

DEVE COMMITTEE HEARING

Giving Opportunities: job creation and decent work to eradicate poverty

Speakers' bios

Dr Martha Phiri is the director of the Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Division of the African Development Bank. She also oversees public health, social protection and nutrition. She is an economist and development professional with over 25 years' experience in development planning and financing. She co-led the delivery of the Bank's Covid-19 Crisis Response Operations and also led the design of the Strategy for Quality Health Infrastructure in Africa (2022-2030), a historic first for the Bank and the Skills for Employability and Productivity in Africa (2022-2026) to support implementation of the Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy. Prior to her appointment as director, she was country manager for the Bank in Rwanda, where she led and supported teams in developing business, ensuring efficient delivery of both sovereign and non-sovereign funded operations. Dr Phiri spent 10 years working as a country economist in Namibia, Mauritius and her native Malawi. She joined the Bank from Malawi where she worked as an economist for the government for nearly 10 years. Dr Phiri holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Liverpool and a Master of Science in Agricultural Economics from the University of Malawi.

Ms Katja Röckel is the head of the 'Employment and Skills for Development' (E4D) Programme from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). She is an economist by training from the Universities in Passau and Tuebingen and completed an Executive Masters in Public Management at the Hertie School of Governance. She joined GIZ in 2005 to work in Vietnam on Macroeconomic Reforms and has since then worked both on corporate development issues, the Aid Effectiveness Agenda and multilateralism. Since 2015, Katja Röckel has concentrated on questions of employment promotion – both in the technical department of GIZ, but also heading a programme in Albania for four years dealing with the (re-)integration of returning migrants into the labour market. In 2020 she took over the leadership of the regional programme "Employment and Skills for Development in Africa" (E4D), financed by BMZ, EU, Norad and KOICA active in Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. The programme has extensive experience involving various private sector actors in vocational education and training measures and in securing employment creation.

Father Twizeyumuremyi Donatien is a priest of Archdiocese of Kigali, ordained in 2006. After his philosophical and theological studies in Major Seminary, he studied Development studies and holds a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in this field as well as a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA). Since 2014, he is Director of Caritas Kigali and President of Justice and Peace Commission in Archdiocese of Kigali and was Deputy Secretary General of

Caritas Rwanda (2009-2013). He was a Parish Youth Chaplain in Saint Charles LWANGA Parish in Kigali City (2006-2008), a Diocesan Youth Chaplain in Archdiocese of Kigali (2008-2012). Caritas Kigali is one of the Services of Catholic Archdiocese of Kigali, which has a mandate of improving the life conditions of the most vulnerable among Rwandan population. It's work focusses on three main fields of activities, namely social welfare, health and community development. Caritas Kigali is one of the development partners of the government of Rwanda in the promotion of the Rwandan population. Founded in 1976, Caritas Kigali operates in seven of the thirty districts of Rwanda including the totality of Kigali City, reaching out to the public through a large network of more than ten thousand volunteers.

Ms Barbara Ngouyombo is Partnerships Associate Director at Institut Pasteur de Dakar since January 2023, leading the creation of a bio-manufacturing training hub. This includes building a skilled workforce in Africa for Africa with a special focus on enabling African youth and women training in that sector to increase their employability. Barbara Ngouyombo holds a Master of Health and Drug Engineering, a Master's Degree in Technology Entrepreneurship, Management of Innovation and an Engineering Degree in Telecommunications. She worked at the French Embassy in Japan in international scientific cooperation before launching and managing three digital healthcare start-ups. She later joined the pharmaceutical industry, as Vaccines Public Affairs Head for Africa & International Public Funded Markets at Sanofi during the covid-19 pandemic and worked toward public-private partnerships to support vaccines capabilities building in Africa for new vaccines introductions and the sustaining of routine immunization on the continent. Before joining the Institut Pasteur, Barbara Ngouyombo was leading strategic partnerships at the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) including on key public-private partnerships for better pandemic preparedness.

Mr Vonnies Ombiro Onkoba is an agronomist and founder of Maisha ni Shamba Agricultural Solutions Ltd. in Kenya. After graduating from the University of Nairobi in 2018 with a BSc Agriculture, He provided technical assistance in Integrated Pest Management to neighbouring farmers and created his own company: Maisha ni Shamba is derived from Swahili to mean "farming is life". Now in its fifth year of operation, the company has grown to employ three more youths and works indirectly with hundreds of youth at the farms the company oversees. Passionate about agriculture, Vonnies Ombiro Onkoba's interest is on agribusiness with a special focus on crops considered emerging that offer better profit margins to farmers. My mission is to turn farms into enterprises, promoting food security, job creation and income generation within households.

Mr Antti Karhunen is Director for "Sustainable Finance, Investment and Jobs; Economy that works for the People" at the Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission. He has over 25 years of service within the Commission. Prior to his current role, he was Principal Adviser in DG INTPA senior management, focusing on trade and the Green Deal. Before that, he steered EU policy on the role of the private sector and

trade in development as Head of Unit, helping design investment-related work of the DG. Antti Karhunen served as Adviser and Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs, and as Member of Cabinet during two terms of Erkki Liikanen, Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society, and Commissioner for Budget, Personnel and Administration. Before engaging in development and international partnerships, Antti was Deputy Head of Unit in the Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry, and worked many years on EU-US relations.