



ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY (AGA) 2025

Investing in the Future of Agrifood Systems: New Directions for Development Finance

SPEAKER BIOS

Moderator: Jim Woodhill, Senior Advisor, GDPRD

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Alexander Müller

*Founder and Managing Director of TMG - Think Tank for Sustainability
in Berlin/Germany*

Alexander Müller is a sociologist by training. He began his public service as City Councilor for Social and Environmental Affairs in Marburg and later served as a Member of Parliament in Hessen. He held State Secretary roles in Hessen and in Germany's Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture, and was Assistant Director-General of FAO. He led key UN food security summits, chaired the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition, advised the UN Secretary-General on energy and climate, and directed the TEEBAgriFood initiative on the "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Agriculture and Food".

DONOR COORDINATION AND MULTILATERALISM IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS FINANCING



Leonard Mizzi

Head of Unit, Directorate General for International Partnerships, European Commission

Leonard Mizzi is Head of Unit at the European Commission's DG International Partnerships, leading work on Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries since 2017. He previously spent ten years at DG Agriculture and Rural Development, managing agri-trade, development and interinstitutional relations. He holds degrees from the University of Malta, CIHEAM-Montpellier (MSc) and the University of Reading (PhD in Agricultural Economics). Formerly Director of the Malta Business Bureau in Brussels, he has broad experience in Malta's public and private sectors. A frequent lecturer at the College of Europe, his expertise includes global food security governance and agriculture in the Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa.



Max von Bonsdorff

Chief Partnership Officer, Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Max von Bonsdorff is the chief partnership officer in IFAD's Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Division. In this capacity von Bonsdorff leads GPR's team that designs, implements and supports IFAD's resource mobilisation efforts, covering issues such as replenishment, borrowing and supplementary funding processes. Von Bonsdorff joined IFAD in August 2020 from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland in Helsinki, where he worked as Director of the Unit for Development Finance and Private Sector Co-operation. Between 2004-2016 he held various positions in MFA Finland, such as economic and results management adviser. In 2007-2011, Von Bonsdorff worked as Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of Finland in Vietnam. In 2011-2014 he worked as an Executive Director's adviser in the Asian Development Bank.

HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION PANEL



Maximo Torero Cullen

Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

As FAO's Chief Economist, Maximo Torero leads FAO's work with governments and partners to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood systems. He focuses on strengthening shock resilience, advancing innovative financing, improving access to healthy diets, and reinforcing supply chains. His work is grounded in decades of research on commodity prices, market volatility, and their effects on poverty and hunger. Torero directs FAO's economic policy engagement in global SDG processes, especially Zero Hunger, and serves as the organization's analytical voice at high-level forums. He also provides intellectual leadership for FAO's flagship reports, including The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World.



Carlo Batori

Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy



Lawrence Haddad

Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Lawrence Haddad has been GAIN's Executive Director since 2016. In 2020 he was asked by the UN Deputy Secretary General to Chair Action Track 1 of the 2021 [United Nations Food Systems Summit](#): Ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All. Lawrence is the co-founder of the [Standing Together for Nutrition](#), a response to the COVID-19 crisis, and is one of the drivers behind the Initiative on Climate and Nutrition (ICAN) which was formally launched by the Egyptian Government at COP27. Prior to GAIN, Lawrence was lead author of the Global Nutrition Report, Director of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), and Director of the Food Consumption and Nutrition Division at IFPRI. He was made a World Food Prize Laureate in 2018 and was awarded a CMG in the 2023 UK Honours List for his "services to international nutrition, food and agriculture". Click [here](#) for more.



Alice Ruhweza

President, AGRA

Alice Ruhweza is a global thought leader and international development expert with nearly 30 years of experience in social, economic, and environmental policy. She is the President of [AGRA](#), where she leads efforts to transform agrifood systems for sustainable development in Africa and globally.

Previously, Alice was Senior Director for Global Policy at WWF International, influencing sustainability agendas across Africa, Asia, and Europe. As WWF's Africa Region Director, she oversaw operations in 13 countries. She also served as Vice President at Conservation International, where she bridged science and policy for sustainable agriculture. Alice led the UNDP's Global Environmental Finance Unit, mobilizing over US\$1 billion for sustainable development across 44 countries. She holds degrees in Economics and certifications from Harvard, IMD, and Oxford.

Alice co-chairs the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Nature and Security and serves as an advisory member of the Strategic Foresight Group, among others.



Tom Arnold

Chair, Ireland Africa Rural Development Committee (IARDC)

Tom Arnold currently serves as a Board member of the Global FoodBanking Network (GFN); member, Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition (GloPan); board member, Malabo Montpellier Panel; board member, John and Pat Hume Foundation; board member, Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation.

His previous roles include serving as Ireland's Special Envoy for Food Systems; Chair, Food Vision 2030 agri-food strategy group; Director General, Institute for International and European Affairs (IIEA); Chair, Irish



Constitutional Convention; CEO, Concern Worldwide; Chief Economist and Assistant Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM); Administrator, European Commission.



Stefania Lenoci

World Bank Group Resident Representative to Italy

Stefania Lenoci is the World Bank Group Resident Representative in Italy and Special Representative for Southern Europe, the Holy See and the United Nations Agencies in Rome. In this role, she leads the World Bank Group's engagement with Southern European institutions and partners, international organizations, private sector and the Holy See, fostering strategic partnerships, policy dialogue, and collaboration on global development priorities.

Prior to joining the World Bank, Stefania served as the Head of the Private Sector Advisory and Implementation Unit (PAI) at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) from 2020 to 2024. In this capacity, she spearheaded IFAD's direct investments in the private sector to drive inclusive and sustainable agricultural investments, ensuring the effective implementation of IFAD's Private Sector Engagement Strategy. The PAI, established in 2019, played a central role in mobilizing private-sector partnerships and investments to enhance rural development and food security.

Before leading PAI, Stefania was Senior Adviser to the President of IFAD (2017-2020), where she contributed to shaping IFAD's strategic priorities and institutional partnerships. She previously served as Adviser to the Vice-President of IFAD, Partnership Officer in the Partnership and Resource Mobilization Office (2012-2017), and Governing Bodies Officer in the Office of the Secretary (2010-2012).

Before joining IFAD, Stefania worked as a Programme Specialist in the Conflict and Post-Conflict Coordination Unit at UNESCO in Paris (2004-2010), focusing on education, culture and development programs in fragile contexts. She began her career at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Rabat (2003).

Stefania holds an MSc in Sustainable Development from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, and a BA in International and Diplomatic Sciences from the University of Trieste.

CATALYSING FINANCE AND IMPACT FOR AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS



Tim Diphorn

Europe Director Business Development, One Acre Fund

Tim Diphorn holds a Masters in International Development Studies and has been working in the humanitarian aid and development sector for more than 18 years, with various organizations such as SNV, Terre Des Hommes, Save the Children, and Solidaridad, and was formerly based in East Africa. Tim currently serves as One Acre Fund's Europe Director of Business Development, with a strong focus on forging partnerships across the European landscape to support projects aimed at improving the lives of 5.5 million smallholder farmers and their communities in Sub Saharan Africa.



Rodrigo Madrazo

Chief Executive Officer, EDFI Management Company

Rodrigo Madrazo García de Lomana is the Chief Executive Officer of EDFI Management Company, the joint platform of European Development Finance Institutions for innovative development finance solutions in partnership with the European Union. A Spanish economist with more than 20 years of experience in development finance and economic policy, he previously served as Director General of COFIDES and Director General for Economic Policy in the Spanish Ministry of Economy. He holds a PhD in Economics and has published on economics and finance, with a strong focus on impact and climate finance.



Songbae Lee

Independent Advisor and former Agricultural Finance Team Lead, USAID

Songbae Lee most recently was the USAID Agricultural Finance Team Lead supporting efforts to mobilize capital for agriculture. Before this role, he spent eight years at Calvert Impact Capital, a non-profit impact investing debt fund, where he was responsible for deal origination, credit assessment, and ongoing portfolio monitoring. Prior to that, he worked for Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein in their global energy investment banking group in New York City, Banc of America Securities in their real estate investment banking group in San Francisco, and Mercy Corps in their microfinance institution in Kyrgyzstan. He holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago and a B.S. from the University of Vermont.



Ambassador Khusrav Noziri

Assistant Director General, Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS)

Khusrav Noziri, a distinguished diplomat from Tajikistan, graduated from the Faculty of Oriental Languages at Tajik State University in 1991. He is fluent in Persian, Russian, English, and Arabic and holds the diplomatic rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of category II. Mr. Noziri's career includes serving as the Ambassador of Tajikistan to Egypt, Ethiopia, Algeria, South Africa and Morocco, as well as Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the League of Arab States from 2014 to 2019, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan from 2019 to 2021, and as Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) from 2021 until August 2024.



Alexandre Rutikanga

Chief Technical Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), Republic of Rwanda; UN Food Systems Member State National Dialogue Convenor

THE FUTURE OF YOUTH IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS



Ward Anseeuw

Senior Land Tenure Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations

Ward Anseeuw, a development economist and policy analyst, is a senior land tenure officer and lead of the Land Tenure Team at the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Previously, as a senior research fellow at the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), he was seconded from 2016 to 2023 to the International Land Coalition as the Global Lead Technical Specialist responsible for Data, Research, Knowledge Management and Learning; and from 2005 until 2016, he was seconded to the University of Pretoria, as a senior research fellow to the Post-Graduate School of Agriculture and Rural Development and as the co-director of the Center for the Study of Governance Innovations (GovInn) – which he founded in 2012.



Vance Ochola

Intern, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD); Co-founder and External Relations Lead, Nutrika Enterprises; Co-founder and former administrative officer, Youths for Green Action Kenya (YGAK)

Evance Ochola is an agribusiness and sustainable agriculture professional, passionate about advancing climate-smart food systems and inclusive community development. He is currently pursuing an MSc in International Farm Management at Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Science, Germany, complemented by hands-on farm experience in several countries. He is a Co-founder and External Relations Lead at Nutrika, a Kenyan-based agribusiness venture creating sustainable, nutritious, and convenient pre-cooked dehydrated beans for global markets. He is also co-founder and former administrative officer of Youths for Green Action Kenya, and his work has earned him recognition for driving innovation, empowering farmers, and inspiring youth leadership in the sector. Currently an intern at YPARD, he is passionate about agriculture as a pathway to resilience, food security, and opportunity. Evance continues to inspire collaboration and youth leadership in sustainable development.



Elisabetta Cangelosi

Gender Justice Advisor, International Land Coalition (ILC)

Elisabetta is the Gender Justice at ILC since 2018, responsible for the implementation of ILC Gender Action Plan. Previously she worked on Women's Land Rights, Gender Justice and Land and Environmental Rights Defenders.

She is Brussels based and also follows ILC engagement with Brussels based donors and partners. She holds a PhD in Social Sciences from the Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane and LLM in Human Rights Law from the BSIS-University of Kent. She served as lecturer on Gender Development and Conflict at SciencesPo Paris.



John F. Kelvin

International Land Coalition (ILC)

John F. Kelvin is from Liberia and is a fellow of the International Land Coalition young leadership program. He also works for the Rights and Rice Foundation as the Land Rights Program Manager, and as the National Project Coordinator of the ILC National Land Coalition. John has been working in land governance for 15 years and has helped reform the land sector in Liberia.



Marcos Montoiro

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)



MULTILATERAL AND GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS OF AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS FINANCING



Nikita Eriksen-Hamel

Deputy Director of Food Systems Practice, Global Affairs Canada

Nikita Eriksen-Hamel is Deputy Director of Food Systems Practice in the Food Systems and Nutrition Division of Global Affairs Canada. He leads a team of policy analysts and technical specialists who provide strategic, policy and technical advice to the Department's agri-food systems and nutrition programs and leads Canada's engagement in many multilateral and global policy fora. In this role he has contributed to defining the strategic direction of Canada's agriculture and food systems portfolio for the past 17 years, including providing technical support to over 500 agri-food projects. He has had extensive field experience having worked and supported projects in over 30 countries, including being responsible for opening up Canada's diplomatic mission in Cotonou, Benin. In 2025 he is chairing the G7 Food Systems Working Group and Canada's lead negotiator on the G20 Task Force for Food Security. Nikita has a background in environmental engineering, ecological agriculture and soil science from the University of Waterloo, Wageningen University and McGill University.



Prof. Anas A. Al-Nabulsi

Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security

Prof. Anas A. Al-Nabulsi, Dean of Agriculture at Jordan University of Science and Technology, is an expert in food microbiology and safety. He has driven reforms in agricultural education by integrating AI and IoT to promote sustainability and food security. Under his leadership, programs achieved international accreditation, and he directed and contributed to research funded by USAID, WFP, IFAD, and ERASMUS+ on food safety systems, traceability, and capacity building. His work spans strategic foresight on Jordan's food system, policy briefs on malnutrition and water conservation, and evaluation of school feeding programmes. He has also contributed to national regulatory frameworks and committees on agriculture and food security.



Clara Pacheco

*Head of Unit Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture,
French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs*

Clara Albergaria Pacheco has been Head of the Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture Unit at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs since March 2024. Clara previously worked at the Ministry of Agriculture as Head of the Risk Assessment and Laboratories Unit (2018-2024). She was Deputy Head of the Third Countries Export Unit (2009-2018), Deputy Head of the Plant Health Unit (2007-2008), represented France as an expert at



the International Plant Protection Convention, the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation and the European Commission.

She holds a Master's degree on Phytopathology from the University Paris-Saclay and an Agronomist Engineering degree from the University of Lisbon.



Sandra Bartelt

***Principal Adviser for G7 and G20 Sustainable Development Agendas
Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission***

Sandra Bartelt provides strategic guidance to the Director-General on the sustainable development dimensions of the G7 and G20 processes, shaping the EU's policy input to leaders' and ministerial meetings since May 2024. She joined the European Commission in 2004 in the Secretariat-General, contributing to crossinstitutional coordination on major policy files. In 2011, she moved to the Legal Service's external relations team, where she advanced legal positions on development cooperation, the Common Foreign and Security Policy, and innovative financing. She represented the Commission before the General Court, the Court of Justice, and in arbitration proceedings.

In 2017, she became Head of Unit for Legal Affairs in DG INTPA, overseeing regulatory compliance and supporting the formulation of EU external action instruments. From 2019 to 2024, she served as Deputy Head of Cabinet to the Commissioner for International Partnerships, steering political priorities and legislative initiatives. Before joining the Commission, she worked at the German Federal Foreign Office on security policy, counter-terrorism, and sanctions implementation. She studied law in Germany and in the U.K. She earned a PhD in public international law from the University of Cologne, focusing on the EU's operational capacity in security and defence. She holds an LL.M. in European Law from the College of Europe in Bruges. Her expertise spans multilateral governance, sustainable development, and EU external relations. She brings extensive experience in high-level negotiations and institutional coordination. Dr. Bartelt contributes to strengthening the EU's global role through evidence-based policy and legal stewardship.