

Biographies of panellists

21st June, Rome

Mr Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme



Amir Mahmoud Abdulla became the Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme in March 2009.

Since February 2017, Mr Abdulla is based in Rome from where he oversees the Regional Directors and leads the implementation of the new corporate architecture aligning WFP's strategy, human resources, programme structure, financial management, and planning, monitoring and reporting to help achieve the

Sustainable Development Goals at country level.

In 2015 and 2016, Mr Abdulla was based in New York to enhance WFP's engagement with the United Nations system, Member States and key stakeholders. In addition to his WFP responsibilities, he was appointed Vice-Chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) from January 2016 until November 2017, and facilitated the inter-agency discussions around the repositioning of the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and related reform initiatives.

Mr Abdulla is a graduate of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University, where he read Electrical Engineering and graduated in June 1978 with a BSc Honours degree. He is an Associate of The City & Guilds of London Institute.

Mr Noel Koutéra Bataka, Ministry of Agriculture Togo



Koutéra Kouminala'a Bataka gathers more than 15 years of experience in the development of instruments for the transformation of the agricultural sector, as well as the development of agro-industrial enterprises.

In 2009, he joined the civil service and, within the National Agricultural Investment Program for Food Security (PNIASA), he led the development and implementation of agricultural projects.

Between 2014 and 2016, he became Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Strategic Coordinator of PNIASA. In 2018, he was the Coordinator of the Agricultural Risk Incentive Mechanism based on risk sharing (MIFA) and, since 2019, he is the responsible for the modernization of Togolese agriculture, a milestone of the Togolese National Development

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Plan (PND). Mr Bataka is an agronomist trained at the universities of Lomé, Paris Dauphine and ENA Strasbourg.

Ms Rahel Moges, Managing Director, EthioGreen Production and Industry Plc



Rahel Moges is an Ethiopian born entrepreneur currently managing her own company – the Ethiogreen Production and Industry PLC. After her Diploma in Ethiopia, she moved to United States and she learned and developed most of her skills in finance and stock market during her experience at Linco Private Ledger. Further to that, she gained her effective communication skills while working at Verizon Communications.

In 2011 she moved back to Ethiopia, where she founded her own company and began processing and exporting fresh 100 %Teff Injera (staple grain to make Ethiopian Bread). She is board member of African Women Entrepreneur Program (AWEP).

Ms Carla Montesi, Director Planet and Prosperity, Directorate General International Cooperation, European Union



Carla Montesi is the Director for Planet and Prosperity at the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission. Previously, Ms Montesi was Director at the European Commission's Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

Formerly a lawyer in Italy who specialised in European affairs at the College of Europe in Bruges, Ms Montesi's earlier career encompassed diverse responsibilities in the field of EU external policy for development and cooperation both at Headquarters and in EU Delegations in Africa, as well as experience in the Cabinet of EU Commissioner Emma Bonino for External Policy and Humanitarian Affairs.

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Ms Nicole Wendyam Ouedraogo, President, ASY Cooperative, Burkina Faso



Nicole Wend-Yam Ouedraogo is the President of ASY Burkina, which is a cooperative exporting shea butter and sesame in Europe and Canada. It has 3.200 members in total.

Economist-manager with a DESS in Entrepreneurship, with expertise in micro-economic analysis, strategic planning, multi-stakeholder process facilitation and business management. She has more than sixteen years of experience, including the financial development of agribusiness.

Furthermore, she has supported companies and associations of producers, processors and traders in creating and developing markets, developing agribusiness, marketing and building commercial relations, particularly in the sectors of shea butter, honey, mango, cashew, rice, sesame and banana.

During her professional career, Nicole Ouedraogo facilitated commercial relations between FADEFISO, RPBHC and OLVEA for an average annual supply of 2000 tonnes of shea almonds. Furthermore, she participated in the drafting of an advocacy memorandum for a better organization of the sector and a better positioning of women, in collaboration with the Table Filière Karité (TFK).

Ms Thouraya Triki, Director, Sustainable Production, Markets and Institutions Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development



Before joining IFAD, Triki worked at the African Development Bank (AfDB) as Manager in the Microeconomics, Institutions and Development Impact Division, Chief Economist Complex, at its headquarters in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. She managed the division's knowledge products as well as a team providing support to AfDB's non-sovereign lending operations.

From 2013 to 2017, she was Chief Country Economist at AfDB North Africa Regional Department based in Tunis, Tunisia, with a particular focus on entrepreneurship, public-private partnerships and financial sector development. She also played a leading role in setting up the AfDB PPP Hub for North Africa.

From 2008 to 2013 Triki held a senior and then principal economist position at AfDB's research department where she was part of the Additionality and Development Outcome

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Assessment (ADOA) team. Before joining the AfDB, Triki spent about 10 years in various positions in academia – teaching finance in Canada, France and Tunisia, and managing and consulting with private sector businesses. Triki holds a PhD in finance from HEC Montréal.

Moderator: Ms Annie Mutamba, Co-founder of Meridia Partners and Africa Communications Week



Annie Mutamba is a strategic communications consultant and the co-founder of Meridia Partners, the first Brussels-based public affairs firm specializing in EU-Africa relations.

She started her career in Washington D.C. at the Africa Policy Information Center (now Africa Action), the oldest organisation in the US dedicated to African affairs, before managing communication programs within the European Chemical Industry

Council (Cefic) in Brussels.

Since 2010 she is also a lecturer within the Executive Master in European Public Affairs and Communication at IHECS, Brussels. In 2017 she co-founded Africa Communications Week, an international platform that brings together the world's top communications leaders to impact Africa's economic transformation.