



# ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM 2022

December 9th, 2022

# Agenda

8:30 - 9:00

## Welcome Remarks

Allen Robinson - Director, CMU-Africa

## Opening Remarks

Rica Rwigamba - Country Director, Rwanda Mastercard Foundation

## Opening Keynote

Honorable Paula Ingabire - Minister of ICT & Innovation, Rwanda

9:00 - 10:00

## Panel Discussion: Framing Entrepreneurship – The Past, Present & Future

This panel will discuss past and present entrepreneurship trends, reflect on lessons learned, and explore new trends that will continue to shape the future of entrepreneurship. The goal of this session is to set the stage for other panel discussions.

### *Panelists:*

Damian J. Stafford - Political and Economic Chief, U.S. Embassy Kigali  
Rolande Pryce - Country Manager Rwanda, The World Bank  
Steve Tchoumba - Board Member, Afrilabs & Executive Director ActivSpaces, Cameroon  
Topsy Kola-Oyeneyin - Partner, McKinsey & Company

### *Moderator:*

Lauren Nkuranga - Chief Advisor to the Chairman & the CEO, RDB

10:00 - 11:00

## Panel Discussion: Regional Insights – Lessons From Across Africa

This panel will give participants the opportunity to understand Africa's entrepreneurship landscape. Panelists will discuss the nature of entrepreneurial opportunities in their regions, highlight innovative case studies, and discuss the key enablers for success in their regions.

### *Panelists:*

Bintou Diallo - President, Afrika Tomorrow  
CJ Fonzi - Partner, Dalberg Advisors  
Livingstone Nkuusi - Country Lead, SME Finance Rwanda, Mastercard Foundation  
Osayi Alile - Chief Executive Officer, Aspire Coronation Trust Foundation  
Yavi Madurai - Executive Director, Pan African Business Women's Association

### *Moderator:*

Aretha Mutumwinka Rwagasore - Managing Director Rwanda, Inkomoko

11:00 - 11:15

## Entrepreneur Spotlight & Break

11:15 - 12:15

## Panel Discussion: Spotlight on Rwanda's Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

This panel will discuss Rwanda's entrepreneurship ecosystem, the key enablers for innovation, successful case studies, as well as gaps and opportunities. The entrepreneurial support in Rwanda will also be highlighted.

### *Panelists:*

Alain Kajangwe - Chief Executive Officer, WiredIn  
Alice Nkulikiyinka - Country Director Rwanda, Business Professional Network  
Okechukwu Daniel Ogbonnaya - Country Rep. Rwanda, Global Green Growth Institute  
Therese Sekamana - Chairperson, Special Cluster for Women, Youth and Persons with disabilities, PSF Rwanda  
Yves Iradukunda - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT and Innovation, Rwanda

### *Moderator:*

Grace Mugabekazi - Senior Policy and Programs Advisor, YouthConnekt Africa

12:15 - 12:45

## Research Presentation: Higher Education & Industry Collaborations

*Speaker:*

David Adepoju - Head Of Research, Co-creation Hub (CCHUB)

12:45 - 1:00

## Institutional Spotlight

*Speakers:*

Allen Robinson - Director, CMU-Africa  
Brian Feldman - Director, Optum

1:00 - 2:15

## Lunch & Collaborative Discussion:

During lunch, participants will discuss ways to establish collaboration among the different entrepreneurship ecosystem players and come up with tangible actions. Each group will report back on its recommendations after lunch.

2:15 - 3:15

## Groups Report Out

Key Takeaways & Commitments from lunch collaborative discussion

3:15 - 3:30

## Entrepreneur Spotlight & Break

3:30 - 4:30

## Panel Discussion: Funding Startups in Africa

This panel will discuss current funding opportunities for startups in Africa. Participants will gain insights into different types of capital, and how to navigate the funding landscape on the continent.

*Panelists:*

Aline Kabanda - Country Director, Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy, Rwanda  
Evelyne Diah SIMPA - Managing Director, WIC Capital  
Ina Alogwu - Director of Digital Transformation, Asset & Resource Management Holding Company (ARM HoldCo)  
Jannek Egerrup-Haggen - Managing Director, Bestseller Foundation, Rwanda  
Philip Gasaatura - Country Director, Katapult, Rwanda

*Moderator:*

Obinna Ukwuani - Chief Digital Officer, BK Techhouse

4:30 - 4:40

## Global Challenge Introduction

4:40 - 6:00

## Global Challenge: Final Presentations

*Judges:*

Howdy Pierce - Faculty, CMU-Africa, Chairman and Founder, Cardinal Peak  
Ozonnia Ojielo - Resident Coordinator and Representative of the UN Secretary General to Rwanda  
Rolande Pryce - Country Manager Rwanda, The World Bank  
Shona Bezanson - Head Regional Programs, Mastercard Foundation

6:00 - 6:10

## Closing Keynote

Honorable Soraya M. Hakuziyaremye - Deputy Governor,  
National Bank of Rwanda

6:15 - 6:30

## Photos

6:30 - 8:00

## Closing Reception

# Global Challenge Partners

## About the Global Challenge:

The Global Challenge competition is in partnership with UN Rwanda and the World Bank. 16 student teams will be asked to respond to 1 of the 4 challenges and will present during the student sessions at the preliminary rounds. Each group will be assigned a coach to help them and the top 4 groups will be asked to present to a panel of judges. The judges will rank the teams and the winner will be announced following the deliberation.

Students will be working on solutions around these 4 challenges:

- Poverty
- Fintech
- Climate Change
- Agriculture



## About UN Rwanda

The United Nations system in Rwanda consists of 22 UN agencies, programmes, and funds, both resident and non-resident.

Since the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, the UN system has been a fundamental partner in the reconstruction of Rwanda. Since 2008, they have been delivering as one: 'One UN'. This means: one leader – the UN Resident Coordinator; one budget; one programme – the five year Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II); and one voice. 'One UN' capitalizes on the strengths and comparative advantages of the different UN agencies in the UN system and calls for coordinated endeavors for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to Transform Our World that were set out in Agenda 2030.

Between 2018–2023, the One UN Rwanda has budgeted around US\$631 million to assist the country in its development. Learn more at [rwanda.un.org](http://rwanda.un.org).



## About the World Bank Group

Established in 1944, the World Bank Group is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. With 189 member countries, staff from over 170 countries and offices in over 130 locations, it is a unique global partnership between five institutions sharing a commitment to reducing poverty, increasing shared prosperity, and promoting sustainable development globally.

Learn more at [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org).

# SPEAKER BIOS



# Opening Keynote

Hon. Paula Ingabire

Minister of ICT & Innovation, Rwanda

Prior to her appointment, Minister Ingabire served as Head of the ICT Business Development Department of the Rwanda Development Board and Coordinator of the Kigali Innovation City Project. Minister Ingabire also worked as the Smart Africa coordinator, an initiative that seeks to leverage broadband infrastructure to drive Africa's socio-economic growth.

She is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's School of Engineering & Sloan School of Management, in System Design and Management and holds a BS in Computer Engineering and Information Technology from the former Kigali Institute of Science and Technology.



# Closing Keynote

Hon. Soraya M. Hakuziyaremye

Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda

Hon. Soraya Muryana HAKUZIYAREMYE was appointed Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda in March 2021.

Prior to that, she served as Rwanda's Minister of Trade and Industry from October 2018 to March 2021; she began her tenure as a Cabinet Member right after her time as Senior Vice President in the Financial Institutions/Financial Markets Risk Department at ING Bank in London.

Hon. Soraya M. HAKUZIYAREMYE has had an extensive career in global banking; she worked in various positions at BNP Paribas Group in Paris, Fortis Bank and the Bank of New York Mellon in Brussels. She also served as Senior Advisor to Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2012 to 2014.

She holds a postgraduate degree in International Management from the Thunderbird Graduate School of Global Management in the U.S., as well as a Masters in Business Engineering (Ingénieur de Gestion) from the Solvay Business School at the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium.



## Master of Ceremonies



### Gbemi Disu

Disu is the Executive Director for CMU Africa and as a member of the leadership team works in partnership with the director of CMU-Africa in Kigali, Rwanda, to provide administrative, strategic, and operational leadership. She is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to grow CMU-Africa's global reputation and impact. Disu engages closely with the Government of Rwanda, the Mastercard Foundation, and other CMU-Africa partners in implementing CMU-Africa's vision. She also serves on the Provost's sustainability advisory council focused on integrating the UN Sustainable Development Goals across the institution.

Disu comes to Carnegie Mellon with 15+ years of experience in higher education, financial services, and energy sectors in several countries across four continents. She previously served as chief business officer at George Mason University Korea, where she played a key role in driving growth in student enrollment, achieving financial sustainability and establishing key partnerships for the campus. At George Mason University, she held other leadership positions including special assistant to the president and executive director for Global Strategy. She also worked as AVP for strategic cost management at HSBC, Global Management Associate at Chevron Texaco and Appropriations Staff for the Arizona State Legislature.

Disu received her BS in economics and international business from the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University. She received her MBA in global management from Thunderbird School of Global Management. She received her DBA in Global Leadership & Sustainability (Honoris causa) from the London Graduate School and holds multiple executive certificates from Harvard, Oxford and Columbia University.

## Welcome Remarks



### Allen Robinson

Allen L. Robinson is the Director of Carnegie Mellon University Africa and Raymond J. Lane Distinguished University Professor of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and a professor within the Department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. He is the director of the EPA-funded Center for Air, Climate, and Energy Solutions (CACES). He also serves as Associate Dean for International Programs in Africa.

Robinson's research examines technical and policy issues related to the impact of emissions from energy systems on air quality and climate. His activities include process-oriented field and laboratory experiments, development and evaluation of mathematical models to describe atmospheric processes, exposure characterization, and the application of models for policy analysis and decision making. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on thermodynamics, atmospheric chemistry, air pollution control, climate change mitigation, combustion, and air quality engineering.

Robinson joined Carnegie Mellon in 1998 after working for two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Combustion Research Facility at Sandia National Laboratories. In 2009-2010, Robinson was a visiting faculty fellow at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Science (CIRES) at the University of Colorado Boulder. In 2012 he was a professor at Colorado State University in the Departments of Atmospheric Science and Mechanical Engineering, before returning to Carnegie Mellon as department head of Mechanical Engineering.

Robinson received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in Mechanical Engineering in 1996 and his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford University in 1990. Robinson received the George Tallman Ladd Outstanding Young Faculty Award from Carnegie Mellon University in 2000, the Ahrens Career Development Chair in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in 2005, the Raymond J. Lane Distinguished Professorship in 2013, and the American Geophysical Union ASCENT award in 2015. He is also the former president and an elected fellow of the American Association for Aerosol Research (AAAR).

## Opening Remarks



### Rica Rwigamba

Rica Rwigamba is the Country Head for the Mastercard Foundation in Rwanda. Rica comes to the Foundation with deep expertise across multiple facets of the Rwandan tourism and hospitality industry. For more than ten years, she has been active across the tourism and hospitality sector as an independent consultant, a leader within non-profits, and an entrepreneur. Previously, Rica was the Head of Tourism and Conservation at the Rwanda Development Board where her responsibilities included tourism investment promotion, tourism marketing, and stakeholder coordination. She has served on multiple national and regional boards within the sector and has a deep network across Rwanda and the region.

At the core of it all, she is an entrepreneur at heart who combines a passion for leadership, entrepreneurship and social impact.

Rica holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences from Makerere University and an MBA from Oklahoma Christian University.

## Panel Discussion: Framing Entrepreneurship – The Past, Present & Future



### Damian J. Stafford

Damian Stafford is the Political and Economic Section Chief at the U.S. Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda. Previously, he served as the economic officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Vancouver, the trade and investment officer at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Somalia desk officer in the Bureau of African Affairs, political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, and consular officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Ciudad Juarez. Before joining the Foreign Service, Damian worked for ten years in the information technology sector in New York City. Prior to that, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Benin where he taught high school science.

He holds a master of international affairs from Columbia University; a bachelor of science from Boston College; and speaks French, Spanish, Amharic, and some Dendi. Damian grew up near Lake Placid, New York in the Adirondack Mountains. He has a wife – who is a physician – and two children ages 9 and 5.



### Rolande Pryce

Rolande Pryce is the World Bank Country Manager for Rwanda based in Kigali. She oversees the Bank's US\$2.8 billion program in Rwanda and leads the policy dialogue with government counterparts, private sector, civil society and other development partners.

Prior to this assignment, as Operations Manager covering Indonesia and Timor-Leste, Rolande was responsible for strategy formulation, quality of the US\$75 billion lending portfolio, development partner coordination, and administration of one of the largest World Bank offices globally.

In her 16 year World Bank career, Rolande has worked in 4 of the WB's 6 regions: Africa, East Asia and Pacific; South Asia; and Latin America and the Caribbean and in multiple departments including – the Legal Vice Presidency, the Energy Global Practice and many Country Management Units.

Before joining the World Bank, for over a decade Rolande worked in various capacities as legal adviser to the Jamaican Government on Public International Law and International Trade issues.

## Panel Discussion: Framing Entrepreneurship – The Past, Present & Future



### Steve Tchoumba

Steve Tchoumba is a young talented Cameroonian entrepreneur. He holds a Bachelor degree in International Relations from Coventry University in the United Kingdom. Highly experienced in business development, he has found various companies such as Gifted, Root Café and has extensive expertise in the following domains: Human Resource Consulting, Business Development, Sales, Marketing, Training, and Education

He is currently the Executive Director of ActivSpaces. He works closely with various entrepreneurs in transforming their ideas into sustainable businesses. As the president of Kmer Tech, he is also responsible for developing partnerships with all actors in the tech-ecosystem in Cameroon including universities, corporates and other incubators.



### Topsy Kola-Oyeneyin

Topsy Kola-Oyeneyin is a Partner and co-leader of McKinsey's Payments Practice for the Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EEMA) regions, where she serves leading financial services institutions and fintechs to develop and scale innovative products and services. She is also a thought-leader on financial-services innovation, and has co-authored reports on how to unlock the potential of digital financial services in Africa.

Topsy is a transformation expert with more than 20 years of global experience working with financial institutions, regulators, and investors across Africa to develop ambitious growth programs and execute large-scale transformations. Prior to rejoining McKinsey, she held various executive roles at a leading financial-services providers, including running an international banking business across nine countries, designing, and implementing a corporate transformation program, and managing an extensive operations network spanning Head office operations and hundreds of branch offices. She also served as the pioneer Head of the Central Bank's shared services department, where she led the successful design and implementation of Nigeria's payments transformation program – "cashless Lagos".

Topsy holds a Master of Science degree in Management Science & Engineering from Stanford University, and she sits on the Advisory Board for Endeavor, an organization empowering high-impact entrepreneurs for business growth. She is passionate about everything digital, and empowering young Africans, and how the effective intersection of both can accelerate economic development, achieve SDGs and transform African economies. She shares on twitter (@TKOinsights) and LinkedIn (@Topsy Kola-Oyeneyin) the most interesting insights and ideas on these topics, questions for innovators and principles that equip young Africans to rise, find expression and thrive.

## Panel Discussion: Framing Entrepreneurship – The Past, Present & Future



### Moderator: Lauren Nkuranga

Lauren Nkuranga has spent over a decade starting and scaling businesses in pre-frontier African markets. Lauren currently serves as Chief Advisor to the Chairman & the CEO at the Rwanda Development Board, Board President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Rwanda, Vice Chair of the Board for Gorilla's Coffee, and Founder & Board Director at GET IT.

Lauren holds a B.A. with distinction in Political Science and Anthropology from Yale University and an M.Sc. in Global Finance, jointly conferred by NYU Stern School of Business and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

## Panel Discussion: Regional Insights - Lessons From Across Africa



### Bintou Diallo

Bintou holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master level studies in development and socioeconomic changes. She has been an international Moderator/Facilitator in multiple fields including green economy investment, peacebuilding and conflict management, and has acted as representative for international NGOs and private companies in setting up their activities and programs and ensuring success of their advocacy initiatives.

Bintou represented African Monitor from 2013 to 2017, a civil society NGO based in South Africa, implementing the Voice Africa's Future youth advocacy programme with specific focus on SDGs implementation and youth citizen participation, and youth peacebuilding in Burkina Faso and Senegal, with focal points in neighbouring countries. She is co-founder of the TallMedia Group in charge of developing their LEARN division and the launch of CréaHub. She is a passionate human rights defender with experiences in Burkina Faso, Senegal, United States, United Kingdom, Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Holland. From March 2018 to October 2019, she served as the Director of Afrika Tomorrow and now serves as President of the steering committee.

She is a member of CIVICUS, West Africa Youth Network Alumni and Youth for Peace in Africa Alumni. Since November 2019, she is the Partnerships and Development Financing Officer at the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Burkina Faso. As the Youth, Gender and UNISS (United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel) Focal Point, she is familiar with UN Peacebuilding Fund operations, Women Peace, security through the implementation of the resolution 1325 and has a large knowledge on the Sahel cultures and stakes.

## Panel Discussion: Regional Insights - Lessons From Across Africa



### CJ Fonzi

CJ Fonzi is a Partner at Dalberg Advisors and Dalberg's Kigali Office Director. CJ's expertise is in inclusive economic growth, impact investing, and program evaluation. CJ works across sectors and has a depth of experience in Agriculture, Financial Services, and ICT. He has worked with public and private sector investors, bi- and multi-lateral donors, non-profits, and multinational companies. CJ's has worked in over 25 countries, and has lived in the India, South Africa, the United States, and Rwanda.

CJ joined Dalberg in early 2012, after serving as part of the founding team of the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN). Previously, CJ served as a M&E manager at the Clinton Foundation's Health Access Initiative (CHAI) in India, and led an inclusive business project for DuPont, also in India.



### Livingstone Nkuusi

Livingstone is the Program lead MSME Finance at the Mastercard Foundation in Rwanda, he is responsible for working with different partners within the MSME support ecosystem to develop and deploy accessible finance, BDS and access to market program for MSMEs. He has over 15 years of diverse experience in SME development and financing. Prior to joining the Foundation, Livingstone was the head of Branches Coordination at the Business Development Fund in Rwanda and the SME development senior officer at the Rwanda Development Board where he oversaw the implementation of the National SME development policy.

Livingstone has participated in the development of different alternative financing vehicles like quasi equity, blended youth in agribusiness startup loan facility, leasing, and micro leasing facility among others, and mobilized resources for the credit guarantee and Macro financial institutions refinancing in Rwanda. He is also the founder of Get in the ring investment battle Rwanda chapter for SME and the co-convenor of the East African growing SMEs conferences.

Livingstone holds a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma Christian University (USA), a Postgraduate Diploma in Human resource management and development from Uganda management institute and an honor bachelor's degree in social sciences from Makerere University -Uganda.



### Osayi Alile

Osayi has over 20 years in Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) and the third sector. Her degrees in Sociology and Public Administration from Rutgers University, New Jersey prepared her to be a catalyst for change in Nigeria and beyond. She possesses Executive Certifications from LBS (Nigeria), IMD, Cranfield, Harvard University and YALE. She is a member of the Institute of Directors, Nigeria, CIBN (Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria) Mentoring Advisory Committee, Lagos Business School Nigeria Non-profit Senior Management Fellow, ANDE Executive Committee, Council Member, LCCI (Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Member The Boardroom Africa, Executive Member of the Access Women Network, Trustee, Alaghadaro (Edo State) Economic Summit and Member of EISA Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee.

Osayi is currently CEO at ACT Foundation and Co- Administrator at the Coalition Against Covid-19 (CACOVID), a private sector task force in partnership with the Federal Government, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and the World Health Organisation. Previously Ms. Alile served as Executive Director, FATE Foundation; VP, Junior Achievement of Nigeria; and CSR Consultant, Access Bank Plc. She was also Council Member on Youth Unemployment for the World Economic Forum Global Agenda; Committee Member, Ministry of Communication Technology for IT Business Incubation Technology; and was recognised as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

Osayi has won several awards and was recognized by H.E. Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Governor of Lagos State as one of the Eko 100 Women in 2020 & 2022. Osayi Alile is the founding curator of the Global Shapers Forum Nigeria and serves as a consultant on sustainability, non-profit management and strategy. She is a columnist and writes on entrepreneurship and business development in Nigeria's leading dailies, The Guardian and Business Day.

## Panel Discussion: Regional Insights - Lessons From Across Africa



### Yavi Madurai

The first impression of Yavi Madurai when you meet her, is her unapologetic pride in being a 'Born Continental', which is only second to her determination to rewrite the continent's future of a prosperous Africa.

She traverses the public sector, private sector and civil society, on any given day, under the various organizations she represents, but especially PABWA and the recently launched \$Billion African Prosperity Fund, brokering funding and investment for infrastructure development, technology and sustainable environmental development, but it is her respected voice on the AfCFTA, for an agenda of 'Trade not aid' industrialisation, that has earned her the nickname, 'Ms AfCFTA'. As you can imagine, She is an in-demand Special Advisor to Governments around the world, the African Union, and the Corporate Sector.



### Moderator: Aretha Mutumwinka Rwagasore

Aretha is a passionate leader with 20 years of experience in marketing & communications, strategy, business development, partnerships, stakeholder management, and people and program management. Before joining Inkomoko in August 2022, she worked for Africa Improved Foods, Skol, CFC Western Union, and KCB Bank, amongst others. She served as spokesperson, built and managed brands, commercialized products & services, and managed multi-million-dollar programs.

Aretha holds a master's degree in International Communications from the Hanze University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands), a diploma in Human Rights from the University College Henry Dunant (Switzerland), and a Bachelor's of Business Administration from the UR/School of Finance and Banking. She believes in an enterprising and creative Africa and is the co-founder of le Village de la Femme (Women's Avenue), a platform to empower Women Entrepreneurs.

## Panel Discussion: Spotlight on Rwanda's Entrepreneurship Ecosystem



### Alain Kajangwe

Alain Kajangwe is an experienced Software Engineer, the Founder and CEO of WiredIn Ltd. a Rwandan Software Development company specializing in offshore software development services. Alain has worked as a Software Engineer on a number of financial and electronic payment systems with leading financial institutions in Germany and in Rwanda.

Alain holds a Master's of Science degree in Information Technology/Mobility Track from Carnegie Mellon University (2008 - 2010), in Pittsburgh, PA, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science from La Roche University (2001 - 2003), in Pittsburgh, PA. He started his undergraduate studies in Aeronautical Science with a Flight Option at the Florida Institute of Technology (1999 - 2000), in Melbourne, Florida, and holds a Private Pilot License.



## Panel Discussion: Spotlight on Rwanda's Entrepreneurship Ecosystem



### Alice Nkulikiyinka

Mrs. Alice Nkulikiyinka is the Country Director of BPN Rwanda (Business Professionals Network), a leading Business Development Service provider, in Rwanda since 2011. Prior to returning to her home country, she worked close to fifteen years in the banking sector in the renowned Swiss firms Telekurs (Six Group) and Avaloq. As Project Manager, Product Manager and Department Head, she managed international teams in Zurich, London and New York City, among other places. On expatriate contract, she also managed Banking projects in Hong Kong and Singapore. Mrs. Alice Nkulikiyinka holds a Master of Science in Economics and Computer Science, University of Applied Sciences at Worms, Germany and a Master of Science and Information Management, University of Constance, Germany.

Countries worked in: Germany (Frankfurt), UK (London) Switzerland (Zurich), USA (New York), Singapore (Singapore), China (Hong Kong), Rwanda (Kigali)

Alice Nkulikiyinka is a Board member of RDB, a government institution whose mandate is to accelerate Rwanda's economic development by enabling private sector growth that reports to the President's office), and I&M Bank, a leading regional commercial Bank.



### Okechukwu Daniel Ogbonnaya

Okechukwu Daniel Ogbonnaya is the Country Representative for Rwanda at the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) where he oversees the Country program management and day to day engagement with government and development partners. Prior to this he was the Lead – Rwanda Program Coordination with the task of country program formulation, delivery, strategic planning, and operations.

Mr. Ogbonnaya worked from GGGI's headquarters in Seoul, Republic of Korea as the Regional Portfolio Officer for Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East within the Green Growth Planning and Implementation division. He also worked as the Knowledge Management and Outreach Adviser of GGGI's Ethiopia Country Program, where he was involved in the design and roll out of Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) initiative. His post graduate research work focused on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation policies in low and middle-income countries.

He has authored and contributed to several policy documents, articles and technical papers on green growth, climate change adaptation policy, environment and legal frameworks in Africa and Asia, to name just a few. He is one of the key authors of the National Roadmap for Green Secondary Cities Development in Rwanda. He also coordinated GGGI and UNIDO's joint research work on Impact of Green Industrial Development and Employment. He joined GGGI in July 2010 and has a Master's Degree in International Development & Cooperation, and an Executive Certificate in Economic Development from John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



### Therese Sekamana

Therese Sekamana is the founder and CEO of LED SOLUTIONS & GREEN ENERGY RWANDA. Specialized in the Energy sector, Ms SEKAMANA business started in 2011 after winning the Innovation Prize at the Rwandan exposition of the year by introducing LED Lights to the country. After years of supplying the public and private sector with this lighting technology that was new to the country, she then took her energy venture to the next level by investing in renewable energy. In fact, GREEN ENERGY RWANDA today has two 25 years PPAs (Power Purchase Agreements) with the Gov. of Rwanda for two Hydropower Plants. Kigasa Hydropower Plant is already connected to the national grid and producing energy as Muhembe Hydrpower Plant is currently under construction and plans to commission in September of 2021.

## Panel Discussion: Spotlight on Rwanda's Entrepreneurship Ecosystem



### Yves Iradukunda

Yves is the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Innovation and ICT for the Government of Rwanda. Yves joined the public service from the Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy where he served as the Rwanda Country Director. Prior to AGGP, he was a Senior Director at MASS Design Group overseeing operations in Rwanda and ensuring coordination across other global offices for the Boston, MA based design collective. Yves is an alumnus of the African Leadership University School of Business where he earned an MBA degree. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science from Oklahoma Christian University in Oklahoma, USA.



### Moderator: Grace Mugabekazi

Grace is the Senior Policy and Programs Advisor at YouthConnekt Africa. Prior to joining YouthConnekt Africa, Grace served as Advisor to the Minister of Youth in Rwanda, as well as an Associate at a regional strategy firm, ESPartners. She had previously managed the SPRING Accelerator in Rwanda, had been Client Services Director at Inkomoko Business Development, and Communications and Fundraising Lead at Digital Opportunity Trust.

Grace is a World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community Curator, and a Past President of the Rwanda Junior Chamber International chapter. She holds a Masters in Business Administration, obtained at the African Leadership University and from Bachelor Degree in Economics obtained at the University of Rwanda.

## Research Presentation: Higher Education & Industry Collaborations



### Oluwaseun David Adepoju

Oluwaseun is a thought leader in technology and innovation whose work and experience spans innovation research, technology philosophies, and technology advocacy. He has a blend of academic, product and design research experience across two universities as a faculty and as a design researcher in a startup.

Oluwaseun currently manages the Cchub Design Lab in Kigali where he leads a team of designers, engineers, product designers, researcher and data scientists in his role as Head of Research.

## Institutional Spotlight: Carnegie Mellon University



### Allen Robinson

Allen L. Robinson is the Director of Carnegie Mellon University Africa and Raymond J. Lane Distinguished University Professor of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and a professor within the Department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. He is the director of the EPA-funded Center for Air, Climate, and Energy Solutions (CACES). He also serves as Associate Dean for International Programs in Africa.

Robinson's research examines technical and policy issues related to the impact of emissions from energy systems on air quality and climate. His activities include process-oriented field and laboratory experiments, development and evaluation of mathematical models to describe atmospheric processes, exposure characterization, and the application of models for policy analysis and decision making. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on thermodynamics, atmospheric chemistry, air pollution control, climate change mitigation, combustion, and air quality engineering. Robinson joined Carnegie Mellon in 1998 after working for two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Combustion Research Facility at Sandia National Laboratories. In 2009-2010, Robinson was a visiting faculty fellow at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Science (CIRES) at the University of Colorado Boulder. In 2012 he was a professor at Colorado State University in the Departments of Atmospheric Science and Mechanical Engineering, before returning to Carnegie Mellon as department head of Mechanical Engineering.

Robinson received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in Mechanical Engineering in 1996 and his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford University in 1990. Robinson received the George Tallman Ladd Outstanding Young Faculty Award from Carnegie Mellon University in 2000, the Ahrens Career Development Chair in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in 2005, the Raymond J. Lane Distinguished Professorship in 2013, and the American Geophysical Union ASCENT award in 2015. He is also the former president and an elected fellow of the American Association for Aerosol Research (AAAR).



### Brian Feldman

Brian is a second year MBA student from Carnegie Mellon University focused on driving corporate innovation through early stage companies development and partnerships. During his time at CMU, he has served as a product manager and advisor to early stage startups as they raised funding and is an Innovation Fellow, focused on fintech and healthcare, through the Corporate Startup Lab. Prior to attending CMU he worked in corporate strategy and has experience in international expansion, new market launches, and growth strategy.

## Panel Discussion: Funding Startups in Africa



### Aline Kabanda

Aline serves as Rwanda Country Director for the Allan and Gill Gray Philanthropy | Jasiri Programs. Prior to that, Aline worked for close to ten years at Akilah Institute and Davis College as Executive Director and College Founding President. She developed and spearheaded the Institute's strategy for growth and development.

Aline holds a Masters in Business Administration with a focus on Leadership and Organizational Development from Oklahoma Christian University. She has a passion for human capital development as a critical component for organizational and economic growth. Aline sits on a number of boards including the Rwanda Convention Bureau, Davis College|Akilah, Resonate, Ishyo Arts and serves as the Vice Chairperson of the Private Sector Federation's Tourism Chamber. Aline is a mentor to many young women and is deeply committed to encouraging women's ambition and professional goals.



### Evelyne Dioh SIMPA

Evelyne Dioh SIMPA is the Managing Director of WIC Capital, the first investment fund in West Africa that exclusively targets women-led small and growing businesses. The Fund's mission is to unleash the full potential of women-led businesses in Africa through adapted funding, tailored technical assistance and business networks, providing a platform for collaboration between local private and public sector actors to shape the gender-lens investing landscape in the region. Evelyne is an experienced investment professional who joined WIC Capital from FONSI, Senegal's sovereign wealth fund, where she was responsible for managing +EUR 100 million transactions in several sectors, including industry, energy, agriculture. She formerly worked at the General Inspection of the Société Générale Group.

Evelyne's life mission is to contribute to the development of the African private sector, by reinforcing and growing small businesses. She is also passionate about gender issues in modern African societies. In 2021 and 2022, she was ranked in The Choiseul 100 Africa, as one of the 200 young African leaders of 40 years old and below, who will play a major role in the continent's economic development in the near future. She was also recognized on the Black Women in Asset Management (BWAM) 40 under 40 list of Black women who are shaping the future of asset management.



### Ina Alogwu

Ina is a distinguished professional with over 19 years' experience in the Digital Commerce & Mobile Payment space, providing thought leadership in identifying key innovation and technology trends, initiating and driving the execution of new digital product initiatives. He is contributing to the next wave of growth in digital commerce, mobile payments, Wealth Tech and is championing cross-border strategic growth initiatives for the Pan African Fintech ecosystem.

He is currently the Group Director of Digital Transformation at ARM Holding Company, where he oversees the execution of the Group's Digital Transformation Strategy, helping the seven subsidiary companies in the Group drive the execution of their digital business transformation. He also oversees the operations of three venture building programs for the ARM Group. The venture building programs that are run under the ARM Labs brand includes an incubator, an accelerator program (focused on African Fintech and Property Tech startups) and an SDG impact focused program.

He holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Digital Business and an Executive Masters in Digital Transformation and Innovation Leadership from the IE Business School.

## Panel Discussion: Funding Startups in Africa



### Jannek Egerrup-Hagen

Jannek Egerrup-Hagen is the Managing Director at BESTSELLER FOUNDATION, based at the foundation's office in Kigali. The Foundation offers investment and support for entrepreneurs and SMEs in Sub-Saharan Africa working on eliminating waste and pollution, keeping materials and resources in use and regenerating nature. Jannek is on the board of several of the foundation's portfolio companies and has prior to joining the Foundation worked with investment management in Europe and project management in East Africa.



### Philip Gasaatura

Philip currently serves as a Country Director for Katapult Africa a Venture Capital firm, investing in and scale tech companies across Africa through their Accelerator Program. Prior to joining Katapult, Philip was Strategy Consultant for the Government of Rwanda developing Rwanda's strategy to become a Technology and Innovation Pan-African Hub under the flagship project of Kigali Innovation City, Philip was instrumental in the design and structuring of Rwanda's first Government backed Venture Capital Fund designed to invest in stage growth companies in Rwanda and across East Africa.

In his early career, Philip was a Senior Finance and Technology specialist for over 15 years' in Investment Banking in the U.K. Philip led the implementation of several large scale technology and operational projects to optimise business performance and cost efficiencies. At Citi Bank, Philip managed the development team of a global equity trading platform. Prior to Citi Bank, Philip lead a team at ABN Amro that managed the development of a trading credit trading platform focused on Asset Backed Securities with implementation of product pricing and risk modelling for various financial instruments.

Philip holds an MSc Computer Science from University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa and a BSc Computer Science and Mathematics from Makerere University, Uganda. Now based in Rwanda, Philip is married with three children and a great Arsenal Football Club fan.



### Moderator: Obinna Ukwuani

Mr. Obinna Ukwuani joined the bank as Chief Digital Officer in June 2020. As Chief Digital Officer he is responsible for leading the Digital Factory bank division as a center of excellence for product innovation and development in digital banking. He brings intuition for and relevant experience in product development, an entrepreneur's business acumen, and a passion for customer experience into the role.

Obinna has seven years of experience leading entrepreneurial ventures spanning the areas of software, agricultural processing, and education. During these years he has directly created economic opportunity for hundreds of people, and has often implemented projects in challenging environments. A few of his companies continue to operate today, and, over the years, the initiatives have been recognised by international press and forums.

Before joining Bank of Kigali Plc, Obinna worked with Paystack, one of Africa's foremost payment technology startups, in the areas of business operations and product management.

Before leaving the United States, where he was born and raised, Obinna earned a degree in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## Global Challenge Judges



### Howdy Pierce

Howdy Pierce is a technology executive and software engineer with a background in operating systems, networking, and audio/video protocols. Since 2020, he has taught embedded systems software engineering courses at the University of Colorado and CMU Africa.

In 2002, he co-founded Cardinal Peak, a 120-person engineering design services company that assists companies in bringing embedded products to market. He now serves as chairman of the company and a member of the board of directors.

Prior to starting Cardinal Peak, he held engineering management and engineering positions at DiviCom, Taligent, the Santa Cruz Operation, and Microsoft. In 1999, he founded and served as CEO of Vantum, a venture-funded startup focused on building hardware and software solutions for the use of digital video in enterprise applications.

Pierce holds a B.S. in mathematics and professional writing from Carnegie Mellon.



### Ozonnia Ojelo

Mr. Ozonnia Ojelo brings over 25 years of experience in development work, working with the United Nations in Central Asia and Africa, and overseeing a global portfolio of programmes and projects that covered four continents.

He is the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Representative of the UN Secretary General to Rwanda. Prior to that, from 2019 to June 2022, he served as the UN Resident Coordinator and Representative of the UN Secretary General to the Kyrgyz Republic. From December 2017 to December 2018, he was the UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UNFPA Representative to the Kyrgyz Republic. From October 2014 to November 2017, he was Cluster Director for Governance and Peacebuilding in Africa at UNDP's Regional Service Centre for Africa, Addis Ababa; and Director for Conflict Prevention and Recovery, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP, New York (October 2011 to September 2014). Between 2004 and 2011, he held management positions with UNDP in Ghana and Kenya respectively. Prior to his UN career, from 1987 to 2002, he was a practicing attorney and solicitor, university teacher and newspaper journalist in Nigeria, and had provided policy, advisory and technical support services to truth, justice and reconciliation commissions and human rights commissions in Malawi, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Liberia etc. For several years, he was the president of a regional conflict prevention, research and advocacy organization, Centre for Peace in Africa (CPA), Lagos, Nigeria. He is the founder and first president of the largest mediation and conciliation organization in Africa: The Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators, with more than 20,000 members. He is a Fellow of many prestigious peacebuilding and conflict prevention organizations around the world.

Mr. Ojelo holds Bachelors' and Masters' degrees in History from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka; a Bachelor of Laws degree from ASUTECH, Awka, Nigeria; a Masters' degree in Strategic and Project Management from the Paris Graduate School of Management, Paris, France; and a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He has authored/co-authored four books, and scores of peer reviewed articles published in reputable journals from around the world.

## Global Challenge Judges



### Rolande Pryce

Rolande Pryce is the World Bank Country Manager for Rwanda based in Kigali. She oversees the Bank's US\$2.8 billion program in Rwanda and leads the policy dialogue with government counterparts, private sector, civil society and other development partners.

Prior to this assignment, as Operations Manager covering Indonesia and Timor-Leste, Rolande was responsible for strategy formulation, quality of the US\$75 billion lending portfolio, development partner coordination, and administration of one of the largest World Bank offices globally.

In her 16 year World Bank career, Rolande has worked in 4 of the WB's 6 regions: Africa, East Asia and Pacific; South Asia; and Latin America and the Caribbean and in multiple departments including – the Legal Vice Presidency, the Energy Global Practice and many Country Management Units.

Before joining the World Bank, for over a decade Rolande worked in various capacities as legal adviser to the Jamaican Government on Public International Law and International Trade issues.



### Shona Bezanson

Shona Bezanson is the Director of Business Development and Program Operations, Pan Africa Programs at the Mastercard Foundation. In this role, she is responsible for supporting the creation, consolidation, and growth of the Pan-Africa Program platform, including overseeing program operations and supporting strategic planning across thematic areas to ensure coherence and impact. Shona joined the Mastercard Foundation in 2013, working primarily on the Foundation's flagship Scholars Program, as well as regional initiatives and enterprise-wide efforts related to gender, inclusion, and safeguarding. Before joining the Foundation, Shona worked in child protection with Save the Children in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad and with Right To Play and the Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees, in Thailand. Shona is an eternal optimistic who is passionate about peace, justice, and creating opportunities for young people. She is a graduate of Dalhousie University and Mount Allison University, in Canada, and lives with her family in Kigali, Rwanda.

## Ecosystem Partners

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Make-IT in Africa



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# Ecosystem Partners

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