



RÉPUBLIQUE TOGOLAISE



FOSTERING COMPETITION IN AFRICA

THE AfCFTA INAUGURAL CONFERENCE ON COMPETITION POLICY AND LAW

Theme: Harnessing Competition as a Catalyst for African market integration

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SPEAKERS



ON THE MARGINS OF

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LOMÉ - TOGO



A joint initiative of the **AfCFTA Secretariat**, the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** and the **European Union (EU)**



Mr. Talime ABE has been serving as Director General of Trade at the Ministry in charge of Trade and Quality Control since February 2022. In this capacity, he is responsible, among other duties, for contributing to the formulation of trade policy and coordinating the implementation of strategies related to domestic trade, foreign trade, e-commerce, and competition, as well as coordinating the activities of the technical departments under his supervision.

Since November 2007, he has served as the National Focal Point for the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) project, which provides trade-related technical assistance from the World Trade Organization and other international organizations in support of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). He currently represents French-speaking LDCs on the EIF Executive Board of the WTO.

Since February 2024, he has been elected President of the Competition Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Regional Competition Authority of ECOWAS.

Mr. Talime ABE obtained a PhD in Economics from the University of Lomé in June 2023. He also holds a dual master's degree in Economics (1998) and Management Sciences (2002) from the University of Lomé. In 2005, he obtained a Higher Diploma in Banking and Financial Studies (DESBF) from the West African Center for Banking Training and Studies (COFEB) of the Central Bank of West African States in Dakar, Senegal.

Professionally, he began his career in the Togolese public administration at the Ministry in charge of Trade in 2003, where he held various positions, including Project Officer at the Directorate of Foreign Trade, Head of Service at the General Secretariat, Director of Domestic Trade and Competition, and Acting Secretary General.



Dr. Simeon K. KOFFI is an economist-statistician and specialist in regional integration policies, with more than twenty years of experience supporting economic integration in West Africa. He has recognised expertise in competition policy, public policy, market analysis, regional economic governance, and institutional development.

Since 2021, he is the Executive Director of the ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority (ERCA), a specialised agency of the ECOWAS Commission based in Banjul, The Gambia. In this capacity, he oversees the implementation of the Community Competition Rules and regional consumer protection mechanisms. He contributed to the development of the ECOWAS regional competition regulatory framework and to the operationalisation of ERCA.

Prior to joining ERCA, Dr KOFFI served for nearly thirteen years at the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja as Head of the Research and Development Division. He also held the position of Deputy Director in charge of Research and Statistics at the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO).



Dr Willard Mwemba is the Chief Executive Officer at the COMESA Competition Commission. He continues to play a key role in the development of competition and consumer protection laws, guidelines and operational manuals in different countries. He continues to advise governments on the significance of preserving competitive markets and the consequences of its absence. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Competition Training Centre for Middle East and Africa. Willard is also a member of a Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce, looking at the state of competition laws in small and insular economies.

Willard has written extensively on the subject of competition law and has spoken at several high profile fora. He is usually invited as a guest lecturer on the subject at Universities and Colleges at global level. He has written and contributed to scholarly articles for the Institute of European & Comparative Law/Centre for Competition Law & Policy University of Oxford, International Bar Association, Concurrences, Global Competition Review and Afronomics among others.

He holds several qualifications among them, a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and an LLB from the University of Zambia. Willard also holds a Masters degree in European Union Competition Law from University of London; Kings College and a PhD in Competition Law from the University of Cape Town.



H.E Adefunke Adeyemi was elected and appointed the Secretary-General of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) resuming office on 1st September, 2022. AFCAC is the Specialized Agency of the African Union (AU) on all Civil Aviation matters and the Executing Agency of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) and the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM). Her role is to promote Safety, Security, Air Transport Liberalization, Environmental protection and overall sustainability of the African Air Transport sector across the continent.

In November 2024, during AFCAC's 35th Plenary Ordinary Session, she was re-elected for another three year term. Her second mandate as Secretary General commenced on 1 September 2025, reaffirming her exceptional and exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to advancing Africa's aviation sector.

With an international career spanning over 25 years, Adefunke has been recognized as one of the 100 Most Inspirational African Women. She was also honoured as one of the 200 globally Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) in affiliation with the United Nations Decade for People of African Descent. She is also the 2021 Recipient of the Ato Girma Wake Lifetime Achievement Award for Services to African Air Transport and Trade development.

She studied Law at the University of Lagos, Nigeria and qualified as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Nigerian Supreme Court in 1998, holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from the prestigious University of Cambridge, United Kingdom and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Nanyang Business School, Singapore in collaboration with Wharton Business School, Philadelphia and Berkeley Hass Business School, California.



Frantisek Ruzicka, a Slovak national, took up his duties as Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD on 1 December 2025. His portfolio covers Global Relations and the OECD's engagement with the United Nations, as well as the Organisation's work on Education, Skills, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs.

In addition to his policy responsibilities, Mr. Ruzicka oversees several corporate governance functions. He serves as Chair of the Management Review Board, the Corporate Review Group and the Board for Managing non-Governmental Stakeholder Relations. He also leads the implementation of the OECD's Human Resources Strategy and oversees a coordinated Organisation-wide approach to voluntary contributions.

Mr. Ruzicka previously served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the OECD from 2020 to 2025, during which time he chaired the OECD Executive Committee in 2022 and 2023 and was a member of the Organisation's Audit Committee. He also chaired the Eurasia Advisory Board in 2024.

Before joining the OECD, Mr. Ruzicka held senior roles in Slovakia's diplomatic service. He served as State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs from 2018 to 2020 and as Director of the Office of the President of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly from 2017 to 2018. From 2012 to 2017, he was Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations in New York. Earlier in his career, he held positions as Ambassador to Poland, Director General for European Affairs, and Ambassador for UN Affairs, among other assignments.

Mr. Ruzicka has participated in a wide range of multilateral processes, serving on UN expert groups and committees, including as Chair of the UN General Assembly's Fifth Committee and as a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Group on the reform of UN-Habitat. He has also been involved in national and international coordination bodies related to EU affairs, economic cooperation, and foreign policy.

In addition to his diplomatic work, Mr. Ruzicka has written and co-written publications on European diplomacy, EU enlargement and international governance. His distinctions include national and international awards, recognising his contributions to public service.

He holds degrees from Charles University in Prague and from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations.



Teresa Ribera Rodríguez is a prominent Spanish jurist and politician serving as Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for a Clean, Just, and Competitive Transition and Commissioner for Competition since December 2024. A key figure in European climate policy, she previously served as Spain's Minister for Ecological Transition (2018–2024).



H.E. Wamkele Mene was elected by the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States & Government of the African Union, to the position of Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat.

Prior to being elected Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, he served as Chief Director: Africa Economic Relations, at the Department of Trade & Industry of South Africa. In this role, he was South Africa's chief trade negotiator in the AfCFTA and Tripartite FTA negotiations. During his tenure as chief negotiator, South Africa ratified both the AfCFTA and Tripartite FTAs agreements.

Prior to assuming this position, H.E. Wamkele Mene occupied the position of Director: International Trade Law & Investment Law at the Department of Trade & Industry, a role in which he was principal legal counsel on international trade law and international investment law.

From 2010 until 2015, H.E. Wamkele Mene represented South Africa at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland. He was elected to the position of Chairman of the WTO's Committee on International Trade in Financial Services.

Prior to joining the Department of Trade & Industry of South Africa, H.E. Wamkele Mene worked for Wall Street based law firms in the London and Hong Kong offices.

H.E. Wamkele Mene has written and lectured internationally on international trade law, international investment law and international business law. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Law) degree from Rhodes University in South Africa, a Master of Arts in International Studies & Diplomacy (with specialization in International Economics) from the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London and a LL.M. (Master of Laws) in Banking Law & Financial Regulation from the Law Department of the London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE).



Mr. Badanam PATOKI has been serving as Minister of Economy and Strategic Monitoring since October 2025. He holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Management and Taxation from Poitiers, France, obtained in 1985, as well as a Postgraduate Diploma in Banking and Finance from the West African Center for Banking Training and Studies (COFEB) in Dakar, Senegal, obtained in 1995.

Professionally, he successively held the positions of Director of Portfolio Management at the Ministry of Industry, State-Owned Enterprises and Free Zone Development, and Deputy

Director of International Relations at the Central Bank of West African States in Dakar, Senegal.

He has also held several senior positions, including Director General of Treasury and Public Accounting of Togo, Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Togo, and President of the Financial Markets Authority of the West African Economic and Monetary Union.



Eleanor M. Fox is Professor of Law Emerita and Walter J. Derenberg Professor of Trade Regulation Emerita at New York University School of Law. She is a scholar in antitrust law, international and comparative competition policy, developing country economic law, European Union competition and market law, digital markets, and globalization/de-globalization.

Eleanor was a partner in the law firm Simpson Thacher and Bartlett. She joined the faculty of New York University School of Law in 1976. She served on antitrust commissions of Presidents Carter and Clinton. Her books include, co-authored, US and EU competition law casebooks, *Global Issues in Antitrust and Competition Law*, and, with Mor Bakhoun, *Making Markets Work for Africa*.



Nicolas Pinaud is Deputy-Director of the OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs. He was previously OECD Sherpa to the G7 and G20 (2020 – 2021) and also worked as an Advisor to the OECD Secretary-General from 2010 to 2021. Mr. Pinaud started his career as a country-risk analyst at Société Générale Group before joining the OECD in 2002. Between 2007 and 2010, Mr. Pinaud was seconded to the private office of the French Minister for Employment. Mr. Pinaud is a French national. He graduated from the École Normale Supérieure d'Ulm (Paris). He holds a Masters' degree in Development Economics, a Masters' degree in Political Science and a Masters' degree in History from the University of Paris-1-Sorbonne.



Dr. Mor Bakhoum, LL.M (Lausanne) LL.M (Chicago-Kent College of Law)

Dr Mor BAKHOUM is the Technical Secretary of the Committee in charge of enforcing local content obligations in the extractive industry in Senegal. Dr Mor Bakhoum is also a member of the ECOWAS competition Council. The ERCA Council is in charge of enforcing the regional competition rules.

Dr. Mor Bakhoum is an Assistant Professor at the Université numérique Cheickh Hamidou Kane (UN-CHK) in Sénégal. He heads research and Innovation department in charge of coordinating the research at UN-CHK. Mor Bakhoum has headed as a Director interdisciplinary Doctoral school of UN-CHK.

Since 2018 Mor Bakhoum is an affiliated research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition in Munich, Germany, where he had worked as a senior research fellow from 2009 to 2018. Mor Bakhoum teaches competition law at the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center (MIPLC). He is also a lecturer at the Master II program in IP, co-organized by WIPO, OAPI and the University of Yaoundé II in Cameroon where he teaches the module “IP and Public Health”.

Mor Bakhoum's work focus on economic law, the regulation of the digital economy, competition law in developing countries, international IP Law with a focus on access to pharmaceuticals. Of interest of him is also the interface between IP and Competition Law. Mor Bakhoum heads the Max Planck research partner group of the UN-CHK which is financed by the Max Planck Society. The research group focuses on the issue of the regulation of the digital economy in the framework of emerging economies.

Mor Bakhoum has extensively published on the issues related to economic law in the context of West African and developing countries. His most recent publication is entitled: "Making markets work for Africa: Markets, Development and Competition Law in Sub-Saharan Africa" (OUP-2019) which he co-authored with Professor Eleanor Fox of NYU.

Mor Bakhoum holds a PhD (summa cum Laude) from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, an LL.M. in European and International Economic Law from the University of Lausanne and an LL.M. in International IP Law from Chicago-Kent College of Law, USA where he graduated top of his class with high honors. He received the Cali award for the best LL.M. thesis as well as the Cali award for excellence in Antitrust.

He was awarded the 2008 prize of the city of Lausanne for the best PhD in human sciences. In fall 2014 Mor Bakhoum spent a semester at NYU as an Emile Noel Fellow at the Jean Monnet Center for International and Regional Economic Law & Justice.



Doris Tshepe became the Commissioner of the Competition Commission of South Africa on 01 September 2022. A former competition law practitioner representing clients in several significant competition cases, Commissioner Tshepe has been active in the competition field for many years and brings her wide experience on matters relating to the mandate of the Competition Commission. This includes deep insights into advising the government on competition law reforms.

Commissioner Tshepe holds a B Proc degree, an LLB degree, and an LLM degree in Tax Law. She has been a practicing attorney for more than 20 years, specializing in constitutional and

administrative law, legislative drafting, media and communication law, commercial law, competition law, and employment law, with a wide range of public and private sector clients.

She served on an Advisory Panel on the major amendments to the Competition Act, which was signed into law by South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa, in 2019. She served as the Managing Director at a prominent law firm, Cheadle Thompson and Haysom Inc (CTH) until 30 June 2018. She was a member of the Judicial Services Commission (JSC).

Doris was centrally involved in the drafting of a number of legislations, including the Liquor Amendment Bill, the Use of Official Languages Act and its draft Regulations, the Special Economic Zones Act and its Regulations, Standards legislation for the Department of Trade and Industry, Gauteng Shared Service Agency Bill, Regulations in terms of the Media Development and Diversity Agency Act, 2002, Further Education and Training Bill, 2003 for the Gauteng Department of Education, including regulations in terms of this Bill, Code of conduct for governing bodies of public schools in Gauteng.



MOHAMED ALI

Director of Trade in Goods and Competition at the AfCFTA Secretariat

Mohamed Ali, is the Director of Trade and Competition at the AfCFTA Secretariat. In February 2021, he was appointed to be the First Director of Trade in Goods and Competition of the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat.

Mohamed was born and raised in Cairo, Egypt. He graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Business Management from Cairo University, Egypt. He obtained a Master's degree in Development and Public Policy from the KDI School of Public Policy and Management, Seoul/South Korea.

He was the Director for Africa Relations in the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Egypt's Chief Negotiator in the negotiations of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA). Mohamed later served as the Project Development Manager for Third Country Cooperation in North and West Africa at British Embassy in Cairo.

Mohamed has taken part and presided the Egyptian delegation in various technical and high-level COMESA meetings and Tripartite FTA negotiations. Moreover, He has contributed as a senior trade official and the deputy of the Chief Negotiator of Egypt since the commencement of the negotiations of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is deemed to be one of the most imperative flagship projects of the Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. In addition, he assisted in the establishment of a trade policy framework on the national level aimed at identifying trade issues that could be mainstreamed into the development plans and strategy to enhance Intra-Africa trade within the Continent.



Mr. Makhfou Mahécor Diouf is a competition law and intellectual property Rights Expert. He currently serves as Senior Competition Policy Officer at the African Development Bank (AfDB) and has contributed to the development and implementation of several development projects focused on trade and value chain development, trade facilitation, strengthening regional integration, supporting the private sector, and industrialization across the continent. Formerly responsible for competition issues at the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), Mr. Diouf also served as Secretary General of the Competition Commission of Senegal.

A graduate of the National School of Administration of Senegal, and holder of a master's degree in business law, a Master II in Integration and WTO Law, a Master II in Intellectual

Property Law and several certifications, Mr. DIOUF has also held high responsibilities within the Senegalese administration.



Tania Priscilla Begazo Gomez is a Senior Strategy Officer for Digital and AI in Africa, the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. She supports the development and implementation of regional digital and AI strategies aligned with corporate and global priorities. Previously, as the knowledge lead for markets and competition policy, she led global policy research and developed tools to promote market competition, overseeing a portfolio of lending, advisory, and analytical projects across more than 40 countries. As a senior economist at Digital Development, she led major policy research on digitalization, jobs, and governance in Africa and informed operational activities.

Before joining the World Bank, she worked at the International Telecommunication Union, APOYO Consultoria, and the Peruvian telecommunications regulator, advising on the design and implementation of economic regulation for network industries, analyzing antitrust cases, and handling regulatory aspects of public-private partnerships. Tania is an economist and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration in International Development from Harvard University.



Rémi Lang joined the Competition and Consumer Protection Branch of UNCTAD in January 2026. Prior to this, he worked for more than 20 years as an Economic Affairs Officer within the United Nations system. His work focused on trade negotiations and trade policies for development at UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). He also worked with UNCTAD and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on digital economy and development issues. At UNCTAD, he led the Office of the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics, and subsequently the Office of the Director of the Division on International Trade and Commodities. He has extensive experience in preparing intergovernmental discussions processes, coordinating research and analysis, and overseeing capacity-building activities related to international economic governance, trade, and development issues.

Mr. Lang holds a Master's degree in Economics from the College of Europe (Bruges, Belgium).



Ms Mondo Mazwai is the Chairperson of the Competition Tribunal of South Africa.

She was appointed as a member of the Competition Tribunal in 2013 and in 2019, was appointed Chairperson of the Competition Tribunal, where she currently serves her second term.

Mondo has over 25 years' experience as an admitted attorney in competition law. She worked at the Competition Commission of South Africa from its inception in 1999 until 2005, serving in various capacities including as Head of Legal Services and Acting Deputy Commissioner.

She re-joined the private sector in 2005 where she was the National Head of Competition Practice at a prominent law firm, from 2006 to 2011. In that role, she advised major corporate and public sector clients across all areas of competition law (including in mergers and acquisitions; and prohibited practices).

She holds a B.Juris degree from the University of the Western Cape and an LLB from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She has completed numerous Executive Leadership Programmes including the Africa Leadership Initiative (ALI South Africa) and the Yale Global



Babatunde Irukera

Babatunde Irukera is a respected legal and regulatory expert of over 35 years with experience spanning commercial/civil litigation, criminal defence and prosecution, international legal practice, institutional reform, market regulation, and public interest litigation in Nigeria and internationally. He has a rare blend of legal acumen, policy insight, and strategic leadership gained over decades of service and transformation across both public and the private sector, as well as internationally.

He is the immediate past Executive Vice Chairman/CEO of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), where he led the transformation of Nigeria's consumer protection landscape and pioneered the country's first comprehensive competition law regulatory regime. Under his leadership, the FCCPC became a model for regulatory innovation, accountability, and market fairness. Currently, he is the Chairman of Veritas Kapital Assurance PLC.

Babatunde has advised and represented the Federal and State Governments, regulatory agencies, and international organizations in complex, high-impact matters including major aviation accident claims, and multi-jurisdictional consumer and competition cases. He has also been instrumental in shaping national legislation and regulatory frameworks in other countries in consumer protection, aviation, digital trade, and competition law.

A former Managing Partner at Simmons Cooper Partners, and currently Of Counsel, his work spans competition/commercial law, securities litigation, corporate governance, government relations and stakeholder engagement. He is also actively engaged in Africa-wide regulatory development, advising regional bodies such as ECOWAS, COMESA, and AFCFTA on key aspects of competition regulation. Admitted to the Bar in Nigeria and in the United States, in 1990, and 1996 respectively, he has held different leadership positions in both the Nigerian and American Bar Associations. His contributions to law and regulatory reform have earned him several recognitions, including citations in Who's Who Legal, a publication profiling leading lawyers in the United States, The American Lawyer and many other reputed legal practice or professional publications.



Mr. David Kibet Kemei, Director-General

Mr. Kemei was appointed as the Authority's Director-General on 7th October, 2024. In this role, he is tasked with championing and spearheading execution of the Authority's mandate as outlined in the Competition Act CAP 504.

On June 3, 2025, Mr. Kemei was sworn in as Commissioner of the East African Community Competition Authority (EACCA) for a four-year term and elected interim Chairperson. In this

role, he is expected to steer regional competition policy and foster cooperation among EAC regulators.

He has a wealth of expertise and knowledge spanning over 30 years in various sectors, including regulatory, financial, academia, health, tourism, energy, commercial and corporate governance, with over fifteen years in senior leadership roles. His skillset includes corporate and financial management, accounting, project implementation, resource mobilization, collaboration with global agencies, and stakeholder management.

Mr. Kemei holds a Master's degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Commerce from the University of Nairobi. He is a qualified public accountant, a Certified Regulation Specialist, and a certified practitioner in executive coaching.

He previously worked at DGMB Training Solutions Ltd, the Electricity Regulatory Board (now the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority), the Nation Media Group, Windsor Golf Hotels & Country Club Ltd, Kenya Shell (now Vivo Energy) and lectured at five (5) universities, among others. In addition, he has served on public sector Boards as a chairperson and director at Kenya Reinsurance Corporation, Zep Re, Kenya Medical Training College. He has served as the chair of the audit committee at the Commission for Revenue Allocation.



Mr. Omar Wahban

Economist & Head of Market Intelligence Division
Egyptian Competition Authority

Mr. Omar Wahban is an Economist and Head of the Market Intelligence Division at the Egyptian Competition Authority (ECA), specializing in competition economics and market intelligence.

He leads analytical assessments of market structures and competitive dynamics to support enforcement and policy decisions. His expertise enables him to provide strategic perspectives on regional and national competition frameworks, offering valuable insights into how businesses can navigate evolving regulatory landscapes while understanding the priorities of competition authorities.

In addition to his work in competition policy, Mr. Wahban has taught economics at the university level and contributed to research and data analysis projects across a range of industries, further strengthening his multidisciplinary perspective on markets and regulation.



Florence Abebe is an Assistant Director and Head of the Anti-Competitive Practices Department at the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) Nigeria.

In this capacity, she leads the Commission's strategic efforts to curb anticompetitive conduct across all sectors, overseeing investigations, enforcement actions, and regulatory initiatives that shape Nigeria's competition landscape.

A lawyer by training, Florence was called to the Nigerian Bar after obtaining her LLB from the University of Leicester, United Kingdom, she has a Postgraduate Diploma from King's College London.

With extensive experience in consumer protection, competition law and policy, Florence has played a pivotal role in drafting and implementing major enforcement frameworks, including those on mergers, abuse of dominance, restrictive agreements, leniency programmes, and administrative penalties.

She represents the FCCPC in high-level national and international engagements, fosters collaboration with leading competition authorities and global organisations such as the OECD, UNCTAD, and ICN, and has negotiated key MoUs that strengthen cross-border cooperation.

She is recognized for her vibrant leadership, collaborative spirit, and strong regulatory and methodological expertise. Her contributions to the FCCPC continue to strengthen Nigeria's competition and consumer protection regimes, making her a key figure in advancing fair market practices both regionally and internationally.



Mr Malick Diallo is the Head of the Competition Division at the Directorate in Trade in Goods and Competition of the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra Ghana.

Before joining the Secretariat, he served as Director of Foreign Trade of Senegal and Chief Negotiator. He previously served at the Permanent Mission of Senegal in Geneva (Switzerland) as first Counsellor, representing Senegal at the WTO and UNCTAD.

Mr DIALLO was also Secretary General of the Competition Commission of Senegal from 2010 to 2015.

He holds a Master Degree in business law from the University Cheikh Anta DIOP of Dakar, Senegal and the Diploma of the “École Nationale d’Administration” of Senegal as a Commissioner for Economic Investigations.



Maria Jaspers is Director of Policy and Strategy at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Competition (DG Competition), a position she has held since April 2026. In this role, she oversees five units responsible for policy development and case support across antitrust, merger control, state aid, the Digital Markets Act, and the Foreign Subsidies Regulation. Her portfolio also covers the European Competition Network, private enforcement and international relations, placing her at the centre of the EU’s competition policy design and coordination.

Prior to this appointment, she served for five years as Director of the Cartels Directorate in DG Competition, where she led the Commission's enforcement actions against anticompetitive agreements.

Maria Jaspers joined the European Commission in 2001 and has since held several senior management positions within DG Competition. She is a Swedish-qualified lawyer and holds a Master of European Law from the Europa-Institut in Saarbrücken.



Mr. Francis Kariuki is a Senior Consultant in Competition and Trade Policy at Bowmans Law Firm, as well as a remote, self-employed Competition Law and Policy Consultant. Previously, he was the Director - General of the Competition Authority of Kenya from January 2013 to January 2023. His main interests are in competition regulation and also Economics of institutions' development. He has a demonstrated history of working in the public policy industry and is skilled in Government, International Law, Merger Control, European Law, and Econometrics. In addition, he has been focusing on the interface between Competition policy and other related government policies, especially on poverty reduction and Financial inclusion mainly through effective regulation of Digital Financial services (DFS). He is also well known for his advocacy initiatives, nationally and internationally, geared towards entrenching competition in various sectors of the Kenyan economy and boosting regional trade. He is a holder of Master of Science in Economic Regulation and Competition from City University- London; BA-Economics & Business Studies (Kenyatta University) and various Certificates in Strategic Leadership and Corporate Governance.



Mohamed Diop

Mohamed Diop began his career as Terminal Manager for Maersk in Mali (1997-2022).

He then joined SDV as Shipping and Operations Manager (2022-2008), before being appointed Country Manager for Mali (2008-2011) and then Director for Senegal, Mali, Gambia and Mauritania (2011-2014) at Bolloré Africa Logistics.

He continued his career as Regional Director for the Gulf of Guinea, based in Cameroon (2014-2021), before being appointed Regional Director for Atlantic Africa, based in Dakar (2021-2025), for the company which has since become Africa Global Logistics (AGL).

In January 2025, he was appointed Deputy Managing Director for Africa, Logistics - Shipping & Handling. He is also leader of AGL's oil & gas task force and local content task force.



Simon Roberts is a Professor of Economics at the University of Johannesburg, where he founded the Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development (CCRED). He is also a research professor at the Centre for Sustainable Structural Transformation, SOAS University of London, and a special advisor to the Shamba Centre for Food and Climate. Simon has been an economics director at the UK Competition and Markets Authority and the Chief Economist at the Competition Commission of South Africa. He has been closely

involved in the development of competition regimes across Africa and has testified as an expert witness in a number of major cases in South Africa. Since 2022 Simon has been focusing on concentration and competition issues in agri-food markets in the context of climate change.



Josephat T. Mkizungo is the Legal Services Manager at the Fair Competition Commission (FCC), the statutory body mandated to promote and protect effective competition in trade and commerce, and to safeguard consumers against unfair and misleading market conduct in Tanzania. By virtue of his position, he also serves as Secretary to the Commission. Prior to his current role, he served as the Commission’s Manager of Investigations.

Academically, Mr. Mkizungo holds a Master of Laws (LL.M) and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B). He is also a registered Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania and subordinate courts thereto.

Before joining the FCC, Mr. Mkizungo worked in the Attorney General’s Chambers as a State Attorney, where he headed the Cybercrimes Unit under the Directorate of Public Prosecutions. He possesses over thirteen years of prosecutorial experience.

In addition, Mr. Mkizungo previously served as a Board Member of the Tanzania Network Information Centre (TZNIC), the entity responsible for administering and maintaining Tanzania’s “.tz” country code top-level domain. He has also served as a part-time lecturer at the Law School of Tanzania.



Dr PAUL ADALIKWU,

Dr. Paul ADALIKWU, a Nigerian national, was elected the 6th Secretary General of the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) in November 2021.

He brings over 30 years of distinguished experience spanning corporate governance, maritime administration, strategic policy development, and international development cooperation.

His expertise includes resource mobilization, strategic partnerships, organization of high-level international events, project management, and coordination of multi-country initiatives, particularly in the areas of maritime safety and security.

Dr. Adalikwu has worked extensively across academia and the public sector in several countries, including the United States, Nigeria, Taiwan, and Cote d'Ivoire, among others.

Since assuming office as Secretary General, Dr. Paul ADALIKWU has provided transformative leadership to MOWCA for over four years, steering the Organization through a period of institutional renewal and enhanced regional relevance.

Under his tenure, MOWCA has recorded notable mile-stones, including strengthened governance and administrative reforms, improved financial discipline, and increased visibility and credibility among Member States and international partners.

He has advanced regional cooperation on maritime safety and security, port and shipping development, and capacity building, while revitalizing engagement with strategic partners and donor institutions.

His leadership has also prioritized the alignment of MOWCA's programmes with global maritime instruments and continental development frameworks, thereby reinforcing the Organization's role as a key platform for maritime collaboration in West and Central Africa.



Emily Mburu-Ndoria | Director, Trade in Services, Investment, IPR and Digital Trade | AfCFTA Secretariat

Emily has over 20 years of work experience with international and regional organizations. She has expertise in trade in services, trade negotiations, digital trade, trade and investment policy and regional integration of African countries.

Her initiatives at the AfCFTA Secretariat include providing technical and strategic policy leadership and facilitating the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement, especially the Protocol on Trade in Services, Investment, IPR and Digital Trade.

Emily's career started at UNCTAD in Geneva providing technical assistance on trade negotiations and implementation for developing countries for over ten years. She then joined COMESA where she managed and coordinated regional negotiations on trade in services, including the movement of businesspersons, supporting the COMESA Business Council in private sector development, investment, and capacity building. She also worked with the SADC and EAC Secretariats, prior to joining the AfCFTA Secretariat. She lectured at the WTO Regional Trade Policy Course for English-Speaking countries.



Leni Papa is a lawyer, educator, and international policy advisor with over 15 years of experience in regulatory reform, competition policy, and digital regulation. Her career spans the public and private sectors, with work across government, international organizations, and private practice.

In addition to previous roles as a Director at the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) and in-house Counsel at Samsung Philippines, Leni has advised organisations such as the OECD, UNCTAD, the Asian Development Bank, and APEC-linked initiatives on legal and policy frameworks related to digital markets, climate and methane mitigation, and public sector reform, and has authored several articles and book chapters on competition law and sustainability.

She holds a Master in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, a Master in International Business, Competition, and Regulatory Laws from Freie Universität Berlin, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of the Philippines.



Speaker Profile

Leonard Otuonye Ugbajah

Leonard Otuonye Ugbajah is a competition law, consumer protection, trade policy and regulatory governance expert with over 18 years of experience advising governments, regional institutions, regulators, development partners and private-sector actors across Africa. His work focuses on competition law and policy, digital markets regulation, consumer protection, trade and regional integration, institutional reform, and the interface between competition enforcement and sector regulation.

He is a Council Member of the ECOWAS Regional Competition Authority (ERCA), where he contributes to regional competition enforcement, adjudicatory decision-making, and the development of competition policy across ECOWAS Member States. He has also served as a technical expert under EU-supported programmes on AfCFTA implementation and regional competition framework reform in West Africa.

Leonard has advised on national and regional competition and consumer protection reforms across several African countries, including Nigeria, Rwanda, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and The Gambia, as well as at the ECOWAS level. His work has included the alignment of ECOWAS competition instruments with the AfCFTA Protocol on Competition Policy, review of merger control frameworks, diagnostics of national competition regimes, review and drafting of national competition laws, development of best-practice guidance for national competition systems, and capacity-building for competition authorities and policymakers. His assignments have involved institutions and programmes supported by the European Union, FCDO, UNIDO, Commonwealth Secretariat, GIZ, CUTS International and other development partners.

Leonard is the Founder and Senior Partner of Lex Economicus Advisory, an Abuja-based specialist pan-African law and policy advisory firm focused on competition law, consumer protection, trade and regulatory governance. He is also Principal Consultant at TBE Advisory

Ltd, Founder of the Centre for Trade and Business Environment Advocacy (CTBA), and Convener of the Competition Policy and Law Africa Network (CPLAN).



Dr. Vellah Kedogo Kigwiru is a dynamic legal/political science scholar, practitioner, and policymaker with over 10 years of experience in technology, competition, human rights, data protection, artificial intelligence, and consumer protection enforcement in Africa and the European Union (EU). She holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Laws from the University of Nairobi, a postgraduate diploma from the Kenya School of Law, and a PHD from the Technical University of Munich, Germany, awarded with high distinction (Magna cum Laude).

She is currently a Research Fellow at the Chair for International Relations, Munich School of Politics and Public Policy (HfP) at the Technical University of Munich (TUM), as well as a Friedrich Schiedel Fellow for Technology in Society at the TUM Think Tank at HfP. At the TUM, she has taught courses on ‘Competition Law and Policy in Emerging Markets’ and ‘Regulating Competition in Africa’s Digital Markets’. Vella’s work is informed by in-depth academic knowledge, empirical research and comparative work. She has undertaken qualitative and quantitative research, interviewing African competition agencies and legal practitioners on the enforcement of competition law at the national, regional, and AfCFTA levels, which has culminated in publications that have won international awards, such as the article titled ‘Supranational or Cooperative? Rethinking the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement Competition Protocol Institutional Design, which won the 2024 Concurrence Antitrust Writing Awards. By bridging theory and practice in competition law enforcement, she provides training and capacity-building on competition law for regional competition authorities and the AfCFTA Competition Protocol in COMESA, EAC, CEMAC, ECOWAS, and UEMOA.



Dr. Anass Mahfoudi holds a PhD in Economics from Mohammed V University in Rabat. He is currently an Expert at the Competition Council of Morocco, where he works on economic and competition-related issues. He previously served as a PMO Officer at the Moroccan Customs Administration.



Uche Allison

Country Head of Legal

Uche Stanley Allison is a strategic legal leader and the current Country Head of Legal at Jumia Nigeria. He has over 19 years of legal expertise spanning corporate governance, energy, supply chain management, infrastructure, finance, and regulatory advocacy. Before joining Jumia, he advised on large-scale energy and transit projects at Duport Midstream Company Limited and First Metro Infrastructure Limited

He previously held leadership roles at BUA Group and GMC Logistics Limited, where he managed legal and regulatory operations within the FMCG and logistics sectors. Earlier in

his career, he established the legal department at Eartholeum Networks Limited and served as an Associate at Sower & Messuarius Solicitors.

Uche is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association (2007), a Certified Data Protection Officer and a Certified International Trade Logistics Specialist. He holds an MBA in Supply Chain Management from the Malaysia University of Science and Technology, a PGC in International Finance and Banking Law from the University of Liverpool, and an LL.B. from the University of Abuja.



Pren-Tsilya Boa-Guehe

Head of Pan-African Institutions - Government Affairs & Public Policy Google

For nearly two decades, Pren-Tsilya Boa-Guehe has helped to advance humanitarian, economic, health, environmental, and tech policies in Africa. This included through diplomatic roles as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Organizations, Bureau of African Affairs, and overseas assignments in Mali, Morocco, and Ethiopia. While serving as Economic Officer at the U.S. Mission to the African Union, Pren-Tsilya spearheaded U.S. commercial advocacy efforts on the African Continental Free Trade Area. Before joining the State Department, she led a non-profit organization that provided humanitarian assistance in Cote d'Ivoire.

Pren-Tsilya currently serves as Google's Head for Pan-African Institutions, Government Affairs & Public Policy, where she oversees policy engagement with the African Union Commission, UN Economic Commission for Africa, African Development Bank, among other regional organizations.

She previously served as a Board Member for the Pickering & Rangel Fellows Association, which is dedicated to increasing diversity among American diplomats.

Outside work, Pren-Tsilya is an emerging author and avid golfer. She is passionate about leveraging technology to drive inclusive economic growth.



Natasha Afinogenova, Corporate Counsel at Google

Natasha Afinogenova serves as Legal Counsel at Google, where she oversees Google's competition law compliance across a diverse and complex region that includes the Middle East, Africa, and the countries of the former Soviet Union. Her work involves navigating intricate regulatory landscapes, advising on antitrust matters, and ensuring that Google's operations align with competition rules locally and internationally. She holds a law degree from the Russian Law Academy and a Master of Public Administration from the State University of New York. Natasha is currently based in Dubai.



Mr. Saïd Kechida is an economist and a competition expert at OECD's Competition Division. He is responsible for Africa and the Middle East leading projects on a wide range of competition law and policy issues, including peer reviews, market studies and competition assessments. At the OECD, he held different positions since 2007, first at the Private Sector Development Division and the Investment Division where he co-authored a

number of Business Climate and Investment Policy Reviews in Africa, the Middle East and South-East Asia. He also served as Senior Advisor for MENA at the Office of the Secretary-General and later as Senior Advisor at the Countries Studies Branch of the Economics Department where he co-authored economic surveys. Mr. Kechida also served as Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Tunisia from 2014 to 2016. He holds a Diploma in Economics from the University of Stuttgart, Germany and a Master in Business Sciences from the Normandy Business School, France.



Maria Jaspers is Director of Policy and Strategy at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Competition (DG Competition), a position she has held since April 2026. In this role, she oversees five units responsible for policy development and case support across antitrust, merger control, state aid, the Digital Markets Act, and the Foreign Subsidies Regulation. Her portfolio also covers the European Competition Network, private enforcement and international relations, placing her at the centre of the EU's competition policy design and coordination.

Prior to this appointment, she served for five years as Director of the Cartels Directorate in DG Competition, where she led the Commission's enforcement actions against anticompetitive agreements.

Maria Jaspers joined the European Commission in 2001 and has since held several senior management positions within DG Competition. She is a Swedish-qualified lawyer and holds a Master of European Law from the Europa-Institute in Saarbrücken.



Derek Lötter is specialist in African competition law, recognised for his thought leadership and providing clients innovative and business-centric solutions. Derek provides advice with respect to investment strategy, public interest, and the interaction between competition and IP law, consumer protection and international trade.

Derek has been involved in ground-breaking matters across Africa including South Africa, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Botswana.

He has advised on, and appeared before, national competition authorities across the Continent including before the Competition Tribunal in South Africa, the COMESA Committee for Initial Determination, the Tanzanian Fair Competition Tribunal and the Ethiopian Appellate Tribunal (where he was recognised by the Appellate Tribunal as an expert in COMESA law).

He was recognised for his contribution to COMESA competition law during the COMESA Competition Commission 10 Years Anniversary celebrations and has been invited to participate in all the COMESA validation conferences.

Derek has provided advice to regulators and government departments including the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition in South Africa in several matters before the Competition Tribunal. He prosecuted the first cartel case on behalf of the Namibian Competition Commission (NCC) and advised the NCC in complaint proceedings involving medical aid funds in Namibia (forming part of the first Special Committee to hear oral representations under the Namibian Competition Act).

Derek participated on behalf of business in the deliberations facilitated at the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) in respect of the 2019 amendments to the South African Competition Act.

Derek has been consistently ranked as a Band 1 competition lawyer by Chambers and as a leading lawyer by Legal 500. He has been recognised in Who's Who Legal: Thought Leaders – Competition (2020 to 2024) and is also recognised as a leading competition lawyer by IFLR 1000 and Best Lawyers. He received the ILO Client Choice Award for South Africa in the category of Competition & Antitrust.



Teddy Soobramanien, PhD – Chief Executive Officer, COMESA Business Council

With over 25 years of international experience in trade negotiations, policy implementation, business development, and organisational management, Dr. Teddy Soobramanien brings a unique set of skills, perspectives, and leadership qualities to enhance the participation of developing countries in the global trading system. He is currently the CEO of the COMESA Business Council (CBC).

Teddy has held several leading positions at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the United Nations (UN), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Commonwealth, the UK Government, the African, Caribbean and Pacific States-European Union (ACP-EU), TradeCom Facility, and the Mauritius Mission to the UN in Geneva. He has steered to success many of the programs he has been responsible for, including the Aid for Trade Hub and the Spokes Programme. He has also implemented several private sector development projects aiming to boost regional and global trade.

He is widely published and a regular speaker on international trade issues



Mr. Adrian Raphael Njau is the Trade and Policy Advisor of the East African Business Council (EABC). Prior to the current role, Mr. Njau served as the Acting Executive Director at EABC for one year and seven months. He holds a Master's Degree in International Trade and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Dar es Salaam. His academic credentials are complemented by professional certifications and specialized training in trade, investment, policy, and regional integration from institutions in Switzerland, Singapore, Sweden, and South Africa, among others.

With over 25 years of experience, Mr. Njau has significantly contributed to research and policy advocacy aimed at reducing cost of doing business, trade barriers, enhancing competitiveness & market access for East African Community (EAC) businesses and interpreting various regional and international agreements such as the EAC Protocols, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the EAC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement. His efforts have been instrumental in fostering a business-friendly environment in East Africa, demonstrated by his commitment to capacity-building initiatives that empower businesses to leverage trade and investment opportunities. Mr. Njau is well-versed in public-private dialogue and the formulation of business-centric policies to support the EAC region's integration agenda.

Mr. Adrian Njau has served as member of Executive Committee/Board of Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA). IUCEA's main purpose is to promote and coordinate the development of higher quality education in EAC.

As the Trade & Policy Advisor, Mr. Njau leads the Policy Advocacy & Public-Private Dialogue and Partnership & Programme Departments the key two departments in charge of leading the EABC Secretariat in implementing EABC Strategic Plan and Policy Advocacy Agenda, in collaboration with National Private Sector Associations in East Africa, EABC members, the business community, private sector stakeholders and development partners.



Shiphra Chisha is the President and Co-Founder of the African Women in Business ("AWIB"), a Pan-African organisation representing the interests of all women entrepreneurs across industries, with chapters across SADC. Director of Programmes at Graça Machel Trust.

African Women in Business provides women with access to trade and investments in eight (8) priority sectors and currently looking at how women entrepreneurs will benefit from the implementation of the AfCFTA. AWIB's primary objective is to strengthen the wealth creating capacity of its members. AWIB aims to promote intraregional trade partnerships for women in business on the continent.

She is a Development Expert with over 20years experience in ensuring sustainable socio-economic development (SED) through collaboration with mining companies, government, MSMEs (SMME) and other stakeholders.

She is a member of the SADC Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade Steering Committee and Working Group, a Steering Committee Member of The Trade Forward Southern Africa (TFSA). Advisory Board Member of the University of South African Graduate School of Business Leadership, Advisory Board Member of African Women in Power and Energy, and Pan-African Tech Foundation.

A member of the South African BRICS Future Skills, Manufacturing and Mining Working Groups, a member of International Women's Forum and Women in Mining South Africa and a fellow of the Institute of Directors Southern Africa.

Her previous roles include the Global Executive Head of the BRICS Institute, Chief Executive Officer of the Sishen Iron Ore Mine Community Trust, Non-Executive Director of the Anglo-American Coal, Chairman of the Anglo American Inyosi Coal Trust and Non-Executive Director of Continental Coal Limited.

She is a highly accomplished executive, entrepreneur, director of companies, and development expert across the continent, she has over 20 years' experience in successfully developing and implementing company and business model strategies. A respected

strategic thinker with extensive experience in SED, CSI, finance, investments, banking with valuable stakeholder management and leadership experience.

She holds a Master's in Business Administration, Bachelor Commerce in Economics from the University of Johannesburg and Strategic Leadership Programme (SLP) from Gordon Institute of Business Science and BRICS China Executive Leadership Development Programme (ELDP)



ANDREAS STARGARD

A co-founding senior member of Primerio, Andreas Stargard is legal, strategic, and business advisor to companies and individuals across the globe. His focus areas are antitrust & competition advice, white-collar counselling, contract litigation & negotiation, and resolution of global business disputes, including cartel work, corruption allegations and internal investigations, intellectual property & distribution issues. Clients commend him for providing high-quality work product, strict client focus, and timely, concrete advice that stays on point.

He has written and spoken extensively on business litigation, antitrust & competition-law issues. Andreas also advises clients on corporate compliance programmes that conform to local as well as global government standards, and has handled key strategic merger-notification issues, including evaluation of filing requirements, avoidance strategies, cross-jurisdictional cooperation, and the like. Andreas is a co-editor of the Competition Policy International Africa column.

Andreas has also been a speaker on various panels at business and academic conferences in South Africa on the proposed criminalisation of competition law offences, pending class action legislation and other topics.



Alex Theophilus Emuwa

Theo is a partner at AELEX, one of the largest firms in West Africa, with offices in Nigeria and in Ghana. Theo studied engineering at Imperial College, London and then proceeded to the English bar where he got called in Gray's Inn. He is admitted in England & Wales, Nigeria and Ghana. He has been practising law for over 35 years and is considered one of the top tax and commercial lawyers in Nigeria. He regularly advises multinationals on their investments and acquisitions in Nigeria and Ghana. Amongst transactions that he has advised on are: the USD1.2 billion acquisition of a Nigerian mobile network operator by Celtel; the USD580 million acquisition of a Nigerian fruit juice company by The Coca Cola Company.



Tombuyou Modjona-Esso DANDAKOU has been a lawyer at the Togolese Bar since October 30, 2008, after completing his university studies and obtaining his Certificate of Aptitude for the Legal Profession in December 2007 from the University of Lomé.

Between 2007 and 2009, he pursued and earned a Master II degree in Cyberspace Law from Gaston Berger University in Saint Louis, Senegal.

Since November 2013, he has been a certified Industrial Property Attorney with the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI).

Certified in arbitration law by the Collège de Paris in 2022, Tombuyou Modjona-Esso DANDAKOU has been registered on the list of arbitrators and mediators of the International Center for Mediation and Arbitration of Lomé (CIAM) since May 2023. With his background as a business lawyer, he founded and has managed a law firm since February 2013, assisting clients (both institutional and individual) in all areas of business law, whether they operate within the OHADA and OAPI zones or elsewhere.

He is interested in all issues related to the operationalization of the AfCFTA and participates in its activities, the most recent being the capacity-building workshop on AfCFTA dispute resolution held in Abidjan from May 4 to 6, 2026.