

# SPEAKER BIOS

## OPENING SESSION



### **Tristan Armstrong**

**Co-Chair, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development  
Senior Sector Specialist, Agricultural Development and Food Security Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) - Australia**

Tristan Armstrong holds a PhD in plant genetics and has worked for over 15 years in agriculture, rural development, biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in Indonesia, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Tristan is currently Chair of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development.



### **H.E. Hussein Mohamed Bashe**

**Minister of Agriculture, United Republic of Tanzania**

H.E. Hussein Mohamed Bashe is a Tanzanian politician and Member of Parliament for Nzega Urban constituency since 2015. In January 2022, he was appointed Agriculture Minister. Bashe holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing acquired from Mzumbe University in 2002. Bashe has accumulated vast experience in a number of senior leadership positions in three different sectors, the print media sector, banking sector and telecommunication sector where he worked as the CEO of New Habari (2006) Limited including newspapers of Mtanzania, RAI, The African, Dimba, Bingwa and Mwananchi Communication Limited. Bashe is a visionary and the brains behind the youth legacy programme – Building a Better Tomorrow (BBT). He is an influencer for youth and an advocate for private sector investment in agriculture. He is an avid believer of irrigation and block farms for youth and women, who by nature lack access to land and capital. He set the agenda 1030 which aims to achieve a 10% agriculture growth by 2030. Bashe was a Deputy Minister of Agriculture before being appointed the Minister of Agriculture in January 2022.



### **Brian C. Baldwin**

**Senior Advisor to the GPRD; Development and Agricultural Policy Advisor**

Brian Baldwin, geographer and agricultural economist, held field posts with the UK's Overseas Development Administration in Sri Lanka and Zambia in design and evaluation of agricultural and rural development programs. Subsequently, he worked as an independent economist with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Industrialization Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the European Union (EU), and the private sector in the Caribbean, Thailand, Philippines, Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana, and Zambia. He co-chaired the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, chaired the Multilateral Development Bank working group on Management for Development Results, and was the IFAD representative on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) working party on Aid Effectiveness, which evolved into the Global Partnership for Effective Development, and the Steering Committee of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). He continues to work as a development and policy adviser with both the public and private sector, including in Thailand, Ghana, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania.

### **Moderator**



### **Henry Bonsu**

**Journalist and Broadcaster**

Henry Bonsu is a British Ghanaian journalist and broadcaster. He presents a night time current affairs show on Times Radio, focusing on politics, popular culture, international affairs and sport. He has also been a commentator for BBC News, ITV, Channel 5, Talk TV, TRT, MSNBC, Al Jazeera and News Nation. Henry studied Modern Languages (German and French) at Oxford University, then worked as a researcher, producer and finally as a presenter for BBC News and Current Affairs. He was also a presenter on Vox Africa TV. Henry has written columns for UK newspapers including The Times, The Guardian, the Voice, the Caribbean & African Times and the Daily Mail on Westminster politics, policing, popular culture and sport. These days Henry also works as an international moderator for multilateral organisations, ranging from the AfDB to the AU, AGRF, UNDP, IFAD Global Fund, WHO, UNDP, UNFCCC, FAO, and UNHCR. His specialist areas are international development, health, education, diversity and sustainability. He has hosted the African Banker Awards since 2008, travelling to major cities across the continent, including Marrakech, Abidjan, Kigali, Lusaka, Malabo, Accra and Sharm El Sheikh.



## HIGH-LEVEL SESSION



### **Honorable Jeanine M. Cooper**

#### **Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Liberia**

Honorable Jeanine M. Cooper was commissioned as Liberia's Minister of Agriculture in February, 2020. Since then, Minister Cooper has re-oriented the Ministry of Agriculture to focus on agri-business, partnerships, and coordination. She has formulated and is implementing a food systems approach with heavy focus on expanding food production, boosting agro-processing, supporting livelihoods, and improving farmers' access to finance and resources. Previously, Ms. Cooper founded FABRAR Liberia in 2009 and had been managing the company since January 2017. From a micro-milling operation, purchasing rice from smallholder farmers, FABRAR has grown to be Liberia's largest rice producer. Ms. Cooper served 13 years with the United Nations. Her last posting was as the Permanent Representative to the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa and Head of the Liaison Office for the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA). Ms. Cooper's career spans an additional 10 years of humanitarian work with international NGOs. She graduated from Michigan State University in 1982 with a double B.A. in Business Administration and in French and she has an MSc in Managing Rural Change from the University of London, Imperial College at Wye in 2004.



### **Marylaure Crettaz Corredor**

#### **Head, Food Systems Section, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**

Marylaure Crettaz Corredor is currently Head of the Food Systems Section at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is currently Head of the Food Systems Section at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), which represents Switzerland in multilateral institutions, international organisations and networks, engages in global policy dialogue and manages innovative projects related to sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition. Marylaure has more than 20 years of experience in international cooperation. After 4 years at the International Committee of the Red Cross with missions in Rwanda, Kosovo and Colombia, she joined in 2003 the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. She has since then consolidated her experience in natural resources management, rural development, agriculture and food security, climate change and economic development. She held different positions with geographic foci (Andes, West Africa), was a regional advisor in Latin America and was Counsellor and Head of SDC, at the Swiss Embassy in New Delhi.



### **Namukolo Covic**

#### **Director General Representative to Ethiopia, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), CGIAR Ethiopia Country Convenor and Regional Director for East and Southern Africa**

Namukolo Covic (Zambia) is ILRI Director General's Representative to Ethiopia, CGIAR Ethiopia Country Convenor, and CGIAR Regional Director for East and Southern Africa. She has served as a Senior Research Coordinator at the IFPRI on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) in different African countries. Her extensive experience straddles the interface of policy, dynamics of agriculture and food systems, and related interventions. She has been involved in numerous activities, collaborating with national governments, regional and continental bodies, and various non-state actors to drive food systems transformation and nutrition initiatives. Namukolo has worked extensively with the government of Ethiopia and other stakeholders on different fronts of food systems and nutrition, including the development of food-based dietary guidelines and their adaptation to pastoralist settings, and the development of Ethiopia's food systems transformation pathway. She has supported African Union's efforts on linking agriculture and nutrition in the Africa Union – Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). She leads the Governance Working Group of an Independent Expert Group that emerged from the UNFSS.



**Sean de Cleene**

**International Systems and Partnerships Expert**

Sean de Cleene is highly regarded internationally as a systems leader and for his work in brokering relevant transformational partnership and inclusive business solutions. As a member of the Executive Committee of the World Economic Forum, for nearly six years, he had executive oversight and responsibility for Food Systems, and at different times, for the Tech for SDGs portfolio, the Sustainable Development Investment Partnership (SDIP), Nature portfolio, Climate Governance Initiative, Hoffman Tech and Environment PhD Fellows, and Civil Society Engagement. Sean recently chaired the UN Food Systems Summit Innovation Lever of Change. Sean brings a lot of experience catalysing multifaceted investment partnerships like Grow Asia, Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania, and the Beira Agricultural Growth Corridor or more recently Food Innovation Hubs in India, Vietnam and Colombia, or as the Co-Chair ad interim, together with the Chair of the OECD DAC, of the Sustainable Development Investment Partnership. Previously he held positions as Senior Vice President Global Initiatives, Strategy and Business Development for Yara International, Vice President of Business Development, Inclusive Finance and Strategic Partnerships at AGRA.



**Boaz Blackie Keizire**

**Head of Policy, Advocacy and Food Systems, AGRA**

Boaz Blackie Keizire is the Head of Policy, Advocacy and Food Systems at AGRA. He also Heads the Africa Food Prize Secretariat. Boaz holds Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics from Makerere University and University of Sussex UK, a BSc in Economics from Makerere University and a Diploma in Fisheries Policy, Planning and Management from United Nations University, Iceland. Boaz has over 15 years working in the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resource Policy, Planning and Analysis and Rural Development. He is a Food Systems Champion and a 2017 Fellow for the Aspen New Voices Fellowship Boaz Keizire, a Ugandan national, is an expert in agriculture and natural resource policy issues, planning, analyses as well as rural development. He has a deep understanding of what it takes to strengthen and support African-led institutions by sustaining a bold agenda for agri-food systems. Boaz used his extensive national and regional networks and experiences to translate and influence positive actions at continental level by raising the profile of the African Union Commission to mobilize the global community and African Member States towards agricultural transformation through CAADP. Specifically, Boaz has been instrumental in using country specific models and examples to change the quality of leadership of CAADP provided by the African Union Commission.



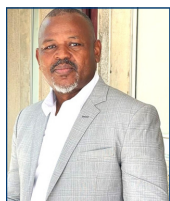
**Wilma van Esch**

**Head of Food Security and Nutrition, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands**

Wilma van Esch is the Head of Food and Nutrition Security at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. She has extensive experience in agriculture and development, having worked for both the ministry and the United Nations, in multiple positions and across many countries such as Ghana, India, Tanzania, and Kenya.



## BREAKOUT SESSIONS LEAD SPEAKERS



### **Jean Ives Bonzi**

**Coordination Officer, Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC), Somalia**

Jean Ives Bonzi, a national of Burkina Faso, worked for the United Nations since 2005, actively championing a diverse array of development, reintegration, recovery, and rehabilitation initiatives in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Liberia, Kenya, and Colombia. He is an ardent advocate for empowering youth and advancing environmental initiatives that particularly benefit women. Beyond his United Nations service, Jean Ives brings invaluable insights from his leadership roles in international relief and development organizations within the NGO sector. Notably, he served as a Program Officer for Africa with Plan Nederland, actively participating in the establishment of a global food security expertise centre in collaboration with several European universities. Additionally, his contributions extended to Guatemala where he worked closely with small-scale Guatemalan Papaya producers in the realms of production and export to the United Nations. With over two decades of experience in peace operations, development programs, and international cooperation, Jean Ives Bonzi is currently serving in Somalia. In his present role, he plays a pivotal part in facilitating the coordination of development aid actors, including government agencies, the United Nations, and donors such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank.



### **Sheryl L Hendriks**

**Director of the Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK**

Sheryl L Hendriks is the Director of the Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK. She is a food system and food security expert with extensive experience in policy analysis and programme design as well as food security monitoring and evaluation systems. Professor Hendriks is engaged in high-level global food security policy think tanks and panels, is influential in food security and nutrition policy circles in Africa and actively supports food policy reform in African countries. She has made a significant contribution to capacity building for food security in Africa, having trained, mentored and supervised graduates and professionals from over 18 African countries, establishing a large network of graduates. Professor Hendriks holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Natal.



### **Bernard Lehmann**

**Chairman, Steering Committee of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN)**

Bernard Lehmann is an Agricultural and Food Economist. He acts as Chairman of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts at the UN Committee on World Food Security and Nutrition (CFS), as member of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust. He is also Chairperson of the Foundation Council of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and Chairman of the Science Policy Interface of the Swiss Academy of Science. Previously, Lehmann was a Full Professor of Agricultural Economics and the Head of Department of Agricultural and Food Science at ETH Zurich. Then, he served as the Director General of the Federal Office for Agriculture and President of Agroscope (the Swiss Confederation's center of research in the agricultural, environmental and food sciences). He served as delegated State Secretary for international Agricultural and Food Systems affairs. His expertise is bridging Science with Policy and Society in the domain of Sustainable Food Security and Nutrition.



### **Sophia Murphy**

**Executive Director, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)**

Sophia Murphy is a food systems and international economy expert with 30 years of professional experience. Sophia is the Executive Director of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), a policy and advocacy organization based in Minneapolis, with small offices in Washington, D.C. and Berlin. She joined IATP from the Economic Law and Policy Program at the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), where she served as research director and advisor on agriculture, trade and investment. She was part of a three-year project called Ceres2030 that assessed the evidence on effective interventions to end hunger, double the incomes of small-scale producers and reduce food systems' environmental footprint, and developed an economic cost model to look at the public investment needed for those interventions. She served two consecutive terms as a member of the steering committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts to the United Nations Committee on World Food Security. Sophia has a BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Oxford University, an MSc from the London School of Economics in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries and a Ph.D. from the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia.



## HIGH-LEVEL SYNTHESIS PANEL



### **Mia Beers**

#### **Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security**

Mia Beers serves as Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security and is also the USAID Resilience Coordinator. Ms. Beers has a 30-year career in the international humanitarian and development sector and is a member of the Senior Executive Service. She previously helped build USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, where she established the Office of Global Policy, Partnership, Programs and Communications and coordinated key strategies around humanitarian policy; emergency classification levels; early recovery, risk reduction and resilience; and localization. Ms. Beers worked for USAID's regional office in East Africa managing development and humanitarian programs and for a NGO based in Somalia, coordinating capacity strengthening and multi-sectoral programs for local organizations. She has also worked for several non-profits on democracy and citizenship initiatives. Ms. Beers holds a BA in International Affairs from George Washington University and a MPA from American University's Key Executive Leadership Program. She is a graduate of the MIT Seminar XXI Program and the Foreign Service Institute's National Security Executive Leadership Seminar.



### **Ron Hartman**

#### **Director, Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Division, IFAD**

Ron Hartman is IFAD's Director for Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization. He is responsible for leading IFAD's global engagement and multilateral relations including with the private sector; south-south and triangular cooperation, resource mobilization and funds management. Prior to his current position, Hartman served as IFAD Country Director and Representative at its South East Asia and the Pacific sub-regional office in Jakarta. With over 25 years of professional experience, including over 18 years with the United Nations, Hartman has acquired an extensive managerial and operational experience in over 25 countries. He has specialized knowledge in promoting sustainable socio-economic development and poverty reduction, public policy and partnerships. In 2011, Hartman was awarded the IFAD Presidential Award for outstanding performance.



### **Sophie Healy-Thow**

#### **Global Youth Campaigns Coordinator, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN); Co-founder, Act4Food**

Sophie Healy-Thow is a young Irish woman who is passionate about creating awareness about food security, particularly amongst young people. Sophie is the Global Youth Campaigns Coordinator for the GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition). She founded Act4Food, a global youth led campaign which aims to transform food systems. This campaign has been mentioned on Forbes magazine and is being implemented globally. Sophie serves on the Board of the leading international charity ActionAid UK and the Emergency Nutrition Network she was the co-chair of the UN Food Systems Summit Youth Liaison group. Sophie is one of the 10 women leaders featured in the Disney book 'Choose to Matter' by ESPN presenter Julie Foudy which encourages young women to find the leader within and was recognised by TIME magazine as one of the most influential teens. More recently she was named by Food Tank as a Young Person Inspiring Change Across the Food System and spoke at the Nobel Peace Prize and the launch of the EAT Lancet 2.0 at Stockholm +50. She is an excellent and inspiring communicator with strong leadership skills and a self-motivator with a drive and ambition to succeed.



### **Michael Taylor**

#### **Director, International Land Coalition (ILC)**

Michael Taylor is the Director of the global secretariat of the International Land Coalition (ILC). ILC is hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a UN Agency in Rome, Italy. Michael is a citizen of Botswana, with a PhD in Social Anthropology. He has worked on human rights and environmental issues for 30 years across Africa and the rest of the world. The International Land Coalition is a global alliance of 300 multilateral and civil society organizations based in 90 countries. Its members represent over 70 Million land-users across the globe.