the Edinburgh Catalyst Fellowship. He is also actively involved in editorial roles for esteemed publications such as The African Review and SN Social Sciences. With a diverse range of professional memberships and honors, Mr. Makulilo continues to make significant contributions to the fields of political science, law, and communications.



**Aretha Mare**  
Unit Manager, Data and Security, Infrastructure and Governance  
Smart Africa

As the Unit Manager for the Data and Security Infrastructure and Governance Unit at the Smart Africa Secretariat, Aretha Mare facilitates the development of data and security governance strategies and roadmaps and the implementation of related pilot projects for a fair, trusted and secure data economy that works for the good of all Africans.

## **Nyasha McBride Mpani**

Project Leader, Data for Governance Alliance Project  
Institute for Justice and Reconciliation



Nyasha McBride Mpani is the Project Leader for the Data for Governance Alliance Project (D4GA) at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in Cape Town. The D4GA project promotes Pan-African CSO public data advocacy and strengthens the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063. He was an Advocacy Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV) and previously, a Parliamentary Program Assistant at the Democracy Development Program (Durban). Mr. McBride has also worked as a Researcher at Tri Facts. He is a PhD candidate at the University of Cape Town. He holds an MPhil in Development Studies from the University of Cape Town and a BSc in Sociology from the Great Zimbabwe University.



**Alison Gillwald**  
Executive Director  
Research ICT Africa

Alison Gillwald (PhD) is the Executive Director of Research ICT Africa (RIA), a South African think-tank focusing on digital policy. She also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Cape Town's Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance. Gillwald co-led the Data Justice workstream of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) and is involved in the Digital Inclusion Roundtable of the UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. She leads the RIA team that provided technical assistance to the African Union Data Policy Framework and was commissioned by UN Women to produce a background paper on intersectional digital inequality and data injustice. Ms. Gillwald's regulatory experience includes roles at the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA) and the Independent Broadcasting Authority. She has advised various entities including the South African Presidency, National Planning Commission, Competition Commission, and the African Union Commission. Ms. Gillwald has undertaken research and provided technical assistance for organizations like the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the World Bank, and the African Development Bank. She is published in digital policy, regulation, and data governance.

## **Taye Girma**

Deputy Director General  
Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute



Taye Girma Debelee is a Researcher and the Deputy Director General at the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Center. Mr. Debelee has a demonstrated history of working in the information technology and services industry and with a number of publications in the area of machine learning, deep learning, image processing, and computer vision. Mr. Debelee is a strong business development professional with a Ph.D. focused on computer engineering with a specialization in AI (machine learning and deep learning) in a sandwich program between the University of Ulm, Germany, and Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Ethiopia.



## **Morten Meyerhoff Nielsen**

Project Officer  
UNU Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance

Morten Meyerhoff Nielsen is an Project Officer at the United Nations University (UNU-EGOV) since 2016. He is also a coordinator for digital governance, regulations, and policies research and work. Mr. Nielsen's recent responsible includes multiple projects of digital transformation, including strategy development Botswana, China, Saudi Arabia, on performance management and capacities in Dubai, Qatar, Uganda, Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries. Other areas work includes service and eParticipation portal redesign in Dubai, Georgia and Saudi Arabia. He has supported European Commission on connectivity, standards, and digital economy issues in Jamaica and Tanzania. With the International Social Security Association, Mr. Nielsen is leading the research on the impact of the digital transformation of social security, innovation and digital inclusion. Mr. Nielsen regularly runs executive training on digital transformation of the public sector and is a guest lecturer at several universities. Past employment includes; the Danish Agency for Digitisation, the Danish Technological Institute, the European Institute of Public Administration, the Centre for the Development of Enterprise, the European Commission, and the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Mr. Nielsen is educated in Denmark, South Africa, and the UK, with a PhD at th Tallinn University of Technology. He is the author of various publications, and reviewer various journals and conferences.



## David Passarelli

Director

UN University Centre for Policy Research



Dr. David Passarelli is Director of UN University's Center for Policy Research. In this capacity, he bears overall responsibility for the direction, organization, and administration of the Centre's research. He is also a member of UN University's Senior Management Group, and serves as UNU's representative to the UN High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP). In 2022-2023, Dr. Passarelli led the Secretariat of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (HLAB). His research and policy work predominantly focus on global governance, migration, strategic foresight, international development, and global finance. He holds a Doctorate in International Development from the University of Oxford.



## Dobrina Stoyanova Poirier

Economic Affairs Officer

UNECA

Dobrina Poirier is an Economic Affairs Officer at OES. Prior to UNECA, Dobrina was a Program Manager for Africa at the Center for International Private Enterprise, where she managed a portfolio of grants for private sector beneficiaries in Nigeria and Ethiopia. Prior to joining CIPE, Ms. Poirier worked for the World Bank's Chief Economist Office and Governance Global Practice on issues spanning economic policy, economic governance, private sector development, and trade. Ms. Poirier holds an MPA in Economic Policy Management from Columbia University and is currently pursuing a PhD in E-governance from Maastricht University.

## Diana Sang

Regional Director for Africa  
Digital Impact Alliance



Diana Sang is the Director for Country Engagement at the Digital Impact Alliance. With over 10 years' experience in the digital transformation space, she is an expert in country program design, government engagement, and leading on cross-sector partnerships. She is a firm believer in the power of digital technology to become the primary distribution platform for delivering public and private services to everyone, everywhere. Prior to joining the Alliance, Ms. Sang was a key figure at GSMA, shaping some of the organization's most successful mHealth projects across sub-Saharan Africa. This entailed forging multi-stakeholder partnerships that supported the delivery of commercially sustainable mobile health services aimed at transforming the lives of underserved communities, with a focus on maternal and child nutrition. She also worked with Airtel, where she led the research and product development of innovative mobile services aimed at enabling women to enjoy the benefits of mobile connectivity across Africa.



**Mactar Seck**  
Chief of Section  
UNECA

Dr. Mactar Seck has over 20 years of experience in telecommunications, ICT4D, and STI, focusing on digital policy, internet governance, and digital infrastructure. As Chief of Technology and Innovation Section at the Economic Commission for Africa, he coordinates the Digital Centre of Excellence on Digital ID, digital trade, and digital economy. He has assisted African countries and international organizations in formulating policies for digital technologies to achieve SDGs. Dr. Seck also serves as the WSIS and Internet Governance Forum focal point of UNECA. Prior to joining ECA, he held positions in Senegal, including Director General of the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority and Chief of Teleservices and Innovation Division at Sonatel. He has a background in research and holds a European patent on data/image compression systems. Dr. Seck is a laureate of the Grand Prix du Président de la République du Sénégal pour les Sciences et l'Innovation Edition 1996 and is a member of the Senegalese Academy of Sciences and Technology.

## **Abiy Shimelis**

Projects Communication Lead  
UNECA



Abiy Shimelis is a Projects Communication Lead at UNECA, with a strong commitment to community building and social innovation. With over 8 years of experience, he specializes in leveraging innovative communication strategies and online platforms to advance environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals. Mr. Shimelis is deeply fascinated by the intersection of sustainability and technology, believing it to be a key driver for holistic human development. As a Creative Director, he recognizes the transformative power of arts and cultural heritage in shaping progressive paradigms for human flourishing. Mr. Shimelis' dedication to driving positive change has been acknowledged through his roles as a Resolution Project Fellow, One Young World Ambassador of Ethiopia, and a member of the Now Generation Forum (NGF) convened by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, a Master's in Business Leadership from Addis Ababa University, and a Master of Science in Sustainability and Business from the University of Leeds (UK), School of Earth and Environment.



## **Muznah Siddiqui**

Global Governance Research and Planning Associate  
UN University Centre for Policy Research

Muznah Siddiqui, currently a Global Governance Research and Planning Associate at UNU-CPR, is a seasoned professional with expertise in global governance, digital sphere governance, peace promotion, and climate justice. Formerly a Research Consultant at the Stimson Center, she has interned at the United Nations, focusing on counter-terrorism, anti-money laundering, cyber-security, and countering COVID-19 disinformation. Ms. Siddiqui, recognized for her contributions, received the 2023 Geneva Centre for Security Policy Prize and serves as a Youth Peace Ambassador for the PyeongChang Peace Forum.

**Nozipho Freya Simelane**

Economic Affairs Officer  
UNECA



Nozipho Freya Simelane is an Economic Affairs Officer at the Regional Integration & NEPAD Section. Prior to ECA, she worked for 15 years as a Network Development Engineer at Eswatini Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (EPTC). She pioneered internet services, optic fiber, and digitalization of transmission networks. Ms. Simelane holds an MSc. in Communication Management (Telecommunications) from Strathclyde University, UK. She has expertise in regional coordination, infrastructure, and industrialization. Recent projects include ECA Capacity Development Strategy and support for NEPAD programme. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of DC.

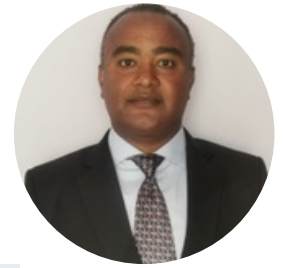
**Adeladay Solomon**

Staff Assistant  
UNECA

Adeladay Solomon is an experienced Staff Assistant with a demonstrated history of working in the international affairs industry. Skilled in nonprofit organizations, event planning, Microsoft Excel, customer service, and Microsoft Word. Mr. Solomon is a strong administrative professional with a degree in marketing and sales from Admas University.

## **Abiyot Bayou Tehone**

Senior Advisor to the Minister  
Ethiopia Ministry of Innovation and Technology



Abiyot Bayou Tehone is a Senior Advisor to the Minister at the Ethiopia Ministry of Innovation and Technology, where he collaborates with government and stakeholders to formulate and execute policies driving innovation, digitalization, and economic progress. Additionally, he serves as a Data and Governance System Advisor for the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, focusing on data governance policies for public sector advancement. With over two decades of experience in ICT and government administration, Mr. Tehone specializes in information and telecommunication technology management, digital transformation, e-government, and knowledge economy leadership. He holds a PhD in ICT Management from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, complemented by an MSC in Information Science from Addis Ababa University and an MPhil in Knowledge Economy Leadership from Dublin City University. Passionate about leveraging technology and innovation to address 21st-century challenges, Mr. Tehone is also a Certified Digital Finance Professional and has completed executive education programs at Harvard Kennedy School and Digital Frontiers Institute.



## **Tulu Tilahun**

Deputy Bureau Head  
Addis Ababa City Administration Innovation and Technology Department Bureau (ITDB)

Dr. Tulu Tilahun is a Deputy Bureau Head of Addis Ababa City Administration Innovation and Technology Development Bureau (ITDC) leading Smart City Sector. He obtained his BSc (2007) and MSc (2013) in Computer Science from Mekelle University and Addis Ababa University respectively. Dr. Tulu received his PhD (2020) in engineering specialization in Computer Application Technology from Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), Wuhan, China. In 2020 he joined Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, where he served as head of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Center of Excellence and Assistant Professor of Software Engineering. He also advised students and taught several technology courses at various public universities. Dr. Tulu has been involved in many national and international research projects and contributed as a senior reviewer of reputable journals.

## **Nebiyou Yirga Wolde**

General Manager

Ethiopian Association of Startup Ecosystem (EASE)



Nebiyou Yirga Wolde, the General Manager of the Ethiopian Association of Startup Ecosystem (EASE), is deeply passionate about entrepreneurship and technology. With over a decade of active involvement in regional hackathons, mentoring hubs, and consultancy for governmental institutions within the African startup landscape, particularly in Ethiopia, Mr. Wolde brings a wealth of experience to his role. Prior to joining EASE, Nebiyou held positions such as Product Manager at Catch Taxi, Mentor at Mowgli Mentoring, and Mobile Marketing Manager & Mobile App Developer at Splash Interactive. His educational background includes an MBA in Startups, Tech Ventures, and Entrepreneurship from Tel Aviv University Coller School of Management, complemented by a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science from RMIT University.



**Teshome Worku**  
Country Director  
Wingu Africa

Teshome Worku, serving as the Country Director at Wingu Africa, boasts a rich background in technology and leadership roles. With a track record of founding ITECH Systems Consulting PLC and serving as Director at both the Ethiopia Agricultural Transformation Agency and the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT), Mr. Worku brings extensive experience to his current position. His academic journey includes an MSC in Information Technology and Telecommunications Engineering from the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) in South Korea, alongside a BSC in Electrical Engineering from Addis Ababa University.