



## Global Launch

# A REGENERATION:

*Implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS): UNDP's Contribution*

## Speaker's Profiles

9 December 2021  
9.00 am – 11.00 am

## **A REGENERATION:**

### **Implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS): UNDP's Contribution**

#### **Speakers' Profiles**

*(Listed alphabetically by last name)*



**Mr. Bankole Adeoye**

**African Union Commissioner  
for Political Affairs, Peace &  
Security**

Mr. Bankole Adeoye is a Pan-African Career Diplomat with over 3 and half decades of experience. A strong advocate of Africa's regional integration and inclusive partnerships, Ambassador Adeoye has devoted his career to building synergy across Africa for good governance, durable champions the peace, security and sustainable development.

Ambassador Adeoye assumed office as the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace & Security on 15th March 2021, having been elected in February 2021 during the 34th AU Summit. Prior to this appointment, he served as Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the AU and the UNECA and Ambassador to Ethiopia with concurrent accreditation to Djibouti from 2017 to 2020.

With educational qualifications including B.A. (Political Science & History – Ife) and MSc (Political Science. – Lagos) in 1982 and 1987 respectively, Ambassador Adeoye is also a Commonwealth Chevening / British Council Scholar who obtained Postgraduate Certificate in Diplomatic Studies (Distinction) from University of Oxford.



**Ms. Marie Laure Akin-Olugbade**  
Country Manager for West  
Africa, AfDB

Ms. Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade is the Country Manager for the West Africa Regional Development and Business Delivery Office, following her appointment on 24 November 2016. She is responsible for management oversight over country resident representatives and portfolio operations in key countries and serves as the deputy to the Director General in the overall management of the regional office operations.

Ms. Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade is an experienced finance and development professional, with close to 25 years of relevant strategic, technical, operational and managerial experience in positions of increasing complexity and responsibility at the African Development Bank. She has managed complex private sector and public sector operations and brings a strong experience in building effective public-private sector partnerships. She had spent the first 20 years of her career in finance and treasury positions within the African Development Bank. She was a Manager in the Treasury Department where she oversaw new financial product development, financial innovation and risk management services. She had primary responsibility for debt issuance in African debt capital markets and developed local currency structuring capabilities in African currencies to fund transactions and promote the development of African capital markets. She led the Bank team that authored the second edition of the African Fixed Income and Derivatives Guidebook published in 2010.

Ms. Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade is a graduate of Université Paris-Dauphine, France and Université Pantheon-Sorbonne, France with Masters' degrees in Applied Economics and Management.



**H.E. Mr. Mohamed Bazoum**  
President of the Republic of  
Niger

Mr. Mohamed Bazoum is the current president of the Republic of Niger. He has been in office since 2 April 2021.

Prior to his election, he served as the President of the Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism (PNDS-Tarayya). He also served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1995 to 1996, and from 2011 to 2015.

He was Minister of State at the President's Office from 2015 to 2016, and was Minister of State for the Interior between 2016 and the summer of 2020, when he resigned to focus on the 2020–21 presidential race.



**Salif Berthé**  
Storyteller

Storyteller, actor, musician, Salif Berthé, called the Bird-Storyteller, is a graduate of the National Institute of Arts of Mali. He is the national coordinator of the network of storytellers “Afrifogo”, Director of the “Festival du Conte et de l’Oralité de Bamako” “NAAMU” and President of the association “Sac-à-Parole”.

Always holding his guitar on his shoulder strap or his Kamalen n’goni, he sings legends and tells myths. Master of the word, complete artist and committed cultural agent, Salif Berthé has performed on many African stages, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Congo, Niger, Senegal. He is also solicited in Europe at the Namur Festival in Belgium, in several festivals in France, Switzerland, Canada and elsewhere.



**Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye**  
Under Secretary-General  
and Special Coordinator for  
Development in the Sahel

Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye is currently the Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel. He has held several positions in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), including as Assistant Administrator and Director for the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (2018-2019), Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa (2013-2018), Chief of Staff of the Administrator, and Director of the Executive Office (2009-2013), and as Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States (2006-2009). Prior to that, he served as Deputy Special Representative for the United Nations Operations in Côte d’Ivoire and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Abidjan. Prior to joining the United Nations, Mr. Dieye held several senior positions within the Government of Senegal.

Mr. Dieye is Ingénieur Statisticien Economiste from the Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques (INSEE), Paris. He studied Advanced and Specialized Mathematics, at Lycée National du Parc, Lyon and holds a Masters in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague.



**H.E. Dr. Issa Doubragne**  
Minister of Economy, Chad

H.E. Dr. Issa Doubragne is currently the Minister of Economy, Development Planning and International Cooperation of the Republic of Chad, following his appointment on 24 December 2017. His career has spanned work in the public and nonprofit sectors. He is a passionate advocate of development strategies with a focus on beneficiary participation, in a transitioning context from humanitarian to development.

Since 2013, Dr. Doubragne has been the Founder and National Director of an NGO named Humanitarian Initiative for Local Development. His leadership and advocacy has been focusing on peaceful coexistence between refugees and indigenous people in Goré (south of Chad) and increased access to agricultural land for refugees. Concurrently to holding that position, he was a teacher in Geography and Urbanization at the University of Moundou.

Dr. Doubragne earned his Master's degree and PhD in Geography at the University of Paris I, Pantheon Sorbonne.



**Mr. Tony Elumelu**  
Founder Tony Elumelu  
Foundation

Mr. Tony O. Elumelu is an economist by training, a serial entrepreneur, and philanthropist.

He is the Founder and Chairman of Heirs Holdings Ltd, an African proprietary investment company, with interests in power, oil and gas, financial services, hospitality, real estate and healthcare, present in twenty African countries.

Tony is known for his significant contribution to entrepreneurship in Africa. In 2010, he created The Tony Elumelu Foundation, which has committed \$100m in a 10-year programme to fund, mentor and train 10,000 African entrepreneurs. The Foundation's mission is inspired by Tony's economic philosophy of Africapitalism, which positions the private sector as the key enabler of economic and social wealth creation in Africa.

He sits on numerous public and social sector boards, including the global advisory board of the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL), USAID's Private Capital Group Partners Forum (PCG), and is Co-Chair of the Aspen Institute's Global Food Security Working Group. Tony serves on the international advisory board of the Washington DC based think tank the Wilson Center and is a member of the Global Advisory Council of the Harvard Kennedy School's Centre for Public Leadership. He is also a member of the World Economic Forum Community of Chairmen.



**Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa**  
Regional Director,  
Bureau for Africa, UNDP

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa became UNDP's Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa in 2018. In this role she leads UNDP's work supporting 46 countries in Africa to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms. Eziakonwa has over 20 years of service with the United Nations, most recently as UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Ethiopia since 2015. Before that, she served as Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Uganda and Lesotho, and held several posts with the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as Chief of the Africa Section in New York and in duty stations in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Ms. Eziakonwa holds a Master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, with a focus on Economic and Political Development, as well as a Bachelor's of Education degree, English and Literary Studies from the University of Benin, Nigeria.



**Ms. Ragnamwinde Eldaa Koama**  
Founder: IMPROV'YOU  
President: Association Fenêtre  
d'Afrique

A gifted speaker, master of ceremonies, coach, and trainer, Ragnimwendé Eldaa Koama commands admiration and respect. In Burkina Faso and on the international stage, she has won several prizes in public speaking. She represented Burkina Faso in debates on several topics including youth entrepreneurship and moderated Business fora in the framework of events held with various international institutions (UNDP, UNFPA, Embassies, CSR Forum, etc.).

As an engineer with a master's degree in computer systems management, she worked as a project manager and subsequently as a business developer in a digital incubator. She is now the president of the Association Fenêtre d 'Afrique and founder of Improv'you, a multilingual events and capacity building agency based in Ouagadougou.



**Maralinké  
Slam Group**

This group of spoken words artists is composed of a female trio who has grabbed the attention of the cultural and artistic world in Mali and far beyond. The “Maralinké” is the best Malian spoken word band (“slam” in French). Comprising three young girls passionate about art and culture – Aminata Bamby Konaté aka Slambamby, Mariam Koita and Mally Kéita “Mally la Slameuse” -, Malalinké perform on the stage of most major Malian cultural events.

This innovative trio generally touches upon topics relating to challenges affecting Malian society and the African continent. Recurring themes include, among others, youth, the status of women in society and inter-ethnic relations.



**Moona  
Artist**

Born on October 10, 1983, Moonaya, of her real name Awa Mounaya Yanni, is a young Beninese artist of Senegalese origins, who makes her first steps in Hip Hop in 2004 in Benin. Her musical adventure begins in her family circle with a father, musician but also patron of the art who welcomes at the family house in Cotonou famous artists such as the band Kassav, Rochero and Milia Bell, Aicha Koné or Edou Bokandé.

Trained as a lawyer, Moona manages to combine studies and music. She releases her debut album in 2009, A Fleur 2 Mo’ in which she offers a musical ambiance that spans from hip hop to modern music such as coupé-décalé, dancehall, and other backgrounds sonorous softer and muffled.

In 2006, she joins the West African hip hop collective AURA as the Benin representative. Besides, reiterating her engagement towards the youth, Moona participates in 2009 in the project “Answers Solutions Knowledge”, a campaign of awareness against the HIV/AIDS initiated by AIESEC Senegal in collaboration with UNESCO-BREDA and for which she becomes a trainer. Moona is one of the most promising example of how Hip Hop and social engagement and activism remains intrinsically intertwined in the mind of its African artists.



**Ms. Diara Ndiaye**  
Journalist

French Senegalese born in Melun, France, Mrs. Diara Ndiaye, is a journalist, presenter and columnist of radio and television and a media enthusiast.

Ms. Ndiaye is also committed to expanding access to education in Africa. In 2015, she created the association “L’ABCD Pour Tous”, which promotes the education of children in rural areas, especially young girls. The “ABCD Pour Tous” aims to ensure, support, and develop the schooling of children in Senega. Every year, her association raises funds to tackle school drop-out and address children’s needs.

In 2019, Diara Ndiaye was spotted by the prestigious International Visitors Program, led by the U.S. Department of State, and travels to the United States to meet different public and private organizations and participate in efforts against gender-based violence.



**Mr. Sobel Aziz Ngom**  
Founder and Executive  
Director of  
Social Change Factory

Mr. Sobel Aziz Ngom, Founder and Executive Director of Social Change Factory

Mr. Sobel Aziz Ngom is a Senegalese entrepreneur and a member of the Generation Unlimited Global Board. After graduate studies in communication at the Sup de Co Business School in Dakar, he joined Ashoka in 2010 as Africa manager of the Change Makers program.

In this capacity, he was responsible for building and maintaining a network of over 2,000 high-potential entrepreneurs in Africa. In 2011, he joined the People Input team, the first digital agency in sub-Saharan Africa.

Particularly interested in development and policy issues, he created a digital marketing program for NGOs and actors in public life.

As an entrepreneur, he started the Social Change Factory, a civic leadership center for young people. He represented Senegal at the Young Africa Summit, in 2012, and at the United Nations Global Youth Policy Forum, in 2014.





**Mr. Anthony Ngororano**

**UNDP Resident Representative**

Mr. Anthony Ngororano is the current Resident Representative of UNDP in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, following his appointment on 20 May 2019.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Ngororano was Chief, Executive Board Branch in the Office of the UNFPA Executive Director in New York since January 2018. He also served as UN Women Country Representative in Haiti (2016-2018), Representative a.i. in Malawi (2015-2016) and Chief, Africa Section in UN Women HQ (2013-2015). From 2011 to 2013, he served as Senior Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister of Rwanda at the rank of Permanent Secretary. Before this Anthony served as a Country Programme Adviser with UNDP in the Regional Bureau for Africa in New York 2009 -2011, prior to which he served from 2004 in a range of policy and programme roles with UNDP in Nigeria, Zambia and Rwanda. Earlier in his career Anthony worked as Regional Management Associate with Citigroup in Kenya and Tanzania. He started his career as an Economist with Uganda's Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Anthony holds a Master's degrees in Development Economics and International Relations from the University of East Anglia and the University of Sussex. He also holds an MA (Honours) degree in Economics from the University of Edinburgh.

He speaks English and French.



**Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi**

**CEO - SE4ALL**

Damilola Ogunbiyi is CEO of Sustainable Energy for All, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy.

Before joining SEforALL, Mrs. Ogunbiyi was the first female Managing Director of the Nigerian Rural Electrification Agency and was responsible for successfully negotiating within 18 months the Nigerian Electrification Project, which is a USD 550 million facility (World Bank USD 350 million and AfDB USD 200 million) to rapidly construct solar mini-grids and deploy solar home systems across Nigeria. She was also responsible for the Energizing Education Programme, which will provide uninterrupted electricity to 37 federal universities and seven teaching hospitals through off-grid captive power.

She also conceptualized the Energizing Economies Initiative, which provides sustainable and affordable off-grid power solutions to economic clusters, including markets and industrial clusters in Nigeria. When completed, 1.2 million SMEs will be connected to uninterrupted power supply.



**Ms. Claudia del Re**

**EU Special Representative  
for the Sahel**

Ms. Emanuela Claudia Del Re was a Member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies in March 2018 (Movimento 5 Stelle) until June 2021 when she resigned following her appointment as EU Special Representative for the Sahel. She has been a member of the Foreign Affairs Commission at the Italian Parliament until June 2021.

In April 2021 she was appointed President of the Standing Committee on the implementation of Agenda 2030 and sustainable development (until June 2021).

Ms. Del Re served as Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in both President Giuseppe Conte Government I (from August 2018 to September 2019) and President Giuseppe Conte Government II (from August 2020 to February 2021). She was also former Secretary of State to Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in both President Conte Government I (from June to August 2018) and President Conte Government II (from September 2019 to August 2020).

Italian scholar, sociologist, she is an expert in foreign policy, international relations, geopolitics, Conflict Studies, migrations, refugee issues, minorities, religious phenomena, connection axes and energy networks.



**Dr. Alioune Sall**

**Executive Director,  
African Futures Institutes**

Dr. Alioune Sall, who was born in Senegal in 1951, holds a Ph.D. in Sociology. He was regional coordinator for the National Long Term Perspective Studies project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from 1997 to 2003 in Abidjan and is a recognized specialist in prospective foresight in Africa.

He is Executive Director of the African Futures Institute (AFI), the pan-African think tank he founded in Pretoria (South Africa) in 2003 and, as an expert, supports a number of prospective foresight programs launched in various countries. He has edited several collective publications, which include, with Jacques Giri, *Africa 2025: What Possible Futures for Sub-Saharan Africa?* (Unisa Press, Pretoria, 2003).



**Mr. Achim Steiner**  
**UNDP Administrator**

Achim Steiner became UNDP Administrator on 19 June 2017. The United Nations General Assembly confirmed his appointment following his nomination by Secretary-General António Guterres. In April 2021, the General Assembly confirmed his appointment to a second four-year term beginning in June 2021.

Mr. Steiner is also the Vice-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group, which unites 40 entities of the UN system that work to support sustainable development.

Over nearly three decades, Achim Steiner has been a global leader on sustainable development, climate resilience and international cooperation. He has worked tirelessly to champion sustainability, economic growth and equality for the vulnerable, and has been a vocal advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prior to joining UNDP, he was Director of the Oxford Martin School and Professorial Fellow of Balliol College, University of Oxford. Mr. Steiner has served across the

United Nations system, looking at global challenges from both a humanitarian and a development perspective. He led the United Nations Environment Programme (2006-2016), helping governments invest in clean technologies and renewable energy. He was also Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Achim Steiner previously held other notable positions including Director General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and Secretary General of the World Commission on Dams.



**Mr. Ousman Touray**

**Ambassador of The Pan African Heritage World**

Mr. Ousman Touray is a prominent youth leader whose focus is on development and who firmly believes in Pan Africanism. He completed his Bachelor's degree in Development Studies at the University of The Gambia.

Mr. Touray made headlines last year after a video showcased him expressing an optimistic vision about Africa and the potentials of the continent. He talks about contemporary challenges facing the African continent and why its youth "have to stay in Africa, develop Africa and then show the world that Africa has a better image" than the one portrayed in the West.

He recently completed a mentorship programme in Rwanda, a country where he is being awarded a scholarship for a post-graduate programme on public policies.

Recognizing his work which stretches across the African continent, in providing socio-economic development content and pattern for growth, the University of The Gambia recently named Mr. Touray as the University Ambassador.



**Amaichata Salamanta**

**Storyteller**

Lulled by the songs, legends, myths, and tales of the banks of the Niger, actress, animator storyteller, Amaichata Salamanta, the river storyteller, belongs to a family that still holds the secrets of the river.

Her lyrics, songs and instrument (the balafon) constitute a vehicle to showcase the wisdom of the Bozo country.



**Ms. Ifeyinwa Ugochukwu**  
CEO of Tony Elumelu  
Foundation – Private sector  
perspectives

Ms. Ifeyinwa Ugochukwu is the CEO of the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF), a leading African philanthropy committed to empowering African entrepreneurs from the 54 countries across the continent. She is passionate about entrepreneurship and innovation and is a firm advocate of the principle that the empowerment of African Entrepreneurs is the solution to tackling Africa's key challenges – unemployment and poverty.

In her current role, Ms. Ugochukwu is leading efforts to position the private sector as the key driver of economic and social wealth creation in Africa, focusing on strengthening relationships between the African and the global entrepreneurship ecosystem. She brings to her current role over 15 years of corporate experience. Prior to her appointment as CEO of the Foundation in 2019, Ms. Ugochukwu held the position of Director of Partnerships & Evaluation at TEF, where she introduced a sustainable model of scaling the impact of the Tony Elumelu Foundation's \$100million Entrepreneurship Programme, by forging strategic partnerships with public and private stakeholders in the global development ecosystem.

A Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Ifeyinwa holds a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Wales. She is also an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and holds a post graduate degree in Business and Executive Coaching from the Integral Africa Institute, Cape Town, South Africa. Currently, Ifeyinwa serves as the co-chair of the Steering Committee at UNICEF Generation Unlimited (GenU) Nigeria.

