







14TH AFRICA MINISTERIAL COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE (AMCCO) SPEAKERS

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HOST



HON. FCPA DR. WYCLIFFE AMBETSA OPARANYA, EGH CABINET SECRETARY MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES AND MICRO SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMES) DEVELOPMENT,

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION SPEAKERS



Moderator

Prof. Kamau Ngamau, Vice Chancellor Cooperative University of Kenya



Hon. Patrick Kilemi, Principal Secretary, State Department for Cooperatives in the Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs Development, Kenya



Mr. Kamanzi Francis, Director General Rwanda Cooperative Agency, Rwanda



Distinguished. Sen. Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi CON Honourable Minister of State, Agriculture & Food Security Federal Republic of Nigeria



Ms. Aicha Errifaai Ministry of Tourism, Handicrafts and Social and Solidarity Economy, Morocco



Hon. Senator Monica Mutsvangwa, Minister Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprise Development -Zimbabwe



PROF. KAMAU NGAMAU

Prof. Kamau Ngamau, is the Vice Chancellor of The Co-operative University of Kenya. He previously served as the Ag. VC (March 2017 – May 2018) and Ag. DVC AA (Oct 2016 – March 2017) before substantive appointment as the Vice Chancellor. Before that, he had served as the Deputy Principal Academic Affairs of the former Cooperative University College of Kenya. He is a Professor of Horticulture at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). He started his academic career in JKUAT when he was appointed Teaching Assistant in 1992. He served in various capacities at JKUAT rising through the ranks from an Assistant Lecturer in 1993, to Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor in 2013. Administratively, Professor Ngamau has held the positions of Chair of Horticulture Department, Associate Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Director Board of Postgraduate Studies and Dean Faculty of Agriculture at JKUAT among other responsibilities which he performed with distinction.

He has numerous publications in internationally refereed journals, supervised many Undergraduate, Masters and PhD students successfully. He is recognized research scientist and consultant in Horticulture. He has further attended and presented seminar papers in various Local and International workshops and Conferences on cross cutting issues in Higher Education and in his area of expertise.

Prof Ngamau is a born-agin Christian and fellowships with Christian Church International, Joy Family Church, Juja. He serves in various ministries in the church including; discipleship, finance board, couples committee and the strategic planning committee. He is also an active FOCUS Associate. He is involved in community service and serves in the boards of Woodley Boys Secondary School, Mutuini High School and has previously served in the board of Jamhuri Primary School.

Prof. Ngamau, an alumnus of Nairobi School, obtained a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Horticultural Sciences of the University of Hanover, Germany in 1999 under a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarship. He also holds a Masters of Science degree in Horticulture and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture both from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. He holds a second Masters degree in Organizational Development from United States International University, Nairobi, Kenya.



HON. PATRICK KIBURI KILEMI

Hon. Patrick Kiburi Kilemi is the Principal Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Co-operatives and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Development, State Department for Cooperatives. His career span over 20 years in sales, marketing, commercial planning and pricing experience in the petroleum industry in Kenya and the East and Central African region mainly with International oil majors Total Kenya Limited (11 years), Chevron (Caltex) Kenya Limited (4 years) and Mobil Oil Kenya Limited (3 years), qualified with a masters and bachelors of arts degree in economics and a CPA qualification.



MR. KAMANZI FRANCIS

Francis KAMANZI is the Director General of the Rwanda Cooperative Agency since July 16th, 2025. Prior, he served as Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB), a cabinet level appointment from February 2024, where he led National strategies in resource governance and sustainable investment.

With over 15 years of experience spanning public finance, infrastructure development, and institutional leadership, Mr. KAMANZI has held key positions in both public and private sectors. He served as Business Development Partner at Eco-Secure Holdings Ltd, General Manager of QNet East Africa, and project lead at 3MK Consult. His early career was rooted since 2000 at the National Bank of Rwanda, where he advanced through various roles over 12 years, including Head of the Foreign Exchange Market and Manager of Banking Operations.

He has a Master of Arts in Public Administration and Policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, a Master of Arts in Economic Policy Management from Makerere University, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the former National University of Rwanda.



SENATOR DR. ALIYU SABI ABDULLAHI, CON,

Distinguished Senator Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, CON, (Baraden Borgu), is a distinguished trained Veterinary Surgeon and Politician who is currently serving as Nigeria's Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security. He represented the Niger North Senatorial District from 2015 to 2023, during which he held crucial roles such as Deputy Chief Whip of the 9th Senate and Chairman of the Niger State Caucus. Notably, in the 8th Senate, he made history as the only first-time Senator to Chair the Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs.

Since assuming office as the Honourable Minister in charge, and responsible for Cooperative Affairs in Nigeria, the Distinguished Senator has demonstrated unwavering dedication to advancing cooperative initiatives. His efforts underscore a strong commitment to enhancing Nigeria's agricultural sector and rejuvenating cooperative operations nationwide as engines of rural development, food system resilience, job creation, and inclusive prosperity.



MS. AICHA ERRIFAAI

Mrs. Aicha Errifaai is the General Director of the Office of Cooperation Development (ODCO) in Morocco, the organism in charge of the cooperative sector under the tutelage of the Ministry of Tourism, Handicrafts, and the Social and Solidarity Economy. Appointed by the Moroccan Government Council on July 24, 2023, she has since been leading efforts to develop a national strategy to enhance the cooperative sector in alignment with Morocco's New Development Model. She began her career in the private sector before joining the Ministry of Economy and Finance, where she contributed to the formulation of sectoral strategies and the implementation of public finance laws, including multi-year budget programming. Mrs. Errifaai holds an engineering degree from the Mohammedia School of Engineers (2013) and a specialized master's in "Advanced Public Action in Morocco" from Mohammed VI University and École des Ponts ParisTech.



HON. SENATOR MONICA MUTSVANGWA

Honourable Senator Monica Mutsvangwa is the Zimbabwean Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development. She is passionate about women empowerment and throughout her political career she has been championing this cause.

Over the past two decades, Honourable Mutsvangwa has held several women leadership positions that include Chairperson for Women's Parliamentary Caucus, Vice President at SADC Parliament Forum, Chairperson of the Standing Committee of gender Equality, Women Advancement and Youth Development, Chairperson of Regional Women Parliamentary Caucus, Elected Treasurer for SADC (PF).

A veteran of the liberation struggle, Hon. Mutsvangwa's service to the country saw her in post-Independent Zimbabwe serving in the diplomatic corps in Belgium, New York (USA) and China, where she was the President of the African Diplomatic Spouses Association. Since then she has held several positions in Government including Minister of State for Manicaland Province, Deputy Minister of Macroeconomic Planning and Investment Promotion, Deputy Minister – Ministry of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services, Deputy Minister of Public Service Labour and Social Services, Minister of Information, and Publicity and Broadcasting Services.

Honourable Mutsvangwa is married and a mother of four children. Outside her political work, she is also an accomplished tobacco farmer and a business consultant in the telecommunications sector. She also devotes her time to fundraising for the disadvantaged in her community and mentoring tomorrow's female leaders.

PARALLEL SESSIONS SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS PROFILES



MR. VINCENT MARANGU MODERATOR

Mr. Vincent Marangu; Director Co-operatives Banking Division joined the Bank in 2003 and has over two decades of experience in business and financial advisory, with a strong focus on co-operatives and rural finance. He has served as Head of Co-op Consultancy and Insurance Agency Ltd., where he spearheaded initiatives in financial advisory, strategic planning, organizational development, and business operations review.

He has consulted widely for co-operatives in Kenya and across the East African region and successfully implemented numerous donor-funded projects with international development partners. Mr. Marangu holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Business Studies and is a graduate of the School of African Microfinance. He also holds a certificate in Food Systems from Wageningen University.

He is a Certified Executive Leadership Coach (CELC) under the International Federation of Coaching (ICF), a Certified Development Educator (ADE), and a European Union Development Educator (DEEU).

He is also an alumnus of the London Business School Leadership Program and a founding member of the Kenya Society of Professional Co-operators (KSPC).



MR. KURT MOORS

Mr. Kurt Moors (born April 30, 1968) is a Belgian agricultural engineer and microfinance expert. He holds a Master's degree in Applied Biosciences and Engineering from the Catholic University of Leuven.

Since 1999, he has served as General Coordinator at the Belgian Raiffeisen Foundation (BRS), a not-for-profit organisation closely linked to the Belgian cooperative Cera and KBC Bank.

BRS provides coaching and training to savings and credit cooperatives, with a focus on farmers and rural entrepreneurs. Kurt is also a professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), where he teaches financial performance assessment of microfinance institutions in the Master in Microfinance program.

His career includes international development work in South Africa and earlier roles with IVA, the NGO of the Belgian Farmers Union. Fluent in Dutch, French, and English, Kurt combines technical expertise with a strong commitment to rural empowerment and cooperatives.



DR. ABBEY OGUNWALE

Dr. Abbey Ogunwale is a distinguished leader in the field of international business development, with a wealth of experience spanning multiple countries and sectors. He is the Founder and Chief Global Strategist of Defined Impact Group (DIG), a global firm dedicated to delivering innovative services and fostering cross-sector collaboration among governments, corporations, multilateral institutions, and industry partners.

Over the past 15 years, Abbey has held key leadership positions, successfully steering the design and implementation of numerous multi-year, multi-million-dollar, multilateral and bilateral donor-funded projects across Africa, Europe, Latin America, and Asia.

His expertise encompasses sectors such as democracy and governance, global health, renewable energy, agriculture, and economic growth. Abbey has also contributed to project management at the World Bank, focusing on country development strategies, and conducted research on extractive industries at the International Finance Corporation.

Notably, in 2019, he served on the U.S. Trade Advisory Committee on Africa under the Office of the U.S. Trade Representatives (Executive Office of the President). His extensive background and commitment to fostering sustainable development underscores his role as a pivotal figure in the international development community.

Abbey holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems from Babcock University, a Master's in Project Management from George Washington University's School of Business, and a Ph.D. in Public and Business Administration from Northcentral University.

He has further enhanced his expertise through executive education programs, including a Management & Leadership certificate from MIT Sloan, a Disruptive Strategies certificate from Harvard Business School, and a Sustainable Energy certificate from Lund University in Sweden. Abbey is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP), Certified in ITIL 4, and a Certified Information Systems Manager (CISM®).



MS. MARY MWITI

Ms. Mary Mwiti is a corporate governance professional with valuable industry expertise and a passion for prudent management with a proven track record spanning over 20 years of progressive experience in providing high-level systems and services, leadership for administrative functions

In her previous capacities, Mary has worked in both the private and public sectors serving as a consultant undertaking assignments for organizations such as UNESCO, UNICEF, and County Governments. She also served as a County Executive committee member of Gender, youth, sports, and social services as well as the County Executive Committee member for Water and Natural Resource Management during the first cycle of devolution. Before becoming the Chief Executive officer of the Council of Governors, she was the Director for Corporate services where her passion for devolution, and service to County Governments was recognized propelling her to her current position.

She sits in various boards including National Irrigation Authority Board, Affordable Housing Board and previously, she sat in Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation Board. She also sits in various government taskforces and steering committees.

She holds a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration (HR) both from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). Mary is a member of the Institute of Human Resource Management in Kenya. Mary is passionate about promoting and supporting women, children, and vulnerable groups. She sits as a chairperson, of Real Achievers Enterprise: A registered women's group responsible for the improvement of women's livelihood through investment in high-yielding business ventures. She is also the Secretary, of Jitegemee Self Help Group a locally based group responsible for the improvement of girl—child education through school sponsorship programs and empowering women to start-up small-scale enterprises.



CPA DAVID SANDAGI

CPA David Sandagi is a member of the institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya, and a Certified Expert in Financial Inclusion from the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management.

He holds a master's in business administration and a bachelor's degree in finance and Banking. In addition, he is an alumnus of the Senior Leadership Development Program, and a Certified Professional Coach.

He has culminative work experience of over 20 years in financial sector entities in both the private and public sectors, including the National Treasury and Planning, as well as development financial institutions.

CPA Sandagi currently leads the team in SASRA as Acting CEO, ensuring supervision and oversight of the regulated Sacco industry.



MS. JUNGSUN RYU

Ms. Jungsun Ryu is the Manager at the Dure Consumer's Cooperative Union (DURE COOP) in Seoul, Korea, where she oversees international solidarity and cooperative-to-cooperative trade.

Her role emphasizes strengthening global connections and partnerships among cooperatives, reflecting her strong background in international trade and social economy. With an academic foundation in International Trade from Dankook University, she has built expertise in both cooperative management and cross-border business relations.

Her career path spans various organizations in Korea and abroad, highlighting a consistent focus on social economy and trade. Before joining DURE COOP in 2021, she worked at Local & Social Biz as a researcher supporting social economy enterprises, and earlier gained international experience in Canada with a fresh food distribution company as a sales representative and assistant manager.

She also contributed to the Yeongdeungpo-gu Social Economy Support Center and the Seoul Business Agency, supporting social economy markets and enterprises. This diverse background underlines her strong commitment to cooperative development, international exchange, and socially responsible business practices.



MS. NANCY WANJIKU OTIENO

Nancy Wanjiku Otieno is a seasoned Cooperative Development Expert with over 16 years of experience in international development, specializing in Cooperative Development across East Africa. She has successfully worked with more than 30 cooperatives, empowering communities through sustainable organizational development, project management, gender equality, and financial inclusion.

She is deeply committed to promoting financial inclusion and has been instrumental in supporting low-income earners to form Savings and Credit Cooperatives from Savings and Loaning Associations. Guided by her belief that "No one is too poor to save," she has championed grassroots financial inclusion initiatives that have transformed livelihoods and fostered economic resilience.

Her academic and professional background includes Cooperative Leadership from The Cooperative University of Kenya, Community Development from Daystar University, Monitoring and Evaluation from the Kenya Institute of Management, and is a Certified Pension Fund Trustee from the College of Insurance.

Nancy firmly believes in the power of cooperatives, stating that, "Cooperatives not only contribute to a nation's economic resilience, but can also uplift a generation from poverty to financial freedom and wealth." Her unwavering dedication continues to inspire change and drive inclusive growth throughout the region.



DR. ANASTASIA NYALITA

Dr. Anastasia Nyalita, B. Pharm, MBA, Hon. Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya, Certified Corporate Governance Trainer and Board Evaluations & Governance Assessments Trainer. Dr. Nyalita holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy (B. Pharm) degree and a Master of Business Management (MBA) both from the University of Nairobi. She brings a robust background in Leadership, Governance, and Operational Exellence, with extensive experience across multinational pharmaceutical firms, public sector organizations, and government agencies.

As the County Executive Committee Member responsible for Business and Hustler Opportunities Sector at Nairobi City County Government, Anastasia oversees key county services including Trade & Industry, MSME Development, Markets and Cooperatives. She has also in the past, successfully led the transformation of the Health, Wellness and Nutrition and the Inclusivity, Public Participation and Customer Service Sectors of the County Government.

As the Chief Executive Officer of Kenya Healthcare Federation, KHF, she led the Policy & Advocacy agenda for the Private Health Sector in Kenya, including Public-Private Dialogues, PPDs, and Public-Private Partnerships, PPP, in Kenya's Private Health Sector.

Dr. Nyalita is the Lead Director, Integral Health Limited, a Kenyan based dynamic health and business management organization with access to expert resources to support the needs of Biopharmaceuticals, Medical Devices, Consumer Health and other organizations with an interest in Health.

Dr. Nyalita is a member of the Institute of Directors – Kenya, IoD-K, and has served in the Boards of Kenya Medical Supplies Authority, KEMSA, and the Pharmacy & Poisons Board, PPB, Kenya's Health Authority for regulation of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, health technologies and related products.

She is also actively involved in Leadership and Governance, playing a key role in various Institutions and Associations, is a certified Corporate Governance Trainer as well as a Board Evaluations & Assessments Trainer and has been conferred with the title Honorable Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya, the highest distinction bestowed by the Society, awarded to individuals whose contributions have shaped and elevated the pharmacy profession in Kenya.



DR. SARA VICARI, PHD

Dr. Sara Vicari, PhD, is a cooperative development expert who has collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since 2013.

Her work spans FAO headquarters, regional offices, and field projects, with a focus on advancing cooperative development.

Since 2023, she has been part of the Rural Transformation Team at the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (FAORNE), where she leads work on cooperative development.



MR. EMMANUEL KIBET

Emmanuel Kibet is a seasoned Project Manager and Cooperative Advisor with over 10 years of expertise in crop science, climate-smart agriculture, food security, and agribusiness development across Africa. He combines technical agronomy knowledge with strategic leadership, focusing on cooperative advisory, business development, and capacity building to deliver sustainable agricultural solutions.

At Agriterra, Emmanuel leads the Acting Now for Food Security and Resilient Systems programs and has previously managed the CRAFT and SDGP Low Carbon Coffee initiatives. He has successfully driven cooperative transformation, enhanced access to finance, and forged partnerships with investors and industry players.

Emmanuel holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and is pursuing a Master of Management in Agribusiness at Strathmore University. He is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with specialized training in climate change adaptation and food systems. Committed to empowering cooperatives, he aims to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable cooperative-led enterprises.



MR. MICAH REKETAI DURU

Mr. Micah Reketai Duru is the President of the Zimbabwe National Association of Housing Cooperatives (ZINAHCO), representing over 5,000 members. He also serves as Chairperson of the Mutare Secondary Housing Union and President of the Zimbabwe National Cooperative Federation, which brings together various national apex bodies. In addition, he sits on several boards, including the Consumer Council of Zimbabwe (Provincial), the Government Sectorial Committee on Poverty Alleviation, the Non-State Actors Forum (Chairperson), and the Zimbabwe Housing Directors/Managers Forum.

Under his leadership, Mr. Duru has raised the visibility of cooperative issues in Zimbabwe and advocated for a policy framework that supports cooperative development. He is a former member of the ICA-Africa Regional Board.



DR. DAN KAGAHA ATUWAIRE

Dr. Dan Kagaha Atuwaire, Executive Chairperson, Kampala Medical and Allied Health Workers Cooperative Society Limited (KAMACOS)

Health advocate and cooperative leader with over a decade of experience strengthening resilient, accountable institutions to expand healthcare access across Uganda.

Recognized by the President of the Republic of Uganda with a national medal for exemplary and innovative leadership, I have championed cooperative healthcare systems that are inclusive, people-centered, and aligned with Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3).

As Executive Chairperson of the Kampala Medical and Allied Health Workers Cooperative Society Limited (KAMACOS), I have represented Uganda's health cooperatives at high-level forums across Africa, Europe, and Latin America—including UNDESA, IHCO, and ASETT—sharing innovations that demonstrate the power of cooperative models to transform healthcare.

I have led national symposia, partnered with ministries and international stakeholders, and delivered thought leadership that drives systemic reform in underserved health systems.

My focus is on advancing equitable healthcare through South–North collaboration, grassroots empowerment, and policy advocacy that makes health systems more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient.



MS. MADELEINE MÜLLER

Ms. Madeleine Müller is the Project Director of DGRV Kenya and CEO of the German-Kenyan Cooperative Development, based in Nairobi. Since 2018, she has been leading cooperative development initiatives, drawing on her expertise in international relations, sustainable economic development, and organizational advisory.

Prior to her current role, she served as Project Manager and earlier as Project Assistant with DGRV, both in Kenya and Germany, where she gained extensive experience in cooperative structures and development cooperation.

Her professional background spans over 15 years across Europe, Asia, and Africa. She previously worked as a Development Adviser with GIZ in Laos, supporting sustainable economic development, and as an Organizational Adviser in India, focusing on child rights protection with Taabar Society.

Earlier in her career, she held senior roles at UniCredit Bank AG in Germany, including Process Manager for Corporate Lending, Internal Business Management Consultant, and Relationship Manager for Corporate Clients. This diverse experience has equipped her with a strong foundation in project leadership, financial management, and capacity building in international and multicultural contexts.



HON. ADEMOLA OLASUNKANMI BALOGUN

Hon. Ademola Olasunkanmi Balogun is the Ogun State Commissioner for Community Development and Cooperatives. He was born in the 60s. He is an indigene of Ijebu Igbo, in Ijebu North Local Government Area of the State.

Hon. Ademola Balogun hails from the Balogun Koya and Oketade Arowosugbo Dynasty. He had his primary education at St. John's Primary School, Ijebu Igbo, and later proceeded to Molusi College, Ijebu Igbo.

He thereafter attended Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria where he bagged BSc in Mass Communication. Hon. Ademola Balogun was a member, Transition Committee of Ijebu North Local Government between 2011 and 2012, after which he was appointed as a Special Adviser to the Chairman, Ijebu North Local Government on Special Duties where he served till 2015.

Between 2011 and 2014, Hon Ademola Balogun served as a member of the Consultative Advisory Council to former Governor Ibikunle Amosun. He also served as Ex- officio of the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) between 2019 and 2023. He was also appointed as Board Member, Ogun State Housing Corporation, in 2020.

Between 1999 and 2003, he was appointed Senior Constituency Officer, Ogun East Senatorial District, under the Late Senator Olabiyi Durojaiye. After a careful observation of his personality, service and antecedent in the politics of Ogun State and All People's Congress, he was appointed as the Southwest Zonal Coordinator of the Asiwaju Kashim. The Ladder, a position where he worked to ensure mobilisation of party faithful, as well as the election of President Bola Tinubu and his Vice, Alhaji Kashim Shettima.

Hon. Ademola Balogun is a family man as well as a grassroot politician who has contributed to the growth and development of various communities in his constituency. He is a member of Afenifere, a Yoruba Socio-cultural group. He is a two term chairman of NASFAT, Ijebu Igbo branch. He is also a member of Rotary International, Ijebu Igbo.

He was one of the pioneer members of Rotary Club in Ijebu in 1985. He is devout Muslim and the Sarumi Adinni of Ojowo Muslim Community. He is also Otunba Bobadega of Oke Agbo, Ijebu Igbo. He is married and blessed with children and grandchildren.



PROF. WYCLIFFE OBOKA MODERATOR

Prof. Wycliffe Oboka is an Associate Professor in the School of Co-operatives and Community Development at The Co-operative University of Kenya.

He is a researcher and a consultant, with a special focus on cooperatives as special vehicles for climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and building community resilience against disasters.

Prof. Oboka is currently serving as Director- Institute of Co-operative Development, which is an outreach arm of The Co-operative University of Kenya in the co-operative movement.



DR. PETER ASHADE

Dr. Peter Ashade is the Group Chief Executive Officer of United Capital Group, a conglomerate of firms offering Investment Banking, Asset Management, Trusteeship, Securities, Wealth Management, Consumer Finance and Microfinance Banking services.

Prior to joining United Capital Group, Dr. Peter served as the Managing Director/CEO of Africa Prudential Plc (formerly UBA Registrars Limited).

Under his watch, the company developed EasyCoop Cooperative Manager, which is Nigeria's first independent self-service portal for cooperative thrift and loans societies. This development led to the firm being appointed as Consultant Development partner to the International Cooperative Alliance – Africa (Alliance Africa).

Dr. Peter's illustrious career spans about three and half decades in Nigeria financial services industry, more than two of which were at a C-suit level of leading financial institutions.

He holds a B.Sc. in Banking and Finance, an MBA in Marketing and an M.Sc. in Finance from Nigerian Universities.

Also, he attended the Global CEO program at the Lagos Business School, Nigeria. Dr. Peter is a fellow of several prestigious organisations, including the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, the Chartered Institute of Bankers, and the Institute of Capital Market Registrars and an associate of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria and the Institute of Directors, Nigeria.



PROF. ISAAC NYAMONGO

Prof. Isaac Nyamongo is a Professor of Anthropology. He currently serves as the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics, Cooperative Development, Research and Innovation) at the Cooperative University of Kenya.

He holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Florida, USA and has over 30 years in teaching, research and consultancy.

He is the President of the International Union for Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences and Chairs the Committee on Cooperative Research for Africa and a member of the ICA-Global Committee for Cooperative Research.

He has received several awards including a Presidential Honor of the Moran of the Burning Spear (MBS), an International Cooperative Champion from the US Overseas Cooperative Development Council and Pelto International Award by the Society for Applied Anthropology.



MR. ROELAND MONASCH

Mr. Roeland Monasch is CEO of Aflatoun International. Aflatoun is a Social Franchise delivering Social and Financial Education through a network of nearly 400 partner organizations. Its mission is to inspire children and young people to socially and economically empower themselves to become agents of change for a more equitable future.

Aflatoun International's programmes are implemented in 100+ countries, reaching more than 40 million children and young people annually. In addition to the content itself, Aflatoun International provides all the technical support necessary to develop, implement, evaluate and scale-up Social, Financial and Entrepreneurship Education. Aflatoun works extensively with cooperatives around the world. He is based in Nairobi, Kenya leading the new Global Programmes Hub. Roeland serves also as a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Financial Education (2025-2026).

Previously, Roeland worked for 20+ years with the UN (UNICEF & WHO), including as UNICEF Representative in Sierra Leone, Georgia, and Zimbabwe. He coordinated the UNICEF response during the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone (2014-2015). In Georgia, he worked with the government on the de-institutionalization of all children living in large orphanages established during the Soviet Union era and managed the humanitarian operation in Abkhazia (2009-2012). In Zimbabwe, he coordinated the UNICEF development programme and protracted humanitarian crisis [2004–2009: Displacement; Cholera; Political violence; Hyperinflation; Collapse basic social services].

Previously, Roeland worked in the Strategic Information Unit in UNICEF/HQ on Monitoring the Situation of Children around the World (1998-2004). From 1993-1998 he worked for the World Health Organization (Strengthening of Health Systems Department & Department of Emerging and other Communicable Diseases – Switzerland & Lesotho). Before joining the UN he worked in Pakistan, Zambia and Bhutan.

Roeland is married and has an eighteen-year-old daughter.



MR. SBONISO MADLOPHA

Mr. Sboniso Madlopha is an accomplished development strategist and youth empowerment advocate with over 15 years of experience designing and leading impactful programs across the African continent. A Swazi national, Mr. Madlopha has dedicated his career to addressing the challenges facing young people—particularly in the areas of youth entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and employability.

He currently serves as Vice President of Operations at JA Africa, where he oversees strategic and operational initiatives across 23 African countries, supporting innovative youth development programs that prepare young people for the future of work.

Mr. Madlopha's career spans leadership roles in both the public and non-governmental sectors. He previously served as Head of Marketing at the Eswatini Tourism Authority, where he led national branding and destination marketing strategies.

As Executive Director of Junior Achievement Swaziland, he conceptualized and launched the highly successful In-School Youth Cooperative Program, integrating financial literacy into secondary education with strong support from government, schools, parents, and financial cooperatives.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Madlopha held the role of Associate Peace Corps Director for Youth Development with the U.S. Peace Corps in Eswatini, where he facilitated the design and implementation of youth-centered programs focused on leadership, life skills, and community engagement.

He has served on several boards across the public and private sectors, including NGOs, bringing a wealth of governance experience and a deep understanding of cross-sector collaboration.

Mr. Madlopha holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Rhodes Business School, Rhodes University, South Africa, and a Bachelor of Nursing Science degree—majoring in Community Nursing and Mental Health—from the University of Swaziland.

A passionate advocate for youth advancement, Mr. Madlopha continues to work toward building inclusive ecosystems that support young people in overcoming economic hardship and unlocking their full potential.



MR. SOLOMON ANGUTSA ATSIAYA

Mr. Solomon Angutsa Atsiaya Seasoned Chief Executive Officer offering 20+ years' experience, currently working at the Kenya Police SACCO Society, NAIROBI. Previously worked as the CEO KEWISCO SACCO Society, NAIROBI, Manager Egerton University SACCO Ltd, Nakuru, and a Field Officer with the Ministry of Co-operative Development in Busia (K). Has continuous hands-on experience in the Savings and Credit Financial Business Sector. Bottom-line focused; a big picture visionary. Excel in devising non-traditional solutions that transform stagnant or declining businesses into profitable operations.

Expert team coach and mentor. Inspired to exploit emerging business opportunities to seize competitive advantage. Gained demonstrable experience in strategic leadership positions with enhanced networking competencies at Board and Governance level. Recognized by the World Council of Credit Unions as International Credit Union Business Development Educator.

Operations Management PhD Student and a holder of MBA (Operations Management) from University of Nairobi, B-Com graduate in Management Science from Egerton University, a Certified Public Accountants (CPA-K) with the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK), a Diploma in Co-operative Management from the Co-operative College of Kenya and a Member of Kenya Institute of Management.



MS. LILYANNE NDINDA

Ms. Lilyanne Ndinda, National Programme Coordinator PROSPECTS Programme, at the International Labour Organization.

Lilyanne has over 15 years experience as a development practitioner working on sustainable livelihoods and social economic inclusion; and currently working on promoting decent work and social inclusion for refugees and host communities in Kenya.

She had developed and managed projects in both rural and urban areas in Kenya and is particularly experienced in women empowerment, social protection, urban development, building resilience for vulnerable populations, market systems and value chains development, and enterprise development.

Lilyanne is a champion for women voices and actively challenges practices that sustain gender inequalities and elevate patriachy; and is an ardent promoter of women inclusion in social, economic, and political spaces.

She firmly believes that given the opportunity, women and girls have capacity to contirbute significantly to all sectors of development.

When not engaging with civil society, Lilyanne enjoys working with Kenyan artisans to design and produce fashion goods. She strongly believes that trading fairly has potential to reduce poverty, and restore human dignity to all.

She holds a Masters degree in Strategic Management; and a Bachelors degree in Design and Development both from the University of Nairobi.



MR. SRIRAM BHARATAM

Mr. Sriram Bharatam is a social entrepreneur and digital innovator committed to empowering youth as agents of systems change.

As the Founder of Kuza One, a certified Benefit Corporation, he has pioneered scalable, youth-led models that integrate learning, earning, and leadership—impacting over 6 million low-income individuals across Africa and Asia.

With a background in technology and a focus on inclusive growth, Sriram has built digital public infrastructure and community platforms that unlock opportunity at the last mile.

He brings deep expertise in Public-Private-Youth Partnerships, regenerative livelihoods, and the future of work—helping reimagine pathways for young people to thrive in a changing world.

Sriram is an alumnus of MIT, Harvard Kennedy School, a winner of the Kauffman Award for Social Entrepreneurship, Unreasonable Future Fellow, and EO Global Citizen of the Year award.



DR. SUSAN LIMISI

Dr. Susan Limisi is a distinguished expert in gender mainstreaming within the agricultural value chain, working to reduce inequality gaps across 33 countries in Africa, including cooperatives. As a gender coordinator at Fairtrade Africa, she has spearheaded transformative initiatives to integrate gender equality into agricultural practices, foster inclusive policies, and drive empowerment and innovation.

Susan's experience extends beyond Fairtrade, having worked with other INGOs such as CARE International Somalia and the Life & Peace Institute, where she focused on empowering women in fragile states and conflict-affected areas.

Her multidisciplinary expertise spans Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning & Research; Psychological Counseling; and Education, making her a dynamic leader in sustainable development and capacity building. She has forged strategic partnerships with global donors and organizations, including UN agencies, CGIAR, USAID, GIZ, and the European Union, collaborating with government bodies, INGOs, private institutions, and grassroots organizations to advance gender equality initiatives.

With a Doctorate in Educational Psychology and Masters Degrees in Educational Psychology, Community Development & Project Management, and Counselling Psychology, Susan combines academic depth with practical solutions. Committed to mentorship, empowerment, and innovation, she champions intentional and strategic approaches to drive impactful change in gender equality and inclusivity.

Susan is a recognized voice in gender-sensitive agriculture, youth engagement, and community empowerment across Sub-Saharan Africa.



MR. HARSH MUKESHBHAI SANGHANI

Mr. Harsh Mukeshbhai Sanghani is the current Youth President of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), representing the voice of youth in the global cooperative movement.

A dynamic entrepreneur and sustainability advocate from India, he has led multiple initiatives fostering youth participation, innovation, and inclusivity in cooperatives.

Harsh has played a pivotal role in campaigns that connect cooperatives with climate action, technology, and grassroots community development. Recognized internationally for his leadership, he continues to drive efforts toward building a future-ready cooperative ecosystem that empowers young people and promotes sustainable growth across nations.



DR. JULIUS NYORO NDOGONI

Dr. Julius Nyoro Ndogoni holds a PhD in Aquatic Ecology, an MPIL in Fisheries Management, a Postgraduate Certificate in Marine Fisheries, Cooperatives and Resources Management, and a BSc in Fisheries.

He is currently the Key Expert on Blue Economy, Fisheries/Fishery Cooperatives, and Climate Change at Bailey Consulting Group Ltd. With over 35 years of local and international experience, he has worked extensively in the blue economy, fisheries cooperatives, aquaculture value chains, climate change initiatives, and training programs. He has also served as a lecturer in several training institutions and agribusiness programs, contributing to capacity building in fisheries and climate resilience.

His recent consultancy portfolio includes serving as a Blue Economy and Climate Change Expert under the Africa Grantee Fund (2025), Consultant on the Lake Turkana fish value chain in collaboration with Millennium Water Alliance (2025), and Fisheries Expert on aquaculture business development with IFAD's ABDP program.

He has also worked as Chief Technical Advisor on fisheries transformation in South Sudan, consultant on blue economy and climate change for Nyeri County and NYEWASCO, and advisor on conservation interventions in the Aberdare ecosystem. Internationally, he has served as a Fisheries Expert with UNIDO in Ethiopia and as moderator and organizer of fisheries resource management sessions at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi.



DR SHEM J. OCHUODHO

Dr Ochuodho is Co-President, Africa Diaspora Alliance (AfDA), and Global Chairperson, Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA), a Federation of over 60 registered diaspora organizations with a nominal membership of over 300,000 Kenyans across the globe. He has been Project Leader for the revolutionary, innovative GIZ/KDA/WIDU.Africa Project for the past 2 years. He is Senior Telecom Advisor, Republic of South Sudan on sabbatical leave. He previously served as Special ICT Advisor, Government of Rwanda, Executive Director of the Rwanda Information Technology Authority and Managing Director, Kenya Pipeline Company. He has served before as Senior Lecturer in various top universities (Kenya) and External Examiner in Zimbabwe.

He has received many global, regional and national awards in ICT, innovation & business, among them African Internaut Award from the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (London), Africa Online's Industry Pioneer, and Computer Society of Kenya (CSK's) Father of Internet[1] in Kenya, and ICT Hall of Fame. He has supervised one or more ICT projects in over 40 African countries, as well as several other overseas countries world-wide. Dr Ochuodho, who is a Former Member of Parliament and an Author holds a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Nairobi, a PhD in Software Engineering from the University of York, UK, and a Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) from Marlboro College, Vermont, USA.

[1] On 24th October, 2020, he led a half a dozen other African Internet Pioneers (christened by Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation, <u>www.cto.int</u>, "Internauts") from Egypt, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia in commemorating "25 Years of Internet in Africa" or "Silver Jubilee".



HON. REV CAROLINE KABERIA

County Executive Committee Member (CECM) For Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives. Rev. Caroline Karea Kaberia is the County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives. She hails from Tigania West constituency.

Hon. Rev. Caroline Kaberia holds a master's in theology from the Methodist Theological University based in Seoul, South Korea, a postgraduate diploma in leadership and ministerial formation from Cambridge University and a bachelor's degree in theology from Kenya Methodist University. She is also currently undertaking a PhD in religious studies at the Kenya Methodist University.

Rev. Caroline Kaberia has 26 years of professional experience. Prior to her appointment as CECM she has served as a circuit minister and superintendent minister at the Methodist Church of Kenya and also as a trainer and resource mobiliser with the Christian Health Association of Kenya.

She has also worked as a part time Lecturer at the Kenya Methodist University. In addition she has also served as the BOM chairperson at Nkanga mixed day secondary school and Thinyaine mixed day secondary school as an additional contribution to her community. Rev. Caroline is also currently a pastor at the Methodist Church of Kenya.

As the CECM for Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives she aspires to revive the tourism sector in Meru County and make it a prime tourist destination both locally and internationally.

Rev.Caroline Kaberia is also committed to digitizing the tourism and trade sector in the county, enhancing the operation of Meru cooperatives and providing proper amenities to stimulate local trade such as market sheds and clean markets. With her education and experience she is well equipped to serve as the CECM for trade, tourism and Cooperatives.



MS. DOROTHY NDUKU KITUNDU KIPSANG MODERATOR

Dorothy is a seasoned and highly experienced development professional with over 24 years experience. Her focus has been in sustainable livelihoods, financial inclusion, food systems, Cooperative development, inclusive and climate-resilient value chains, circular economy, women's economic empowerment, organisational development and policy advocacy and engagement. She has contributed to and or facilitated transformative programmes and initiatives globally.

Dorothy currently serves as the Global Thematic Advisor & Coordinator at We Effect. In her role, she offers expert thematic guidance and support to internal teams and external stakeholders.

She is also part of the Management Team at the East Africa Country operations where she provides strategic and operational support to the organisation.

Internationally, she has spoken at high-level forums including the UN Commission on the Status of Women, Cooperative movement forums, World Congresses on financing agriculture, contributed to microfinance and empowerment dialogues.

A strategic thinker and collaborative leader, Dorothy is committed to inclusive, equitable development that leaves no one behind especially women, youth and smallholder farmers.



PROF. FREDRICK O. WANYAMA

Prof. Fredrick O. Wanyama is Professor of Political Science at Maseno University and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Research and Student Affairs at Kisii University, Kenya. His academic and research experience spans about 30 years, with research interest in development politics in Africa; particularly the confluence between people's organizations and contestations for development.

This has led him to research on cooperatives and the broader social and solidarity economy in Africa; the results of which have been widely published as chapters in many books as well as articles in journals like Journal of Cooperative Studies and Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics, among others.

He is the author of Cooperatives and the Sustainable Development Goals: A Contribution to the Post-2015 Development Agenda (Geneva: ILO, 2014); and co-editor of Cooperating Out of Poverty: The Renaissance of the African Cooperative Movement (Geneva: ILO, 2008). He regularly contributes to seminars, workshops and conferences on cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy in Africa.

He has consulted for the ILO on many projects on cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy. He was among the pioneer trainers of the International Training Centre of the ILO's Social Economy Academy. He once served as a member of ICA's World Cooperative Monitor, representing Africa.



MS. FRANCESCA OTTOLENGHI

Ms. Francesca Ottolenghi is a prominent figure in the international cooperation landscape and in the cooperative movement, blending academic knowledge, strategic vision, and social commitment into a career dedicated to innovation, inclusiveness, and sustainability. After earning her degree in Biology at La Sapienza University of Rome and completing a second-level master's program, with advanced studies carried out in France and Australia, in 1995 she founded a pioneering women's research cooperative—an initiative ahead of its time, promoting both female empowerment and the cooperative model as a tool for scientific advancement. Her path then expanded toward international development: in 2005 she created Haliéus, an association within the Legacoop system, where she served as Director and President. Under her leadership, Haliéus became a specialized structure for designing and implementing international cooperation projects. As a project manager, she coordinated initiatives in diverse contextsacross the globe—ranging from the As a projectmanager, she coordinated initiatives in diversecontexts across the globe—ranging from the Middle East (Lebanon and Palestine), to North Africa (Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria), to Turkey, Madagascar, and the Dominican Republic, as well as several countries in West Africa (including Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Mauritania, and Guinea Conakry). Her work also extended to Asia, with projects in Laos and Vietnam. These experiences—just a few among many demonstrate her ability to adapt cooperative strategies to different local realities, always with the goal of fostering inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Since January 2022, Francesca has held three key positions within Legacoop: Head of the International Relations Office, Head of the Office for Sustainability and Cooperation, and Head of the Equal Opportunities Office. This unique combination of responsibilities reflects her integrated vision of sustainability, genderequality, and internationalization as interconnected dimensions of the cooperative identity. On the global stage, she is also Chair of the ICADP (International Cooperative Alliance Development Platform), where she plays a central role in advancing and strengthening the position of cooperatives as essential actors in international development strategies. A crucial dimension of her professional life is her academic work. For more than ten years, Francesca has been teaching—and continues to teach—atthe University of Rome La Sapienza, where she leads the course "Cooperative Business Model for Sustainable Development" within the Master's program in Development and International Cooperation Sciences. This innovative laboratory-based course equips future practitioners of international cooperation with the skills to understand and apply the cooperative enterprise model as a tool for development, focusing on its role in rural development, inclusive growth, quality job creation, and poverty reduction. Through case studies, practical exercises, and analysis of EU and global development policies, she trains students to connect development cooperation strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting the importance of inclusiveenterprises in addressing global challenges. Beyond her institutional and academic commitments, Francesca has collaborated extensively with major international organizations and UN agencies—such as FAO, ILO, UNIDO, and CIHEAM as a consultant and expert.

In recent years, she has also become a leading voice in the field of sustainability within the cooperative movement. Since 2022, shehas designed and launched the multi-year Sustainability & Cooperation strategy for Legacoop, buildingprofessional networks, initiating targeted projects, and promoting advanced training opportunities. Her work stands as a testament to how the cooperative model can be both innovative and deeply transformative, aligning local action with the global goals of the 2030 Agenda.



MADAME PAULINE EFFA

Madame Pauline Effa, Coordinatrice de l'ONG Partenariat France et Afrique, Vice-présidente du Forum international de l'Économie Sociale et Solidaire (ESSFI) et co-fondatrice du Forum africain de l'Économie Sociale et Solidaire (FORAESS), Madame Pauline Effa est une figure de proue de l'ESS sur le continent africain.

Reconnue pour son rôle majeur dans la promotion et la structuration de ce secteur, elle incarne une référence incontournable tant au Cameroun qu'à l'échelle africaine.

Militante engagée en faveur d'un développement inclusif et durable, elle allie expertise académique et expérience de terrain.

Diplômée des universités de Lille Charles De Gaulle et du Hainaut à Valenciennes, elle a été honorée en 2001 par le prix du Sénat français puis en 2002 du Prix Vivendi Universal pour la création d'entreprise, une distinction qui souligne son parcours pionnier et son engagement constant pour l'innovation sociale et économique.



MR. JOSEPH NJUGUNA

Joseph Njuguna is the Director of Policy at the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), where he leads the movement's global policy and advocacy work. He represents cooperatives in international fora, including the UN, EU, and multilateral processes, ensuring their role is recognised in key outcome documents and political declarations, such as those linked to the 2025 UN International Year of Cooperatives.

At ICA, he manages major policy platforms including the Cooperatives and Mutuals Leadership Circle (CM50), the International Cooperative Entrepreneurship Think Tank (ICETT), the ICA G20 Working Group, and the ICA Board Committee on Policy. He also serves as ICA's representative in global social and solidarity economy networks, including the UN Taskforce on SSE (UNTFSSE) and the International Coalition on SSE (ICSSE).

Previously, Joseph worked as Policy Officer at the ICA Regional Office for Africa in Nairobi, focusing on advancing supportive environments for cooperatives across the continent. His expertise lies in sustainable development, social justice, and economic democracy, with a commitment to ensuring cooperatives are recognised as key partners in achieving the SDGs.



MR. STIJN VAN GEEL

Mr. Stijn van Geel is the Regional Manager East Africa of Agriterra. A cooperative development organisation founded and governed by farmers' organisations from The Netherlands, to strengthen the capacity of farmers' organisations in the Global South. Stijn van Geel is a seasoned development specialist with nearly 20 years of experience working with several development organisations, in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and cooperative development across East Africa.

Managing the regional office in 3 countries and a dynamic portfolio of 15+ cooperative development initiatives, he leverages his strong background in agronomy with international relations, to drive impactful initiatives across the region, together with a team of cooperative professionals.

His work contributes to improving agricultural productivity, sustainability, and livelihoods of farmers in East Africa, aligning with the cooperative's mission rooted in Dutch farmers' initiatives. Stijn holds a BBA in Agribusiness and a MA in International Relations. He can be best described as a dedicated, hands-on servant leader with an entrepreneurial spirit.