



# YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT FORUM

13-14 NOVEMBER 2018 / DAKAR, SENEGAL



## The Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth

### The challenge

Today, over 63 million youth are without a job globally and over 141 million youth are working, yet living in poverty. These figures embody a massive waste of potential and a threat to social cohesion. Despite the sweeping recognition about how vital it is to invest in both the quantity and the quality of jobs for youth, efforts remain fragmented and low-scale.

### The response

Decent Jobs for Youth is the global initiative to scale up action and impact on youth employment under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Launched in 2016, with the endorsement of the executive heads of the United Nations, **Decent Jobs for Youth** is a unique platform to address fragmentation and catalyse effective and innovative action at country and regional levels.

### An inclusive alliance

**Decent Jobs for Youth brings together the resources and expertise of multiple partners to create linkages that maximize the effectiveness of youth employment investments,** recognizing the key roles of governments, social partners, the UN System, youth and civil society, the private sector, regional institutions, parliamentarians, foundations, academia and the media. Partners subscribe to 15 guiding principles, which set the basis for effective, collaborative action.

### The strategy

The strategy of **Decent Jobs for Youth** relies on four inter-connected elements:



**Building a strategic alliance** to advocate, ensure policy convergence, stimulate innovative thinking and mobilize resources



**Scaling up evidence-based action and impact** across key thematic priorities in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



**Sharing and applying knowledge** by capturing, analysing and sharing best practices, highlighting innovative approaches and facilitating learning



**Mobilizing resources** by securing high-level commitments from national, regional and international actors

### Priorities for action

Responding to today's most pressing challenges faced by young people in the world of work.



Green jobs for youth



Digital skills for youth



Quality apprenticeships



Youth in fragile situations



Youth transitioning to the formal economy



Youth in the rural economy



Youth entrepreneurship and self-employment



Young workers in hazardous occupations

## 1. Event date, location and organizers

The Youth Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment Forum (YES Forum) is a featured event of the Global Entrepreneurship Week and will be held at **Novotel in Dakar, Senegal** on **13-14 November 2018**. The event is co-organized by partners of the **Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth**: International Labour Organization (ILO), International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in collaboration with the Government of Senegal, Agence Nationale pour la Promotion de l'Emploi des Jeunes (ANPEJ), Agence Sénégalaise de Promotion des Exportations (ASEPEX), the Government of Spain, the Government of Luxembourg, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, Nestlé and Jokkolabs, host of the Global Entrepreneurship Week in Senegal.

## 2. Themes

The event aims to provide a platform for stakeholders involved in **Decent Jobs for Youth** and particularly in the area of **youth entrepreneurship and self-employment** to engage, share experiences, innovations, and opportunities for scaled action.

The event programme will cover three main themes:

1. Promoting an **enabling policy and regulatory environment** for youth entrepreneurship and self-employment
2. Facilitating **access to markets, networks, knowledge and skills** for young entrepreneurs and youth in businesses
3. Facilitating **access to finance** for young entrepreneurs and youth in businesses

## 3. Background

Entrepreneurship and self-employment provide economic opportunities for the world's largest ever population of young women and men to create more and better jobs in the private sector. Globally, the private sector drives jobs growth, accounting for 87 per cent of total employment in the formal and informal economies in 2016. The majority of the world's 1.2 billion young people aged 15–24 live in developing economies, where small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for 52 per cent of total employment. SMEs and young firms are often more dynamic than large firms where employment growth is concerned.<sup>1</sup>

Unleashing the potential of young women and men as drivers of job creation and economic growth is not only desirable but critical for sustainable development. Youth-led enterprises can trigger significant momentum for youth-led job creation, given that start-ups account for up to 50 per cent of newly created jobs, and young entrepreneurs primarily employ their peers. Young people show significantly higher levels of entrepreneurial initiative than

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<sup>1</sup> ILO: World Employment and Social Outlook 2017: Sustainable enterprises and jobs: Formal enterprises and decent work. International Labour Office (Geneva, 2017).

adults (1.6 times higher).<sup>2</sup> Yet, the established business rate among adults is substantially higher than for youth, pointing to the need for enhanced support for young entrepreneurs. Youth entrepreneurship and self-employment also foster local innovation and improve the resilience of young people on the job market, as they encourage young people to find new business solutions to social and economic challenges. Consequently, youth-led social entrepreneurship has proved to hold great potential in mobilizing young people to address these challenges.

Urgent action is needed to address the critical challenges that young people encounter in their drive for entrepreneurship and self-employment. The main challenges are

- **Lack of enabling policy, regulatory and institutional environments,**
- **Weak entrepreneurial ecosystems,** including lack of platforms to foster young entrepreneurs' engagement, knowledge exchange and transfer, lack of networking opportunities, and lack of access to markets;
- **Limited access to finance and investment opportunities,** due to minimum capital requirement, lack of collateral, higher risk profile thus higher reluctance of financial institutions to lend money; and
- **Limited skills and knowledge transfer** which continues to impede young entrepreneurs from being “fit for purpose” and establishing their own businesses, gaining access to technology, developing entrepreneurial skills and pursuing their education.

**Decent Jobs for Youth** recognizes the need to scale up joint action to address those challenges to unleash the potential of youth to succeed in business. Youth entrepreneurship and self-employment is one of the thematic priorities to make a difference in the lives of young women and men. In 2017, partners of **Decent Jobs for Youth** prepared thematic plans of action anchored in rigorous and empirical evidence. The [thematic plan on youth entrepreneurship and self-employment](#) highlights what works, identifies innovations, and offers concrete ideas to scale up action.

#### 4. Outcome

The event is expected to:

- Exchange knowledge, lessons learned and best practices from policies, programmes and initiatives in the area of youth entrepreneurship and self-employment;
- Call upon stakeholders to commit to the **Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth** and to develop a declaration for joint action to support youth entrepreneurship and self-employment.

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<sup>2</sup> Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (2015): Future Potential – A GEM perspective on youth entrepreneurship.

## 5. Language and Audience

The event will be bilingual, with interpretation in **English and French**. The event brings together key stakeholders in the field of youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in **West Africa** and beyond to accelerate the support to young entrepreneurs in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

- Young entrepreneurs
- Governments
- Social partners
- Business support organizations
- Financial service providers
- Parliamentarians
- Civil society
- Private sector at national, regional and international levels
- Media
- United Nations agencies
- Academia
- Foundations
- Regional institutions

## 6. Event format

The event format will be as follows:

- **Plenary sessions** on the three main themes of the event
- **Breakout sessions** to engage in technical discussions
- **Pitching competition** for young entrepreneurs
- **Marketplace** for youth entrepreneurship and self-employment actors
- **Inspirational talks** from young global entrepreneurs

## 7. Agenda

Master of Ceremony: Mujinga Tambwe, International Trade Centre

DAY 1 – Tuesday, 13 November 2018	
8:00 – 17:00	<b>Event registration</b>
9:00 – 9:40	<b>Official opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joannie Marlene Bewa, UN Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goals</li> <li>• Charles Immanuel Akhimien, UN Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goals</li> <li>• Mohamed Fadel, Global President, AIESEC</li> <li>• Priya Gajraj, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Senegal</li> <li>• H.E. Alberto Antonio Virella Gomes, Ambassador of Spain to Senegal</li> <li>• Dorothy Tembo, Deputy Executive Director, International Trade Centre</li> </ul>
	<b>Keynote speech</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gabriel Luciano Pereira, Secretary General of the Senegalese Ministry on Youth</li> </ul>
9:45 – 11:00	<b>Theme 1: Making policy work for youth entrepreneurship</b> <p><b>Overview:</b> Promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment calls for actions at policy and institutional levels. Evidence shows that effective reforms in business environments lead to the emergence of new firms and job creation. The session focuses on understanding what works and what does not in promoting an enabling policy and regulatory environment for young entrepreneurs and self-employed youth. Challenges in supporting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment encountered by policymakers and institutions, particularly in West Africa, are also explored. The discussion will be informed by experiences and lessons learned from integrating youth into national entrepreneurship and industrial strategies, in coherence with relevant national strategies, including on employment and education, in line with regional development objectives anchored in frameworks such as the Third Decade of Industrial Development for Africa (IDDA3), the Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finda Koroma, Vice President, ECOWAS Commission</li> <li>• Aminata Kouyaté, National Director of Youth Employment, Guinea</li> <li>• Martin Ruvugabigwi, Chair, Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs</li> <li>• Lamin Darboe, Executive Director, National Youth Council, The Gambia</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated by Fiorina Mugione, Chief, Entrepreneurship Section, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD</b></p>

11:30 - 15:30	<b>Coffee break</b> <b>Breakout sessions</b>	
	<b>Tech Entrepreneurship</b> Plenary room	<b>Social entrepreneurship</b> Breakout room
	<p><i>The role of tech hubs and industry associations in supporting young entrepreneurs</i></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> This session will focus particularly on the role of tech hubs and industry associations in nurturing the development of strong tech ecosystems in the African context, particularly for youth. Specific consideration will be given to the challenges of serving start-ups in weaker ecosystems and draw on lessons from more advanced and mature tech ecosystems. Speakers will discuss the relevance and feasibility of start-ups development and promotion activities happening within the broader ecosystem, and the role that hubs play convening and connecting with them.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Richard Zulu</b>, Interim Chairman, Business Innovation Consortium</li> <li>• <b>Christian Jekinnou</b>, Executive Manager, Afric'Innov</li> <li>• <b>Beran Dondeh</b>, Vice President, Information Technology Association of The Gambia</li> <li>• <b>Antoine Ngom</b>, President, OPTIC</li> <li>• <b>Fatoumata Niang Niox</b>, Executive Director, Jokkolabs</li> <li>• <b>Regina Mbodj Brown</b>, Executive Director, CTIC Dakar</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated by Martin Labbé</b>, Senior Adviser, ITC</p>	<p><i>Young entrepreneurs taking action on sustainable development</i></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> While entrepreneurship significantly contributes to the creation of jobs for young women and men, social enterprises, by default of their business model, are also a crucial driving force for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This session will identify and discuss best practices and opportunities to empower young women and men to create and develop successful social enterprises that can respond to pressing issues faced in Africa, including food security and climate change, waste management, or marginalization of vulnerable groups of society.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Abraham Déthié Diouf</b>, Director, Human Resources, Nestlé, Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Othmane Benhlime</b>, CEO, Eco-Heat</li> <li>• <b>Bibusa Wissemann</b>, Chief Executive, SensXAfrica</li> <li>• <b>Emanuele Santi</b>, Founder and President, Afrilantropy</li> <li>• <b>Vital Sounouvou</b>, Founder and CEO, Exportunity Group</li> <li>• <b>Mohamed Fadel</b>, Global President, AIESEC</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated by Matteo Landi</b>, Industrial Development and Youth Employment Expert, UNIDO</p>
13:00 - 14:00	<b>Networking lunch</b>	



14:00 – 16:00	<p><b>Theme 2: Access to finance for young entrepreneurs</b></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> Limited access to finance is often a critical challenge faced by young entrepreneurs. Building and enhancing the capacities of financial service providers is a prerequisite for better access to finance. Moreover, access to finance for young entrepreneurs should be combined with training and support services, building on the evidence that improving access to finance is most effective when combined with improved access to non-financial services. Two sessions will look into challenges and best practices in supporting young entrepreneurs with increased access to finance and improved financial literacy. The role of different stakeholders, such as governments, financial service providers and training organizations will be explored.</p>
	<p><b>14:00 – 15:00</b></p> <p><b>Panel 1: Improving access to finance for sustainable youth-led entrepreneurship</b></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> This panel will discuss successful approaches in improving access to finance, and the challenges that need to be taken into consideration, including financial literacy for rural development, and the importance of improving non-financial services in tandem.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ousmane Ba, Head of Credit Department, Agence Nationale pour la Promotion de l'Emploi des Jeunes, Senegal</li> <li>• Khady Ndiaye, Founder and Director, Sentaar</li> <li>• Cristiana Finotti, Head of Business Development, Microcred, Senegal</li> <li>• Ibrahim Lahouli Kabore, Founder, Aviculture</li> <li>• Dianne Cornes, Director of Network Members, Youth Business International</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated by Ata Cisse, Youth Finance Regional Specialist, UNCDF</b></p>
	<p><b>15:00 – 16:00</b></p> <p><b>Panel 2: Innovative financial mechanisms</b></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> This panel session will identify and discuss innovative financial mechanisms, particularly in view of today's fast paced digital age, such as peer-to-peer financing, mobile banking and payments, crowd funding platforms and other mechanisms. Similarly, it will discuss means of financing that are driven by impact, such as impact investing, which has significant potential to support youth-led entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship in Africa.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hadja Ba, Director, Strategy, Risk and Performance, INTOUCH</li> <li>• Sobel Ngom, Executive Director, Social Change Factory</li> <li>• Yann Le Beux, Co-Founder, YUX</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Makhan Sacko</b>, Managing Director, Sahel Analytics</li> <li>• <b>Alpha Bacar Barry</b>, CEO, Jatropha</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated by Ata Cisse</b>, Youth Finance Regional Specialist, UNCDF</p>
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:30 – 17:30	<p><b>Pitching competition</b></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> Young entrepreneurs take part in this live on-stage pitching competition and pitch their business cases to a panel of jury members from the private sector who will provide instant feedback and ask challenging questions. This competition organized by ASEPEX will put a specific spotlight on young entrepreneurs from Senegal with a focus on companies that are on international markets and have a social objective.</p> <p><b>Moderated by David Cordobés</b>, Head of Youth and Trade Programme, ITC</p>
17:30 – 17:45	<p><b>Closing and wrap-up of day one</b></p> <p>This session will take stock of the day, recap the key messages and recommendations of the breakout and panel sessions, and sets the stage for day 2.</p> <p><b>Moderated by Joannie Marlene Bewa and Charles Immanuel Akhimien</b>, UN Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals</p>
18:30	<p><b>Cocktail reception</b> - Espace Éphémère</p> <p>Announcement of winner of the pitching competition in the presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Alioune Sarr</b>, Minister of Trade, Informal Sector, Consumer Affairs, Promotion of Local Products and SMEs, Senegal</li> </ul>

DAY 2 – Wednesday, 14 November 2018	
9:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Young global entrepreneurs</b></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> This session provides an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to take centre stage in voicing their aspirations for promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in the West Africa region. The challenges encountered in the policy environment, in building market linkages and in accessing finance will be highlighted through the real-life experiences of the young entrepreneurs in the panel.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mariama Johm</b>, Founder and CEO, Afri Taste, The Gambia</li> <li>• <b>Arielle Kitio</b>, Founder, CAYSTI, Cameroon</li> <li>• <b>Abdourahamane Diallo</b>, Founder, Coopérative pour l'Agriculture et la Production Animale, Guinea</li> <li>• <b>Nuwajuna Justus Kamuhanda</b>, CEO, Just-us Investment, Uganda</li> <li>• <b>Charles Immanuel Akhimien</b>, Founder, MOBicure, Nigeria</li> <li>• <b>Mao Ba</b>, BIOSENE, Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Chérifatou Ibrahima Agoumo</b>, Director, NIGERBIOGAZ, Niger</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated by Joannie Marlene Bewa</b>, UN Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goals</p>
10:30 – 11:00	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
11:00 – 15:00	<p><b>Theme 3: Access to markets, networks, knowledge and skills</b></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> For young women and men to fully realize the economic opportunities presented by an economy, a holistic view of market opportunities is critical. Particularly in Africa, there is significant untapped potential in agriculture and rurally based industries, the development of which can be key to addressing a number of challenges. Improved market linkages and integration into (rural) value chains allows young entrepreneurs to realize such opportunities, which can contribute to the creation of decent jobs and the empowerment of young women and men to achieve more sustainable livelihoods. Similarly, meeting demands for improved environmental sustainability harbors significant potential for green industries, both in terms of green production processes as well as products and services. However, having access to appropriate tools and services is key for young entrepreneurs to succeed in creating and developing sustainable enterprises and in accessing local, regional and international markets. In addition to access to adequate financing mechanisms, these include equal access to entrepreneurship skills development and training, market information and new technologies, as well as access to networks.</p>

<b>11:00 – 12:30</b> <b>Breakout sessions</b>	
Rural development	Access to support services
Plenary room	Breakout room
<p><i>Transforming the rural economy through agri-preneurship</i></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> Agri-based industries have shown to be a critical source of jobs for Africa's youth, and thus of inclusive and sustainable industrialization, while addressing pressing challenges such as food security, migration and rapid urbanization. However, a number of challenges continue to hinder youth from realizing the economic opportunities that these industries harbour. This session will discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by agri-preneurship to drive rural development and to accelerate the sustainable transformation of Africa.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rotimi Williams</b>, CEO, Kereksuk Rice Farm</li> <li>• <b>Lamia Naji</b>, Associate Manager, Learning and Strategy, Mastercard Foundation</li> <li>• <b>Oumar Syll</b>, National Coordinator of Youth Employment Program, FAO, Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Malick Sy</b>, Coordinator, Programme for Country Partnership, UNIDO, Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Ambrose Ayooluwa Ayodele</b>, Head, FESTO Didactic, West Africa</li> <li>• <b>Karamoko Diarra</b>, Deputy Director, Institute of Higher Education for Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, UCAD</li> </ul>	<p><i>Providing youth with the tools to succeed as entrepreneurs</i></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> Young entrepreneurs are notably the driving force of sustainable development, and access to markets, networks, knowledge and skills have been recognized as key factors to the successful development of any business, especially for youth. Yet, access also remains a key challenge to many young entrepreneurs. The breakout session will shed light on tools that can facilitate such access, including skills training initiatives, innovation hubs, and value chain development initiatives.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Khadidiatou Diop Ndiaye</b>, Director of Career Guidance, Training and Integration, Agence Nationale pour la Promotion de l'Emploi des Jeunes, Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Hugues Legros</b>, TVET Project Coordinator, LuxDev</li> <li>• <b>Bamba Fall</b>, Entrepreneurship trainer</li> <li>• <b>Oscarine Mboye</b></li> <li>• <b>Charles Ocici</b>, Executive Director, Enterprise Uganda</li> <li>• <b>José Manuel Medina</b>, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO, Cabo Verde</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated by Nadja Nutz</b>, Technical Officer for Entrepreneurship Training, ILO</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Abdoulaye Seye</b>, Hub Rural</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated by Christophe Yvetot</b>, Representative for Senegal, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, UNIDO</p>	
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Networking lunch</b>	
	<b>13:30 – 15:00</b> <b>Breakout sessions</b>	
	<b>Green Entrepreneurship</b> Plenary room	<b>Women's Entrepreneurship Development</b> Breakout room
	<p><i>Enabling young entrepreneurs for a greener economy</i></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> This session will discuss the role of young women and men in the just transition to a greener economy, in light of the rapid advancement of technology, changing consumer preferences, and policies calling for more environmentally sustainable economies. Young entrepreneurs, service providers, and policy-makers will shed light on the market opportunities and will share experiences and views about the next steps for a greener economy in West Africa.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amadou Lamine Diagne</b>, Director, Green Finance and Partnerships, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Baba Drame</b>, National Coordinator, PACEV programme, Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Amy Mbengue</b>, CEO, ECOBAG</li> <li>• <b>Oumar Basse</b>, Co-founder and Director, Nano Air</li> </ul>	<p><i>Empowering young women entrepreneurs in social-challenging environments</i></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> This session will showcase how approaches to women's entrepreneurship development empower young women in business, family and community, by combining entrepreneurship training with post-training support, advocacy for a conducive environment and adapted business support services, as well as awareness raising towards productive roles for young women in families and communities.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Finda Koroma</b>, Vice President, ECOWAS Commission</li> <li>• <b>Cheikh Thiam</b>, Entrepreneurship trainer, Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Djamila Gueye</b>, CEO, Mila Juice</li> <li>• <b>Emanuela Benini</b>, Senior Adviser, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation</li> <li>• Délégation Générale à l'Entrepreneuriat Rapide des Femmes et des Jeunes, Senegal</li> </ul>

	<b>Moderated by Moustapha Kamal Gueye</b> , Coordinator, Green Jobs Programme, ILO	<b>Moderated by Charleine Mbuyi-Lusamba</b> , Technical Officer, Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme, ILO
15:00 – 15:15	<b>Coffee break</b>	
15:15 – 16:30	<b>Marketplace – Espace Éphémère</b> <b>Overview:</b> This session will provide an opportunity for selected youth entrepreneurship actors to highlight achievements, discuss challenges and announce future action related to the three themes of this event: (1) policy and business environment, (2) access to markets, networks, knowledge and skills, and (3) access to finance. <b>Moderated by Mujinga Tambwe</b> , Communications Officer, ITC	
16:30 – 17:30	<b>Scaling-up partnerships for Decent Jobs for Youth</b> <b>Overview:</b> The session will provide a platform to launch and scale up partnerships to Decent Jobs for Youth and for existing partners to present progress on their commitments. It will provide an opportunity to call upon stakeholders to commit to Decent Jobs for Youth and to discuss a declaration to take joint action towards supporting young entrepreneurs by 2030. <b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Oduyebo Simeon Adekunle</b>, Director of the Enterprise Development and Promotion Department, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Nigeria</li> <li>• <b>Fati N’Zi-Hassane</b>, Head, Skills and Employment for Youth Programme, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency</li> <li>• <b>Rui Fernandes</b>, Head of Cooperation, Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Lucia Ahoefa Allah-Assogba</b>, Manager, TOGOSIME</li> <li>• <b>Rotimi Opeyemi Olawale</b>, Chief Executive, JR Farms Limited</li> <li>• <b>Ghada Khalifa</b>, Director for Middle East and Africa, Microsoft Philanthropies</li> </ul> <b>Moderated by Sukti Dasgupta</b> , Chief, Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch, ILO	
17:30 – 18:00	<b>Closing session</b> <b>Overview:</b> The closing session of the YES Forum will serve to recap the key messages and recommendations of the two-day event, which build the foundation for a declaration that will guide the joint efforts of partners of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth in the creation of decent jobs for youth. <b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dorothy Tembo</b>, Deputy Executive Director, ITC</li> <li>• <b>François Murangira</b>, Director, Decent Work Team, Country Office for Senegal, Cabo Verde, The Gambia and Guinea, ILO</li> <li>• <b>Christel Alvergne</b>, Regional Coordinator, Western and Central Africa, UNCDF</li> </ul>	



- **Fiorina Mugione**, Chief, Entrepreneurship Section, Division on Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD
- **Christophe Yvetot**, Representative for Senegal, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, UNIDO

**Moderated by Joannie Marlene Bewa and Charles Immanuel Akhimien**, UN Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals

## 8. Speakers' bios

**Oduyebo Simeon Adekunle**, Director of the Enterprise Development and Promotion Department, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Nigeria

**Chérifatou Ibrahima Agoumo**, a water and environmental science engineer specializing in water and sanitation, is passionate about waste recycling and a supporter of the green economy. She firmly believes that "waste is the raw material of the future". As a result, since her graduation, she has devoted her time to her project NIGERBIOGAZ, which aims for energy recovery and agricultural reuse of organic waste, particularly through methanisation.



**Charles Immanuel Akhimien** is a medical doctor and social entrepreneur who co-founded MOBicure - a company providing mobile technology solutions for Africa's healthcare problems. MOBicure's solutions, the OMOMi and myPaddi apps are reaching 40,000 women and 8,000 young people respectively. Charles has received several accolades for his work. He is a UN SDG Young Leader, a 2017 UN Global Compact SDG Pioneer, a One Young World Ambassador, and a Mandela Washington Fellow. Charles is also a JCI Nigeria Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award Honoree for 2018.



**Lucia Ahoefa Allah-Assogba** is General Manager and owner of the TOGOSIME company whose activity is the promotion and marketing of food products derived from the processing of Togo's agricultural raw materials. The mission of TOGOSIME is to bring the population to the local consumption while making Togolese products available and accessible. The company aims to guarantee the quality of products; raise awareness of the consumption of healthy, natural and organic local products; adding value to farmers and national revenues; and finally, helping to improve the health of the population.



**Christel Alvergne**, a French national, joined UNCDF in 2008, and is now the Regional coordinator for West and central Africa. She has worked for 20 years on local development and fiscal decentralization issues. In the 1990s, she worked for the agency of the French Prime Minister (DATAR) to develop innovative approaches to decentralization such as time management offices, local sport policies and innovative rural development plans. Christel holds a PhD in Economics (Geographical economics) and she is a Graduate in Political Science from the University of Aix-en-Provence (France). She has spent many years as a researcher and professor on Urban and Regional Planning in academic institutions throughout France, Canada, Senegal and Egypt.



**Ambrose Ayooluwa Ayodele** is the Head of FESTO Didactic West Africa. He is a Nigerian citizen working with Festo. He is a Mechanical Engineer with over 24 years experience of delivering solutions to educational institutions and the industry. Ambrose had a brief stint as lecturer and a consultant to the Nigerian parliament before joining Festo Didactic.



**Hadja Ba** is an engineer, graduated from Ecole des Mines de Saint-Etienne in France. She began her career as a financial auditor at Ernst & Young in Paris, before joining the ACCOR Hotel Group in 2007 in the Group Finance Department. She joined the Group's regional headquarters in Dakar after a few months, where she was responsible for setting up internal audit and operational management control for Sub-Saharan Africa. In early 2014, she headed for Morocco, where she took the management of the control department for Africa. She is in charge of Business Intelligence and manages the organization projects for the area. After 9 years at Accor, Hadja joined the fintech company Intouch in February 2017 as Administrative and Financial Director. Since September 2017 she has held the position of Strategy Director; She is in charge of the Legal, Risk & Fraud, Business Performance and BI departments.

**Mao Ba**, BIOSENE, Senegal



**Ousmane Ba** holds a Master's degree in specialized finance from ISM / Dakar and a Master's degree in Economics from Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar. He coordinated the PAMIF2 (Partnership Program for the Support of the Microfinance Sector between the Government of Senegal and the Belgian Cooperation). He was an expert in microfinance at the Microfinance Department and worked successively in several projects and programs financed by the European Union and Italian cooperation. He is a lecturer in microfinance and Islamic finance at the universities of Thiès, Dakar-ESP and at the Université Virtuelle du Sénégal (UVS) skills in several areas related to microfinance, such as training, technical assistance of decentralized financial systems.



**Alpha Bacar Barry** is a serial entrepreneur and a youth employment expert from Guinea. He is the CEO of Jatropa Group, a Micro Finance Institution designed for young people. Prior to that, Alpha has worked for a UK based NGO called Peace Child International as Africa Desk Officer and UNIDO. In 2010 he worked as Youth Employment National specialist to implement a Peace Building Commission Programme in Guinea, Mali and Cote d'Ivoire. In 2011, Alpha and other national investors started up Jatropa, a microfinance company focusing on youth and women's empowerment, which was also the first business incubator created in Guinea. Since 2013 Jatropa has trained over 6,000 young men and women in business management, helping them raise and manage funds so that they can achieve success. Alpha is M.A graduated in information and communication sciences, from Conakry University and holds a Msc. in Management from Anglia Ruskin University in UK.





**Oumar Basse** is the co-founder and director of two start-ups: NANO AIR and YOBANTE EXPRESS. NANO AIR designs and develops secure and customized solutions for web and mobile applications, connected objects, science and data analysis to address the issues of African populations and more particularly SMEs / SMIs. YOBANTE EXPRESS is a web and mobile delivery platform addressing the problem of postal addresses through technology and a network of more than 200 relay points and 300 carriers across Senegal (urban and rural areas). NANO AIR designed the NANO AIR BOX: a connected box to measure the air quality in Dakar, one of the most polluted cities in the world.



**Othmane Benhlila** is a young Moroccan social entrepreneur. Holder of an engineering degree from Hassania School of Public Works (EHTP), he followed his studies in electrical engineering in Casablanca, after two years in preparatory classes in Meknes, his hometown. Othmane has been involved in the field of social entrepreneurship since his first year at EHTP. He joined ENACTUS as a member, then he was elected Team Leader. The following year, he joined Enactus Morocco as a project coordinator, and during the same year, he founded his social enterprise ECO-HEAT. Today, he is on a mission of growing his social business, and also his personal expertise, by pursuing a PhD in social entrepreneurship. He is also Head of Innovation at the Moroccan Center for Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship MCISE.



**Emanuela Benini**, Senior Adviser as Focal Point for ILO issues and Youth Issues in IADC Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (since 2016). She develops several projects for the Italian Development Cooperation (e.g. on children rights in Senegal, women, etc). Emanuela has held over 150 international or university lectures. She was responsible of Central America & Caribbean Office and launched several initiatives regarding youth. She manages experimental projects on youth local governance in Lebanon. Emanuela works in projects in close cooperation with the African Development Bank, USAID, and the Youth Thematic Group of the Global Donors Platform on Agriculture and Rural Development.



**Joannie Marlene Bewa** is an award-winning global advocate for youth, education and health, a physician and a public health specialist from Benin. Her contribution toward the Sustainable Development Goals were acknowledged and she was recently selected as one of the United Nations Young Leaders for Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations Secretary General Envoy on Youth, as well as a Global Goals Goalkeeper by the Gates Foundation. She founded the Young Beninese Leaders Association (YBLA) in 2010, initiated capacity building programs for 500 women entrepreneurs in Benin, co-led a social entrepreneurship movement which trained, equipped and funded young social entrepreneurs and raised 10,000 young people awareness on reproductive health. As the former president of the U.S Ambassador Youth Council in Benin, she was overseeing the council entrepreneurship committee providing funding and grants to entrepreneurs. She is a member of the African Women Leaders Network, a pan African network supported by the African Union Commission and UN Women to advance gender equality and support women leaders. Entrepreneur, she was a consultant for UNFPA, Oxfam Quebec, One World UK and is currently pursuing a PhD in Public Health at the College of Public Health, University of South Florida (U.S).



**Ata Cisse** is a Youth Finance Regional Specialist at UNCDF and is based in Dakar, Senegal.



**David Cordobés** is in charge of ITC's Youth and Trade programme aimed at developing youth entrepreneurship in developing and least developed countries. Before joining ITC, he spent five years in a consulting firm in engineering and high technology as a business unit manager in Mexico City and Toulouse, particularly in the fields of aeronautics and space. He holds a Master's degree in International Affairs Management from the Universidad La Salle in Mexico. He also holds a Master's degree in Geopolitics and International Relations from Sciences Po Toulouse.



**Dianne Cornes** is Director of Network Members at Youth Business International (YBI), an international non-profit network working in 50 countries to support under-served young entrepreneurs (18-35 years) to start, strengthen and expand their businesses. In 2017, YBI delivered entrepreneurship training to over 78,000 young adults and established and strengthened 31,788 youth-led businesses. Dianne has worked in international development for 8 years following a 20 year career in finance. She holds a B.Sc. in Mathematics from Imperial College, London, and an M.Sc. in Organisational Behaviour from London University.



**Sukti Dasgupta** is Chief of the Employment and Labour Market Policies Branch in the International Labour Office in Geneva, which includes ILO's portfolio on youth employment. She previously worked at the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok and in the field offices in South Asia and East Asia. She holds a PhD degree in Economics from the University of Cambridge, UK. She has published widely in the areas of employment, poverty and gender. She has extensive experience in working with policymakers on employment and labour market policies.



**Délégation Générale à l'Entrepreneuriat Rapide des Femmes et des Jeunes, Senegal.** DER is an initiative of the President of Senegal to support and promote women and youth entrepreneurship in line with the goals of the Emerging Senegal Plan. This initiative is an economic empowerment tool for women and youth as well as a growth accelerator for economic interest groups, very small enterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises and other business operators. One special feature of DER lies in its transparent, simple and fast approaches to gain access to finance for youth and women entrepreneurship.



**Amadou Lamine Diagne.** Holder of a PhD in Environmental Sciences, Dr. Diagne coordinated the Planning and Monitoring Studies unit of the Ministry of the Environment. He served several times as Technical Advisor in charge of Cooperation, Resource Mobilization, Sanitation and Climate Change. He is currently the Director of Green Financing and Partnerships at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.



**Abdourahamane Diallo** is a communications professional with many years of experience in the field of media and communication. Holder of a degree in political science and an international master in media management, Abdourahamane decided in 2014 to invest in the agricultural sector by founding in August 2017 the Cooperative for agriculture and livestock (CAPA). To finance the cooperative, he launched a first fundraiser and started CAPA's activities in the Mangoyah farm in Kindia. Today, the co-op employs two full-time people and a dozen seasonal workers.



**Karamoko Diarra** holds two PhD degrees in Life Sciences from Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD) where he has worked since 1989. He has worked as a consultant to many prestigious institutions and NGOs. He is the Deputy Director of the Institute of Higher Education for Agriculture and Entrepreneurship (ISAE) at UCAD, responsible for Doctoral Training in Horticulture and Urban and Peri urban Agriculture (HortAUP) and head of the International Master in Sustainable Horticulture Agroecosystems – GEDAH. His broad research interests include sustainable management of horticultural production systems, entomology, biodiversity studies in relation to environment and its use as bio-indicator of pollution, wastewater and its impact in urban agriculture. His current research focuses on ecologically-based management of insect pests in vegetable crops including and agricultural practices and landscape management.



**Mahammed Boun Abdallah Dionne** has been the Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal since 6th July 2014. He was previously the Minister in charge of implementing the Emerging Senegal Plan. His experience in the UN System includes five years when he served for UNIDO, from 2008 to 2014, first as the Resident Representative in the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and then as Director of the Africa Office in Vienna (Austria), Chief Coordinator of Industrial Cooperation South-South, UNIDO.

**Khadidiatou Diop Ndiaye**. Specialist in Training and Employment with 13 years' experience in dual training (school / company). She was in charge of the Training and Integration Service at the National Agency for Youth Employment. She has been the Director of Career Guidance, Training and Integration for the Public Employment Service of Senegal, ANPEJ, since April 2018.



**Abraham Déthié Diouf** is currently the Director of Human Resources of Nestlé Senegal. He is a lawyer by training and after obtaining his DEA in economic law and business he specialized in HRM. He is very passionate about HR and a company like Nestlé allows him to live this passion. He loves sports and likes to share and lend a hand.



**Beran Dondéh** returned to The Gambia after acquiring both her Bachelor of Science in Computing Science and Masters in Computer Networks at Middlesex University. Beran is the current Chair of the Youth Empowerment Project ICT Core Team and is the Vice-present of the Information Technology Association of The Gambia (ITAG). Beran also runs an ICT Consultancy Firm and is an advisor to different agencies in the ICT sector and is at the forefront in the development of ICT Policy in The Gambia.





**Baba Drame** is a specialist in the environment and sustainable development. He held the position of Head of the Regional Division for the Environment and Classified Establishments. He then served as the Technical Advisor to the Director of the Environment and Classified Establishments, in charge of the project of the 3rd national communication of Senegal on climate change, and as the Technical Advisor in charge of sustainable development. Baba has participated in international negotiations on climate change and represented Senegal at several international summits on climate and sustainable development. As Technical Secretary of the National Commission for Sustainable Development, he actively participated in the international negotiations that led to the adoption of the SDGs. He coordinated the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) as an ILO External Contributor.



**Mohamed Fadel** is the current Global President of AIESEC, a global youth-led organization focused on developing leadership in young people by facilitating a network of cross-cultural exchanges. Annually, AIESEC delivers over 40,000 volunteering and professional experiences through a membership of more than 40,000 young people aged 18 to 30 from over 120 countries and territories. A graduate of the German University in Cairo, Egypt with a Bachelor of Computer Science Engineering and Technology, Mohamed was previously responsible for overseeing AIESEC's global digital ecosystem. He is also passionate about innovation and exploring modern solutions that create social impact and contribute to sustainable development.



**Bamba Fall** is a certified coach, international consultant in management and certified Master trainer of “Start and Improve your Business (SIYB)”, Bamba Fall is result-oriented with more than 25 years of experience in the development of SMEs in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean in multicultural contexts. Experienced programme manager with a solid background in training and advising existing and potential entrepreneurs, Bamba Fall is knowledgeable in topics covering access to finance, financial analysis, business plans, value chain development, market assessments and strategic planning. He speaks French and English fluently, holds a Master's degree in Economy and an MBA.



**Rui Fernandes** is currently Head of Cooperation for the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Dakar, Senegal, one of the target countries of Luxembourg's cooperation. He was previously Junior Professional Officer for the United Nations with UNAIDS in Dakar and Geneva and Technical Assistant with the Luxembourg's agency for development cooperation, LuxDev, in Nicaragua within the framework of a local economic development project in the area of tourism.



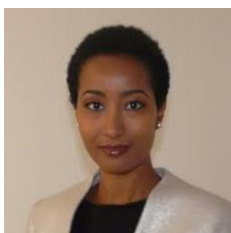
**Cristiana Finotti**, Head of Business Development, Microcred, Senegal  
**Priya Gajraj** is the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Senegal. She has extensive experience in senior leadership and management, programme and policy advice on development in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.



**Djamila Gueye** holds a degree in human resources management of Tunis University, Tunisia. When she returned to Guinea, she launched her fruit and vegetable processing business without any chemical additives, Mila Juice, in order to create jobs for herself and others and contribute to wealth generation in her community and country. Djamila likes exploring, learning, innovating, travelling and reading. Her motto: start from where you stand, use what you have and do all you can to go forward.



**Moustapha Kamal Gueye** is the Coordinator for the Green Job Programme at the International Labour Organization. Previously, he served as Head, Green Economy Advisory Services at the UN Environment Programme and as Senior Programme Manager at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development in Geneva. Earlier, Kamal spent twelve years across Asia working at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in Japan. He holds a Ph.D. from Nagoya University, Japan; DEA and LL.M from Dakar University; and Executive Certificates from the World Bank Institute; Columbia University; Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development, Japan; and Integrated Research and Action for Development, India.



**Fati N'Zi-Hassane** serves in Midrand, South Africa at the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency as Head of Skills and Employment for Youth Programme. Her main task is to translate the continental strategies related to the youth, into programmes implemented at national and regional level. Her portfolio includes skills development (with a bias towards technical vocational training), employment issues and the gender component. She also coordinates the Office of the CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki. Prior to joining NEPAD, Fati worked in Europe since 2006 as a management consultant and as a programme manager, supporting the transformation of private and public entities. Her passion for education, employability and equal opportunity for all has led her to take part in different initiatives, serving communities in both France and Niger since 2007. Fati holds an Engineer degree from the Ecole Nationale de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée d'Abidjan, and a MBA from French Business School ESSEC. She is from Niger and Côte d'Ivoire.



**Christian Jekkinou** holds a Master degree in Economics of Markets and Business" and another in "Digital Economy". Christian worked for multinationals in West Africa before founding a marketing and communication firm he will lead for 4 years. He is now Executive Director of Afric'Innov, a program to support the development of innovative entrepreneurship in Africa by strengthening the capacities of support structures (incubators, accelerators, fablab, etc.) and financing.



**Mariama Johm** is a young Gambian graduate from The University of The Gambia where she majored Tourism and Hospitality Management. She has a great desire for food and business which inspired her to engage in Food and Beverage business. She is the founder and CEO of Afri Taste, a company she created in February 2018 to promote the eating of natural products for a healthy living. Afri Taste also solves the problem of fruits and vegetables waste in The Gambia. Currently Afri Taste is employing three Fulltime staff and three part-time staff who are occasionally contracted when someone placed a large order. In recognition of Afri Taste's innovation and performance, the company was awarded the winner at the food tasting competition during the Youth Day at the Gambia Chamber of Commerce 2018 trade fair in 2018.



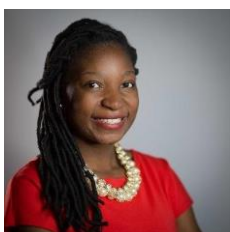
**Ibrahim Lahouli Kabore** holds of a technical degree in accounting and finance. He participated in trainings and seminars related to the poultry sector and entrepreneurship in general. Among other things, he took part in entrepreneurship training in 2011, and at the celebration of the Regional Currency Week in Accra in 2015. In 2012, he managed to set up a five-cent livestock unit (500) laying hens in Koubri commune with the support of the Caisse Populaire de Sig-Nonghin.



**Nuwajuna Justus Kamuhanda**, CEO of Just-us Investment Ltd, decided to start his business in 2009 while at Makerere University pursuing his first degree in law. He attended an entrepreneur training by Enterprise Uganda and upon receiving a 5 days entrepreneurship training decided to use his pocket money worth UGX 360,000, equivalent to USD 200, to start a retailer shop. It has now grown to four supermarkets worth USD 400,000, 10280 goats, frat residential house and rentals, 15 Frisian cows, farm land and plots of land in prime areas in Kampala city.



**Ghada Khalifa** is the Director for Middle East and Africa, Microsoft Philanthropies – a role she acquired in July 2016 after a 19-year tenure at Microsoft. She credits her long stint with the company to the ongoing opportunities she has to create change and make an impact on the lives of people who are underserved and underprivileged. With a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ain Shams University, Ghada began her career with stints as a travel agent, tour guide and reporter. She joined Microsoft first as an Anti-Piracy marketing manager and then moved into the roles of Public Relations manager, Community Affairs manager and Citizenship lead for Microsoft Egypt. She also attained an MBA in Globalisation from Maastricht University during this time.



**Arielle Kitio** is the founder of CAYSTI and promoter of the abcCode project. She is part of the latest Forbes 30 under 30 Africa ranking, current ambassador of Next Einstein Forum in Cameroon and winner of the prestigious Award TechWomen 2016, awarded by the United States Department of State to the top 4% of women leaders in science and technology. The relevance and effectiveness of her company's services to introduce youth to technological innovation has earned them international awards, among them the Prix Afrique Innovante in July 2018 and a ranking among the 50 best innovations in the African education sector by the African Union.



**Finda Koroma** The new Vice-Chair of the ECOWAS Commission, Sierra Leone's Finda Koroma, took office on March 1, 2018. She will support the Commission Chair Jean-Claude Brou in implementing the mandate of ECOWAS and will represent it during official missions. She has over 20 years of experience in the areas of public administration and development, and in various management positions held in the extractive industries sector. A lawyer by profession, Finda Koroma holds a Master's degree in International Law and Commercial Law from Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. She also holds an MBA from the School of Business Administration at Harvard University.





**Aminata Kouyaté** since 2014 serves as the National Director of Youth Employment in Guinea, being responsible for the implementation of the government's youth employment policy, the design of strategies to improve youth employability, the development of partnerships, acquiring funding, counselling and raising awareness. With a training in International Affairs and Communication from the European Management Institute in Paris, she has been in charge of training, communication human resources and community relations for different companies.



**Martin Labbé** works as a senior adviser on IT & BPO sector development and digital entrepreneurship at the UN/WTO International Trade Centre (ITC). He manages two related projects in Senegal and Uganda (3.2 M USD, 4 years) and coordinates the Netherlands Trust Fund IV (NTF IV) programme the projects fall under. The projects' beneficiaries are tech start-ups, IT & BPO SMEs and their sector associations.



**Matteo Landi** is an Industrial Development and Youth Entrepreneurship Expert at UNIDO, which he joined in 2008, after his field experience in Ethiopia. He started at the UNESCO Country Office in 2003, after which he worked with the UNICEF Ethiopia office. He developed a continent-wide campaign to enhance youth participation and on-line collaboration, and was part of the task force that developed the first revolving fund scheme for young women entrepreneurs in north Ethiopia. Since joining UNIDO, he has developed a number of projects focusing on creating sustainable employment opportunities for young women and men through entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship. He is an adamant advocate of the role that young entrepreneurs can play as change makers, and of the importance of supporting them in having access to enabling tools, skills and technologies.



**Yann Le Beux** is the co-founder of YUX, a Senegalese company specializing in user experience design whose ambition is to build digital products and services tailored to African populations and their diversity. YUX is today a multicultural team of 15 people that works with clients, mostly MNOs and Fintechs, in Senegal, Ivory Coast, France, Zambia, and Rwanda. In 2011, he has participated in the launch of CTIC Dakar, a startup incubator where he has supported more than 85 companies in 4 years. Before that he was in the United States where he created a US market access program for French technology SMEs. He holds a master degree in Material Science and Innovation Management and with entrepreneurship training at Harvard University.



**Hugues Legros**, holder of a PhD in Philosophy and Literature from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, is currently the coordinator of the project "Equal Access to Vocational Training", which targets five regions in the south and south-east of Senegal. Financed by the European Union and implemented by LuxDev, the development aid agency of the government of Luxembourg, this project aims to reinforce the vocational training and employability of youth. Previously, Mr Legros has successively been junior economist at UNDP in Burkina Faso, resident representative of the Belgian agency of cooperation (ENABEL) and general secretary of the Belgian university cooperation. Moreover, he was a lecturer at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and at Sciences Po Toulouse in France. His areas of expertise are related to education, including higher education and scientific research, youth vocational training and employability.



**Amy Mbengue** is the founder and CEO of ECOBAG SENEGAL, a responsible company committed to sustainable development through the recycling of plastics. She has a degree in Management Economics, Administration and Business Management and a Master in Marketing at Montpellier 1 University. Her passion for environmental issues and ecological innovations justifies her specialization in environmental management and waste treatment systems. She worked for companies like EDF France, CELIO, AVON COSMETICS, AXESS SEVEN. She is a member of Senegal's large network of entrepreneurs. One of the pioneers in her field of activity, she is one of the most emerging young women entrepreneurs in Senegal.



**Regina Mbodj Brown** is an IT engineer who joined CTIC at its beginning in 2011. Regina started her career at Mobile Oil and conducted several studies on tech hubs feasibility in Gabon, Mauritania, Togo and other African countries. Regina trained hundreds of students on entrepreneurship and start-up tools. She is also a board member of the incubator network Afrilabs and a founding member of AfricInnov.



**Charleine Mbuyi-Lusamba** is a Technical Officer in the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme of the ILO since 2015. She supports the implementation of the ILO strategy on promoting women's entrepreneurship development through programme coordination, knowledge generation, partnership building and technical assistance to field initiatives in several countries in Africa. Before taking up her current responsibilities, Charleine worked at the ILO's Employment Department on enabling mechanisms supporting transitions from the informal to the formal economy. She also worked with the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme on community recovery programmes in conflict-affected areas. Charleine holds an advanced Master's degree from Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management.



**José Manuel Medina** coordinates Jov@Emprego, a program promoting youth employment in Cabo Verde. He has broad experience in entrepreneurship and SMEs promotion initiatives in Spain, but also in several other countries (India, Morocco, Algeria). Most recently he led a project on women entrepreneurship in Algeria and Morocco for the ILO. Previously, he worked with the Spanish Tourism Innovation Agency (SEGITTUR) on fostering business networks for tourism and innovation, created a cultural SME cluster among heritage and cultural companies in Ahmedabad, India, and developed business incubation and exchange programs in Algeria and Morocco. Finally, José Manuel has extensive experience in developing business incubation and exchanging programmes for several countries such as Algeria (Réseau des pépinières d'entreprises) and Morocco (Women business incubators).



**Fiorina Mugione** is an economist with an MBA in international trade that has more than twenty years' of experience in international organizations, but also had the opportunity to work in the private sector at the international level in marketing and export management functions. She worked primarily in the areas of research and analysis in enterprise, investment and development issues at ESCAP, OECD and UNCTAD. She leads since 2006, the Entrepreneurship Programme UNCTAD's Division on Investment and Enterprise. The programme aims to inspire entrepreneurship, strengthen the supply capacity of small and medium enterprises through entrepreneurship development and business linkages. Fiorina coordinates the EMPRETEC programme – the one stop agency for small and medium sized enterprise development- in 40 countries around the world ([www.empretec.net](http://www.empretec.net)). In



addition, led the team to assist governments in formulating entrepreneurship policies (Cameroun, Gambia, Tanzania, etc.). Developed linkages and suppliers programmes (Benin, Tanzania, Zambia, etc.).



**François Murangira** is the Director of the Decent Work Team and Country Office for Senegal, Cabo Verde, The Gambia and Guinea, ILO.



**Lamia Naji** supports strategic planning, evaluation and learning partnerships at Mastercard Foundation, within the Youth Livelihoods and Financial Inclusion portfolios. Prior to joining the foundation, Lamia provided policy, communications and project management assistance at Global Affairs Canada, supporting various programs (Sudan and South Sudan, Middle-East and North Africa, and the corporate evaluation division). Her field experience includes roles with UNICEF Eastern Caribbean in Barbados & Aga Khan Foundation, Tanzania. She holds a master's of public policy and administration, and a bachelor's of public affairs and policy management, both from Carleton University.



**Khady Ndiaye** is the Founder and Director of Sentaar. She is a young woman entrepreneur who decided to return home so as to contribute to the development and economy of her country. Her objective is to transmit through her passion the natural virtues and benefits of nature for the skin and the body. Thus her shop offers natural and organic cosmetics and make up products certified by Ecocert.



**Antoine Ngom** holds an engineering degree from l'Ecole Centrale de Paris. Antoine was the technical director of Consulting Software (Eurogroup Consultants - France), the technical director of the Atos Consulting Finance department (Atos Origin - France) and then general director / founder of GSIE Technology. Antoine is now the head of the Organization of ICT Professionals (OPTIC) which is the representative of the private sector in the steering committee and in the technical committee of the Senegal Digital Strategy 2025.



**Sobel Ngom** is a Senegalese Edu-entrepreneur. For 5 years, Sobel has been the Head of Africa hub for Changemakers, a program of the renowned NGO Ashoka. His mission was to build an entrepreneurial mindset amongst a network of over 2000 young people from Africa and facilitate their access to life changing opportunities. In 2014, he founded Social Change Factory, a civic leadership center redefining civic participation among African youth and strengthening their leadership and entrepreneurship capacity. He also developed Voix des Jeunes (Voice of the Youth), a television program dedicated to youth empowerment in French speaking countries in Africa, as well as several other initiatives strengthening youth education, skills and employability. He has won a number of awards and has received recognition for his dedication and work, including in President Obama's YALI program, the JambarTech Awards, and through his appointment to the Board of UNICEF's Generation Now.



**Fatoumata Niang Niox** is a specialist of digital ecosystems. After a decade of support for European Union projects and a life of entrepreneur, she has been supporting Jokkolabs since 2015, ensuring strategy and operations from the Dakar hub. While ensuring the development of the initiative across Senegal, she supports open innovation programs, particularly the one of the innovation lab of the Societe Generale Group's, incubation of startups, creation and animation of tech communities.



**Nadja Nutz** is the Global Coordinator for the ILO's "Start and Improve your Business (SIYB)" entrepreneurship training programme since June 2016. She has joined the ILO in September 2014 as Associate Expert working on Value Chain Development (VCD). Prior to joining the ILO, Nadja worked as technical advisor for the German Development Agency GIZ in a programme to promote SMEs in Algeria, and as policy analyst for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), focusing on SME promotion in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Nadja holds a B.A. in Applied African Studies from Bayreuth University in Germany, and a M.A. in Economics in International Development from the American University in Cairo (AUC) in Egypt. She speaks fluently English, French and German.



**Charles Ocici** has over 20 years of experience with micro, small and medium enterprise development and youth entrepreneurship. He is the Founding Executive Director of Enterprise Uganda, the country's premier enterprise and business management institution, and a widely respected and notable speaker, with regular appearances in international symposia and conferences organized by the UN, the World Bank and the British Council. He is the First President and founding Chairman of Enterprise Africa, a 14-member umbrella body of Enterprise Development Institutions in Africa. Charles Ocici holds an MBA and MSC in Investment Analysis from Stirling University, UK.



**Rotimi Opeyemi Olawale** is a leading African agripreneur, recognized young leader in Africa's agric sector and international speaker who has addressed global audience at high level meetings of various institutions such as The Commonwealth, Harvard University, African Union, African Development Bank among others. He is the founder and CEO of JR Farms Limited a leading agribusiness in Africa determined to transform Agriculture in Africa by undertaking opportunities for growth and business that will engender sustainable food production and increased incomes for farmers in Africa. JR Farms has agribusiness operations in Nigeria (Cassava value chain), Rwanda (Coffee value chain), and Cote d'Ivoire (Cocoa Value Chain) respectively. Olawale holds a Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Philosophy of Religion; he is a product of Lagos Business School- rated as one of the top 50 business schools globally.



**Martin Ruvugabigwi** is the outgoing Chairman of the Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs that brings together young entrepreneurs across Commonwealth countries. He is the Secretary General of the network of young entrepreneurs in Rwanda. He is in the council of the City of Kigali heading the Finance and Economic Commission. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering and currently finalising his MBA majoring in project management. He is an entrepreneur in IT, real estate and manufacturing.



**Makhan Sacko** is a specialist in Strategic Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development. Before launching Sahel Analytics, he was a Project Manager at one of Mali's first functional business incubators - Impact Hub Bamako. He has also coached and trained more than 1,200 young Malians and supported the creation and development of more than 50 startups as coordinator of the Next Economy project. Makhan also led the development of fundraising and programming proposals with organizations including the World Bank, UN Women, the Government of the Netherlands and the Embassy of the UK, among others. He is also the promoter of Sekai Institute, an educational platform that draws connections between Mali and Japan. Makhan wants to contribute to improving the access to information of Malian and sub-regional entrepreneurs and organizations.

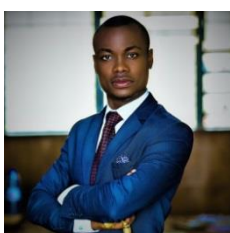


**Emanuele Santi** is the founder and president of Afrilanthropy, a platform connecting African social enterprises with wide range of venture philanthropists, foundations and impact investors. He is also an advisor to various impact funds and heads Agribusiness at Bamboo Capital Partners, one of the pioneers in impact investing in emerging markets. He has worked for 15 years at World Bank and African Development Bank, where he has pioneered new programs and instruments to support entrepreneurship and innovation, such as Souk Attanmia, the largest mobilization of partners to support social entrepreneurship in Tunisia in the aftermath of the Arab Spring, and Boost Africa, a blended finance vehicle enabling the market emergence of innovative forms of financing in the continent. He holds a PHD in Development Studies from University of Trieste, MA in Economics from College of Europe in Bruges and a Harvard certificate on Public Financial Management.



**Alioune Sarr** is the Minister of Trade, Informal Sector, Consumer Affairs, Promotion of Local Products and SMEs, Senegal. Before being appointed to the Government of Senegal, he was the Director General of the Senegal Agency for the Promotion of Exports (ASEPEX). In that position, he launched significant projects and led missions for positioning « Senegal Origin » products and services on regional and international markets.

**Abdoulaye Sèye**, Hub Rural. Before joining Hub Rural, Abdoulaye Sèye was Head of the IT, Evaluation and Monitoring Branch of the National Agency for the Return to Agriculture Plan and an expert in Rural Development Strategy from 2008 to 2011.



**Vital Sounouvou** holds a Bachelor degree in Telecommunications and Software Engineering from the UIT de Calais in France, and a Business certificate from the University of Texas at Austin. Listed on Forbes Africa's 30 under 30 list of 2016, he is a Fellow of President Obama's Initiative for Young African Leaders (YALI), of the Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Program, and of Ashoka social investment accelerator; he is member of numerous leadership networks and helped organize numerous events and trade shows in West and Central Africa, USA, Russia and United Arab Emirates. Vital has an extensive experience doing trade between sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, through independent trade representation deals with several manufacturing companies. He is fluent in English, French and several local languages.





**Malick Sy** is an economist and accounting expert. He is currently the Coordinator of the Senegal-UNIDO Country Partnership Program (PCP-SEN). Previously, he has assured at the Primature, the function of Coordinator of the Local Cluster Development Program within the framework of the Steering Committee and monitoring of the Accelerated Growth Strategy (SCA). He was for 15 years an expert for UNIDO in charge of design, resource mobilization and coordination of several private sector development and youth employment promotion projects. He has been a consultant for organizations such as the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF / CPCCAF), German Cooperation (GIZ), France-Clusters. He was during 8 years lecturer at the Institute of Training in Administration and Business Generation of the University of Dakar. He is the Vice President of the Executive Board of the Panafrican Competitiveness Forum (PACF) affiliated with the TCI (The Competitive Institute).



**Oumar Syll** is a Business Development Manager with 17 years' experience in the field of Business Development Services to SMEs and Agricultural Producers. He is also expert specialist of Migration and Development issues with more than five multinational projects coordinated in the field of Migration, Remittances and Development. As Decent Rural Expert at FAO Senegal since 2015, he is coordinating different projects in youth employment and entrepreneurship. His position at FAO Senegal allowed him to contribute to the Country's National Rural Youth Employment Policy through the conceptualization and implementation of an operative Model of Youth Engagement in Agribusiness, called MIJA.



**Mujinga Tambwe** is an expert in development communications with a focus on African affairs. Prior to joining the International Trade Centre in 2015, she worked for major EU-funded technical assistance programmes for ACP countries. Her main interests focus on Africa development, women and youth empowerment.



**Cheikh Thiam** has a passion for youth and women entrepreneurship. He has 15 years' experience supporting the private sector through professional and consulting organizations. Trained in chemistry and metallurgy, he completely changed his career direction and chose entrepreneurship and management, after specializing in Entrepreneurship Management and Territorial Marketing. A certified trainer in the SIYB methodology of the ILO, Cheikh is the Secretary General of the GERME Network, Senegal, which brings together over 300 trainers. In order to enhance the impact on his actions, he founded the agency Sahel Development in 2010.



**Dorothy Ng'ambi Tembo**, Deputy Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, a Zambian national, took office on 3 June 2014. She has 30 years' experience in trade and development. She served previously as the Executive Director of the multi-donor funded Enhanced Integrated Framework Programme (EIF) based at the World Trade Organisation from October 2008 to 2013. From 2004 to 2008, she served as Chief Trade Negotiator and Director of Foreign Trade in the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry of Zambia. From 2003 to June 2004, she served as a Trade and Investment Advisor on the USAID Zambia Trade and Investment Enhancement Project (ZAMTIE) project in Lusaka, providing support to the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and the private sector. Between 2000 and 2003, she served as Deputy Team Leader on the USAID RAPID project in Botswana, which was assisting 14 Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries in the implementation of the SADC Trade Protocol. She holds a degree in Economics from the University of Zambia.



**Alberto Antonio Virella Gomes** graduated from the Universidad Complutense of Madrid in 1987 with a degree in Law. Entered the Spanish Diplomatic Service in 1990. Career diplomat with developed intercultural skills and advocate of a coordinated multisectoral approach in developing countries respectful of local/national/regional leadership. His analytical and action-oriented capacities have been mostly used in the following international contexts: Sahel, West African integration, Arab Spring, EU-Africa migration. From 2015 is the Ambassador of Spain to the Republic of Senegal, with continuity of his experience in the region as he reached from 2012 to 2015 as Director-General for Development Cooperation with Africa and Asia, at the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). Covering Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia.



**Rotimi Williams** specializes in agricultural development, market systems and agri-business development. In 2014, Rotimi founded Kereksuk Rice Farm, now the second largest commercial rice farm in Nigeria by land size. Rotimi has a special passion for using technology to solve development challenges. This led to the creation of InsightAgro a market platform which publishes daily prices for over 60 commodities in markets across Lagos a specially designed platform. Rotimi has an MA in economic science from the University of Aberdeen and an MSc in Finance and Development from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London.



**Bibusa Wissemann** is Chief Executive Officer and founder for SensXafrica Limited, a Zambian born communication, business development and investment advisory expert who boasts more than 12 years of experience. She is a certified Public Administration Expert. Having worked in various Green energy environmental projects and other sectors she excels at bringing people together and developing professional relations for a successful collaboration and to achieve optimal results. In 2016 she was awarded Pan Humanitarian on Enterprise and Youth Empowerment in Dubai, Bibusa is an international speaker and also has held workshops on Social Entrepreneurship. She also has organized several Business events in Germany and the very first ever Masterclass and Venture capital conference in Zambia. In 2019 she will be Launching The Bibusa Foundation, her passion for Empowering single Mothers in Africa through Mentoring, education and capacity building.



**Christophe Yvetot** is the Representative of UNIDO for Senegal, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania. In this role, he is in charge of developing UNIDO's industrial cooperation with the Government of Senegal as well as with the private sector, academia and civil society in support of national efforts towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The cooperation with Senegal focuses particularly on SDG9 on infrastructure, Industry and Innovation with is very much in line with the national "Plan for an Emerging Senegal" launched in 2014 by the President of Senegal. Youth and women entrepreneurship and employment are a priority of the Programme for Country Partnership signed with the Government of Senegal and which objective is to attract a high volume of quality investments that will provide large scale job creation for Youth and Women as employees or as entrepreneurs.



**Richard Zulu** has seven years of experience in building start-up ecosystem incubation and acceleration services and five years of experience in project and knowledge management. He is the founding partner and lead of Outbox Uganda, an Innovation hub in Kampala aiming at helping African entrepreneurs to raise funds and access markets through co-working space, business incubation and technical training programs.

## Notes







# SCALING UP ACTION & IMPACT ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

The event is organized by

**The Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth**

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