

SPEAKERS' LIST

TOWARDS UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PROTECTION (USP) BY 2030 IN EASTERN AFRICA

Closing Conference

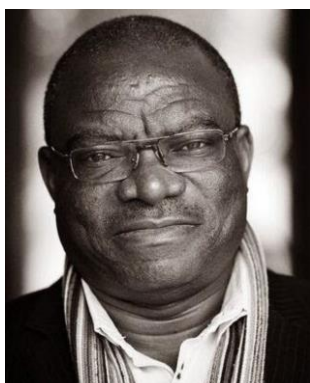
09 MARCH 2023 • 14h00 -16h00 Eastern Africa Time (UTC +3)



Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon

Assistant Director-General, Regional Director for Africa, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon is the Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Africa of the ILO. Prior to her appointment to this position, Ms Samuel-Olonjuwon was the Deputy Regional Director for Africa. She joined the ILO in 1995, where she has held different positions in Headquarters in Geneva and the field, including Chief of the ILO Programming Unit for Africa. She has more than 33 years' experience of dedicated and passionate service to promote: decent work for women and men, gender equality, youth employment, SME development, elimination of child labour and enhanced labour migration. She served along with the AFDB President, on the High-level Panel on Migration chaired by President Sirleaf Johnson. Ms Samuel-Olonjuwon was identified by the African Rating Firm, Avance Media, as one of the 100 Most Influential African Women in 2019. She is also a strong advocate for women's rights. Ms. Samuel-Olonjuwon was on the Board of the International Sociological Association (Research Committee on Women in Society) from 1986 to 1990.



Jimi Adesina

Professor and DST/NRF SARCHI Chair in Social Policy at the College of Graduate Studies, University of South Africa

Educated at the University of Ibadan (Nigeria) and Warwick University (UK), Prof Adesina taught at the University of Ibadan (Nigeria), was Professor of Sociology at Rhodes University (South Africa), and Professor and Head of Department at the University of the Western Cape (South Africa). He has held visiting appointments at Ulster University, Derry (Northern Ireland), University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa), Oxford University (UK), Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala University (Sweden), UNECA (Addis Ababa), and the UN Research Institute for Social Development (Geneva). A past President of the South African Sociological Association (2004-2006), Professor Adesina was elected to the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) in 2005. He serves on the Board of the UN Research Institute for Social Development (Geneva) and the Board of RC19 of the International Sociological Association. His research interests include Sociology, Social Policy, and the Political Economy of Africa's Development. He has published widely in these areas.



Priscilla Gavi

Chairperson, Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP)

Executive Director of HelpAge Zimbabwe, outgoing Board Chair for the Zimbabwe Older Persons' Board which is a statutory Board and current APSP Board Chair. She has over 20 years working in the NGO sector and in social protection and older persons in particular. Current responsibilities include taking part in the Zimbabwe ITP 4 change program that is focusing on implementation of an MIS change program that will see harmonization of all social protection programs in Zimbabwe including grievance handling and targeting. The program is focusing on establishment of an MIS system in social protection which is historic in Zimbabwe. The program is funded by SIDA through EPRI. Extensive experience in working with older persons in areas of advocacy, livelihoods, WASH, emergencies, Health and social protection. Worked with various Government departments and development partners collaborating in different areas of inclusive interventions particularly in the terrible Cyclone IDAI and numerous droughts that have affected the country.



Omar Faruk Osman

General Secretary, Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU)

Mr Omar Faruk Osman is a Somali journalist and trade unionist who is the General Secretary of the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU). As the head of the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), which is an affiliate of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), he has been an authoritative and strong voice that defends workers' rights, freedom of association, freedom of expression and the occupational safety of workers. As a dynamic, committed and motivated professional, he is known for persistence and militancy for the defence of human and labour rights. This is matched with a passion for contributing towards social and economic justice. Astute and with good political judgement, he leads, facilitates and works hard in teams or alone, to overcome barriers and achieve success for the working people of Somalia.



Matthew Cummins

Social Policy Regional Adviser, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, UNICEF

As social policy regional adviser, Matthew Cummins leads UNICEF's engagement on public finance and social protection in Eastern and Southern Africa. He has previously worked with UNDP, the World Bank as well as a Peace Corps Volunteer. He has written more than 50 publications on social policy topics and holds a master's degree in international economics from Johns Hopkins SAIS.



George Kahki

Executive Director, Employers' Consultative Association of Malawi (ECAM)

George Khaki is Executive Director for the Employers' Consultative Association of Malawi (ECAM). Mr. Khaki brings with him over 25 years' experience working in the public sector in Malawi and ECAM is the national employers' association with membership in all sectors of the economy in Malawi. ECAM has as one of its Business Agenda Social Protection because of the role Social Protection plays in protecting the vulnerable and its contribution to Decent Work and national development.



Sofia Mohamed Imam

Senior Program Officer, HelpAge International Ethiopia Office

Sofia is an economist by profession with MSC in Economics. She has more than 20 years' experience working in private sector, government and non-government offices in marketing, program management, provision of training and community works. She has provided technical support in areas relating to policy formulation, inclusive social protection program design and implementation, age friendly livelihood, healthy and active lifestyle, capacity building of intergenerational and sustainable community-based organizations, such as Older People Association. Since 2006, she has been working on transforming the community-based structures such as older people associations (OPA) to the current Advanced OPA development model, which is a community driven development (CDD) initiative that is community-led, multifunctional, cost-effective, affordable, sustainable, and replicable in low resource communities and countries. Over the past 20 years, she gained extensive professional experiences in the areas of social protection, policy advocacy, social development, and poverty reduction. Moreover, her professional career has afforded her the opportunity to work with the community at grass-root level, multilateral donors, national and international NGOs, and government bodies at different levels. She developed an excellent interpersonal communication skill, and extensive experience in representing the organizations at regional and national level, establishing networks, and working in partnership with Government and other stakeholders including the private sector.



Limbani Kachali

Researcher, Malawi Congress of Trade Unions

Researcher for the Malawi Congress of Trade Unions (MCTU) since 2017, Mr Kachali is responsible for developing position papers, and drafting policies and advocacy and lobbying strategies for MCTU. His work and research interests are biased towards extending social protection to the most vulnerable groups, formalizing the informal economy, promoting decent work for all, advocating for child labour free societies; and advocating for a balanced society where views for both women and young person's matter in decision making. He has conducted several studies on social protection; child labour; social dialogue; formalizing the informal economy; skills development in the informal economy among others. Mr Kachali holds a Bachelors Degree of Social Science (Social Work) from Catholic University of Malawi, Postgraduate Diploma of Development Management and a Master's Degree of Public and Development Management from Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg; South Africa.



Pontien Hatungimama

Permanent Secretary to the Minister in charge of Social Affairs, Burundi



Peter Ondabu Ombasa

Assistant Director of Children Services, State Department of Social Protection, National Social Protection Secretariat, Kenya

Mr Ombasa oversees the programs communications and advocacy especially when they are new and need robust visibility. He has a wide range of experience spanning over 28 years in various fields including Social Protection, Social Science Research, Logistics Planning and Monitoring, Accounting, Finance, Auditing, Procurement, Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects, Teaching & facilitation, project Planning & management and a robust expertise of consultancy on strategic and performance management. Mr Ombasa has Specialty skills on Social Protection Interventions which includes: Social Protection Designs, Cash Transfer Interventions, Analytical Reporting, Communication and advocacy skills that relate to all the Vulnerable groups. Mr Ombasa holds a Masters of Business Administration majoring in Strategic Management from the University of Nairobi, several other courses in Social Protection design and interventions and is currently pursuing her PhD in Business Administration with the University of Nairobi with a focus on strategic changes in Social Protection Interventions in Kenya.



Andres Gerdin

Programme Manager, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Anders Gerdin is Programme Manager at Department for International Organisations and Policy Support, Unit for Global Sustainable Economic Development in Sida, Sweden. In his previous roles, he served as Sida advisor on EU coordination, and a Swedish representative in EDF, ENPI, DCI and DCI thematic committees; (2008-2013); as a National Expert at the EU Commission Policy Coordination Unit DG RELEX (2005-2007), and as a Research Officer at the Department for Research Cooperation- SAREC, Sida (1998-2005). He holds a Ph.D. Economics from Gothenburg University (1997).



Josephine Karungi

Moderator

Josephine Karungi is a Ugandan Media Personality and Communications Specialist. She has over fifteen years experience in media and communication. She has worked with organisations like the Nation Media Group, The Palladium Group and World Bank. She is passionate about storytelling.