

# Catalyzing Macroeconomic Policy for Development in sub-Saharan Africa

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## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee (KEYNOTE SPEAKER)**

*Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee is the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 2003 he co-founded the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) with Esther Duflo and Sendhil Mullainathan, and he remains one of the Lab's Directors. Banerjee is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Econometric Society. He is a winner of the Infosys Prize a co-recipient of the 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for his groundbreaking work in development economics research. Abhijit is the author of a large number of articles and five books, including *Poor Economics*, which won the Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year, and *Good Economics for Hard Times*, both co-authored with Esther Duflo. He is the editor of three more books and has directed two documentary films. Banerjee has served on the U.N. Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. He is a trustee of Save the Children USA and the Chair of the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel and the Global Advisory Board for Covid-19 Response of the government of West Bengal.

### **Vera Songwe (KEYNOTE SPEAKER)**

*Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Liquidity & Sustainability Facility (LSF); Co-Chair, High-Level Expert Panel on Climate Finance*

Vera Songwe is Chair of the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility. Songwe is co-chair of the High-Level Panel on Climate Finance. She was previously Under-Secretary-General at the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. She is a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Dr. Songwe has been recognized as one of Africa's 100 most influential people in 2020. She recently co-authored (with Eswar Prasad) the book, "Regional Integration in West Africa: Is There a Role for a Single Currency?" She has spent the last three years championing the cause for additional liquidity for emerging markets and the need for a new global financial architecture fit for the 21st century development challenges. She has held a number of senior positions at the World Bank, and the International Finance Corporation. Her main areas of interest are fiscal and monetary policy, innovative financing mechanisms for development, agriculture, energy, and economic governance. She has extensive experience working in Africa, East Asia, Europe and Central Asia and South Asia regions. Prior to joining the Bank, Dr. Songwe was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Southern California and at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Dr. Songwe holds a PhD. in Mathematical Economics from the Center for Operations Research & Econometrics from the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium. She holds a BA in Economics and a BA in Political Science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

### **Chris Canavan**

*Senior Advisor at Lion's Head Global Partners*

Chris Canavan is Senior Advisor at Lion's Head Global Partners. Prior to joining Lion's Head, Chris spent nine years as Director of Global Policy Development for George Soros. Before that he worked for Goldman Sachs for thirteen years, serving as Chief Risk Officer of Goldman's commercial bank, running a credit trading desk, heading the Latin America Debt Capital Markets team, and managing the firm's Latin America sovereign and credit risk. Prior to joining Goldman, Chris taught economics at Boston College and Columbia University. He currently teaches at NYU. Chris has a Ph.D. (Economics) and an M.I.A. (International Affairs) from Columbia University and a B.A. from Oberlin College, where he majored in Economics and Government. He chairs Oberlin's Board of Trustees. He is also chair of the board of the Fund for Global Human Rights and was previously chair of the board of the Institute for New Economic Thinking. He is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

### **Jill Dauchy**

*Founder & CEO, Potomac Group LLC*

Jill Dauchy is the founder and CEO of Potomac Group LLC, a financial advisory firm based in Washington DC that specializes in advising governments sustainable finance and debt management. Jill's career as a trusted advisor to governments and public entities spans more than twenty-five years and over a dozen countries throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Throughout her career she has focused on issues of debt sustainability and restructuring, as well as strategies for stimulating economic growth, ensuring market access, and financing infrastructure. Jill has a particular interest in working with governments and their stakeholders to find innovative financial solutions to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and has been a thought leader on linking sovereign debt to climate and nature outcomes. Jill is also the host of "Sovereign Debt with Jill Dauchy", a podcast on greening the global economy.

### **Dr. Hippolyte Fofack**

*Chief Economist and Director of Research and International Cooperation, African Export-Import Bank*

Dr. Hippolyte Fofack, the Chief Economist and Director of Research and International Cooperation at the African Export-Import Bank, has more than 20 years of experience in the areas of development economics, international trade, banking and international finance and academia. Prior to joining the African Export-Import Bank, he was with the World Bank Group in Washington DC, where he served in several capacities, including as Head of the Macroeconomic and Growth Program. Dr. Fofack holds a master's degree in economics from the University of Lille, France, and an Advanced Degree in International Economics and Finance from the University of Bordeaux, France. After completing his dissertation, "Distribution of Parallel Market Premium Under Stable Alternative Modeling," he was awarded a Ph.D. from American University in Washington DC, USA in 1998. Dr. Fofack is a fellow of the African Academy of Sciences and a member of several other leading professional and scientific organizations, including the American Economic Association, the African Finance and Economic Association. Dr. Fofack has been a Guest Editor of several prominent journals, including the World Bank Economic Review, Economic History of Developing Regions and Journal of African Trade. Dr. Fofack has published extensively and is Editor-in-Chief of Contemporary Issues in African Trade and Trade Finance, and member of several editorial Boards, including the Journal of African Development, the Journal of African Trade, and the Gulf Economics Journal. Dr. Fofack has taught and given lectures in several universities and research institutions

### **Ethan Kapstein**

*Co-Chair, Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, Princeton University*

Ethan B. Kapstein is Co-Director of the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project ([esoc.princeton.edu](http://esoc.princeton.edu)). He also holds an endowed chair at Arizona State University, where he is affiliated with the School of Public Affairs. Kapstein's research and teaching focus on the political economy of development, especially in conflict-affected countries. At Princeton he has supervised MPA policy workshops on such topics as Stabilization Policy; the Civilian Surge to Afghanistan; the Sustainability of Millennium Challenge Corporation projects; and Preventing Violent Extremism in Kenya, and he offers a regular undergraduate course on insurgency. His most recent book, *Exporting Capitalism: Private Enterprise and US Foreign Policy* (Harvard University Press 2022) traces American efforts to promote private sector development across the developing world. An earlier book (with Josh Busby), *AIDS Drugs for All: Social Movements and Market Transformations* (Cambridge University Press 2013), won the Don K. Price Award for best book from the American Political Science Association's section on Science, Technology and Environmental Studies. Kapstein is a retired US naval officer and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

### **Aart Kraay**

*Deputy Chief Economist, World Bank*

Aart Kraay is the World Bank Group Deputy Chief Economist and Director of Development Policy in the Development Economics Vice-Presidency of the World Bank. He joined the World Bank in 1995 after earning a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University (1995), and a B.Sc. in economics from the University of Toronto (1990). His research interests include macroeconomics in developing countries; international capital movements; growth, poverty and inequality; institutions and governance; and applied econometrics. His research on these topics has been published in scholarly journals such as the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, the *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, the *Economic Journal*, the *Journal of Monetary Economics*, the *Journal of International Economics*, and the *Journal of Economic Growth*. He is a member of the editorial board of the *World Bank Research Observer*, former co-editor of the *World Bank Economic Review*, and an associate editor of the *Journal of Development Economics*. He has held visiting positions at the International Monetary Fund and the Sloan School of Management at MIT, and has taught at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

### **Hon. Minister Cina Lawson**

*Togolese Minister, Digital Economy and Transformation*

Cina Lawson is Togo's Minister of Digital Economy and Transformation. Drawing from over 20 years of experience and expertise in digital policy and regulation, she has led Togo's successful transition to an inclusive digital economy. Lawson began her career at the World Bank in Washington, D.C, assisting governments in emerging markets in executing regulatory reforms. Then, worked for Alcatel-Lucent in Paris before joining Orange Group in New York City as Manager of Corporate Strategy and Business Development. As a minister, she transformed the regulatory environment to boost innovation, competition, and private investments. Under her leadership, Togo's digital service penetration increased allowing a majority of the population now to have access to mobile telephony (from 33% in 2010 to 78% in 2021) to mobile internet (from 1% in 2010 to 74% in 2021), and to mobile money (from 1% in 2013 to 57% in 2021). Lawson graduated from Sciences Po Paris and earned a Masters of Public Policy from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.

### **Jacob Mascona**

*Prize Fellow in Economics, History, and Politics, Harvard University*

Jacob Moscona is a Prize Fellow in Economics, History, and Politics at Harvard and a postdoctoral fellow at J-PAL at MIT. His research focuses on development economics, environmental economics, and the economics of innovation. He received his PhD from MIT in 2021 and AB from Harvard in 2016.

### **Ibrahim Mayaki**

*President, Sahel and West Africa Club & Former Chief Executive Officer, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)*

Ibrahim Assane Mayaki of Niger became Honorary President of the Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC) as of January 2019. Dr. Mayaki has been the Chief Executive Officer of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) since 2009. From 2004-09, he served as executive director of Rural Hub, a Dakar-based platform supporting rural development in West and Central Africa. Former Prime Minister of Niger from 1997 to 2000, Dr Mayaki is committed to promoting social dialogue. In 2000, he created the first National Social Dialogue Commission of Niger. He also started a think tank for public policy debate on health and education issues. From 1996-97, he was appointed Minister in charge of African Integration and Co-operation and Minister of Foreign Affairs. He previously worked in the mining sector for about 10 years. Dr Mayaki also has long experience in teaching. In the 1980s, he worked as a professor of public administration in Niger and Venezuela. From 2000 to 2004, Dr Mayaki was a guest professor at the University of Paris XI, where he lectured on international relations. He holds a master's degree from the National School of Public Administration (Enap) in Quebec, Canada and a PhD in administrative science from the University of Paris I in France. Dr Mayaki has become a voice for Africa's future. In his most recent book, "Africa's Critical Choice," he calls for a pan-African roadmap and offers a guide for future generations to address the crucial changes Africa is facing.

### **Atif Mian**

*John H. Laporte, Jr. Class of 1967 Professor of Economics, Public Policy and Finance; Director of the Julis-Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy and Finance, Princeton University*

Atif Mian is John H. Laporte, Jr. Class of 1967 Professor of Economics, Public Policy and Finance at Princeton University, and Director of the Julis-Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy and Finance at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. He holds a bachelor's degree in Mathematics with Computer Science and Ph.D. in Economics from MIT. Prior to joining Princeton in 2012 he taught at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Chicago Booth School of business. Professor Mian's work studies the connections between finance and the macro economy, and has been [published](#) in various academic journals. He is also the co-author of the [critically acclaimed](#) book, [House of Debt](#).

### **Layna Mosley**

*Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University*

Layna Mosley is Professor in the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) and the Department of Politics at Princeton University. Her research focuses on the politics of the global economy. Much of Mosley's [research](#) considers the political economy of sovereign borrowing. She explores how professional investors evaluate and react to political institutions, elections and government policies. She also investigates how low- and middle-income governments manage their relationships with creditors, including decisions over types of creditors and credit instruments as well as efforts to restructure debt and resolve debt crises. Another stream of Mosley's work examines the effect of multinational production and global supply chains on workers' rights in developing countries. She also has explored efforts at private governance of labor rights, such as the Bangladesh Accord on

Building and Fire Safety; and the use of labor-related provisions in international trade agreements. Mosley currently serves as co-editor-in-chief of *International Organization*.

### **Victor Murinde**

*AXA Chair and Director, Research Centre, SOAS University*

Professor Victor Murinde is the AXA Chair in Global Finance and the Director of the Research Centre for Global Finance, at SOAS University of London. He was the founding Director of the African Development Institute at the African Development Bank, 2010-2014. His recent research has focused on central bank reforms, financial technology (FinTech), climate risk finance, and inclusive finance. He has contributed over 120 journal articles to the economics and finance literature. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society.

### **Abdoulaye Ndiaye**

*Assistant Professor of Economics, NYU Stern*

Abdoulaye Ndiaye is Assistant Professor of Economics. Prior to joining NYU Stern in July 2019, Professor Ndiaye was a Research Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Professor Ndiaye's research focuses on macroeconomics and public finance. Professor Ndiaye received a PhD in Economics from Northwestern University and a BS and MS in Economics and Finance from École Polytechnique in Paris. He has been a Visiting Scholar at the United Nations, Harvard University and Princeton University.

### **Catherine Pattillo**

*Deputy Director, IMF's African Department*

Catherine Pattillo is a Deputy Director in the IMF's African Department where she oversees work on several countries and the Regional Economic Outlook publication, as well as on climate change, capacity development, gender and research. Since joining the Fund from a position at Oxford University, she has worked in the Fiscal Affairs Department where she was chief of the division responsible for the IMF's Fiscal Monitor, the Research Department, and on countries in Africa and the Caribbean, and the Strategy, Policy and Review Department where she worked on low-income country issues, and emerging issues such as gender, inequality, and climate change. She has published in these areas, as well as on Sustainable Development Goals, firm dynamics in sub-Saharan Africa, growth, investment, debt, monetary and exchange rate policies, aid, and currency crises. She received her Ph.D in Economics from Yale University.

### **Nina Pavcnik**

*Niehaus Family Professor of International Studies and Professor of Economics, Dartmouth University*

Professor Pavcnik's research examines how international trade affects the lives of workers, families, and children, with implications for inequality and poverty in lower income countries. She also studies how companies respond to the challenges and opportunities of globalization. Pavcnik is current editor of the World Bank Economic Review and co-editor of the Journal of Economic Perspectives. She is past co-editor of the Journal of Development Economics and Journal of International Economics. She has been a consultant on global trade to the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, United Nations, and the U.S. Department of Labor. At Dartmouth, she served as Chair of the Department of Economics and received Dean of Faculty Award for Outstanding Mentoring and Advising. She is a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and a Research Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research. A native of Slovenia, Pavcnik received a B.A. in Economics from Yale University and earned a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University.

### **Adnan Qadir Khan**

*Chief Economist and Director for Economics and Evaluation Directorate in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office*

Professor Adnan Khan is the Chief Economist and Director for Economics and Evaluation Directorate in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). He is seconded from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where he is Professor in the School of Public Policy. Adnan has focused his career on advancing the understanding of development economics, political economy, entrepreneurship, and public sector reform. He has taught courses at the London School of Economics on development economics, public organizations, and political economy. He has taught at Harvard Kennedy School and has also been an Academic Director at the School of Public Policy. Adnan has used real-time, cutting-edge analytical work that feeds directly into policy. He has also applied frontier research on real-world questions conducted through collaboration with policy partners to achieve policy and academic impact. Adnan co-chaired LSE-Oxford Commission on State Fragility, Growth and Development. He continued to work on the theme of fragile states through the follow-up Reducing Fragilities Initiative. He has published in journals on issues such as promoting value-for-money in public procurement, building state capacity by motivating civil servants to perform better, and on promoting entrepreneurship and social protection. Adnan served as Research and Policy Director at the International Growth Centre (IGC) at the LSE. He led research and policy initiatives aimed at promoting economic growth through policymaker-researcher collaboration and by generating ideas based on frontier research on important drivers of economic growth. Adnan has spent more than a decade in policy roles in different capacities and in various government departments. He originally trained as an engineer but moved to public policy and economics, studying at Harvard Kennedy School and Queen's University.

### **Zainab Usman**

*Director, Africa Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

Zainab Usman is a senior fellow and director of the Africa Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C. Her fields of expertise include institutions, economic policy, energy policy, and emerging economies in Africa. Previously she was Public Sector Specialist at the World Bank where she worked on social sustainability, policy reforms, natural resources management, and disruptive technologies. She has worked on these issues in Cote d'Ivoire, Morocco, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Congo, Serbia, Tanzania, and Uzbekistan. Zainab is author of the book *Economic Diversification in Nigeria: The Politics of Building a Post-Oil Economy*, and co-editor of the book, *The Future of Work in Africa: Harnessing the Potential of Digital Technologies for All*. She also contributed to World Bank's flagship report on *Rethinking Power Sector Reforms in Developing Countries*. Her written and broadcast commentary has appeared in Al-Jazeera English, BBC, Foreign Affairs, Project Syndicate, The Washington Post, among others. Zainab obtained her doctorate (DPhil) from the University of Oxford.

### **Leonard Wantchekon**

*Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University; Founder, African School of Economics*

Leonard Wantchekon is Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. Prior to joining Princeton University, he was on the faculty of New York University and Yale University. His research is broadly focused on Political and Economic development, particularly in Africa and his specific interests include topics such as democratization, clientelism and redistributive politics, resource curse, and the long-term social impacts of historical events. He is the author of numerous publications in leading academic journals, including the *American Economic Review*, the *American Political Science*

*Review, World Politics* and the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Executive Committee of the Council for International Teaching and Research at Princeton. He served as the Secretary of the American Political Science Association (2008-2009) and on the Ibrahim Index Technical Committee (2009-2013). Finally, he is a core partner director at the Afrobarometer Network and the founder the Africa School of Economics (ASE) in Benin. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Northwestern University and his M.A. in Economics from Laval University and University of British Columbia.