

**Financial Afrik**  
**AWARDS** **6**<sup>ème</sup> ÉDITION  
Toute la finance africaine  
**#6FAA**

**REPORT OF THE 6TH EDITION OF  
THE FINANCIAL AFRIK AWARDS**

**January 27-28, 2025  
Sofitel Hôtel Ivoire, Abidjan**

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**PRESS REVIEW**

# 1 SUMMARY OF PANELS

On January 27 and 28, 2025, at the Sofitel Hotel in Abidjan, 500 economic stakeholders participated in the Financial Afrik Awards. The theme of the event was: The Arab World and Africa: Investments and Trade.



Organized by Financial Afrik in partnership with BADEA as the official partner, the chosen theme explored the convergences and complementarities between the Arab world and Africa, particularly in trade and investments. The B2B meetings, led by Finactu, facilitated discussions on 15 key projects between partners. Additionally, our teams recorded more than 87 business meetings through the conference's economic platform.

The conference was inaugurated by **Mrs. Nialé KABA, Minister of Economy, Planning, and Development**, who advocated for an even broader partnership between the Arab World and Africa, particularly with Côte d'Ivoire. She highlighted the financial liquidity of the Gulf region and the continent's wealth in arable land, human resources (with a median age of 19), and its mining potential. With trade between the two regions amounting to only **\$28 billion in 2022**, there is still room for growth. **The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** could be leveraged to harmonize trade with the Arab world, with support from the Arab League.

The **Arab Coordination Group's** decision to allocate **\$50 billion for Africa** presents new opportunities, along with **\$24 billion** announced at COP 27 for climate transition financing and **\$10 billion** for food security. **Local transformation of raw materials** remains a major challenge for Côte d'Ivoire. "Agro-industry, light industry, the pharmaceutical sector, and public infrastructure through PPPs are priorities," stated the Minister. Increasing **local processing of agricultural products** is also among the key priorities, along with the **development of tourism**. Côte d'Ivoire has a rich cultural heritage, with financing needs estimated at **\$6 billion** under the "Côte d'Ivoire Sublime" project covering the **2018-2025** period.

*"By working to strengthen the balanced partnership between the Arab world and Africa, we will not only withstand economic shocks but emerge strong".*

# PANEL 1

**THEME : "BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN MARKETS AND MOBILIZING CAPITAL FOR GROWTH."**

**The Afro-Arab Finance Council: A New Era**



The inaugural panel, masterfully led by **Didier Acouetey, President of AfricSearch**, brought together the **Arab Coordination Group (ACG)** and the **Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions (AMFI)** for an unprecedented dialogue.

Participants in this discussion included:

## Panelists

- **H.E. Dr. Sidi Ould TAH** – President of BADEA
- **H.E. Eng. Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad** – CEO of SFD
- **H.E. Dr. Abdulhamid Alkhalifa** – President of OPEC Fund
- **H.E. Mr. Abdullah Al Mesaibih** – Director of Operations of Kuwait Fund
- **Dr. Zul Kifl Salami** – Economist
- **Mr. Serge EKUE** – President of BOAD
- **Mr. Abdourahmane DIALLO** – CEO of FSA
- **Dr. George Agyekum DONKOR** – President of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)
- **Mr. Thierno-Habib Hann** – CEO of Shelter Africa

## A Turning Point for Economic Cooperation

In his opening remarks, **Sidi Ould Tah** first praised **Côte d'Ivoire's macroeconomic performance, its successful National Development Plan (PND), its effective financial market operations, and its overall progress**. Addressing the topic of the day, the BADEA President highlighted key statistics: one in five Africans is a citizen of an Arab country, and three out of five Arab citizens are African. This deep interconnection between the two regions should be the foundation for stronger economic exchanges.

Arab financial institutions are expected to play a **key role in structural transformation**. The **Arab private sector and sovereign funds** are urged to invest more in Africa. BADEA has been a catalyst in this relationship, and beyond official development aid, **trade and foreign direct investments (FDI) must be boosted**.

"Our two regions need to understand each other beyond news headlines and credit rating agency reports," stressed Ould Tah. To this end, BADEA **has increased its allocations for technical assistance and feasibility studies by 50%**.

## Saudi Fund for Development's Commitment to Africa

H.E. Eng. Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad, CEO of the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), emphasized the **pivotal role of SFD**, which has been financing African countries with concessional loans since 1974. Currently, **60% of SFD's commitments are dedicated to Africa**, particularly in **education, water, sanitation, and housing**. In 2022 alone, the fund signed agreements worth **\$500 million for African projects**.

*"We aim to strengthen our partnerships with African institutions, particularly in infrastructure financing," said Al-Marshad.*

## Beyond Financial Cooperation: A Strategic Partnership

Serge EKUE, President of BOAD, pointed out that it would be a mistake to view the **Arabian Peninsula as merely a financial reservoir**. He emphasized **Saudi Arabia's advances in agricultural productivity and solar energy**, both of which could serve as economic models for Africa.

*"Africa holds a unique strategic position in the global value chain, and its young population is a major asset,"* said Ekue. He also stressed the continent's **role in global climate regulation, particularly through the Congo Basin**, often referred to as the planet's "lungs."

Ekue praised BADEA's efforts, noting that it has invested **\$600 million in equity (not debt)**, which is crucial in defining and structuring financing for **agriculture, transport, and balanced technical cooperation**.

## The Kuwait Fund: Expanding Its Mandate in Africa

H.E. Mr. Abdullah Al Mesaibih, Director of Operations of Kuwait Fund, presented the fund's **expansion from an Arab-focused initiative (since 1961) to an international one, particularly in Africa**.

- **330 projects in 41 African countries** have already been financed.
- The fund's **bilateral focus has expanded to include the private sector**, in partnership with governments.
- A key example is the financing of the **Bona Route Project**, connecting **Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) to Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)**.
- In **November 2023**, the Kuwait Fund subscribed to the **Arab Coordination Group's (ACG) initiative of \$50 billion for Africa by 2030**.

## Enhancing Arab-Africa Solidarity

Dr. Zul Kifl Salami, who has contributed to several Arab-African initiatives, discussed the **creation of Arab funds like BADEA to strengthen solidarity between the two regions**. He cited **the financing of coastal erosion prevention in Benin** as a successful example.

*"Governance in Africa is improving, the business environment is getting better, and the private sector is growing. Arab private investments are finding a more conducive environment,"* he said.

He also pointed out that beyond the **\$50 billion ACG initiative**, COP 16 saw the **announcement of an additional \$10 billion for climate transition financing**. However, beyond figures, it is crucial to **develop a new strategy that benefits both regions**.

### **OPEC Fund's Perspective: Addressing Africa's Infrastructure Deficit**

**H.E. Dr. Abdulhamid Alkhalifa, President of OPEC Fund**, recalled that the fund, **established over 50 years ago**, has invested in **125 countries, including many in Africa**.

- The OPEC Fund has **12 shareholders**, with **South Africa as a key partner**.
- Africa faces **several challenges, including limited access to financing and electricity**.
- Over **600 million Africans lack access to electricity, highlighting significant investment opportunities** in energy infrastructure.
- The continent also holds **vast reserves of arable land and a youthful population**, which should be leveraged to maximize development.

*"Our interventions in Africa and beyond must focus on these opportunities,"* said Alkhalifa, stressing the need for a **stable business environment to attract investment**.

### **Regional Integration: ECOWAS and Shelter Africa's Vision**

**Dr. George Agyekum DONKOR, President of ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)**, emphasized the **strong historical ties between Africa and the Arab world**. Several Arab nations are members of both the **African Union and the Arab League**.

- He called for **increased investment in agriculture and food security**.
- He advocated using **regional institutions like EBID, which operates across 15 countries, to enhance impact**.

**Mr. Thierno-Habib Hann, CEO of Shelter Africa**, highlighted the **geographical and cultural proximity between the two regions**, making economic diversification a common goal.

- *"There is much to learn from one another, particularly in capital markets,"* he said.
- **AMFI, which will celebrate its first anniversary in February, provides a broad platform for the Arab Coordination Group**.
- **Housing remains a major challenge in Africa, with a deficit of 52 million homes**.
- To close this gap, **\$1 trillion in investment is needed**.
- **Social housing development requires greater private sector involvement**.
- 

*"Synergies between Africa and the Arab world are necessary to create meaningful impact in this area,"* Hann concluded.

### **Risk Mitigation and Financial Stability**

**Mr. Abdourahmane DIALLO, CEO of the African Solidarity Fund (FSA)**, commended BADEA's approach, **which recognizes that strengthening multilateral financial institutions is key to economic transformation**.

- *"The challenge of financing African economies is primarily about risk perception,"* he noted.
- Investors **go where their interests are protected**.
- **FSA provides risk mitigation measures to improve investor confidence**.
- It has **achieved an investment-grade rating from Moody's and is doubling its capital base**.

## **Building Resilient Economies Through Islamic Finance**

Speaking via video conference, **Eng. Hani Salem Sonbol, CEO of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and Interim CEO of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD)**, underscored the **partnership potential between the Arab world and Africa.**

*"Our institutions combine financial and technical resources to unlock Africa's potential and build resilient economies,"* he said.

The **renewed partnership between BADEA and ITFC, initiated in Riyadh in July 2024,** aims to **support African SMEs with financing, compliance, and risk management.**

# PANEL 2

## SPOTLIGHT TALK – THE ARAB COORDINATION GROUP (ACG)

### THEME

### Harnessing Collective Strength for Sustainable Development



During this panel, various **Arab financial institutions** presented their organizations and provided insights into their interventions in Africa.

- **The OPEC Fund**, which dedicates **half of its interventions to Africa**, plays a **key role in bridging ACG countries with the rest of the world**.
- **BADEA** has launched a new **five-year development plan worth \$18 billion**, with a **fivefold leverage effect**.
- **The Kuwait Fund**, established in **1961**, and the **Saudi Fund for Development** showcased their contributions.
- **The Arab Coordination Group (ACG)**, which will celebrate its **50th anniversary next year**, highlighted its **financial capacity to fund infrastructure, financial security, and sustainable development projects**.

### ACG's Strategic Vision and Impact

As **Dr. Zul Kifl Salami** emphasized, **BADEA serves as a flagship institution embodying the aspirations of the ACG**.

- The **ACG is a strategic partner** actively involved in financing **infrastructure projects to improve connectivity, as seen in Liberia, Mauritania, and Uganda**.
- Over time, these institutions have evolved and adapted their structures to align with the principles of sustainable development and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) standards.

### A Unified Approach for Greater Efficiency

The **ACG members** have harmonized their **project submission modalities, intervention criteria, and defined a common operational framework** to streamline funding processes.

For **Dr. Zul Kifl Salami**, *governance is a key factor in strengthening economic and financial relations between stakeholders from both regions.*

# PANEL 3



## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPP) PROMOTING ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### Speakers:

- **Mohamed Abdellahi Ould Yaha**
- **Khalid Al Aboodi** – Senior Advisor to the CEO of Saudi EXIM
- **H.E. Dr. Tarifa A. Alzaabi** – Director General of ICBA
- **Edmond Adjikpe** – Head of Regional Business, Shelter Africa
- **Latifa El Bouabdellaoui** – Director General of ICDT
- **Pierre Atepa GOUDIABY** – President of ATEPA Group
- **Jérôme EHUI** – Director General, Versus Bank, APBEF-CI
- **Tshepidi Moremong** – Chief Operating Officer, Africa 50
- **Master of Ceremonies:** Mohamed H'MIDOUCHE
- **Moderator:** Leila Ben Hassen, Jury Member, Financial Afrik

### PPP: From Structuring to Execution

Opening the session, **Mohamed H'MIDOUCHE** outlined the **key challenges of PPPs**, setting the stage for an in-depth discussion on **project structuring and execution**.

For **Tshepidi Moremong**, **COO of Africa 50**, infrastructure is a **highly profitable investment class**. This view was echoed by **Edmond Adjikpe**, **Regional Head at Shelter Afrique**, who focused on **housing finance**:

*"The housing deficit presents a major opportunity. Public-private partnerships are key to driving innovation in both supply and financing."*

### Harnessing Science and Innovation for Sustainable Development

**Dr. Tarifa A. Alzaabi**, **Director General of ICBA**, a research institute supported by the **Islamic Development Bank and the UAE government**, emphasized the importance of scientific innovation in **addressing future challenges, such as soil salinity**.

*"Tomorrow's challenges are shaped by today's innovations. We must leverage science and technology to find sustainable solutions."*

## Strengthening Arab-Africa Economic Bridges

**Mohamed Abdellahi Ould Yaha**, President of **Maurilog**, a leader in local content for Mauritania's hydrocarbon sector, called for:

- A stronger economic bridge between the Arab world and Africa.
- A business-friendly environment with financial institutions facilitating transactions.
- The expertise of Gulf countries in PPPs, along with their financial power, to support Africa's electrification and infrastructure needs.

*"Africa is an opportunity for the Arab world, and the Arab world is an opportunity for Africa,"* he declared.

He further stressed the importance of **risk syndication and financial instruments** to optimize PPP models.

## PPP as a Driver of Regional Development

**Latifa El Bouabdellaoui**, Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), highlighted the **potential of PPPs to foster synergies** between **Africa and the Arab-Muslim world**.

- **Logistics and transport sectors** can help **landlocked countries gain access to markets**.
- **Health, energy, and agribusiness** are key areas where PPPs can drive economic transformation.
- **Africa has the potential to become the world's breadbasket** through sustainable agricultural investment.

*"To move forward, we need innovative financing mechanisms, regulatory harmonization, and capacity-building for public institutions and human resources,"* she emphasized.

## The Need for Private Sector Involvement

**Khalid Al Aboodi**, Senior Advisor to the CEO of Saudi EXIM, insisted that PPPs must be viewed in a **broader economic context**:

- **Domestic resources are limited**, and **debt capacities are reaching their ceilings**.
- **Private sector participation is essential** for sustainable financing.
- **Saudi EXIM and Africa 50** are already engaged in financing major projects, particularly in **agriculture, storage facilities, and irrigation systems**.

## Maximizing Africa's Economic Potential

For **Pierre Atepa GOUDIABY**, President of ATEPA Group and the Senegalese Investors Club, Africa must focus on **win-win solutions**.

- **Europe has allocated a \$600 billion credit line for developing economies**.
- **Senegal's gas and oil discoveries** should be leveraged for **local and regional industrialization**.
- The continent **must shift from raw material exports to local transformation**.
- Africa's **urban population will double within 20 years**, making **urban planning and infrastructure development crucial**.

*"It is crucial to develop cross-sector PPPs and secure a 20 to 30-year transition period for energy transformation. By combining Arab financial resources, global technology, and Africa's raw materials, we can drive collective prosperity,"* he stated.

### **The Role of Banks in Structuring PPPs**

**Jérôme EHUI, Director General of Versus Bank and President of APBEF-CI**, stressed the pivotal role of banks in PPPs:

- Banks provide **financial structuring, risk management, and advisory services**.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, a **legal framework for PPPs has been in place since 2012**.

*"Banks must leverage their expertise to help African nations develop high-quality infrastructure,"* he said.

### **Challenges and Recommendations for PPPs**

According to **Mohamed H'MIDOUCHE**, **trust funds should be created to finance PPP projects**.

- **Tshepidi Moremong (Africa 50)** noted that **80% of PPP projects fail at the feasibility study stage**.
- PPPs **require careful planning, technological innovation, and experience sharing**.
- **Independent Power Producers (IPPs)** have successfully delivered energy projects, such as **the recent Kenya initiative**.
- **Edmond Adjikpe** called for **rigorous project preparation and strategic partnerships with top-tier consultants**.

On a **continental scale, more work is needed to create secure and transparent regulatory frameworks** that encourage PPP investments.

### **The Importance of Data and Institutional Strengthening**

**Dr. Tarifa A. Alzaabi** recommended the establishment of **data repositories to enhance project risk assessments and economic impact analyses**.

**Mohamed Abdellahi Ould Yaha** emphasized the **cultural and economic ties between the Arab world and Africa**, urging the creation of **funding mechanisms, financing insurance, and co-financing initiatives**.

### **Final Recommendations**

- **Latifa El Bouabdellaoui** stressed the importance of **capacity building and specialized training programs**.
- **Khalid Al Aboodi** underscored the need to **evaluate PPP projects based on their impact on job creation, energy access, and agricultural development**.

By fostering **innovative financing solutions, cross-sector partnerships, and sustainable investment strategies**, PPPs can be a **catalyst for Africa's economic transformation**.

# PANEL 4

## THE ROLE OF BANKS, CAPITAL MARKETS, AND COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT FINANCING



### Speakers:

- **Jean Arsene Yerima** – Regional Chief Operating Officer for the Francophone West African Region, Afreximbank
- **Dr. Félix Edoh Kossi AMENOUNVE** – CEO of BRVM
- **Mr. Riadh Naouar** – IFC Regional Manager, Financial Institution Group, Upstream and Advisory Services for North, West, and Central Africa
- **Ms. Geraldine Mermoux** – Managing Partner, FINACTU
- **Mr. Stanislas Zézé** – CEO, Bloomfield Investment Corporation
- **Ms. Solange AMICHIA** – Director General, Investment Promotion Center, Côte d'Ivoire
- **Keynote Speaker: Mr. Lionel Zinsou**, CEO of SOUTHBRIDGE
- **Master of Ceremonies** : Mohamed H'MIDOUCHE
- **Moderator**: Bocar Sy, Banker

### Introduction: Africa's Financial Landscape and Growth Potential

**Mohamed H'MIDOUCHE** opened the session by outlining key financial initiatives across Africa, notably the **African Sovereign Wealth Funds Coalition**.

The moderator, **Bocar Sy, former CEO of Banque de l'Habitat du Sénégal (BHS)**, framed the discussion before handing over to **Lionel Zinsou, CEO of SOUTHBRIDGE**, who provided an analysis of Africa's economic landscape:

- **Africa has high-quality human capital**, yet **international rating agencies apply biased criteria** in assessing its financial health.
- Some African economies **outperform Asia in terms of growth**, particularly in the **East African Community and the WAEMU region**, making **Arab League countries essential partners** for Africa.
- **The exit of European banks** (Société Générale, Standard Chartered, BNP, Barclays) contrasts with the **entry of institutions like JP Morgan**, which now directly backs **sovereign debt issuance**—a function previously handled by **investment banks without balance sheets**.

According to **Zinsou, a modern economy cannot function without private sector credit distribution exceeding 100% of GDP**. The departure of **European banks** should be seen as an **opportunity** for Africa.

He also highlighted Africa's strong long-term savings indicators but stressed that the continent lacks structured agricultural credit systems.

"Africa remains the only 'net zero' continent in terms of carbon emissions, yet the financial system enables resource discoveries such as gas in Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Namibia."

## Afreximbank's Strategy: Industrialization and Regional Trade

Jean Arsene Yerima, Regional COO of Afreximbank, presented the institution's **strategic priorities**, including:

- **Developing industrial zones** to promote **African industrialization**.
- **Transforming agricultural products locally** to reduce dependency on raw exports.
- **Promoting medical tourism** through initiatives like the **Africa Center of Excellence in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University**.
- **Facilitating intra-African trade** via the **Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS)**.
- **Supporting cultural industries** as a key driver of economic development.

## BRVM: Expanding Financial Markets in WAEMU

Dr. Félix Edoh Kossi AMENOUNVE, CEO of BRVM, emphasized the **importance of WAEMU's regional stock exchange**, which has a **market capitalization of 20 trillion FCFA**.

However, he noted that:

- **Africa's economies remain underfunded**, with financing representing **45% of GDP continent-wide, but only 26% in WAEMU**.
- **Deposits in banks hover around 30%**, demonstrating **available liquidity but a lack of effective financial instruments**.

Potential solutions include:

- **Tax incentives and financial literacy programs** to drive market participation.
- **Banking sector consolidation** for greater resilience.
- **Increased Arab-African financial collaboration**.

Despite issuing **786 billion FCFA in Sukuk bonds**, countries like **Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, and Niger** have struggled to attract **Arab investors**, largely due to **currency barriers**.

*"BADEA and Afreximbank should develop solutions to overcome this obstacle,"* he suggested, **calling for an expansion of Africa's financial markets with lower intermediation costs**.

## Strengthening Agricultural Finance and Infrastructure

Riadh Naouar, IFC Regional Manager, highlighted **financial infrastructure as a critical enabler of economic growth**:

- **Agriculture remains severely underfunded**, accounting for **less than 3% of GDP financing (except in South Africa)**.
- **80% of African farmers operate on small-scale farms (~0.8 hectares on average)**.
- **Technology and data analytics** can address **financial inclusion challenges** and enhance **agricultural productivity**.

*"Data aggregation can help de-risk the sector, while credit scoring models based on financial data can boost lender confidence."*

## Enhancing Africa's Creditworthiness

**Stanislas Zézé, CEO of Bloomfield Investment Corporation**, underscored the **importance of credit ratings in financial access**:

- **International rating agencies apply a one-size-fits-all model**, assuming all debts **are issued and repaid in US dollars**, which **disadvantages African economies** with low foreign currency reserves.
- Historically, **Botswana was the only African country to attain investment-grade status**, largely due to its **40 months of foreign exchange reserves**.
- **Bloomfield Investment was founded 18 years ago to rate African nations in their local currencies**, reducing reliance on foreign agency evaluations.

*"Afreximbank's financial instruments are well-adapted to African realities. The perception of African creditworthiness does not reflect its true economic potential."*

Zézé also emphasized the **importance of investment funds tailored to SMEs**, which can significantly boost economic activity.

## Conclusion: The Need for Arab-African Financial Integration

The panel concluded with a **strong call for deeper financial cooperation between Africa and the Arab world**, focusing on:

- **Expanding access to financing through local capital markets.**
- **Developing structured credit mechanisms for agriculture and industry.**
- **Leveraging financial infrastructure to unlock long-term investment potential.**
- **Attracting more Arab investment in African financial markets** through currency risk mitigation strategies.

*"By reinforcing collaboration, creating innovative financial instruments, and optimizing market structures, we can drive sustainable growth across Africa and the Arab world," the panelists agreed.*

## **2** RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Strengthen the partnership framework between the Arab Coordination Group (ACG) and the Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions (AMFI).**
- 2. Promote synergies between Africa and the Arab World** in strategic areas such as infrastructure, energy, and agriculture to maximize economic and social impact.
- 3. Enhance the partnership between BADEA and ITFC** to increase financial and technical support for African SMEs.
- 4. Establish a dedicated trust fund for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects** to reduce financial risks and ensure the sustainability of projects.
- 5. Create centralized databases** to collect and analyze financing opportunities, identify risks, and improve project planning.
- 6. Harmonize regulatory frameworks** between African and Arab countries to simplify cross-border investments and improve process transparency.
- 7. Develop capacity-building programs for African financial institutions,** focusing on risk management, innovative financing techniques, and digitalization.
- 8. Encourage the issuance of Sukuk and other Islamic financial instruments** to diversify funding sources and attract more investments from the Arab world.
- 9. Promote local transformation of agricultural raw materials** by supporting industrialization and increasing the added value of African products.
- 10. Strengthen cultural and economic ties** between Africa and the Arab world by highlighting the natural complementarities between the two regions for long-term collaborations.
- 11. Establish an annual Arab World - Africa meeting** focused on investment and trade.

## 3

## INSTITUTIONS PRESENT AT THE FINANCIAL AFRIK AWARDS



Established in 1974 by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, **the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD)** is a financial institution dedicated to supporting economic and social development in developing countries. It finances key sectors such as infrastructure, energy, health, education, water, and agriculture through concessional loans and grants. Active in more than 90 countries, SFD has financed over 700 projects with a total value exceeding \$20 billion. Its achievements include roads in Africa, power plants in Asia, and irrigation systems in Latin America. The SFD collaborates with international institutions such as the World Bank and the United Nations, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Governed by a board chaired by Saudi Arabia's Minister of Finance, SFD also strengthens bilateral relations and international cooperation while improving living conditions in beneficiary countries.



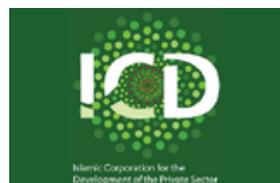
**The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (Kuwait Fund)**, established in 1961, is one of the world's first development institutions. It aims to support economic and social development in developing countries, particularly Arab states, through concessional loans, grants, and technical assistance. The fund finances projects in key sectors such as infrastructure, energy, water, education, and health. Active in over 100 countries, it has contributed to more than 1,000 projects totaling over \$20 billion. The Kuwait Fund plays a pivotal role in promoting international cooperation and strengthening bilateral relations. It actively participates in sustainable development initiatives aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Established in 1976, the **OPEC Fund for International Development (OPEC Fund)** is a multilateral financial institution supporting socio-economic development in developing countries. Funded by OPEC member states, it provides concessional loans, grants, and technical assistance for projects in sectors such as energy, infrastructure, health, education, and agriculture. Active in over 125 countries, the OPEC Fund has financed thousands of projects with a total value exceeding \$20 billion. It works closely with international institutions and governments to promote sustainable development and reduce poverty. The OPEC Fund aligns its initiatives with the United Nations' SDGs and plays a key role in transformative projects, especially in vulnerable regions.



**The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)**, established in 2008, is a member of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB). Based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, ITFC promotes trade among member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) by providing trade financing solutions and capacity-building programs. ITFC funds projects in key sectors such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Since its inception, ITFC has mobilized over \$60 billion to support intra-Islamic trade. It collaborates with international institutions and governments to stimulate economic development and reduce poverty, contributing significantly to the SDGs and regional trade integration.



**The Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD)**, established in 1999, is also a member of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB). Based in Jeddah, it supports economic development in OIC member countries by financing and promoting private sector initiatives. ICD offers Sharia-compliant financing solutions, including loans, equity investments, and advisory services. It operates in key sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture, SMEs, and financial services. Since its inception, ICD has financed hundreds of projects, collaborating with international and regional partners to drive innovation and sustainable growth. The ICD plays a vital role in job creation, poverty reduction, and the realization of the SDGs.



**The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)** is a research center specializing in agriculture in arid and saline environments. Based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, ICBA develops sustainable solutions to improve agricultural productivity in regions facing soil salinity and climate change. It conducts research on salt-tolerant crops, efficient water management, and agronomic innovation. ICBA collaborates with international institutions, governments, and businesses to enhance food security and plays a key role in addressing land salinization challenges in Africa and the Middle East. Its expertise contributes to developing technologies tailored to farmers operating in water-stressed environments.



**The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID)**, established in 1975, is a financial institution supporting economic development and regional integration in West Africa. Headquartered in Lomé, Togo, EBID finances projects in key sectors such as infrastructure, energy, agriculture, industry, and social services. It provides loans, guarantees, and equity participation to projects with high-impact potential in ECOWAS member states. Active in promoting sustainable development, EBID collaborates with international and regional partners to reduce poverty and strengthen West African economies.



**The West African Development Bank (BOAD)**, founded in 1973 and headquartered in Lomé, Togo, is a multilateral financial institution supporting the economic and social development of member countries in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). BOAD finances projects in sectors such as infrastructure, energy, agriculture, industry, and social services. It provides loans, guarantees, and equity participation to regional and sustainable development projects. Since its establishment, BOAD has financed over 1,500 projects with a total value of several billion dollars. It collaborates closely with international and regional partners to contribute to the SDGs, regional integration, and poverty reduction.



**Shelter Afrique**, also known as Shaf Bank, is a pan-African housing finance institution established in 1982. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, it addresses the affordable housing deficit in Africa by providing financial solutions and technical services to member states, real estate developers, and housing finance institutions. Shelter Afrique offers loans, guarantees, equity investments, and technical assistance. It has 44 member countries, including the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC). Since its inception, it has financed thousands of housing projects across the continent. Shelter Afrique collaborates with international partners to promote innovative and sustainable housing solutions, contributing to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).



**The African Solidarity Fund (FSA)**, based in Niamey, Niger, is a multilateral financial institution comprising 23 African member states. Established in 1976, it aims to support economic and social development by facilitating access to credit for productive investment projects and mobilizing local and external savings. FSA is an observer at the African Union (AU) and a member of the Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions (AAMFI). The fund works with partners such as Afreximbank, the Africa Finance Corporation, and Africa Re to drive economic progress and reduce poverty across its member states.

# 4

## SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



### **MADAME NIALÉ KABA, MINISTER OF ECONOMY, PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT**

Madame Nialé Kaba has served as Minister of Economy, Planning, and Development since October 18, 2023, in the Beugré Mambé government. Previously, she held positions as Minister Delegate for Economy and Finance from 2012 to 2016, and as Minister of Planning and Development. She holds a Master's degree in Economic Sciences from the University of Abidjan-Cocody, an Engineer Statistician-Economist diploma from the National School of Statistics and Economic Administration (ENSAE) in Paris, and an Advanced Studies Diploma (DEA) in International and Development Economics from Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University. She also earned a diploma in Economic Policy Management from the International Monetary Fund Institute.



### **H.E. DR. SIDI OULD TAH, PRESIDENT OF BADEA**

Dr. Sidi Ould TAH has been President of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) since 2015. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis and has studied at the London School of Business and the University of Nouakchott. He began his career as an executive at the Mauritanian Bank for Development and Trade (BMDC) from 1986 to 1988 and later worked as a senior executive at the Islamic Development Bank from 1999 to 2006. In 2008, he was appointed Minister of Economic Affairs and Development of Mauritania, further strengthening his expertise in economic policy and development.



### **DIDIER ACOUETÉY, MASTER OF CEREMONIES OF THE OPENING SESSION**

Didier Acouetey is a prominent entrepreneur and consultant specializing in human resources in Africa. He is the founder and president of AfricSearch, a recruitment and HR consulting firm established in 1996 that bridges the gap between African talent and international businesses. Born in Togo, Didier studied in France, earning an engineering degree. Before founding AfricSearch, he worked in Europe in finance and consulting. He is also the organizer of the AfricTalents Forum and the Africa SME Champions Forum. Frequently invited as an expert and speaker on employment and professional development in Africa, he actively promotes entrepreneurship and innovation on the continent.



## **MOHAMED H'MIDOUCHE, MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Mohamed H'MIDOUCHE is an international banker with 47 years of experience dedicated to the economic and social progress of Africa. He is the founder and CEO of Inter-Africa Capital Group (IACG), a strategic consulting firm. He has held several key positions at the African Development Bank (ADB) and is an international consultant for the United Nations. He is also the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Cape Verde in Morocco, Executive Vice-President of the African Diplomatic Academy (ADA), a board member of the African Governance Institute, and an active member of various economic and diplomatic organizations, such as the Moroccan Association of Corporate Economists (AMEE), the Moroccan Institute of Strategic Intelligence (IMIS), and the Moroccan Institute of International Relations (IMRI).



## **H.E. ENG. SULTAN ABDULRAHMAN AL-MARSHAD - CEO OF SFD**

Mr. Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad has served as CEO of the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) since March 2021. Previously, he held key roles within the organization, including Director General of Control and Audit and Export Credit Assurance. He has represented SFD internationally and contributed to various committees, including the Credit Committee for the Export Program and the Administrative Committee. He also sits on the board of the Saudi Export-Import Bank. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Administrative Sciences with a major in Accounting from King Saud University in Riyadh and professional qualifications in export credit, auditing, and financial analysis.



## **DR. ABDULHAMID ALKHALIFA, PRESIDENT OF THE OPEC FUND**

Dr. Abdulhamid Alkhalifa, a Saudi national, was first elected President of the OPEC Fund for International Development in June 2018 and re-elected for a second five-year term starting November 1, 2023. Before joining the OPEC Fund, he served as Deputy Secretary-General of the Saudi Public Investment Fund (PIF) and held leadership roles at the World Bank Group. Dr. Alkhalifa holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Miami, Florida, and a Master's in Applied Economics from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

## **H.E. ENG. HANI SALEM SONBOL, CEO OF ITFC AND ACTING CEO OF ICD**



H.E. Eng. Hani Salem Sonbol serves as CEO of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and Acting CEO of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD). With over 35 years of experience in development banking, he has held senior positions at the Islamic Development Bank Group, including Deputy General Manager of ITFC. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Bluefield State University, a Master's in Engineering Management from George Washington University, and has completed executive leadership programs at Harvard University and the London Business School.

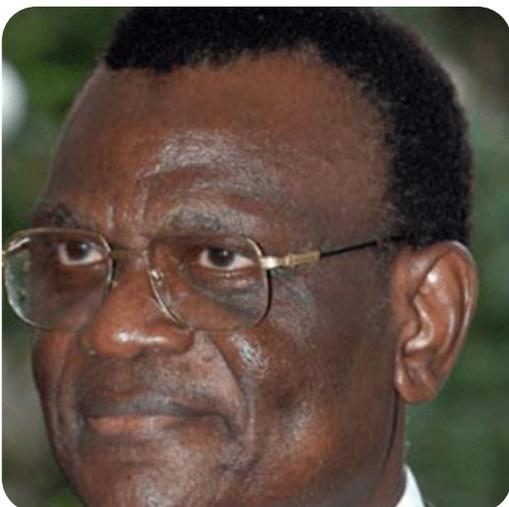
## **SHEIKHA HAYA ABDULRAHMAN AL-THANI, MANAGER OF THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP DEPARTMENT OF QATAR FUND**



Sheikha Haya Abdulrahman Al-Thani is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Qatar Fund for Development, with a career spanning over eleven years in high-level government roles. She began as a diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she contributed to the Permanent National Committee in Support of Jerusalem. Haya transitioned to the Ministry of Defense in 2016, where she played a key role in developing international cooperation strategies and managing the Qatari Armed Forces Academic Bridge program.

In her current role, she manages strategic partnership officers across two divisions: Partnership Development, and Planning and Evaluations. She oversees project delivery, from onboarding new partners and supporting due diligence processes to expanding existing strategic relationships. Her work has been instrumental in building long-lasting ties with both government and private sectors, managing large-scale projects with significant national and international implications.

## **DR ZUL KIFL SALAMI, ECONOMIST**



Zul Kifl Salami, hailing from Benin, has held significant roles in both governmental and international capacities. Initially, he was a minister within the PRPB government. Salami earned a doctorate in economics and further advanced his career by being elected as an Executive Director of the Islamic Development Bank in 2003. In this role, he was responsible for overseeing countries such as Algeria, Benin, Mozambique, Syria, Palestine, and Yemen. His political journey continued as he was appointed Minister of State in charge of Planning and Development in Benin under Mathieu Kérékou's cabinet on February 4, 2005, serving until April 2006. Additionally, Salami ran as an independent candidate in the 2006 presidential election.



### **H.E MR. ABDULLAH AL MESAIBIH - DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS OF KUWAIT FUND**

H.E. Mr. Abdullah Al Mesaibih, a mathematics graduate from Kuwait University, joined the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in 1993. He has served as Regional Director for Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Arab world and was appointed Director of Operations in 2022. He also represents Kuwait on the board of BADEA and various other committees, including the administrative committees of the Al-Aqsa and Al-Quds funds.



### **MRS. LATIFA EL BOUABDELLAOUI, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE (CIDC)**

Mme Latifa El Bouabdellaoui has served as Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) since February 1, 2020. Previously, she was Director of International Trade Relations at Morocco's Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Green and Digital Economy, where she played a key role in negotiating major economic partnership agreements. At ICDT, she focuses on promoting trade and investment in the OIC region, emphasizing innovation and new technologies.



### **DR. GEORGE AGYEKUM DONKOR, PRESIDENT OF EBID**

Dr. George Agyekum Donkor is the President of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) and its Board of Directors. A lawyer by training and a development banker with nearly three decades of experience, he is dedicated to promoting regional integration and progress in West Africa. Dr. Donkor holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from SBS Swiss Business School.



## **SERGE EKUE, PRESIDENT OF THE WEST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (BOAD)**

Serge EKUE has been President of the West African Development Bank (BOAD) since August 28, 2020. Before joining BOAD, he led Corporate and Investment Banking activities for Natixis in the UK and managed the bank's operations in Asia-Pacific for nearly six years. With over 20 years of experience in global finance, structured finance, and capital markets, he has been instrumental in driving economic development in the region.



## **ABDOURAHMANE DIALLO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE AFRICAN SOLIDARITY FUND (FSA)**

Abdourahmane Diallo has been the director general of the African Solidarity Fund (FSA) since September 2024, after serving as interim director since 2023. Before his appointment, he was a key figure at FSA, initially leading the audit department and then the general management. In recent months, he has worked on a crucial program for the consolidation of FSA's own funds, thereby strengthening the institution's intervention capacity. A graduate in Business Administration from the Sorbonne, in International Economics and Globalization from Pierre Mendès France University in Grenoble, and holder of an MBA from the Sorbonne, Diallo combines a solid academic background with proven experience in fundraising and financial engineering. Under his interim leadership, in July 2024, the long-term rating of FSA by GCR Ratings was upgraded from AA+(WU) to AAA(WU), the highest distinction possible on the regional scale.



## **JULES NGANKAM, CEO OF THE AFRICAN GUARANTEE FUND (AGF)**

Jules Ngankam is the CEO of the African Guarantee Fund (AGF). Before assuming this position, he was Deputy General Manager and Financial Director of the group. Under his leadership, AGF has expanded its operations in over 40 African countries, partnering with financial institutions to increase access to financing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through risk-sharing guarantees and capacity development assistance. Jules has over 20 years of experience in the banking and financial services sector. Before joining AGF, he worked at Barclays Capital, the investment banking division of Barclays PLC, where he held various positions, including rate strategist, rate trader, and vice president of treasury. He holds five master's degrees in business administration, statistics and economics, applied mathematics, applied statistics, and computer science. Jules is passionate about using financial innovation to support financial inclusion and sustainable development, convinced that SMEs are drivers of economic growth, product innovation, regional development, and job creation in Africa.

## **MR. THIERNO-HABIB HANN - CEO OF SHELTER AFRICA**



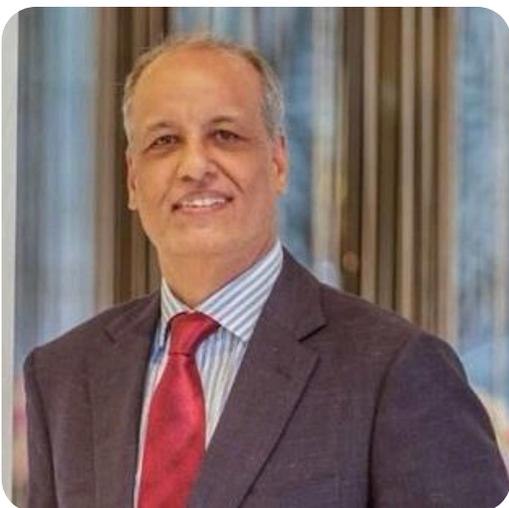
Mr. Thierno-Habib Hann joined Shelter-Afrique after a career at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), where he was responsible for housing finance for the Asia/Pacific region, based in Bangkok, Thailand. With over 20 years of international experience in housing finance, capital markets, investment banking, and structured finance, Hann brings deep expertise in real estate development and investment to Shelter-Afrique. His extensive knowledge of the real estate sector, combined with a strong track record of achievements, enhances his ability to lead and grow the organization in achieving its housing development objectives in Africa.

## **MS. MARLENE NGOYI - CEO OF FEDA**



Ms. Marlene Ngoyi, from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), has been the CEO of the Fund for Export-Development in Africa (FEDA), a subsidiary of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), since May 2022. Ms. Ngoyi has over 20 years of experience. She has worked with social enterprises, private companies, public-private partnerships, and governments across Africa to raise billions of dollars in debt, bonds, equity, quasi-equity, and foreign direct investment through bank syndication, capital markets, or private equity transactions to finance strategic investments. Ms. Ngoyi has also served as CEO of BGF I Investment Banking, where she led the company in raising more than US\$4 billion in capital and foreign direct investment for private and sovereign clients. Additionally, she was the CEO of a commercial bank in DRC for two years, leading a financial turnaround by restoring its financial profitability. She graduated magna cum laude from Bentley University with a [B.Sc.](#) in Economics and Finance and holds a Master in Business Administration from Harvard Business School.

## **MR. MOHAMED ABDELLAHI OULD YAHA**



Mohamed Abdellahi, a graduate from the École Nationale Supérieure de Mécanique (ENSM), began his entrepreneurial career by founding several companies, including May Mauritania, specializing in outboard engine sales, and MIP Seafood, focusing on the fishing and freezing industry. On April 28, 2007, he was appointed as the General Delegate for the Promotion of Private Investment, serving until May 2008 under the new government led by Yahya Ould Ahmed El Waghef. Abdellahi also founded and led the Maurinvest group along with Maurilog, quickly becoming a key logistics partner for mining and oil companies such as BP, Petronas, and Schlumberger.

In March 2023, the Maurinvest-Maurilog group partnered with Bpifrance and Bond'innov to create an Innovation Hub in Nouakchott, Mauritania, aiming to further the country's economic development.

## **MR. KHALID AL ABOODI – SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE CEO OF SAUDI EXIM**



Mr. Khalid Al-Aboodi currently holds the position of Senior Advisor to the CEO of Saudi EXIM. Having joined the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group in November 2001, he initially served as Deputy Director of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and has been its CEO since 2007. With over 35 years of experience in development financing in the Middle East and the USA, he began his career in 1982 at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy of Saudi Arabia as an economic researcher. He also served as Director of the environmental unit and Acting Director of the Department of International Financial Institutions. In 1995, he moved to Washington D.C. to work as an assistant to the Saudi Executive Director at the World Bank, before becoming Alternate Executive Director for Saudi Arabia until 2000. He then joined the Saudi Public Investment Fund as a senior economist, overseeing several privatization operations. Khalid Al-Aboodi graduated in economics from King Saud University in Riyadh (1982) and holds a master's degree in economics from Northeastern University in Boston, USA (1987).

## **H.E DR. TARIFA A. ALZAABI - DG OF ICBA**



Dr. Tarifa A. Alzaabi has been the Director General of ICBA since August 2019, bringing 20 years of executive and leadership experience in higher education institutions. As a social scientist, she works for sustainable agricultural development and the transformation of food systems by focusing on capacity development, engagement of women and youth, and agripreneurship. She has launched several programs such as the ICBA Youth Engagement Society (ICBA YES) and contributed to the Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture (AWLA) scholarship program. Dr. Alzaabi has also represented ICBA's research-for-development work at many major international conferences and forums, including the international workshop on land degradation and habitat loss on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Saudi Arabia, and participated in workshops on Women in STEM organized by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. She serves on advisory committees and groups, including the UAE's Ag-Tech Development Committee which aims to transform the country's agricultural technology sector and enhance domestic food security. Before joining ICBA, she was Director of Dubai Women's College, Higher Colleges of Technology. Dr. Alzaabi is also an edupreneur and a winner of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum SME Award as Businesswoman of the Year 2015. Most recently, she won an Emirates Women Award 2020 in the category Best Career Achievements.

## **DR. FÉLIX EDOH KOSSI AMENOUNVE - CEO OF BRVM**



Dr. Félix Edoh Kossi AMENOUNVE is the CEO of the West African Regional Stock Exchange (BRVM) since October 2012 and the outgoing President of the Association of African Stock Exchanges (ASEA). Holding a Ph.D. in Administrative Sciences, specializing in Finance, obtained at Laval University in Canada in 1995, he is the architect of major reforms in the WAEMU (West African Economic and Monetary Union) financial market. Considered one of the most influential finance specialists in Africa, he plays a key role in the development and modernization of the region's financial markets.

## **MR. PIERRE ATEPA GOUDIABY - PRESIDENT OF ATEPA GROUP**



Pierre Goudiaby Atepa, born June 30, 1947, in Ziguinchor, Senegal, is a renowned architect and president of the Atepa Group. After obtaining his baccalaureate, he studied at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, where he earned a degree in building sciences and an architectural degree. He also served as a special advisor to President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal from 2000 to 2012. Recognized as one of the major contemporary architects in Africa, he sees himself as "an architect of development." Considered one of the hundred most influential personalities on the continent, he has a marked interest in African youth. Since June 25, 2015, he has also been president of the Board of Directors of the BRVM and DC/BR.

## **JÉRÔME EHUI - GENERAL MANAGER OF VERSUS BANK AND PRESIDENT OF APBEF-CI**



Jérôme Ehui has been managing Versus Bank since October 7, 2019, a leading institution in the financing of SMEs/SMLs in Côte d'Ivoire. He is also president of the Professional Association of Banks and Financial Institutions of Côte d'Ivoire (APBEF-CI) since January 13, 2022. Trained in business law with a banking diploma from the Institute of Banking Techniques (ITB) of the Training Center for the Banking Profession (CFPB), France, Ehui has dedicated his career to banking operations, mainly at Société Générale in Côte d'Ivoire from November 1982 to February 2019. During his 37 years there, he held various strategic positions such as Director of several branches, Director of SMEs, Deputy Commercial Director, HR Director, and Special Advisor to the General Manager. Before joining Versus Bank, he led the Governance and Social Life Department for the eight WAEMU states within the West Africa Regional Directorate.

## **MS. TSHEPIDI MOREMONG – CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, AFRICA 50**



Ms. Tshepidi Moremong was appointed Chief Operating Officer at Africa50, the pan-African investment platform, effective July 1, 2021. With over twenty-two years of experience, she is a seasoned senior executive specializing in strategic leadership in private equity, corporate finance, and commercial development. Before joining Africa50, she worked at Rand Merchant Bank (RMB) in South Africa, where she was responsible for client coverage for Africa outside South Africa since 2014, overseeing commercial development and client relationship management across nine markets. During her tenure at RMB, she successfully built and led a multi-regional team that achieved significant results. Ms. Moremong has also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the African Venture Capital Association and has held multiple directorships for both listed and unlisted entities on the continent. Previously, she was an investment executive at Aureos Capital and Vice President at Renaissance Capital, demonstrating a strong capacity for strategic leadership and financial results achievement.

## **LEILA BEN HASSEN, JURY MEMBER, FINANCIAL AFRIK**



Leila Ben Hassen is an expert in communication on sustainability, leadership, the blue economy, and gender equality. Founder of the African Blue Economy Forum, she is among the top 100 most influential African women according to New African Magazine. A member of the Ocean Panel Experts Group, she co-led the Blue Paper. Leila also held an executive position at the National Tourism Office of Tunisia. She graduated from Imperial College London, enhancing her expertise in strategic areas related to the economy and sustainable development. Her commitment to these key areas helps shape policies and practices around the blue economy and sustainable tourism.

## **LIONEL ZINSOU, FOUNDER OF SOUTHBRIDGE**

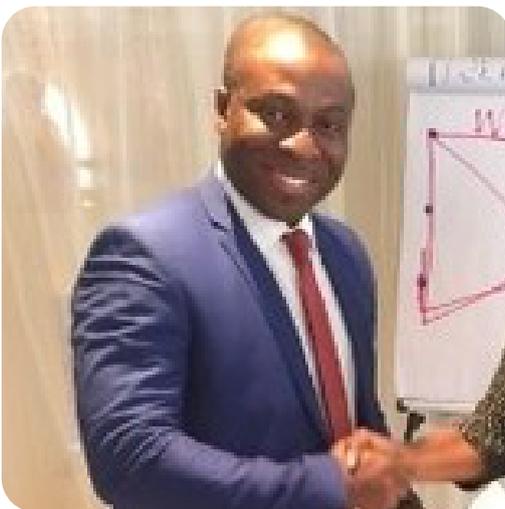


Lionel Zinsou, an economist and former Prime Minister of Benin (2015-2016), is the founder and managing partner of SouthBridge. Before founding SouthBridge, he was CEO of PAI Partners, a French private equity firm managing more than 11 billion euros in assets from 2008 to 2015. Previously, Zinsou worked for 11 years at Rothschild & Cie, where he was a general partner from 1997, responsible for global consumer goods and for Africa and the Middle East until 2008. He also held several positions at Danone starting in 1986, including Corporate Development Director and CEO of the Grocery Division. His professional career began in public education as a professor of social sciences and economic history at the École Normale Supérieure and at the University of Paris XIII. He is currently a member of several boards of directors and actively engaged in community work, chairing several foundations, including that of the École Normale Supérieure and the Zinsou Foundation.



## **MR. JEAN ARSENE YERIMA – REGIONAL CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER FOR THE FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICAN REGION AT AFREXIMBANK**

Mr. Jean Arsene Yerima is currently the Regional Chief Operating Officer for the Francophone West African region at AfreximBank. He holds a Master's degree in Finance and Organization Management from KEDGE Business School — EuroMed in France, and an advanced degree in Management from the University of Douala Institute of Technologies. Before joining AfreximBank, he served as Director of Corporate Banking for Cameroon and the CEMAC cluster at Ecobank Cameroon SA, where he was also the Sustainability Champion for the group's CIB. Previously, at Standard Chartered Bank, he was Director of Corporate and Institutional Banking for Cameroon, with oversight over Congo-Brazzaville and Gabon, and led Global Subsidiaries as well as Global Corporates. He was also the Relationship Manager for Global Corporates, leading the Corporate Finance and Trade units, and held the position of Transaction Banking Sales Manager, as well as Consumer Sales Manager, Administration, and Property Manager in the same bank.



## **EDMOND ADJIKPE, REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA AT SHELTER AFRIQUE**

Edmond Adjikpe is the Permanent Representative and Regional Manager for North, West, and Central Africa at Shelter Afrique. He holds an MBA in Banking and Finance, specializing in Financial Markets from CESAG, as well as an Engineering degree in Statistical Works and Demography from the National School of Applied Economics (ENEA) in Dakar, Senegal. With over 19 years of professional experience, including 17 years in the banking and financial sector, Mr. Adjikpe has dedicated more than 12 years of his career to Shelter Afrique. He also holds the position of Head of the Department of Public-Private Partnerships and Sovereign Loans, covering the 44 member countries of the organization. His main functions include representing his institution to member states and negotiating, structuring, and monitoring financings.



## **MR. RIADH NAOUAR – IFC REGIONAL MANAGER FOR NORTH, WEST, AND CENTRAL AFRICA**

Mr. Riadh Naouar is currently the Regional Manager of the Financial Institution Group Upstream and Advisory Services for North, West, and Central Africa at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), based in Rabat, Morocco. With over 20 years of experience in the financial sector, he has played a key role in developing accessible, affordable, and sustainable SME banking services in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and North Africa. Mr. Naouar possesses deep regional and industry expertise, working with private and public sector partners to catalyze inclusive economic growth. He is passionate about building teams and developing talent through mentoring and coaching. Before his current position, he led Advisory Services for the Financial Institutions Group in Sub-Saharan Africa from 2016 to 2018, and also managed Advisory Services for the Middle East and Africa from 2018 to 2022. Mr. Naouar holds a Master's degree in Management from the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management of Tunis III University.



## **MS. GÉRALDINE MERMOUX - MANAGING PARTNER, FINACTU**

Géraldine Mermoux has been the Managing Partner of FINACTU since 2012, where she leads the group's activities by bringing her financial expertise and deep knowledge of Africa. She has significant experience in advising companies in the African financial sector and governments on corporate finance and operational strategy. Between 2006 and 2011, she was a Director at Emerging Capital Partners, Africa's leading private equity fund manager, where she carried out numerous transactions and served on several boards of directors. Previously, from 2000 to 2005, she was the General Manager of Upline IT Management, managing the Moroccan Upline Technologies fund. Géraldine graduated in finance from the University of Lyon and in economics from the University of Sussex.



## **MR. STANISLAS ZÉZÉ - CEO, BLOOMFIELD INVESTMENT CORPORATION**

Stanislas Zézé is the CEO of Bloomfield Investment Corporation, a financial rating agency based in Côte d'Ivoire, with an office in Cameroon. After studying business law in France, he continued his education at the Institute of Political and Economic Sciences at Eastern Michigan, where he obtained a degree in economics, followed by a Master of Public Administration from the University of Michigan. His career began at the National Bank of Detroit as Director of Risks, then he worked as a Senior Control & Country Risk Analyst at the World Bank in Washington. He then joined the African Development Bank as a Senior Country Risk Officer, before becoming Regional Director of Credit Risk at Shell Oil Africa. In 2007, he founded Bloomfield Investment Corporation and became its CEO in 2008. A member of the American Association of Public Administrators and Pi Sigma Alpha, he was also honored at the Leadership Forum in Abidjan in 2014.



## **MS. SOLANGE AMICHIA - DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INVESTMENT PROMOTION CENTER IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE (CEPICI)**

Solange Amichia is currently the Director General of the Investment Promotion Center in Côte d'Ivoire (CEPICI), a position she has held since September 2021. Before taking on the role of director general, she was Deputy Director General within the same organization since February 2014. In her current duties, she meets with investors from around the world to present investment opportunities in Côte d'Ivoire, the regulations and incentives offered under the investment code and other sectoral codes, as well as all the reforms the government is undertaking to improve the business climate. She also coordinates the preparation and follow-up of the operational plans, based on the strategic plans set and agreed with the executive Board of CEPICI. Previously, she held senior positions at Société Générale in New York, where she worked from 1995 to 2014, as Vice-President and Senior Vice-President, designing financial tools and platforms for traders. Solange graduated from EDC Paris Business School and is certified in project management by the Project Management Institute.



## **BOCAR SY, FORMER CEO OF BHS**

Bocar Sy, former CEO of the Banque de l'Habitat du Sénégal (BHS), left his position on September 12, 2024, after 14 years of service. Recognized as an eminent figure in the Senegalese and West African banking sector, Sy specializes in real estate financing. During his tenure, he played a crucial role in modernizing the BHS and introduced innovative initiatives such as the launch of the first West African "diaspora bond". His departure coincides with a major transformation period for the BHS, a pillar of housing finance in Senegal.

**5**

# THE WINNERS OF THE 6TH FINANCIAL AFRIK AWARDS

## FINANCE MINISTER OF THE YEAR

**Romuald Wadagni, Minister of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Benin**

## FINANCIER OF THE YEAR:

**Dr. Sidi Ould Tah**

## DEAL OF THE YEAR:

**AFG Holding**

## CEO OF THE YEAR:

**Idrissa Nassa**

## ECONOMIST OF THE YEAR:

**Carlos Lopes**

## OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD:

**Nialé Kaba, Minister of Economy, Planning, and Development of Côte d'Ivoire**

## ARAB-AFRICAN COOPERATION TROPHY:

**Arab Coordination Group (ACG)**

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

**Pierre Goudiaby Atepa**





# PRESS REVIEW

## FINANCIAL AFRIK LIVE

### PANELS

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/LIVE/TXWQLLDCKKU?SI=AQTXIAMQLDWHPQ3T](https://www.youtube.com/live/txwqllDCKKU?si=AQTXIAMQLDWHPQ3T)

### GALA DINNER

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=ZL2W0R2HYFC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZL2W0R2HYFC)

### INTERVIEWS

WITH SIDI OULD TAH, PRESIDENT OF BADEA

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/LRD53JVROLW?SI=QKSNT5NBSUN\\_\\_04](https://youtu.be/LRD53JVROLW?si=QKSNT5NBSUN__04)

WITH IDRISSE NASSA, CHAIRMAN FOUNDER OF CORIS BANK INTERNATIONAL, DISTINGUISHED CEO OF THE YEAR AT THE FINANCIAL AFRIK AWARDS 6.

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=K\\_DWYNVG8HC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_DWYNVG8HC)

WITH MOSSADECK BALLY, A RENOWNED AFRICAN ENTREPRENEUR AND BUSINESSMAN, BEST KNOWN AS THE FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE AZALAÏ GROUP, ONE OF THE LARGEST HOTEL GROUPS IN WEST AFRICA.

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=RAL6-ZGFDTC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAL6-ZGFDTC)

WITH SERGE EKUE, PRESIDENT OF BOAD, CALLS FOR A REEVALUATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD.

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/FIDB1454YKE?SI=4GSEI7NI\\_ZOKXTZS](https://youtu.be/FIDB1454YKE?si=4GSEI7NI_ZOKXTZS)

WITH ZUL KIFL SALAMI HIGHLIGHTS THE KEY ROLE OF ARAB COORDINATION IN FOSTERING INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN AFRICA.

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/1XG40CFRBJA?SI=PJNAPQVZ\\_NN\\_0M-W](https://youtu.be/1XG40CFRBJA?si=PJNAPQVZ_NN_0M-W)

## PRESS REVIEW

6TH EDITION OF THE FINANCIAL AFRIK AWARDS : BRIDGING AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD FOR A PROSPEROUS FUTURE

[HTTPS://WWW.KAPITALAFRIK.COM/2025/01/30/6TH-EDITION-OF-THE-FINANCIAL-AFRIK-AWARDS/](https://www.kapitalafrik.com/2025/01/30/6th-edition-of-the-financial-afrik-awards/)

6TH EDITION OF THE FINANCIAL AFRIK AWARDS: IVORIAN MINISTER OF PLANNING, KABA NIALÉ, CALLS FOR ATTRACTING ARAB INVESTMENTS (AFRIK SOIR)  
[HTTPS://AFRIKSOIR.NET/6E-EDITION-FINANCIAL-AFRIK-AWARDS-KABA-NIALE-APPELLE-LAFRIQUE-A-CAPTER-LES-INVESTISSEMENTS-ARABES/](https://afriksoir.net/6e-edition-financial-afrik-awards-kaba-niale-appelle-lafrique-a-capter-les-investissements-arabes/)

FINANCIAL AFRIK AWARDS 2025: A STRATEGIC BRIDGE BETWEEN AFRICA AND THE ARAB WORLD (FRATERNITÉ MATIN).  
[HTTPS://WWW.FRATMAT.INFO/ARTICLE/2631240/ECONOMIE/FINANCIAL-AFRIK-AWARDS-2025-UN-PONT-STRATEGIQUE-ENTRE-LAFRIQUE-ET-LE-MONDE-ARABE](https://www.fratmat.info/article/2631240/economie/financier-afrik-awards-2025-un-pont-strategique-entre-lafrique-et-le-monde-arabe)

FINANCIAL AFRIK AWARDS 2025: THE COMPLEMENTARITIES BETWEEN THE ARAB WORLD AND AFRICA HIGHLIGHTED (360 AFRIQUE)  
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