SPEAKERS

Moderator: Mr John Sibi-Okumu

John Sibi-Okumu is one of Kenya’s foremost broadcast journalists. He was quiz master for The Zain Africa Challenge, an inter-university, general knowledge competition seen in eight African countries and chief anchor for JSO@7, a one-hour news’ digest. John is a man of the stage and screen, having acted in close to 40 lead roles and has appeared in local and international films. He has written and devised seven plays and, under his direction, Kenyan musician Eric Wainaina’s Mofaya played to great acclaim at the New York Festival of Musical Theatre in 2009. He has narrated and voiced award-winning documentaries and commercials in both English and French. He is also a published author for young readers and, as a print journalist, has been a longstanding columnist for several local publications. John is featured in the book ‘Life Journeys, Scaling Heights – Conversations with High Achieving Men in Kenya’. He has moderated numerous international conferences.

Mr Jamal Belahrach, President, Jobs for Africa Foundation

Jamal Belahrach has been Managing Director of OCP S.A. since April 2016. He started his career as a Sales Manager in SEP and subsequently served as Development Director of the German group Burg SA. He was Manpower Morocco’s Country Manager and Manpower France Affiliates’ Director, managing eastern countries. He has 30 years’ business experience. Mr Belahrach graduated from the University of Saint-Denis, from the INSEAD Top Management Program and from the Advanced General Management Program of HEC, Paris.

Ms Linda Kromjong, Secretary-General, International Organisation of Employers

Linda Kromjong has responsibility for the management of the IOE Secretariat in its advocacy on behalf of 156 members in 144 countries, as well as many partner organisations. This involves engagement in the ILO, other forums such as the G20 and the Human Rights Council, and across the range of UN agencies engaging in labour and social policy discussion. Prior to her role at the IOE, Linda was Vice-President, Labour Relations International & Human Rights for Deutsche Post DHL. Linda Kromjong has many years’ experience in senior positions and holds qualifications in business management, as well as practical experience of the international business environment.
Ms Jacqueline Mugo, Secretary General, Business Africa

Jacqueline Mugo has been Executive Director of the Federation of Kenya Employers since 2006. She is a lawyer by profession, with practical experience in general management and leadership, both at FKE and in multinational enterprises. Jacqueline holds an LLB (Hons) and a Higher Diploma in Human Resource Management. She is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and has international training in Industrial Relations, Management and Leadership. Among many other roles, Jacqueline currently serves as a Commissioner at the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, a Trustee of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) Board of Trustees, a titular member of the ILO Governing Body and member of the IOE Management Board. She also serves as Secretary General of Business Africa – the voice of Employers in many forums including the African Union.

Dr Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Mukhisa Kituyi became the seventh Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 1 September 2013. He was elected to the Parliament of Kenya in 1992 and twice re-elected. Dr Kituyi was Minister of Trade and Industry of Kenya from 2002 to 2007. During this period, he chaired and participated in a variety of ministerial-level initiatives, including for the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the 2005 Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization. Immediately prior to becoming UNCTAD Secretary-General, Dr Kituyi was Chief Executive of the Kenya Institute of Governance and a Fellow of the Brookings Institution. From 2008 to 2012, he was a member of a team of experts advising the presidents of the nations of the East African Community on establishing more effective regional economic links. From 2011 to 2012, Dr Kituyi was a consultant for the African Union Commission, where he helped to develop the structure for a pan-African free trade area.

Mr Amine Tazi-Riffi, Director, McKinsey Global Institute

Amine Tazi-Riffi is a Director of McKinsey & Company’s Geneva Office. Since 2000, Amine has led the effort to establish McKinsey in francophone Africa, covering both Maghreb and francophone West Africa. In that capacity, he has served most of the leading private and public institutions in the region, covering a wide range of sectors including government, natural resources, and infrastructure. Amine has two major areas of expertise: 1) economic development: since 2010, he co-leads McKinsey’s Public & Social Sector Practice for the Middle East and Africa, focusing on socio-economic development and sector development strategies (e.g., agriculture, industry, energy, logistics). 2) Global Energy & Materials (GEM): since 2012, Amine leads the company’s GEM hub in Switzerland. He serves leading institutions in that space (mainly Oil & Gas and Mining).
Ms Azita Berar Awad, Director, Employment Policy Department, International Labour Office

Azita Berar Awad is the Director of the Employment Policy Department which leads ILO action for promoting full, productive, decent and freely chosen employment. The mission includes support to the development and implementation of comprehensive employment frameworks, integrating economic, labour market and skills policies that promote more and better jobs, maximize the employment impact of economic growth, investment and development strategies and make them inclusive, gender sensitive, and sustainable. Azita has been leading the advisory work, research and technical cooperation in the relevant fields of pro-employment macro-economic policies, poverty reduction strategies, innovative employment creation schemes, youth employment, informal economy and transition to formality, and employment-intensive approaches.

Mr Albert Yuma Mulimbi, President of the Board, Gécamines, and Federation of Congolese Enterprises

Albert Yuma Mulimbi is Executive Director of Société Financière et de Gestion Texaf SA and Co-Managing Director of UTEXAFRICA. He supervises various participations of the Company in the DRC and heads the study of new projects. He is Chairman of the Employers’ Federation of the DRC, Director of the Central Bank, Chairman of the Audit Committee and a Director of the Belgium-DRC Chamber of Commerce. Mr Yuma Mulimbi was appointed Chairman of Gécamines in 2010. He holds a Masters in Applied Economic Science from the Catholic University of Louvain.

Mr John Sendanyoye, Sectoral Policies Department, International Labour Office

Mr John Sendanyoye is Team Leader of the Public and Private Services Sectors Team in the Sectoral Policies Department of the ILO. He is concurrently the Senior Technical Specialist for Commerce, Financial Services; Professional Services and Posts and Telecommunications Sectors. John has also had assignments in the ILO Office for East Africa based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the ILO Regional Office for Africa based in Abidjan, and the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific based in Bangkok.
His Excellency Mr Raj Sookun, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mauritius to the UN and other international organisations in Geneva

Raj Sookun joined the Foreign and Diplomatic Service of Mauritius in December 1993 and was posted to Beijing in 1996 (where he established the Mauritius Embassy from scratch), Washington DC in 2001, Pretoria in 2006, and Mumbai in 2010. In between two overseas postings, Mr Sookun has mostly been involved with State Protocol in Mauritius as Deputy or Acting Chief of Protocol. Prior to coming to Geneva as Minister Counsellor/Deputy Permanent Representative at the end of August 2016, Mr Sookun was Chief of Protocol of Mauritius for a number of years. An awardee of the highly respected Australian African Scholarships, Mr Sookun was a scholar at the prestigious Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra where he undertook advanced Master degrees in International Affairs and Diplomacy. He topped his class and in 2012 was awarded the James Ingram Prize for Excellence by the Australian National University for highest academic excellence in the diplomacy degree and for his most valuable contribution to the social fabric of his class at the Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy.

Ms Leila Mokadem, Resident Representative in Egypt, African Development Bank

Leila Mokadem, a national of Tunisia, joined the African Development Bank (AfDB) in 2002. In 2011, she was appointed Regional Resident Representative of the AfDB Regional Office based in Dakar, Senegal. Prior to that, she was Head of the Financial Institutions Division at the AfDB’s Private Sector Department. Leila was in charge of financing and support to African financial institutions, SME banking and Microfinance. In particular, she developed innovative financial inclusion initiatives including the Africa Guarantee Fund, Migration and Development Fund, Initiative for the Financing of Growth Oriented Women Enterprises, and Trade Finance Initiative. She is a member of the Bank’s Network of Economists. Prior to AfDB, Leila was long-term fiscal advisor at the IMF and had several assignments as investment expert at UNCTAD and the World Bank. She began her career at the Ministry Economy of Tunisia and has an MBA in both International Finance and International Trade.
Mr Aeneas Chuma, ILO Regional Director for Africa

Aeneas Chuma is ILO Assistant Director General and Regional Director for Africa, a post he assumed in March 2014 after extensive experience in development work in various parts of Africa, the Gulf States and at UN headquarters in New York.

Mr Zissimos Vergos, Team Leader, Private Sector Development Policy, European Commission

Zissimos Vergos is the Team Leader of the Private Sector Team in the Unit dealing with Private Sector, Trade and Regional Integration in the Directorate General for International Cooperation of the European Commission (DG DEVCO). The team is responsible for mainstreaming the implementation of the private sector policy and the provision of support to wider institutional efforts at HQs and the European Union’s delegations around the world regarding private sector development and engagement for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He started his career in international cooperation in the early 90s, and has spent most of the last 25 years in resident assignments in various geographical locations (Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and Caribbean) and a wide spectrum of sectors including Agriculture and Food Security, Infrastructure, Aid4Trade, Regional Integration, Education, Health, Civil Society, Human Rights and Humanitarian Operations. Zissimos also worked in the European Union’s research and technological development programmes in areas related to Climate Change and Environmental Technologies. His academic background covers agriculture, engineering and economics.

Mr Mamadou Diallo, Policy Officer, ITUC

Mamadou Diallo has been Director of the ITUC Human and Trade Union Rights Department since January 2015. Prior to that, he acted as Regional Coordinator for Africa in the ITUC office in Brussels for two years. He started his career in Senegal in the trade union Confédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Sénégal (CNTS) and then joined the International Trade Union Confederation in 1999 as Member of the ITUC/AFRO African Education and Training Committee. Mamadou has more than 31 years of professional experience in his field.
Mr Emmanuel Julien, Deputy Director, Enterprises Department, International Labour Office (ILO)

Since October 2013, Emmanuel Julien is Deputy Director of the ILO Enterprises Department. He is in charge of developing relations between companies and the ILO in the context of the Enterprise Initiative launched by ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. Emmanuel Julien formerly worked for the French Business Confederation (MEDEF). In the last decade, he notably served as French Employer representative on the ILO Governing Body, as vice-chair of the Programme, Finance and Administration Committee, member of the Board of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), spokesperson for the Employers’ Group on the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, negotiator for employers in European social dialogue, and Vice-Chair of the Social Affairs Committee of BUSINESSEUROPE. He was also member of different think tanks boards at national level.

Mr Mthunzi Mdwaba, IOE Vice-President for Africa, and Business Unity South Africa

Mthunzi Perry-Mason Mdwaba is founder, President and CEO of investment and business consultancy TZoro IBC, as well as an entrepreneur, deal-maker and negotiator. Until November 2010, Mthunzi held the post of Group CEO of Torque IT, South Africa, a world class company dedicated to Computer Technical Training Solutions in 27 countries, as well as the Deputy CEO of the Kelly Group, a listed entity on the JSE. He currently holds many additional posts including IOE Regional Vice-President for Africa, member of the B20 Human Capital Task Force, member of the ILO Governing Body, Chairman of Council at the University of Western Cape and Chairman of Productivity SA. Mthunzi holds a BA and an LLB.

Mr Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Office

Guy Ryder took office as ILO Director-General on 1 October 2012. From the outset, he pledged to position the Organization as a determined actor translating principle into action and ensuring that it had the capacity to make a major difference to the working lives of people on all continents. Guy went on to launch a major reform process to assure the ILO’s authority on matters falling within its mandate. To mark the centenary of the Organization in 2019, Guy has launched seven initiatives. One targets The Future of Work, which stands at the centre of activities that recognise the 100th Anniversary as a significant milestone. Guy Ryder studied Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cambridge and Latin American Studies at the University of Liverpool.