



**FUTURE OF WORK
FOR AFRICAN YOUTH**

**CONFERENCE
7 FEB 2019, GENEVA**



Speakers

Thomas Gass **SDC**

Thomas Gass was appointed by the Swiss Federal Council as Vice-Director and Head of the South Cooperation Department of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), to take office on 1 January 2018.

He brings with him wide-ranging experience in bilateral and multilateral development cooperation, as well as in natural sciences applied to development. From 2013-2017, he served as Assistant Secretary General at the Department for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in New York. Prior to his position at the United Nations, he served from 2009 to 2013 as Head of the Mission of Switzerland to Nepal. There he established the Embassy, oversaw the delivery of the development programme and chaired the Donors Group of the Nepal Peace Trust Fund – the main instrument for international support to Nepal's peace process. Before his posting to Nepal, from 2004 to 2009, Mr. Gass was Head of the Economic and Development Section at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in New York, where he represented Switzerland's interests in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), its subsidiary Commissions, the General Assembly and the Executive Boards of the major UN Funds and Programmes. During this time, Mr Gass was also the Chair of the Donor Group of the UN Global Compact.

Mr. Gass has also served as Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Guyana (2002-2004), as Policy and Programme Officer for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (1998-2002), and as Regional Director for Europe with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute in Rome (1996-1998).

Born in 1963, Thomas Gass holds a PhD in natural sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and a MSc and engineering diploma in agricultural sciences from the same Institute. He is married and father of three adult children.

Tashmia Ismail-Saville **Youth Employment Service (YES)**

Tashmia is the CEO of the Youth Employment Service (YES), a joint initiative between business, labour and government, which addresses South Africa's youth unemployment challenge, by creating 1 million work experiences in South Africa. She founded Boundless World, which focusses on strategy and innovation, inclusive business models, mobile digital skills and economic and behavioural research.

Tashmia is a PhD fellow at UNU-MERIT in Maastricht and adjunct faculty at GIBS, where she has held faculty positions in the field of innovation management and inclusive business. She has extensive consulting experience with a range of global and local businesses such as Unilever, Roche, GSK, Mahindra and the DBSA. Through her business school involvement, Tashmia found and headed the GIBS Inclusive Markets Programme from 2010 to 2016, here, and through her consulting practice, she developed and implemented inclusive strategies and business models for companies, wrote, conducted research and designed learning programmes on economic inclusion, design thinking and innovation.

Tashmia co-authored the book *New Markets, New Mindsets*, which examines successful business practices and strategies in developing markets. She has published multiple articles and case studies on inclusive innovation, ranging from technology-based start-ups in India to rural financial models in Kenya. Recent research, commissioned by C-GAP (World Bank), focused on customer centricity in organisations toward promoting financial inclusion.

All her projects have promoted innovation in subsistence markets, job creation, entrepreneurial activity and economic inclusion. For three years, Tashmia worked on an eleven country European Union innovation networks project (ENGINEUS) to inform EU policy on global knowledge networks. She qualified as a dentist at Wits Medical School and ran a successful surgical dental practice for a number of years. After exiting practice, she completed an MBA at GIBS in 2009. She was the recipient of the Corporate Finance prize and achieved a distinction for her final dissertation on macroeconomic factors impacting mergers and acquisitions in developing markets. Since then, Tashmia has taught and consulted in various countries, including the Erasmus Rotterdam School of Management in the Netherlands and Kelley School of Business in the USA.

Ukinebo Dare **Edo State**

As the SSA to the Edo State Governor on Skills development and Jobs, Ukinebo oversees the Edojobs initiative and the Edo State Skills Development Agency. As part of the administration of His Excellency, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, Executive Governor of Edo State, she has a mandate to fulfil his vision and promise to create 200,000 jobs by 2020. Under her leadership, EdoJobs has impacted over

55,000 job seekers in rural and urban communities in Edo State. With her team, she has implemented innovative projects to create the demand for, and provide the supply of highly skilled talent in Edo State. She has overseen the setup and running of various projects including, Edo Innovates (an innovation cluster that is leveraging on technology to create jobs and incubate businesses for 3,000 people annually), Edo Food an Agricultural Cluster, which targets 8,000 farmers in rural communities each year, supporting them to get improved livelihoods, by engaging aggregators, providing training and extension services among others.

In her current role as Head of Edo State Government's Skills Development Agency, Ukinebo brings her experience of tackling unemployment through Social Enterprise and Civil Society into Governance.

Before becoming the Head of the Edo State Skills Development Agency, Ukinebo had implemented various projects and worked in multiple roles related to Skills Development and Job Creation across Africa, and over 33,000 youth had benefitted from employability initiatives executed by Ukinebo and her team at Poise Graduate Finishing Academy (PGFA). In 2015, she won the Ford Foundation Prize for Youth Employment at the Future Awards Africa (2015) and she is credited for the execution of employability interventions projects in partnership with organizations such as Oxfam International, SOS Kinderdorpen, Google Nigeria, Microsoft Nigeria, Butterfly Works Netherlands and so on.

She started her career in the Information Technology department of Oando Plc, Nigeria. Her passion for people development then led her to setup PGFA in 2010 which achieved an 87% employment rate of its graduates and earned endorsements from the Nigerian National Universities Commission and multiple reputable employers. She also served as Programme Director of EkoBits which is part of a group of ICT and Digital Design Academies across Africa. Through Ekobits youth from shantytowns and underserved communities, without access to University education get training and jobs in the IT sector as programmers, graphic designers, web designers and so on.

She regularly speaks to groups of employers, government representatives, educators and youth driving conversations about practical strategies for job creation and skills development. She was selected by the United States, Department of State as a 2017 Mandela Washington Fellow for her work and has received many awards including the 2017 JCI Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award, the BusinessDay and Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment 40 under 40 award and others. She has attended Benson Idahosa University, Nigeria, the University of Bradford, UK and Clark Atlanta University, USA.

Lynsey Farrell **Ashoka**

Lynsey Farrell is the Change Leader and currently the Knowledge Lead for Ashoka's Global Venture team that supports the selection of leading social entrepreneurs around the world. While at Ashoka, Lynsey has led numerous knowledge and learning efforts.

As program manager of Ashoka's Future Forward: Innovations in Youth Employment in Africa initiative, she curated and facilitated the Future of Work in Africa course, co-authored an innovation guide called Youth Unstuck: Innovations in Youth Livelihoods and Leadership in Africa, and helped co-lead experiential learning journeys around the continent.

Prior to Ashoka, Lynsey directed American University's program on international development in Nairobi, Kenya and completed a PhD in Cultural Anthropology focused on the intersection of international development and youth-self-help movements in Nairobi's largest informal settlement, Kibera.

Solomon King Benge **Fundi Bots**

Passionate about education, design, business and technology Solomon King founded Fundi Bots, an education non-profit with a mission to accelerate learning for (science) students in Africa in 2011. Fundi Bots aims to promote better learning outcomes, improved career prospects and real-world technological advancement in African schools and communities through training and experimentation in hands-on, project-based and skills-oriented science disciplines, starting with robotics.

Through his work with Fundi Bots, he was selected as a 2014 Echoing Green Fellow and a 2014 Ashoka Fellow.

Echoing Green and Ashoka Fellowships provide financial, logistical and advisory support to emerging world leaders to pursue ideas that try to solve some of the world's biggest problems. In 2017, Solomon was selected as an African Visionary Fellow by the Segal Family Foundation.

Over the past four years, Solomon has led the growth of Fundi Bots from a hobby running in a spare room in his house to an organization working with more than 60 schools and 3000 students.

His work with Fundi Bots received recognition by Google through a Google RISE grant in 2012, and has been featured by the BBC, CNN, Voice of America and Wired Magazine UK and other global publications.

Between 2003 and 2013, Solomon led and founded and led several startups in the technology and digital communication space in Uganda. In 2006, he founded Node Six, a web solutions firm offering domain, email and hosting services for hundreds of clients. He also founded Elemental Edge in 2005, a Ugandan visual effects production house that produced interactive media, TV advertising, 3D and 2D animation and live action filming.

Solomon has been a key and influential figure in the early development of the technology, design and robotics scene in Uganda and was instrumental in the growth of communities and networks that fostered technology and entrepreneurial growth in Uganda.

Dr Gilles Olakounlé Yabi **WATHI**

Gilles Olakounlé Yabi is an independent consultant in the fields of conflict analysis, security and political governance in West Africa. He founded WATHI, the West Africa Citizen Think Tank in 2015. WATHI is a unique participative and multidisciplinary citizen-focused think tank on West African issues (www.wathi.org).

Gilles Yabi worked as senior political analyst (2004-2008) and later as West Africa Project Director of the International Crisis Group, a think-tank dedicated to conflict prevention and resolution (2011-2013). He led the research, policy, advocacy and media work of Crisis Group in West Africa and worked particularly on the political crises and conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Nigeria.

Holding a Ph.D in Development economics from the university of Clermont-Ferrand in France, Gilles Yabi also worked as a journalist for the weekly magazine Jeune Afrique in Paris. Dr Yabi has authored dozens of articles and book chapters on African political and economic issues.

Jacqueline Ford, APSO

With more than 25 years' experience in the staffing and recruitment sector Jacqui was appointed as the CEO of APSO (which is the professional body for the staffing industry in South Africa) in 2016. Prior to her appointment as CEO, Jacqui served on the Board of APSO as a Non-Executive Director during which she held the portfolio of Ethics for a period of 3 years. Her current role enables active participation with several stakeholders around labour law, business operations and lobbying and advocacy to ensure that the employment industry plays a significant role in providing innovative solutions to address challenges that arise through the ever-changing world of work. In addition, she holds several key roles including as the Africa Representative on the Board of the World Employment Confederation. This has enabled unique insights and learnings from a global perspective for members to contribute to a better labour market by providing work opportunities, adaptation, security and prosperity within the complex South African labour market. In 2018, Jacqui was appointed to the Board of the Services SETA (a Government Institution for vocational skills training in SA).

Wala Kasmi, Youth Decides

Wala Kasmi is a Serial impact Entrepreneur based in Tunisia. She uses technology to better the world and create a global community of Digital Natives, Decision Makers and Business Leaders to re-think our lives as an international community. She created the political movement Youth Decides to advocate for more youth in decision making especially in the MEA region.

Dr. Eric Otenyo, Professor at Northern Arizona University

Eric E. Otenyo is professor of Politics and International Affairs at Northern Arizona University, USA. He earned his PhD from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio and an MPA from Syracuse University, New York. Professor Otenyo's core interests are in the interface between development, governance and new technologies in Africa. His teaching experience includes the University of Nairobi, Kenya and Illinois State University, USA. Professor Otenyo has a long list of publications including articles in the *International Journal of Services, Economics and Management*, *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, *Public Organization Review*; *African Technopolitan*; *Cornell University's IAD Occasional Papers Series* and the *International Journal of Public Administration*. Chapters in books such as *Communicator-in-Chief: A Look at How Barack Obama used New Media Technology to Win the White House*, (Lexington Books in Lanham, Maryland, 2009); *Privacy in a Digital Age: 21st-Century Challenges to the Fourth Amendment and First Amendment Rights* (eds. Nancy Lind and Erik Rankin, ABC-CLIO, 2015); And *Today's Economic Issues: Democrats and Republicans* edited by Erik T. Rankin and Gardenia Harris. (ABC-CLIO Greenwood, 2016); *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy and Governance* (Springer International, Switzerland, 2018).

Maria Prieto, ILO

Maria Prieto is an Employment and future of work specialist in the ILO's Employment Department. Previously, Maria worked as a Specialist in the ILO's Future of Work Initiative, where she provided technical support to the Global Commission on the Future of Work and to the work of the ILO on the subject. Maria has more than seventeen years of professional experience in the United Nations (ILO and UNDP) in positions that included thematic areas such as youth employment, local economic and social development, public-private partnerships, small and micro enterprises, informal economy, infrastructure development and urban environment. Her main objectives in the ILO have been to provide technical advice and support to ILO constituents (Governments, workers and employers organisations) in the development of policies, strategies, plans and programmes. She also managed technical cooperation portfolios and supported development programmes and projects around the world. Maria holds a degree of Master of Science in Business Administration and Economics from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and is fluent in Spanish (mother tongue), Swedish (mother tongue), English and French.

Roeland Monasch, Aflatoun

Roeland Monasch is the CEO of Aflatoun. Aflatoun International is a Social Franchise delivering Social and Financial Education through a network of 200+ partner organizations and 30+ governments. Its mission is to inspire children and young people to socially and economically empower themselves to become agents of change for a more equitable future. Aflatoun International's programmes are implemented in 100+ countries, reaching 5.4 million children and young people in 2017. In addition to the content itself, Aflatoun International provides all the technical support necessary to develop, implement, evaluate and scale-up Social and Financial Education. The ambition is to empower 20 million children by 2020. Until June 2015 Roeland was the UNICEF Representative in Sierra Leone. He was responsible for the UNICEF response during the unprecedented Ebola outbreak in the country.

In this capacity he also co-led with the Ministry of Education the reopening of all schools. He also worked as UNICEF Representative in Georgia (2009-2012) focusing on the de-institutionalization of all children living in large orphanages established during the Soviet Union era. He served as UNICEF Representative in Zimbabwe during the Humanitarian Crisis (2008–2009) [Cholera/Political violence/Hyperinflation]. He joined that Country Office in 2004 as Programme Coordinator. Previously, Roeland worked in the Strategic Information Unit in UNICEF/HQ on Monitoring the Situation of Children around the World (1998-2004). From 1993-1998 he worked for the World Health Organization (Strengthening of Health Systems Department & Department of Emerging and other Communicable Diseases). Roeland is a national of the Netherlands, holds a Masters' degree in Sociology (University of Groningen) and has an additional degree in Development Economics. He has published extensively in the international scientific literature, especially on issues related to Orphans and other Vulnerable Children. Roeland is married and has a twelve year old daughter.

Susana Puerto, ILO

Susana Puerto is a Senior Youth Employment Specialist in the ILO. She leads the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, an inclusive multi-stakeholder alliance to scale up action and impact on youth employment within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Today, the Decent Jobs for Youth engages with over 50 partners globally, creating synergies and brokering partnerships at country, regional and global level. With over ten years of experience on the promotion of youth employment, Susana has managed and contributed to multiple efforts boosting employability and job creation – with a focus on young women. Between 2011 and 2014, Susana managed the Youth Employment Network, a partnership of United Nations, ILO, and World Bank and has been over the years a leading advocate for more and better data and evidence about what works to improve labour market outcomes of youth. Susana is a labour economist from Georgetown University with a strong research footprint.

Valeria Esquivel, ILO

Valeria Esquivel is Employment Policies and Gender Specialist at the ILO, based in Geneva, Switzerland. Previously, Valeria was Research Coordinator on Gender and Development at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). Before joining the United Nations, she developed a long academic career as feminist economist, publishing extensively on labour, macroeconomic and social policies. Her latest publications have focused primarily on care policies and care workers. She authored the chapter "Care Policies: Realizing their transformative potential" (UNRISD Flagship Report Policy Innovations for Transformative Change, 2016), and is co-author of Innovations in Care: New Concepts, New Actors, New Policies (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2017) and of the recent report Care work and care jobs for the future of decent work (ILO, 2018). Valeria is on leave of absence from her positions as Associate Professor of Economics at Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, and as Researcher at CONICET (Argentina). She earned an MSc and a PhD in economics from the University of London, UK.

Niall O'Higgins, ILO

Niall O'Higgins is Senior Research Specialist in the ILO's Youth Employment Programme and Professor of Economics at the University of Salerno. He holds degrees from Trinity College Dublin, York and Sheffield Universities and a Ph.D. from the European University Institute in Florence. Currently, his main research interests cover various aspects of labour economics (School-to-Work Transition, Human Capital Investment, Youth Labour Markets, Evaluation of Labour Market Policy, Labour Migration, Vulnerable Groups in the Labour Market, Labour Markets in Central and Eastern Europe) and experimental economics (Social Capital, Imitation & Reciprocity). He recently authored a major ILO book on youth employment policy, Rising to the youth employment challenge, and is one of the main authors of the ILO's bi-annual publication, Global employment trends for youth.

Sarah Akwei-Marfo, ILO

Sarah Akwei-Marfo is a Carlo Schmid Fellow at the International Labour Organisation supporting the work of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs. She has a Master's degree in Environmental Governance from the University of Freiburg, Germany. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Psychology from the University of Ghana, Legon. She previously worked with Union Oil Ghana Limited, an Oil Marketing Company in Ghana as a station manager. She also worked with L&M travel tour agency in Ghana as a human relations officer. She has experience in working with international and multilateral agreements based on her work with the Special Programme of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as an intern. Sarah has professional experience in public relations and general management.

Moustapha Kamal Gueye, ILO

Moustapha Kamal Gueye is Coordinator, Green Jobs Programme, at the International Labour Organization. Previously, he served as Head, Green Economy Advisory Services at the UN Environment Programme and as Senior Programme Manager at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development in Geneva. Earlier, he spent twelve years across Asia working at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in Japan. He holds a Ph.D. from Nagoya University, Japan; DEA and LL.M from Dakar University; and Executive Certificates from the World Bank Institute; Columbia University; Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development, Japan; and Integrated Research and Action for Development, India.

Juan Chacaltan, ILO

Juan Chacaltana is a Senior Employment Policies Specialist at the Employment Department, ILO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. He previously worked as Senior Economist at the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and as Employment Specialist at the ILO Office for the Andean Countries. He also was the head of the ILO's Formalisation Program for Latin America and the Caribbean (FORLAC) and the Head of the Interagency United Nations MDG Program on Youth, Employment and Migration, with the participation of ILO, UNDP, UNFPA and IOM. His experience before the ILO include being the Head of the Labor Statistics Program in the Labor Ministry of Peru and being Director of Research of a Peruvian think tank, CEDEP. He has published widely in the areas of employment, informality, productivity, youth, human capital and the evaluation of social programs. His most recent book is "Políticas de Formalización en América Latina: Avances y Desafíos", co edited with Jose Manuel Salazar – Xirinachs. Dr Chacaltana has also a vast experience in the design of public policy and institutional design. He holds a PhD degree in Economics from the Catholic University of Peru and a Master of Science degree in Economics from Texas A&M University in the USA.

Maria Marta Travieso, ILO

María Marta Travieso has worked in the ILO's Future of Work Unit that assisted the Global Commission on the Future of Work and is in the Standards Department where she is in charge of a general survey on the evolution of the employment relationship in the framework of constant evolutions in the world of work. María Marta has more than fifteen years of professional experience in the International Labour Organization. She has specialized in International Labour Standards related to freedom of association and collective bargaining, equality and gender equality, workers with family responsibilities and indigenous peoples. She has provided advice and support to ILO constituents (Governments, employers' and workers' organizations). She is also the author of publications on governance, the international system, and the ILO, the history and procedure of the Committee on Freedom of Association and diversity and reasonable accommodation. From 2012 to 2015 she has provided training at Masters level on Equalities and Inequalities at Lyon II. María Marta holds a Masters degree from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland. María Marta is fluent in Spanish (mother tongue), English and French.

Evelyn Namara, Global Community Engagement Manager Internet Society

Evelyn is a Ugandan with a keen interest in the power the Internet and ICTs have in changing lives, enabling innovation and entrepreneurship to foster long-term development.

Currently, she is the Global Community Engagement Manager for the Internet Society where she works on defining, managing and coordinating community engagement and mobilization activities across departments to support the Organizational objectives. She's also credited for founding Vouch Digital, a technology start-up building a verified voucher system that helps eliminate fraud and corruption in the distribution of aid for both government and International aid organizations.

Evelyn is passionate about Technology for Development (ICT4D), Youth and Entrepreneurship as well as empowering women in technology.

OLAWALE, Rotimi Opeyemi JR Farms Limited

Olawale, Rotimi Opeyemi is an agric entrepreneur- a recognized young leader in Africa's agric sector and international speaker who has addressed global audience at high level platforms such as The Commonwealth, Harvard University, African Union, World Trade Centre- Washington DC, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (Africa), Wilton Park (UK), African Development Bank among others. He is the founder and chief executive of JR Farms Limited- an emerging agribusiness company determined to transform agriculture in Africa by undertaking opportunities for business and growth that will engender sustainable food production, increased incomes for farmers, value addition and job creation for Africans. Currently, JR Farms is registered in Nigeria and Rwanda with business operations and correspondence in both nations, Ivory Coast and Egypt respectively. In Nigeria, JR Farms processes cassava into garri, a Nigerian staple consumed by over 80 million households daily. In Rwanda, JR Farms in partnership with a Rwanda Farmers Coffee Company works with over 4000 coffee farmers across Rwanda, roast, package and export roasted coffee to global market under the name "JR Coffee." So far, this coffee has been consistently exported to Nigeria, Canada, America, Ivory Coast and Egypt respectively. In addition, Olawale is an active development and agribusiness consultant to many organizations, government bodies in Nigeria, international NGOs, financial and multilateral institutions. He consulted for Making Finance Work for Africa- a multilateral institution hosted at the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. In the first of its kind in the history of Nigeria Prisons since inception, Olawale Rotimi Opeyemi initiated a farm training scheme for inmates in Nigeria Prisons (Medium Security Prison, Kirikiri, Lagos) to train and empower inmates in vegetable farming. More than 30 inmates were trained on the first phase of the scheme. Further to the above, Olawale mentors thousands of young agric entrepreneurs across Africa through physical meetings and social media; Olawale earned his Bachelor and Master's degrees in Philosophy and Religion at the prestigious University of Ilorin, Nigeria. He also has a management certificate in Agribusiness Management from Lagos Business School, Nigeria.

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