

# ROUND TABLE 1

## CREATING JOBS AT SCALE

Aligning philanthropy, enterprise growth and market expansion in Africa



## FINANCING THE FUTURE OF AFRICA

Jobs and innovation for sustainable transformation

16 - 17 February 2026 | Addis Ababa



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AFRICA  
BUSINESS  
FORUM  
2026

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transformation



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa



## Semhal Guesh Berhe

**Semhal Guesh Berhe** is the founder and CEO of Kabana design, a start-up that produces handmade leather products. Semhal uses her training as an architect to enhance her designs in the leather fashion industry. She is driven to empower women economically, recruiting and training women from her community and refugees as employees of KABANA, with the goal of transforming their livelihoods and families.

Semhal also leads a consortium of 12 small and medium enterprises that have repurposed their factories to manufacture personal protective equipment in the fight against COVID-19 with the support of the Mastercard Foundation, thereby saving more than 1060 jobs.

In addition, she coaches and mentors other women who own start-ups. She was named 2018 Young Female Entrepreneur of the Year by the United Nations Development Programme and Global Entrepreneurship Week and awardee of 2021 Dinknesh leadership award. Semhal is also a member of the Association of Women in Boldness and has served on its board. She also completed a prestigious leadership program on Sustainable Business Management from the Swedish Management Institute and was selected for President Obama's Young African Leadership Program 2021 and became an alumna of the Mandela Washington Fellowship. Semhal has recently been selected among the top 50 finalists for the Africa Business Heroes 2021.



## Nathalie Delapalme

**Nathalie Delapalme** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, which she joined in 2010.

She was previously Inspecteur General des Finances at the French Ministry of Economy and Finance (2007-2010). Prior to this, Nathalie served the French Government as an advisor for Africa and Development in the offices of various Foreign Affairs Ministers, between 1995-1997 and 2002-2007. She also served the French Senate as advisor for the Finance and Budgetary Commission, where she assessed fiscal and public policies between 1984-1995 and 1997-2002.

She is co-Secretary General of the Africa-Europe Foundation and sits on the Board of International Crisis Group and on the Advisory Board of IFRI (Institut Francais des Relations Internationales) and on the Council Scientifique of the IHEDN (Institut des Hautes Etudes de Defence Nationale). She is a member of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) and a member of the WEF's Expert Network.

Nathalie is Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur and Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite.



## Hannah Tsadik

**Hannah Tsadik** has more than 15 years of diverse, hands-on experience in enabling social impact and transformation efforts in Africa. She is currently the Country Director for Kenya at the Mastercard Foundation. Previously, Hannah served as the Africa Advocacy Director at the Open Society Foundations and Life & Peace Institute's Resident Representative for Ethiopia and Horn of Africa regional offices as well as its Global Policy Director. During her decade in Ethiopia, Hannah launched a youth peace dialogue program in Ethiopia that started with 35 young people and ended up reaching tens of thousands of university students across the country and then spread to Sudan, Somalia, and Kenya. In her regional award-winning work, she led a coalition of diverse actors – including local universities and eight governments – in a multi-year effort to secure a regional policy framework which was adopted by all governments in the Horn of Africa in 2018, that sought to improve livelihoods of millions of people in the borderlands through eased informal cross-border trade. In her global work at the Life & Peace Institute, Hannah led a crossfunctional team across three continents which connected local changemakers across

Africa to each other and with global decision-makers to ensure more grounded global policy-making. In addition to her full-time posts, she has served key institutions on the African continent, such as the Tana High-Level Forum on Peace and Security and was appointed Professor of Practice at the Soweto Campus School of Leadership at the University of Johannesburg in 2017. She holds degrees in Political Science and Peace and Conflict Studies. The proud daughter of Ethiopian refugees and the mother of a 21-year old son, Hannah is proficient in several languages and calls many places in the world home, with Kenya as her base since 2018.



## Fatou S. Kinteh

**Honourable Fatou S. Kinteh** is the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare of the Republic of The Gambia. She is a seasoned public servant and development practitioner with 35 years extensive experience in gender equality, child protection, social welfare, and inclusive national development.

In her role as Minister, Hon. Kinteh provides strategic leadership in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at promoting the rights and welfare of women, children, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. She is widely recognized for her strong advocacy for gender-responsive governance, social justice, and the empowerment of women and youth as key drivers of sustainable development.

Hon. Kinteh has played a pivotal role in advancing national frameworks aligned with international and regional commitments on gender equality, child rights, and social protection. Her work emphasizes multi-sectoral collaboration, community engagement, and evidence-based decision-making to ensure that social policies translate into tangible improvements in people's lives.

A firm believer in inclusive growth and equity, Hon. Fatou S. Kinteh continues to champion initiatives that strengthen social protection systems, combat gender-based violence, promote child welfare, and enhance opportunities for marginalized populations across The Gambia.

Her leadership is marked by dedication, integrity, and a deep commitment to building a more just, inclusive, and resilient society.



## Sanda Ojiambo

**Ms. Sanda Ojiambo** was appointed Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Global Compact Office by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in April 2022. She has held the position of CEO & Executive Director of the UN Global Compact since June 2020. Ojiambo has led the organization through transformative times, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, where she launched a new strategy to enhance the global impact of businesses upholding the Ten Principles and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through accountable companies and supportive ecosystems.

Ojiambo's leadership has been marked by her dedication to increasing business engagement with UN partners to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Under her guidance, the UN Global Compact has expanded significantly, with membership nearly doubling to over 20,000 companies. She has spearheaded the establishment of regional hubs in Abuja, Copenhagen, Dubai, Panama City and Bangkok, bringing the UN Global Compact closer to businesses worldwide.

Her career spans more than 20 years across public, multilateral, and private sectors. She has a profound understanding of the intersection between business and development, having worked on numerous public-private partnership initiatives and cultivated relationships with key business entities and civil society organizations.

Ojiambo's academic background includes a Master of Arts in Public Affairs from the University of Minnesota, USA, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and International Development from McGill University, Canada. Her diverse experiences and strong educational foundation have positioned her as a pivotal figure in promoting sustainable business practices on a global scale.

The UN Global Compact, under her leadership, remains the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, with more than 20,000 participating companies, 5 Regional Hubs, 66 Country Networks covering 85 countries and 9 Country Managers establishing Networks in 16 other countries. The initiative continues to drive businesses to integrate the Ten Principles in human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption into their core strategies, thus fostering a more sustainable and inclusive global economy.



## Diana Orembe

**Diana Orembe** is the Founder and CEO of NovFeed, where she leverages her expertise as a microbiologist to revolutionize the feed industry. Her ground-breaking work focuses on developing single-cell proteins for aquaculture and biofertilizers that support eco-friendly agriculture. Her innovations apply microbial technologies to improve fish nutrition and enhance biofertilizer performance for crop production.

Diana has gained valuable experience working with leading institutions, including the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture and through her work at NovFeed. She has received specialized training in live microbes, insect farming, and aquaculture. She is a recent winner of the Africa Business Heroes Award and a previous winner of the Milken–Motsepe Prize in AgriTech, recognizing her impact-driven, science-led entrepreneurship.

Her goal is to integrate the bio-waste economy with environmental sustainability, industrial advancement, and entrepreneurship to build a new ecosystem. Diana is committed to fostering trade at national, regional, and international levels, creating wealth and job opportunities across value chains, and promoting environmental conservation.



## Yuko Naab

**Yuko Naab** is the Chief of Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Section at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). In this capacity, she leads strategic partnership programme planning, coordination, and resource mobilization efforts to advance the Commission's mandate in Africa. With extensive experience in partnership building and development programming, Yuko plays a key role in driving organizational effectiveness, strengthening donor engagement, and supporting high-impact initiatives across the region. Based in Addis Ababa, Yuko provides leadership on partnership building and mobilization of resources within ECA's Office of the Executive Secretary, contributing to innovation, collaboration, and results-oriented delivery.

Ms. Naab has more than 20 years of policy-oriented and partnership building experience at global, regional and country levels, including leadership roles in partnership establishment and policy reform support at ECA and UNDP, with a focus on sustainable development and development cooperation. Her experience includes leading secretariat support for the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), developing ECA's business plan, and advancing social, economic, and environmental initiatives like SSTC at UNDP

She has worked extensively with diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, private sector, and development finance institutions to advance sustainable development goals and policy reforms.

Before joining the UN system, Ms. Naab worked with development consulting firms based in DC, which managed USAID and the World Bank contracts,

