Dr the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, born on 14th July 1947, is the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, and Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications.

He is the son of late Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, first Prime Minister of Mauritius and late Lady Sushil Ramgoolam. Dr the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam qualified as a medical doctor at the Royal College of Surgeons and after completing his LRCP and LRCSI in 1975, he undertook his internship at St Laurences Hospital in Dublin. Subsequently, Dr the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam worked as Clinical Assistant (Cardiology) at the University College Hospital and then as Resident Medical Officer at the Yorkshire Clinic in Bingley, UK. In 1987, Dr the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam enrolled at the London School of Economics and Political Science and completed his LLB (Hons) in 1990. After a Vocation Course at the Inns of Court School of Law, he was called to the United Kingdom Bar, Inner Temple, in 1993.

Leader of the Mauritius Labour Party since February 1991, he was first elected Member of Parliament in 1991 and became Leader of the Opposition. He became Prime Minister of Mauritius in 1995, following a landslide victory at the General Elections. His Party lost the elections in 2000 and Dr the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam again became Leader of the Opposition. He was returned to power in July 2005 and won the General Elections once more in May 2010.

Since 2005, the Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Dr the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam has embarked upon a new development model that seeks to make Mauritius globally competitive through a strategy aiming to achieve economic efficiency with social justice. Dr the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam has been awarded numerous honours including the “Grand Officier de la Légion d’Honneur” (France), the Wilberforce Medal on the occasion of the Wilberforce Lecture Trust in Hull (UK) and the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award from the Government of the Republic of India.
H.E. Dr Jean Ping has been Chairperson of the African Union Commission since 2008. A career diplomat, Dr Ping began his professional life at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). From 1978 to 1984, he served as Permanent Delegate of the Gabonese Republic to UNESCO. His diplomatic and political experience led to his appointment, in 1984, as Director of the Cabinet of the President of Gabon, a position he held until 1990, when he was elevated to the post of Minister of Information. Throughout the 1990s, Dr Ping successively held a variety of appointments at the ministerial level, including Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Resources and deputy minister in the Ministry of Finance, Economy, Budget and Privatisation. Later, he was Minister of Planning, Environment and Tourism, a position he held until his appointment, in 1999, as Ministre d’Etat, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and la Francophonie.

Dr Ping, who has extensive experience in international and regional diplomacy, has headed his country’s delegation at numerous sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as at international conferences and summits, including those of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank, the Organisation of African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, of which he was President in 1993. He served as president of the United Nations General Assembly from 2004 to 2005. At the regional and sub-regional levels, Dr Ping has headed delegations at conferences and summits of the Central African Customs and Economic Union, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the Economic Community of Central African States and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development.
Dr Mo Ibrahim is a global expert in mobile communications with a distinguished academic and business career. More recently, he has played a leading advocacy role on issues of African development and governance, through his Foundation and through participation in a range of global initiatives.

After a long career in academia, six years as Technical Director for Cellnet of BT, and founding a consultancy and software company, Mobile Systems International, in 1998 Dr Ibrahim founded Celtel International to build and operate mobile networks in Africa. Celtel became one of Africa’s most successful companies with operations covering more than a third of the continent’s population and investing more than $750 million in Africa. The company was sold to MTC Kuwait in 2005 for $3.4billion.

In 2006, Dr Ibrahim established the Mo Ibrahim Foundation to support good governance and great leadership on the African continent. The Foundation focuses on two major initiatives to stimulate debate around, and improve the quality of, governance in Africa. The Ibrahim Index of African Governance provides civil society and governments with a comprehensive and quantifiable tool to assess governance and promote accountability. The Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership recognises and celebrates excellence.

Dr Ibrahim is also Founding Chairman of Satya Capital Limited, an investment fund focused on Africa.

Dr Ibrahim was listed by TIME magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. He has received numerous honorary degrees and fellowships from a range of academic institutions. Dr Ibrahim is also the recipient of a number of awards including: The Chairman’s Award for Lifetime Achievement from the GSM Association in 2007; The Economist Innovation Award 2007 for Social & Economic Innovation; Ordre national du Burkina Faso (Officier) and the BNP Paribas Prize for Philanthropy in 2008.
Dr Donald Kaberuka was elected in 2005 as the seventh president of the African Development Bank Group. He was re-elected in May 2010 in Abidjan for a second term of five years. He took his new oath of office on 1 September 2010 during a ceremony at the Temporary Relocation Agency in Tunis, to the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Bank, members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Tunis and employees of the institution.

Dr Kaberuka was educated in Tanzania, and in the United Kingdom where he obtained an MPhil (Economics) and PhD (Economics) at Glasgow University. He speaks fluent English, French and Swahili. He was Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Rwanda from 1997 to 2005, and is widely credited with the successful economic reconstruction of the country after the civil war there. He initiated and implemented major economic reforms in terms of structural, monetary and fiscal governance, especially on central bank independence. These reforms led to the widely-recognised revival of Rwanda’s economy, and the sustained economic growth that enabled Rwanda to obtain debt cancellation under the Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) in April 2005.

Before joining the Bank, Dr Kaberuka worked for more than 12 years in the areas of banking, trade finance, international trade and development. As Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Dr Kaberuka was governor representing Rwanda at the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank.

Paul Collier is Professor of Economics and Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University. He took a five year Public Service leave from 1998-2003, during which he was Director of the Research Development Department of the World Bank. He is also a Professeur invité at CERDI, Université d’Auverge, and at Paris 1.

In 2008 Professor Collier was awarded a CBE ‘for services to scholarship and development’. He is the author of The Bottom Billion, which in 2008 won the Lionel Gelber, Arthur Ross and Corine prizes and in May 2009 was the joint winner of the Estoril Global Issues Distinguished Book prize. His second book, Wars, Guns and Votes: Democracy in Dangerous Places was published in March 2009; and his latest book, The Plundered Planet: How to Reconcile Prosperity with Nature was published in May 2010.

Professor Collier is currently Advisor to the Strategy and Policy Department of the International Monetary Fund, advisor to the Africa Region of the World Bank; he has also advised the British Government on its recent White Paper on economic development policy. He has been writing a monthly column for the Independent, and also writes for the New York Times, the Financial Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post. His research covers the causes and consequences of civil war; the effects of aid and the problems of democracy in low-income and natural-resources rich societies.
Mr Abdoulie Janneh (Gambia) is currently serving as United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). ECA has a dual role as the regional arm of the United Nations in Africa and as a key pan-African institution. Since Mr Janneh joined ECA, he has taken steps to strategically re-position the organisation to better support Africa’s development agenda. He has also overseen the articulation of Business Plans in ECA to operationalise the new strategic vision of promoting regional integration and helping Africa to meet its special needs.

Before joining ECA, Mr Janneh served as Assistant Secretary-General and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Director for Africa from June 2000 to October 2005. In that capacity, he managed UNDP’s largest regional bureau, covering 45 countries in sub-Saharan Africa with a complement of over 1,500 staff. Prior to that, he held a number of senior positions in UNDP and its affiliated funds, including Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative in Ghana (1996-1999) and Niger (1993-1996), as well as Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (1990-1993).

Mr Janneh has played an active role in policymaking and setting on key issues concerning the African continent including the articulation of a common African position to G20 Summits in London, Pittsburgh, Toronto and Seoul. He similarly played an active role in promoting the climate change agenda in Africa especially with regard to the ‘one African voice’ initiative as well as the establishment of the African Climate Policy Centre at ECA. He also serves on the advisory panels of a number of organisations involved in Africa’s development.

Mr Trevor Andrew Manuel served as Minister of Trade and Industry from May 1994 to March 1996, as Minister of Finance from April 1996 to May 2009 and is currently Minister in the Presidency, responsible for National Planning. He was appointed to this post by President Jacob Zuma on 10 May 2009.

He became active in the anti-apartheid struggle in the late 1970s and served on the executive of the United Democratic Front. His decades-long public service career began when he was elected to the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress (ANC) and appointed head of the Department of Economic Planning in 1991, where he shaped the ANC’s economic policy. Subsequently, he was elected to Parliament in South Africa’s first democratic elections in 1994 and was appointed first as Minister of Trade and Industry, then Minister of Finance in April of 1996 and in 2009 as Minister in the Presidency: National Planning.

Minister Manuel was appointed to the Advisory Committee of the United Nations (UN) Initiative for Trade Efficiency in 1994. In 1997 he was named Euromoney’s "African Finance Minister of the Year". He chaired the Development Committee of the World Bank from 2001 until 2005. Minister Manuel played an instrumental role as a Commissioner on the Commission for Africa from 2004 until 2005. In 2005 he was named the Newsmaker of the Year by the Johannesburg Press Club. In 2007 he was awarded the Africa Finance Minister of the Year award in Washington. Minister Manuel was appointed Special Envoy for development finance by the UN Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon in May 2008. In July 2008 he was awarded the Woodrow Wilson Public Service Award. He is also the Chancellor of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. In March 2010, he was appointed to the High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing by the UN Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon. Minister Manuel has also received numerous honorary doctorates.
Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is currently a Managing Director of the World Bank, a position which includes special oversight for the Bank’s operations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, South Asia and Africa. She is currently chairing the 16th replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA). From 2003 to 2006, Dr Okonjo-Iweala served as Finance Minister of Nigeria and later Foreign Affairs Minister. As Minister of Finance, she spearheaded negotiations with the Paris Club of Creditors in 2005 that led to the wiping out of US$30 billion of Nigeria’s external debt, including outright cancellation of US$18 billion. In a crucial step in the battle against corruption, Dr Okonjo-Iweala opened the government finances to public scrutiny, by publishing federal monthly financial allocations to the states and local governments in newspapers.

Dr Okonjo-Iweala is the founder of NOI-Gallup Polls, the first ever indigenous opinion research organisation in Nigeria. She is co-founder of the Makeda Fund, a US$50 million private equity fund that invests in women-owned small and medium enterprises in Africa, and she also founded the Centre for the Study of Economies of Africa (C-SEA), a development research think-tank. As chair of the Nelson Mandela Institution, she is a founding member of the African Institutes of Science and Technology (AIST) to develop a higher learning community in science and technology in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr Okonjo-Iweala is also a member of numerous boards and advisory groups. Dr Okonjo-Iweala has received many awards including TIME Magazine’s European Hero of the Year Award 2004, and Euromoney Magazine Global Finance Minister of the year 2005. In 2006, she was named by Forbes Magazine as one of the 100 most powerful women in the world. She has received honorary degrees from prestigious universities including Brown University, USA and Trinity College, University of Dublin, Ireland. She is the recipient of the prestigious 2010 Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award awarded by Africare.

Ms Valentine Sendanyoye Rugwabiza currently occupies the post of Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization. In this role, which she took up in October 2005, Ms Sendanyoye Rugwabiza’s responsibilities cover development issues and policies generally; trade policy review; trade facilitation, and training and technical cooperation. She is also responsible for the WTO work programme on Aid for Trade. Ms Sendanyoye Rugwabiza has extensive work experience in senior Government and private sector positions. Prior to her current post, she served for three years simultaneously as Rwanda’s Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, Head of Delegation to the WTO and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Switzerland.

Prior to this assignment she was adviser at the Council of Economic and Social Affairs in the Office of the Rwandan President in Kigali. Ms Sendanyoye Rugwabiza managed her own company which she had established upon her return to Rwanda after the 1994 genocide. Previously she had worked as a senior manager with a major Swiss multinational company, first as head of its commercial development and marketing operations for Central Africa, based in Yaoundé, Cameroon, and then as its regional manager for Central and West Africa, based in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. Ms Sendanyoye Rugwabiza is a founding member of the Rwandese Private Sector Federation, the Rwanda Women Entrepreneurs’ Organisation and the Rwandese Women Leaders’ Caucus. During her tenure as Rwanda’s Ambassador, she was Coordinator of the African Group in the WTO and was one of the two Ambassadors representing the LDCs in the Integrated Framework Working Group. She initiated the Integrated Framework in Rwanda.
Mrs Graça Machel is a renowned international advocate for women and children’s rights and has been a social and political activist over many decades. Mrs Machel is Founder and President of the Foundation for Community Development (FDC) which makes grants to civil society organisations to strengthen communities, facilitate social and economic justice and assist in the reconstruction and development of post-war Mozambique. She previously served as Minister of Education and Culture in Mozambique (1975–1989). In 1994, the UN Secretary General appointed her as an independent expert to carry out an assessment of the impact of armed conflict on children. Her groundbreaking report established a new and innovative agenda for the comprehensive protection of children caught up in war, changing the policy and practice of governments, UN agencies, and international and national civil society.

Over the years, Mrs Machel has gained international recognition for her achievements. Her many awards include the Laureate of Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger from the Hunger Project in 1992 and the Nansen Medal in recognition of her contribution to the welfare of refugee children in 1995. She has received the Inter Press Service’s (IPS) International Achievement Award, the Africare Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award and the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe, amongst others. Graça Machel’s first husband, Samora Machel, inaugural President of Mozambique, was killed in a plane crash in 1986. She wed former South African President Nelson Mandela in 1998.

Amongst her many current commitments, she is a Board Member of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization Fund (GAVI Fund), Chancellor of the University of Cape Town (South Africa), Panel Member of the Africa Progress Panel, Member of The Elders and Member of the High Level Task Force on Innovative International Finance for Health Systems.

President Joaquim Chissano is the Chairperson of the Joaquim Chissano Foundation which aims to promote peace, social and economic development and culture. He is also Chair of the Africa Forum of Former African Heads of State and Government. As a young man, President Chissano was politically active in his native Mozambique—he was a founding member of the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) and played a fundamental role in the 1974 negotiations on the independence of Mozambique. He went on to succeed President Samora Machel as President of Mozambique. He led positive socio-economic reforms, culminating with the adoption of the 1990 constitution that led Mozambique to a multi-party system and an open market. President Chissano also led successful negotiations ending 16 years of destabilising war in 1992. During his tenure, he was also Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union.

After retiring from office, he was appointed Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the 2005 Summit to Review the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration, as well as Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to Guinea-Bissau, Democratic Republic of Congo and to the affected areas by the LRA in Uganda and SADC Special Envoy for the political conflict in Madagascar. President Chissano is a member of the boards of the Club of Madrid, The Hunger Project, the International Crisis Group, and the Peace Parks Foundation, and is a Goodwill Ambassador for CPLP (Portuguese Spoken Countries Community) and a Global Partnership Initiative Youth Ambassador. President Chissano is a also member of the Advisors Council of the World Food Prize, the High Level Taskforce for the Climate Services at the World Meteorology Organisation and the Advisory Panel for Global Development at the Gates Foundation (since 2009).

He has received the highest awards from many countries and several prizes, including The Hunger Project prize (1997), The Kellog Foundation Award (2004), The Together For Peace prize, The Chatham House Prize (2006) and the inaugural Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership (2007).
Mr Alhaji Aliko Dangote is the Group President and Chief Executive Officer of the Dangote Group. He is a graduate of Business Studies from Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt and the founder of the Dangote Group, which he transformed from a small trading business he started in 1977 to a multi-billion naira conglomerate spanning the West African sub-region.

In recognition of his contributions to the growth of the Nigerian economy and his philanthropy, he has been conferred with several awards including the prestigious ZIK Award for professional leadership (1992), the International Award of Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Cross River State Roll of Honour Award (2002) and the Thisday Newspapers Award for Chief Executive Officer of the Year (2005).

He was conferred with the national honour of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) in 2000 and Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) in 2005.

Mrs Aïcha Bah Diallo is a champion of girls’ and women’s learning. Mrs Bah Diallo played a guiding role in the formation of the Forum of African Women Educationalists (FAWE) in 1992, and previously served as its president. She is currently Vice-President of FAWE and President of the Network for Education for All in Africa (REPTA). She was adviser to the Director-General of UNESCO on girls’ education in Africa until 2009.

Mrs Bah Diallo was appointed Minister of Education of Guinea in 1990, and served in that post for seven years. There she pioneered work on lowering barriers to education for girls, noting that poverty was the primary problem, but that the distance of schools from family homes and concerns about the girls’ safety also played a part. During her time in office, the number of girls enrolled in school surged from 113,000 to 233,000.

At the Ministry of Education she enlisted a team of strong managers and became widely known throughout the country as the leader of education reform in Guinea, redeploying nearly one third of the country's teachers from urban to rural schools, as well as from administration to teaching, and from secondary to primary schools. From 1996 to 2005, Mrs Bah Diallo was a senior education leader at UNESCO, serving as Director for Basic Education, Deputy Assistant Director-General for Education, and as acting Assistant Director-General for Education. She is the former chair of UNESCO’s Advisory Committee for Education in Africa.

Prior to her service as Minister of Education in Guinea, Mrs Bah Diallo was Chief of Cabinet at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (1986-1989) and also served as the Director of International Relations and Projects at the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (1984-1986).
Dr Mohamed ElBaradei has served with distinction for more than four decades as an Egyptian diplomat, international civil servant and scholar. He is the former Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an intergovernmental organisation in the United Nations system. Dr ElBaradei is also a member of the International Law Association and the American Society of International Law. He has recently been appointed a member of the UNAIDS High Level Commission on HIV Prevention. Dr ElBaradei’s diplomatic career began in 1964 in the Egyptian Ministry of External Affairs, where he served in the Permanent Missions of Egypt to the United Nations in New York and in Geneva, in charge of political, legal, and arms control issues. He was also a special assistant to the Egyptian Foreign Minister. He joined the United Nations in 1980, became a senior staff member of the IAEA in 1984, and was appointed Director General in 1997. He began a third four-year term as Director General in September 2005. From 1981 to 1987, he was also an Adjunct Professor of International Law at New York University.

Dr ElBaradei has received many awards, decorations and honorary degrees for his work as an advocate of tolerance and humanity. These include national honours from his native Egypt and from Algeria, as well as The Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award. In 2010 he was awarded the XIV International Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia Prize. In 2005, Dr ElBaradei and the IAEA were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize “for their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way”.

President Festus Gontebanye Mogae is the Chairperson of the Coalition for Dialogue in Africa (CoDA), and former President of Botswana. He founded the Champions for an HIV-Free Generation, a group of former African presidents and other influential personalities which aims to strengthen efforts to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa; he was also appointed chairperson in recognition of the leadership he provided in the fight against HIV/AIDS during his presidency of Botswana. More recently, in September 2008, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed President Mogae as one of his four Special Envoys on Climate Change for a period of one year.

He previously served as the third President of Botswana between 1998 and 2008. His time in office was characterised by programmes to develop education and health infrastructure, and to privatise parts of the economy, notably the airlines and telecommunications industry. Under President Mogae’s stewardship of the economy and careful management of the country’s mineral resources, Botswana experienced the steady economic growth that has characterised its post-independence history. Having been one of the poorest African countries at the time of independence, President Mogae consolidated Botswana’s place as one of the most prosperous countries on the continent. After decades of enforcing strict anti-corruption measures, Botswana is also regularly ranked as one of the least corrupt countries in Africa.

In recognition of his time in office and his work following his presidency, President Mogae has received a number of awards and honours. In 2002, the Africa-America Institute awarded President Mogae its National Leadership Award, which recognises extraordinary leadership in the development and growth of Africa. It had been presented only once before, to Nelson Mandela. In March 2008, President Mogae was awarded the Grand Cross of the Légion d’honneur by French President Nicolas Sarkozy for his "exemplary leadership" in making Botswana a “model” of democracy and good governance. In 2008 he was awarded the second Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.
Mr Trevor Ncube is the Executive Deputy Chairman of the Mail & Guardian Media Group (South Africa). He is also the founder, owner and executive chairman of two newspapers in Zimbabwe namely the Zimbabwe Independent and The Standard. NewsDay, Mr Ncube’s newest daily newspaper in Zimbabwe also launched recently.

Mr Ncube also owns Munn Marketing, a magazine and newspaper distribution company in Zimbabwe, and StrandMultiprint, a commercial and newspaper printing company.

Mr Ncube started in journalism in 1989 when he was appointed assistant editor of the Financial Gazette in Zimbabwe. In 1991 he was promoted to Executive Editor and in 1994 received the Zimbabwean Editor of the Year award.


Mr Ncube was awarded a Print Media SA Fellowship in 2006. He was awarded the International Publishers Association Freedom Prize Award 2007. He has also won the German Africa Award 2008. He has undertaken speaking engagements across the world. Mr Ncube was recently appointed co-chair of the Africa Media Initiative.
Ms Maria Ramos is the Group Chief Executive of Absa Group Ltd. Prior to joining Absa in March 2009, she was the Group Chief Executive of Transnet Ltd, the state owned freight transport and logistics service provider for five years. This was after a seven year successful stint as Director-General of the National Treasury.

Ms Ramos led Transnet through a massive financial, cultural and operational turnaround. During her tenure as Director-General of the National Treasury, Ms Ramos played a key role in transforming the Treasury into one of the most effective and efficient state departments. An accomplished academic, who has taught at various institutions, Ms Ramos obtained an Institute of Bankers Diploma (CAIB) in 1983. She followed this with a BCom from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in 1986, a BCom Honours in Economics (also from Wits) in 1987 and an MSc (Economics) from the University of London in 1992.

She is also the recipient of honorary doctorates from the Stellenbosch and Free State Universities. Her contribution has been recognized through numerous awards. These include the Sunday Times Business Times Top 100 Business Leader of the Year (2005), successive rankings in the global 2010 Fortune magazine annual ranking survey, a ranking of 11th out of a list of 50 most powerful women in business, 32nd place in Forbes Magazine’s list of its 2010 Top 100 most powerful women in the world, as well as being named Businesswoman of the Year by the SA Businesswomen’s Association in 2001.

She currently serves on the executive committee of the World Economic Forum’s International Business Council. Ms Ramos is a member of the Chief Economist Advisory Council of the World Bank, Business Leadership of SA, Institute of International Finance, International Monetary Forum as well as the Banking Association of SA. She is also a member of the Barclays PLC Executive Committee.

Dr Mahmood Cheeroo is the Chief Executive Officer of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), a position he has held since 2000. The MCCI is the largest, oldest and most influential private sector organisation in Mauritius, and Dr Cheeroo’s position includes policy dialogue with government, trade negotiations, and facilitation and promotion of trade and enterprise. He is also currently the Chairman of the Port Users’ Council, and Commissioner for Economic Affairs in the National Economic and Social Council.

Dr Cheeroo has also served as Economic Adviser to the Minister of Economic Planning and Development for Mauritius on a wide range of issues centred around macro-economic policies, international trade and finance. He completed his tertiary education in France and holds a doctorate in development economics from the Sorbonne.

Dr Cheeroo has extensive international experience, having conducted many assignments for international and regional organisations including the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program. He has also served as chairman of the governing body of the ‘Institut de la Francophonie pour l’Entrepreneuriat’, one of the four international institutions of la Francophonie, and Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Southern African Development Community Chambers of Commerce and Industry. In Mauritius, Dr Cheeroo has served as Chairman of the Stock Exchange Commission of Mauritius and Chairman of the National Handicraft Promotion Agency.
As the chairman for Africa at Microsoft Corporation since January 2006, Dr Cheick Modibo Diarra is the ambassador of Microsoft to Africa and Africa’s ambassador to Microsoft. Dr Diarra’s key objective as the Africa Chairman is to leave a legacy whereby all the people of the continent will be able to access and utilise technology in their everyday lives to further their education and to respond to their other needs.

Dr Diarra is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Goodwill Ambassador for Science, Technology and Enterprise; an Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Goodwill Ambassador for Dialogue among Cultures and Civilisations; and Founder and President of the African Summit on Science and New Technologies (SASNET). Dr Diarra is also an Advisory Board member of the Permanent Memorial Committee established by the United Nations Office for Partnerships to draw international attention to the tragic legacy of the transatlantic slave trade; and on the Advisory Board of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA).

Dr Diarra has been awarded the African Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998 (the same was awarded to Nelson Mandela in 1997), the World Bank’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to Science and the Africa-America Institute Award for Excellence in Science (for inspiring youth worldwide to explore the cosmos). He was voted by the African public as one of the 100 Africans of the 21st Century in Jeune Afrique magazine. He shares the 2008 Lifetime African ICT Achievers Award with former South African president, Thabo Mbeki. Dr Diarra is also the recipient of various honours and decorations from Gabon, Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, and Burkina Faso.

Ms Monhla Hlahla was appointed as the Managing Director for the Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) in 2001. At present, she is also the acting chairman of the Industrial Development Corporation and a non-executive director for ABSA Bank. She also serves on the Airports Council International (ACI) World Governing Board and is the President for the African chapter of ACI.

Ms Hlahla holds a BA Honours (Economics) at Pamona College and an MA (Urban and Regional Planning) from the UCLA School of Architecture and Planning, both in the United States of America.

In 2005, Ms Hlahla was awarded the following accolades: Businesswomen’s Association Businesswoman of the Year, Black Business Quarterly Business Woman of the Year, Impumelelo South Africa’s Top Empowerment Companies Businesswoman of the Year and Most Outstanding Woman Manager in a State Owned Enterprise.

In 2008, she was named the Black Management Forum Business Personality of the Year. And in 2010 she received the Business Leader Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut (AHI) Platinum Award for Outstanding Business Leadership.
Mr Tshepo Mahloele is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Harith Fund Managers, which is Africa’s first and only 15 year Fund Manager. Harith Fund Managers is pioneering the Pan African Infrastructure Development Fund (PAIDF). Currently in its third year of disbursements, the Fund focuses on Telecommunications, Transport, Energy and Water and Sanitation. PAIDF/Harith has been recognized by Africa Investor magazine for two years in succession as Africa’s “Infrastructure Fund of the Year” (2009 and 2010).

Mr Mahloele headed the Corporate Finance and Isibaya Fund Division of the Public Investment Corporation (“PIC”) prior to working on the establishment of the PAIDF. The PIC is the largest Investment Manager in South Africa with over US$90 billion under management. The total investment portfolio of the Isibaya Fund in 2003/2004 financial year was R18 billion (US$2.8 billion). Under his leadership the Fund achieved returns of 45% over 2003/2004 and 40% over 2004/2005. Mr Mahloele was awarded the “ABSIP Corporate Financier” award for both 2003/2004 and 2004/2005.

Before joining the PIC, he was Head of Private Sector Investments at the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) managing a portfolio of R4 billion across Southern Africa and responsible for a team of 12 Project Managers. DBSA is a development finance institution that invests in infrastructure projects in Southern Africa. Mr Mahloele holds a BProc Degree from Rhodes University; has completed various programmes and certificate courses in finance and venture capital; has completed the Harvard Advanced Management Programme; and serves on a number of boards.

Mr Lluis Riera is Director for Development Policy at the European Commission's Directorate General for Development. In this capacity he is in charge of thematic policy issues, such as sustainable management of natural resources (including climate change, disaster risk reduction, food security, and rural development); human development, social cohesion and employment (including education and health); and economic development (including infrastructure, regional integration, and trade).

Mr Riera’s career at the European Commission spans more than three decades. Between 2002-2007, Mr Riera was Director at the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional Policy with responsibility for the Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession (ISPA); negotiation of Structural Fund Programmes in new Member States and programmes and projects in various EU Member States, pre-accession states and EU Candidate countries.

Between 1998-2002, Mr Riera was Director at the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs with responsibility for the follow-up of National Employment Policies, European Social Fund Operations and the Community Initiative EQUAL.

Between 1991-1996, Mr Riera was Head of Unit at the European Commission's Directorate General for Development with responsibility for Coastal and Western Africa; and Relations with the Institutions.
Regional Politics | Panellists

Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas was appointed Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group on 16 November 2009 by the ACP Council of Ministers and took office on 1 March 2010.

Previously he was the President of the Commission and Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), from 2002 to 2010. As head of ECOWAS, Dr Chambas successfully positioned the Community as a model regional organisation in Africa. Under his guidance, ECOWAS adopted a new strategic vision and embarked on a profound restructuring of its institutions to make them more relevant to the needs of member states in the regional development and integration process.

Dr Chambas is an accomplished international diplomat and a convincing and astute negotiator, whose skills in seeking principled compromises and common ground has often yielded critical breakthroughs in negotiations at all levels.

Prior to heading the ECOWAS Secretariat, Dr Chambas was a Member of Parliament in Ghana, where he served at various periods as First Deputy Speaker of Parliament and chaired various committees. He also held deputy ministerial posts in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Higher Education of his country.

In recognition of his stewardship of ECOWAS and his remarkable achievements in regional integration, peace and security, he has been invited to serve on a number of international panels such as the Danish Africa Commission for Effective Cooperation, the Advisory Board of the World Bank’s World Development Report (2011) and as Co-President of the International Contact Group on Guinea (2009-2010). He received a number of honours and national awards from the governments of Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, and Togo, as well as an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Ghana, Legon.

Ms Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi is the Executive Director of the African Women’s Development Fund, an Africa-wide grant-making organisation supporting the women’s movement in Africa. She was previously the Director of Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA), an international development organisation for African women based in the UK, with an African regional office in Kampala, Uganda. She has an MA in History, and an MA in Gender Studies, and experience as a journalist, writer, lecturer, trainer, and as an organisational development specialist. She has expertise in fundraising and organisational development, and training expertise in feminist leadership development and resource mobilisation. During her time at AMwA, she conceptualised the African Women’s Leadership Institute which has helped train over 3,000 women leaders in Africa.

Ms Adeleye-Fayemi has been Co-Chair of the International Network of Women’s Funds (2004 -2006); Senior Fellow, Synergos Institute (2003-2005); and was President of the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) (2003-2005). She is currently a board member of the International Women’s Health Coalition, an Advisory Board member of Realising Rights – The Ethical Globalisation Initiative, and a board member of Resource Alliance (UK).

She has written and published several articles on feminist leadership, popular culture and women’s human rights. She has participated in numerous conferences, seminars, workshops and training programs as a speaker, facilitator, co-convener, trainer and resource person in various parts of Africa, Western and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the United States. She recently received the Changing the Face of Philanthropy award from the Women’s Funding Network, USA.
Mr Abdoulaye Bio-Tchané is the incumbent Chairman of the Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD), the common development finance institution of the West African Monetary Union. Equipped with technical competences and skills, including a Master’s degree in Economics and two Postgraduate professional degrees in Banking and Islamic Banking, he successively held positions in various organisations including the Banque Centrale des Etats de l’Afrique de l’Ouest (BCEAO), where he started as an Economist and was later appointed Director of Research. Before becoming International Monetary Fund African Department Director from 2002-2008, he served as a Minister of Finance from 1998-2002 in his native Benin. He has published various articles on financial and economic issues.

Since its inception in 1973, BOAD has had the essential task of promoting the balanced development of member states and fostering economic integration within West Africa by funding priority development projects. With a new strategic plan for 2009-2013, the Bank intends to position itself as a strategic business partner and a solid and world-class development bank. Therefore, its share capital as at 30 June 2010 increased to FCFA1,050 billion, divided among its category A shareholders (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo) and category B shareholders (France, Germany, European Investment Bank, African Development Bank, Belgium, India and China).

Its areas of intervention include industry and agro-industry, rural development, basic and modern infrastructure (roads, telecommunications, airports, ports, and energy), telecommunications; transports, hotel industry and other services. In this context, BOAD extends short, medium and long-term loans to national or regional projects, guarantees, equity investments in companies or NFIs, and support to SME/SMIs. Its resources are derived from subscribed capital of shareholders, appropriations of member states, reserves, and resources mobilised at regional and international levels.

Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki of the Republic of Niger is the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, head-quartered in Midrand, South Africa. He previously worked as a Professor of Public Administration in Niger and Venezuela. Between 1996 and 1997 he was successively appointed Minister in Charge of African Integration and Cooperation and Minister of Foreign Affairs. In November 1997, he was appointed Prime Minister, a function he held until January 2000. In August 2000, he set up the Analysis Centre for Public Policy.

From 2000 to 2004, Dr Mayaki was a guest Professor at the University of Paris XI, where he lectured on international relations and organisations; he also led research at the Research Centre on Europe and the Contemporary World within that university. In 2004, he was appointed as the Executive Director of the Platform in Support of Rural Development in West and Central Africa, the Rural Hub, based in Dakar, Senegal, from where he was recruited as NEPAD CEO. The appointment of Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki was announced by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H. E. Dr Jean Ping during the 20th Summit of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee in January 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The appointment was endorsed by the NEPAD Implementation Committee and subsequently by the 12th AU Assembly on February 2, 2009.

Dr Mayaki holds a Masters degree from the National School of Public Administration (Enap), Quebec, Canada and a PhD in Administrative Sciences from the University of Paris I, France.
A publisher for more than 40 years, Mr Ibrahim El Moallem is co-founder and Chairman of the Shorouk Group, one of the most successful and independent privately-owned publishing and media companies in North Africa. The Shorouk group comprises a total of seven companies, covering publishing, printing, distribution, and media production, with a workforce exceeding 2500 employees.

Mr El Moallem led Shorouk to become the only publisher in its region to win several international publishing awards, thanks to its successful collaboration with some of the most notable authors and artists. Capitalising on this success, several Shorouk titles were translated into more than 30 languages. During the late 1990s Mr El Moallem worked to promote and successfully achieved Egypt’s membership in the International Publishers' Association (IPA).

Beyond the arena of business, Mr El Moallem played and continues to play a significant role in promoting the advancement of publishing on a national, regional, and international level. In the late 1980s, he played a significant role in rejuvenating and resuscitating the Egyptian Publishers Association, serving as its elected president for several terms. In 1995 Ibrahim El Moallem participated in the establishment of the Arab Publishers Association (APA), and served as elected chairman for several terms. Mr El Moallem’s commitment to publishing and the embedded values of freedom of expression, cultural exchange, and respect of intellectual property rights are the driving force behind his efforts in advancing the interests of the associations which he serves whether in his capacity as member or as chairman.

Ibrahim El Moallem is the current president of the Egyptian Export Council for Books, Cinema, and Printing. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the Egyptian Radio and Television Union, and a member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt.

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Mr Jay Naidoo is Chairperson of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and founder of the social development arm of an investment and management company, J&J Group, which he co-founded. He serves in an advisory capacity for a number of organisations including the Global Health Advisory Panel of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and was recently appointed to the Broadband Commission of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

From 1994 to 1999, Mr Naidoo was the Minister responsible for South Africa’s Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) and Communications Minister in Nelson Mandela’s Cabinet. He was the founding General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) where he served three terms (1985 to 1993). From 2001-2010, Mr Naidoo was Chairperson of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA).

Mr Naidoo is the recipient of, among other awards, the Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur (Legion of Honour), one of France’s highest decorations. He has recently returned to full time voluntary work, and publishes a blog at [www.thejustcause.org](http://www.thejustcause.org). Mr Naidoo’s autobiography, 'Fighting for Justice', is available in leading bookstores.