



# 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Round Table

↓  
“Youth, Innovation and the Development of Talent”

Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia  
May 20 → 21  
2015

# Programme



↓  
In conjunction with



eLearning Africa

↓  
Hosted by



the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

↓  
Co-organised by



the African Union

↓  
In partnership with



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP  
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itida  
Developing IT in Egypt



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Lunch

All MRT participants are invited to the MRT Lunch on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>, in the Multipurpose Hall (Ground Floor).

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>, Ministers participating in the Ministers Meet Makers sessions are invited to a special networking

lunch in the Multipurpose Hall. Other participants may take their lunch in the Lunch Marquee.

### Internet Access

Network: AUC-Guest Password: lamAfrican

## CHATHAM HOUSE RULE

The Ministerial Round Table will be held under the Chatham House Rule:

Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

This means that although the meeting will be held ‘on the record’ and outcomes and recommendations will be published in a Communique, no statements or contributions may be attributed to any participant by name.

Additionally, no press will be allowed into the meeting.

## THEME

### Youth, Innovation and the Development of Talent

The 8<sup>th</sup> eLearning Africa Ministerial Round Table will consider the role ICTs (information and communication technologies) can play in boosting innovation, nurturing talent and encouraging leadership.

The African Union has outlined its plan for Africa to become a ‘transformed continent’ by 2063 but already, as the pace of technological change quickens, many African economies are recording impressive annual growth rates. Investment is flowing into many sectors, such as infrastructure, telecommunications, agriculture and health. However, in order to make the most of these opportunities investment in young people and their training and education is absolutely vital. Recent studies show that most university graduates from African universities do not have the skills necessary to compete in today’s markets. With rapid technological development transforming many industries beyond recognition, talent, adaptability and a spirit of innovation are now indispensable attributes for any modern workforce.

By 2050, 60 per cent of the African population will be under the age of 25. This fact alone suggests that, if it invests in youth, innovation and the development of talent, Africa has an opportunity to leapfrog its competitors.

Developing the skills of young people, so that they can not only find employment in the future but also become job creators, is a central issue for African leaders. It is also essential for Africa’s rapidly growing private sector, which needs a highly talented workforce in order to compete on a global scale.

One way of enabling young people to acquire the skills that will spur innovation and employability is by embracing the use of new technologies for training and development, for improved learning outcomes and for teacher training. The use of new technologies and the development of strategic public private partnerships have been shown to be effective in creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in African countries. Much more remains to be done, however, and African governments working in partnership with the private sector can be the engine of real growth.

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Ministers of Education, ICT, Finance, Youth, and Industry will come together at the 8th eLearning Africa Ministerial Round Table to ask how Africa can use technology to ‘enrich tomorrow’, to discuss what governments should do to secure a future of sustainable prosperity, and to share best practice examples of collaboration with the private sector to leverage technology for education, training and skills development.



## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Wednesday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>		Thursday, May 21 <sup>st</sup>		Friday, May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	
09:30 – 11:00	Ministerial Round Table Opening Plenary <i>Small Conference Hall 1</i>	09:30 – 11:00	eLearning Africa Plenary Session <i>Nelson Mandela Hall</i>	09:30 – 11:00	eLearning Africa Plenary Session <i>Nelson Mandela Hall</i>
11:00 – 11:45	Coffee Break + Exhibition Tour	11:00 – 12:00	Coffee Break	11:00 – 11:45	Coffee Break
11:45 – 13:15	MRT Presentations and Discussion <i>Small Conference Hall 1</i>	12:00 – 13:15	Ministers Meet Makers [Invitation Only] <i>Caucus Room 17</i>	11:45 – 13:30	eLearning Africa Sessions <i>See eLearning Africa Catalogue</i>
13:15 – 14:15	MRT Lunch <i>Multipurpose Hall</i>	13:15 – 14:15	Lunch <i>Multipurpose Hall / Lunch Marquee</i>	13:00 – 14:15	Lunch <i>Lunch Marquee</i>
14:15 – 15:45	MRT Presentations and Discussion <i>Small Conference Hall 1</i>	14:15 – 16:00	Ministers Meet Makers cont. [Invitation Only] <i>Caucus Room 17</i>	14:15 – 16:00	eLearning Africa Sessions <i>See eLearning Africa Catalogue</i>
15:45 – 16:30	Coffee Break	16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break	16:00 – 16:15	Coffee Break
16:30 – 17:00	MRT Presentations and Discussion <i>Small Conference Hall 1</i>	16:30 – 18:00	eLearning Africa Sessions <i>See eLearning Africa Catalogue</i>	16:15 – 17:15	eLearning Africa Sessions <i>See eLearning Africa Catalogue</i>
17:00 – 17:30	eLearning Africa Welcome Reception	18:30 – 22:00	eLearning Africa Participants’ Reception <i>AU Amphitheatre/ Multipurpose Hall</i>	17:30 – 19:00	eLearning Africa Debate and Closing Ceremony <i>Medium Conference Hall 1</i>
17:30 – 19:30	eLearning Africa Opening Plenary <i>Nelson Mandela Hall</i>				
20:30 – 22:30	MRT Dinner <i>Simien Salon, Sheraton Hotel</i>				



# PROGRAMME

Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

09:30 – 11:00      **Opening Plenary**      **Small Conference Hall 1**

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**Chairperson: Dr Tesfaye Teshome,**

Director General at Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency, Ethiopia

- **H.E. Dr Debretsion Gebremichael,**  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Ethiopia
- **H.E. Dr Martial DePaul Ikounga,**  
Commissioner of Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST), African Union Commission
- **H.E. Shiferaw Shigute,**  
Minister of Education, Ethiopia
- **Günter Nooke,**  
Personal Representative of the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, for Africa, Federal Ministry for Development and International Cooperation, Germany

11:00 – 11:45      **Coffee Break & Tour of the eLearning Africa Exhibition**

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11:45 – 13:15      **Morning Session: Perspectives from the Private Sector**      **Small Conference Hall 1**

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**Chairperson: Dr Maggy Beukes-Amiss,**

Director: Centre for eLearning and Interactive Multimedia, University of Namibia, Namibia

- **Rebecca Enonchong,**  
CEO, AppsTech, Cameroon
- **Foster Ofosu,**  
Knowledge and Capacity Development Specialist, the African Development Bank, Ivory Coast
- **Ahmed El-Sobky,**  
Head of Technical Office, Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), Egypt
- **Ben Depraetere,**  
General Manager, Desa Plants, Ethiopia

13:15 – 14:15      **MRT Lunch**      **Multipurpose Hall**

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14:15 – 15:45      **Best Practice Presentations  
and Ministerial Round Table Discussion**      **Small Conference Hall 1**

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**Chairperson: Dr Aida Opoku-Mensah,**

Special Advisor: Post-2015 Development Agenda, UNECA

- **H.E. Eugene Lenn Nagbe,**  
Minister of Youth and Sports, Liberia
- **H.E. Dr Kabba Urgessa,**  
State Minister, Ministry of Education, Ethiopia
- **H.E. Dr Noha Adly,**  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Egypt
- **H.E. Olivier Rwamukwya,**  
Minister of State in charge of Primary and Secondary Education, Ministry of Education, Rwanda

Best practice presentations will be followed by a round table discussion between all Ministers



15:45 – 16:30	Coffee Break & Group Photo	
16:30 – 17:00	Closing Session: Report and Communiqué	Small Conference Hall 1
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<b>Chairperson: H.E. Getachew Negash,</b> State Minister, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Ethiopia		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Presentation of the eLearning Africa Report 2015</b> <b>Dr Harold Elletson,</b> Editor, eLearning Africa Report</li><li>• <b>Presentation of the 8th Ministerial Round Table Communiqué</b> <b>Dr Maggy Beukes-Amiss,</b> Dr Maggy Beukes-Amiss, Director: Centre for eLearning and Interactive Multimedia, University of Namibia, Namibia</li></ul>		
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17:00 – 17:30	eLearning Africa Welcome Reception	Exhibition Area
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17:30 – 19:30	eLearning Africa Opening Ceremony	Nelson Mandela Hall
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<b>Chairperson: Seyoum Bereded,</b> President, ICT-ET, Ethiopia		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Keynote Address</b> <b>H.E. Dr Debretsion Gebremichael,</b> The Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Ethiopia</li><li>• <b>Technology for Learning: Limitations and Opportunities</b> <b>Noah Samara,</b> Chairman and CEO, Yazmi, USA</li><li>• <b>Building a Web Literate Planet</b> <b>Mark Surman,</b> Executive Director of the Mozilla Foundation, USA</li><li>• <b>Going Digital for Sustainable Development</b> <b>Günter Nooke,</b> Personal Representative of the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, for Africa, Federal Ministry for Development and International Cooperation, Germany</li><li>• <b>Welcome Address</b> <b>H.E. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma,</b> Chairperson of the African Union Commission</li><li>• <b>Welcome Address</b> <b>H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn,</b> Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia</li></ul>		
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20:30 – 22:30	8 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Round Table Dinner	Simien Salon, Sheraton Hotel


Generously sponsored by the  
Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA)





# PROGRAMME

Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

<b>09:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>eLearning Africa Thursday Plenary</b>	<b>Nelson Mandela Hall</b>
<p><b>Chairperson: Dr Mesfin Belachew,</b> Technical Advisor to the Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Ethiopia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keynote address</b> <b>H.E. Dr Kaba Urgessa,</b> State Minister of Ministry of Education, Ethiopia</li> <li>• <b>The Future of Higher Education in Africa: The Potential for a Great Leap Forward</b> <b>Shai Reshef,</b> President &amp; Founder of University of the People, USA</li> <li>• <b>Keynote address</b> <b>Dr Eleni Gabre-Madhin,</b> Chief Executive Officer of eleni, Ethiopia</li> <li>• <b>Keynote address</b> <b>Firoze Manji,</b> Director of the Pan-African Baraza, Kenya</li> </ul>		
<b>11:00 – 12:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
<b>12:00 – 13:15</b>	<b>Special MRT Session: Ministers meet Makers (invitation only)</b>	<b>Caucus Room 17</b>
<p><i>Creating opportunities for young people to become innovators and entrepreneurs – new perspectives on digital media and skill building</i></p> <p>In this session, organised by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the GIZ (the German Society for International Cooperation), policy makers meet grass-roots initiatives, bringing together experienced political decision makers with young entrepreneurs to exchange perspectives and experiences on what young people need to build successful careers, contribute to job creation and unleash their creative talent.</p> <p>Specifically we will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do young entrepreneurs need and want?</li> <li>• What is missing in the current systems for young people to successfully transition from higher education to employment?</li> <li>• What can hubs offer in terms of in qualifying young people to become successful innovators and entrepreneurs</li> </ul>		
		
<b>13:15 – 14:15</b>	<b>Ministers meet Makers Networking Lunch (invitation only)</b> <b>Lunch</b>	<b>Multipurpose Hall</b> <b>Lunch Marquee</b>
<b>14:15 – 16:00</b>	<b>Ministers meet Makers cont. (invitation only)</b>	<b>Caucus Room 17</b>
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
<b>16:30 – 18:00</b>	<b>eLearning Africa Afternoon Sessions</b>	<b>Various: see programme</b>
<p>Please see the eLearning Africa programme for the parallel sessions on offer on Thursday afternoon.</p>		
<b>18:30 – 22:00</b>	<b>eLearning Africa Participants' Reception</b>	<b>Amphitheatre</b>



# PROGRAMME

Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

**09:30 – 11:00**      **eLearning Africa Friday Plenary**      **Nelson Mandela Hall**

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**Chairperson: Dr Aida Opoku-Mensah,**

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) & Honorary Committee Member eLearning Africa 2015

- **H.E. Demitu Hambisa,**  
Minister of Science and Technology, Ethiopia
  - **Dr Noha Adly,**  
First Deputy to the Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Egypt
  - **Rebecca Enonchong,**  
Founder and CEO of AppsTech, Cameroon
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**11:00 – 11:45**      **Coffee Break**

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**11:45 – 13:30**      **eLearning Africa Parallel Sessions**

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Please check the eLearning Africa conference programme for details of scheduled sessions.  
The programme is available online, here: [www.elearning-africa.com/programme\\_table](http://www.elearning-africa.com/programme_table)

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**13:00 – 14:15**      **Lunch**      **Lunch Marquee**

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**14:15 – 16:00**      **eLearning Africa Parallel Sessions**      **Various: see programme**

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Please check the eLearning Africa conference programme for details of scheduled sessions.  
The programme is available online, here: [www.elearning-africa.com/programme\\_table](http://www.elearning-africa.com/programme_table)

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**16:00 – 16:15**      **Coffee Break**

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**16:15 – 17:15**      **eLearning Africa Parallel Sessions**      **Various: see programme**

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Please check the eLearning Africa conference programme for details of scheduled sessions.  
The programme is available online, here: [www.elearning-africa.com/programme\\_table](http://www.elearning-africa.com/programme_table)





17:45 – 19:15

The eLearning Africa Plenary Debate

Medium Conference Hall 1

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Come to the eLearning Africa debate and join the discussion on one of the hottest topics in African education:

**“This House believes that Africa needs vocational training more than academic education.”**

**Chairperson: Dr Mor Seck,**

Association of African Distance Learning Centre (AADLC)/Global Development Learning Network (GDLN), Senegal

**Dr Harold Elletson,**

Editor of the eLearning Africa Report, UK

- **Gabriel Konayuma,**  
Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training & Early Education, Zambia
- **Donald Clark,**  
Plan B Learning, UK
- **Prof Damtew Teferra,**  
Founding Director, International Network for Higher Education in Africa, Durban and Boston,  
University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa
- **Thierry Zomahoun,**  
President and CEO, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) Global Secretariat, South  
Africa



## SPEAKERS

### **Noha Adly**

Dr Noha Adly is the First Deputy to the Minister. She is also a Professor of Computer and Systems Engineering at Alexandria University.

She has obtained her B.Sc. in Computer Engineering in 1988 from Alexandria University, Egypt, followed by M.Sc. in 1991 and a PhD in Computer Science from Cambridge University, UK, in 1995. Dr. Adly has served in several positions since 1988 locally and abroad. During her early academic career, she served as a teaching assistant and a visiting lecturer at different universities in Egypt. She was a visiting researcher at Georgia Tech in 1991 and at Cornell University in 1993, USA. In 1995, she has been a research associate at AT&T Research Labs, Cambridge, UK for two years.

Until February 2013, Dr. Adly served as Head of ICT sector at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA).

Dr Adly was called to join the Library in 1997 to serve as a consultant for the design and installation of its network and information system. Since then, she had served in several managerial positions at the BA where her responsibility had been articulated around the BA's overall ICT strategy, architecting its data policies and methodologies including the design of its institutional repository and digital library initiatives.

She had undertaken the role designing and overseeing the implementation of state-of-the-art technologies in the digital preservation arena as well as other endeavors.

She managed to establish lines of digital preservation which had substantially impacted the BA's pioneering reputation in the field, with a focus on the profound expertise developed in handling Arabic content. In this context, Dr. Adly had supervised and managed building the BA's institutional repository (Digital Assets Repository-DAR) which holds, among other digital items, a collection of more than a quarter of a million books from which emerges the largest Arabic digital library worldwide, comprising around 175,000 online searchable Arabic books. Further, she had been managing the implementation of a number of digital library initiatives which target the preservation and documentation of heritage in digital form.

Since 2002, Dr Adly has been managing the implementation of the first and only mirror of the Internet Archive at the BA, which holds the collection of webpages since 1996. She had also been designing an online storage facility and overseeing its expansion and evolution, challenging the limited resources, and reaching a 4-petabyte system fulfilling the scalability requirements for the ever-growing digital production of the BA.

Moreover, Dr Adly had taken a leading role in designing and overseeing the implementation of science-oriented digital initiatives based on community sharing and targeting scientists, academics and the public on different levels.

Within this context, she has been leading the efforts of creating the Science SuperCourse repository for scientific lectures. That is in addition to her leading role in the creation of the Arabic version of Encyclopedia of Life as well as being part of the global team internationalizing its platform.

On another front, Dr Adly had been managing the research platform at the BA which comprises creating the infrastructure for researchers in Egypt and the region, including the implementation of High Performance Computing cluster and a 3D virtual immersive data analysis facility among others.

Dr Adly had also many consultancy and leading roles concerning the design and implementation of information systems and digital libraries in several world-class institutions.

To name a few; she was chairing the Technical Architecture Committee of the World Digital Library, Consultant to the Institut du Monde Arabe, Member of the Executive Committee of Encyclopedia of Life and Member of the Réseau Francophone Numérique (RFN) steering committee. She also represented the BA at the Digital Library Federation (DLF) since 2005, as the first strategic partner from outside the USA and Europe.

Dr Adly is a member of the ACM and IEEE Computer Society as well as several other scientific, social and humanitarian organizations.

She is author/co-author of more than 50 publications in peer reviewed journals and scientific conferences in the field of computer science and engineering, and she has been invited as a speaker in different international forums and conferences. Her research interests include distributed systems, database and operating systems, digital libraries in addition to mobile computing, modeling and simulation.



### **Maggy Beukes-Amiss**

Dr Maggy Beukes-Amiss is a Namibian with over 17 years experience in teaching ICT related subjects at the University of Namibia, within the Department of Information and Communication Studies. She has a PhD in Computer-integrated Education (CiE) through the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She served as Head of Department (2005-2007), and again for another three years (2012-2014). Currently she is the Director of the newly established Centre for eLearning and Interactive Multimedia at the University of Namibia.

She is particularly passionate about eLearning capacity-building activities through the use of open source software packages and research focusing on eLearning technologies and activities. She is a member of the eLearning Committee of the University of Namibia and used to serve on the Namibian Open Learning Network Trust (NOLNet) eLearning Committee as Coordinator of eLearning activities within the entire country for over seven years, until 2011. She has been involved in a number of eLearning capacity-building activities in Namibia and various countries in Africa on behalf of NOLNet, GIZ and GESCI.

She served as Chairperson of the eLearning Africa 2013 Local Organising Committee and was also a reviewer of conference papers for eLearning Africa, on behalf of ICWE GmbH, Germany, 2011-2015. She is a certified ICDL trainer (2007) and an Expert of New Learning Technologies (2005) through TeleAkademia of Furtwagen, Germany.

She has served as an ICT Steering Committee member of the ICT Steering Committee of the Ministry of Education in Namibia since 2005 and, in addition, has been the Deputy Chairperson of the ICT Steering Committee since 2012. She was a contributor of the national ICT Policy and implementation plan, Tech NA!. She was a Commissioner and then Chairperson of the Board, of the regulator Namibian Communications Commission (NCC), 2006-2011. She was also appointed as the country's eminent e-Content expert through the World Summit Award (WSA), 2006-2015. She served as a Technical Quality Assurance Committee (TeQAC) member for the African leaders in ICT (ALICT) blended learning programme of GESCI, as well as the tutor-coordinator (training and coaching) e-tutors of the ALICT programme, 2011-2014. Another highlight in her career path is that she has recently been appointed as the Chairperson of the Telecom Namibia Board.

### **Martial De-Paul Ikounga**

H.E. Dr Martial De-Paul Ikounga is the African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology. He is a member of the Congolese National Assembly and currently the Chairman of the Education, Culture, Science and Technology Commission.

Dr Ikounga served in various positions in the Government of Congo, including as Secretary of State and Minister of Science and Technology, Minister to the Office of the President, Minister of Education, Minister of High and Technical Education, Minister for Reconstruction and National Heritage.

Dr Ikounga holds a Doctorate in Engineering and has lectured in General Statistics and Physics. He has also published several articles on these subjects in both French and English.

### **Ben Depraetere**

Ben Depraetere has been managing Desa Plants since its establishment in 2008. He holds a Master's Degree in horticulture from the University of Ghent. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the European Union Business Forum Ethiopia (EUBFE).

Desa Plants is a horticulture company producing cuttings of ornamental plants for export to Europe and Northern America. The company employs 750 employees, mainly female unskilled labour. The firm is lead by Ethiopian and Belgian management, with a middle management group of ten motivated graduates and a supervisor group of 40 people from which over half hold BSc or BA degrees.

More information available at [www.desaplants.com](http://www.desaplants.com)



## Harold Elletson

Dr Harold Elletson is an international communications and public affairs consultant. He is also the Director of The New Security Foundation, which conducts research into the implications of the new security environment for civil society. The New Security Foundation provides an international forum for dialogue between the public and private sectors and offers analytical insight and information about new security conditions. The Foundation hosts the Security and Defence Learning track at ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN, as well as organising other conferences and seminars.

He is a founding director of the Africa Forum on Business, Investment and Security, a member of the steering committee of ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN, a member of the Organising Committee of eLearning Africa and a consultant to ICWE GmbH. He is also the editor of The eLearning Africa Report, which is published every year and contains a survey of ICT in education in Africa, a comprehensive country report outlining progress in ICT4E in every African country and a funding guide.

Dr Elletson was previously Director of the NATO Forum on Business and Security, which he created with support from the NATO Science Programme.

A former Member of the United Kingdom Parliament (from 1992-1997), he served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in the early stages of the peace process and was also a member of the Select Committee on Environment. He served as a member of the Lancashire Education Authority (the Education Committee of Lancashire County Council) before being elected to Parliament where he represented the interests of schools and colleges in his constituency in discussions with Ministers and on the floor of the House of Commons. He is a Fellow of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme and of the Industry and Parliament Trust.

As a communications and public affairs specialist, he has advised many leading companies on aspects of their business in challenging markets, including BP in Azerbaijan and Alstom in Siberia. He has written widely on political and historical subjects and his first book, *The General Against the Kremlin*, was published by Little Brown. His journalism has been published in a variety of newspapers and magazines. Dr Elletson holds a PhD in Social Sciences from the University of Bradford.

He owns a small agricultural estate in the North of England, writes a monthly column for 'The Lancashire Magazine' and chairs 'Campaign for the North' - a new movement for regional government in Northern England.

## Ahmed M. El-Sobky

Mr. El-Sobky is the Head of the Technical Office at Information Technology Industry Development Agency "ITIDA", the implementing arm of Egyptian Ministry of Communication and Information Technology. He has been working in the fields related to Information Technology since 1985.

He worked as the Director of Strategic Projects at the Ministry of Investment and participated in managing a number of e-government projects implemented under the umbrella of the Ministry of State for Administrative Development "MSAD".

On the African level, he participated in the development of e-learning strategy for both Nile Basin and COMESA Countries as an Egyptian expert who participated in implementing the first e-learning master degree in the Middle East in collaboration with "Middlesex" University in UK and in establishing the Egyptian node for the Global Distance Learning Network of the World Bank (GDLN).

On the regional level, and as a member of the Arab Workforce Group preparing the WSIS 1st. phase he participated in formulating the document "Towards a Pan Arab Information Society - A Joint Action Plan". In addition, he participated in the drafting committee of the "High Level Arab Conference" to prepare for the first phase of the WSIS which was held in Cairo in June 2003. Also, he participated in reviewing a regional document called: "Towards Activating the Geneva Plan of Action: A Regional Vision to Promote and Develop the Information Society in the Arab Region" which was submitted in the second phase of the WSIS held in Tunis.

In 2014, he led a national workgroup of multi-stakeholders experts (governmental, private, and NGOs) -under the umbrella of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology- to prepare the national strategic plan of ICT in Egypt. Also, he is a member of a national workgroup of multi-stakeholders experts to develop the eLearning in Egypt.



He led a national workgroup -under the umbrella of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology- to issue “Egypt ICT Golden Book” which shows the projects undertaken by different Egyptian stakeholders in the field of “Information for Development - ICT4D” as one of Egypt’s efforts in the implementation and follow-up of the WSIS two phases, Geneva and Tunis.

He also contributed in implementing the “National Contest of the e-Content” under the umbrella of “Information Technology Industry Development Agency - ITIDA” through his membership of the competition executive committee. In addition, he participated as jury in the second round of the competition in 2007 in the field of “e-learning.”

Mr. El-Sobky is an author for a number of papers submitted in international, regional, and local conferences in the areas of e-Learning, e-Content e-Government and the Knowledge Society. In addition, he authored a book in Arabic language called: “A Guide for Information Technology and Systems Security”.

He is a member of the “Board of Information Technology and Communication – Internet Security Workgroup”, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, Egypt.

He also participated in formulating the initial draft of “Cyber Security Law” through his membership of “Laws Formulation Committee” under the umbrella of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

### **Rebecca Enonchong**

Rebecca Enonchong is founder and Chief Executive Officer of AppsTech, a leading global provider of enterprise application solutions. With offices on three continents, AppsTech counts clients in private and public sector across the globe and has done business in more than 50 countries.

A native of Cameroon, Ms Enonchong has devoted much of her life to promoting African interests, both in Africa and in the U.S. She founded the Africa Technology Forum, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting technology in Africa and served as its Chairman for 6 years. She was a member of the UNIFEM (UN Women) Global Advisory Committee on the Digital Divide and the UN ICT Task Force.

Ms Enonchong currently serves as a mentor/advisor to several Africa based technology startups. She is cofounder and board member of ActivSpaces (African Center for Technology Innovation and Ventures). She also sits on the board of Venture Capital for Africa (VC4Africa), the largest online community dedicated to entrepreneurs and investors building companies in Africa. She has been a director of the award winning Salesforce.com Foundation since 2002 and serves on the UK Department for International Development’s Digital Advisory Panel.

Ms Enonchong is a recipient of numerous entrepreneurship and business awards including the prestigious Global Leader for Tomorrow (GLT) by the World Economic Forum. She was a finalist for the 2013 African Digital Woman of the Year Award and Black Enterprise magazine named Ms. Enonchong as a 2014 Top Woman in Tech.

The world’s first Oracle Financials Certified Professional and with over 30 Oracle certifications, Enonchong holds both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Economics from the Catholic University of America and is fluent in English and French.



### **Debretsion Gebremichael**

H.E. Dr Debretsion Gebremichael is Deputy Prime Minister for Finance and Economic Cluster and the Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Ethiopia, and currently Board Chair of Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation, Ethiopia.

Dr Debretsion was previously Director General of the Ethiopian Information and Communication Technology Development Agency. He holds B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, M.Sc. in Electrical/Communication Engineering, M.Sc. in Public Policy and Management, and PhD in IT.

### **Aida Opoku-Mensah**

Dr Aida Opoku-Mensah is currently Special Adviser on the Post-2015 Development Agenda at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This role includes coordinating activities on Post-2015 in Africa as well as working with the African Union, African Development Bank and other UN agencies on the Common African Position for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. She was previously the Director of ICTs, Science and Technology Division of UNECA. Whilst working in these areas she promoted Science, Technology and Innovation for Development, including strategic areas such as geospatial technology, library and knowledge management, as well as ICT for Development.

She specifically led and implemented impressive initiatives such as UNECA's African Information Society Initiative (AIS) a continental digital agenda supporting African countries to develop and implement national ICT4D policies and strategies, Technology in Government in Africa Awards (TIGA) to encourage African Governments use of technology for development, and was one of the co-architects of the Innovation Prize for Africa Award (IPA) – an initiative to encourage African innovators and inventors to enhance their roles in the Africa's development process.

She is credited with developing and overseeing the implementation of the Access to Scientific Knowledge in Africa (ASKIA) Initiative, an innovative resource to enable African scientists to access scientific knowledge worldwide. Dr Opoku-Mensah's career spans academia, as well as the public and international sectors, and in philanthropy, working for the Ford Foundation's West Africa office in Lagos, Nigeria. She established the Panos Southern Africa regional office based in Lusaka, Zambia as its first director, and has lectured at London's City University on communication policy.

She has written extensively on ICT for development, Science, Technology and Innovation issues. Aida has a PhD from the University of Leeds (UK), an MA from London's City University and a BA from the University of Ghana. She received the Geospatial World Leadership Award for 'Making a difference in promoting geospatial technology in Africa' in 2012, and the 'Africa Female Diplomat of the Year' Award from BEN TV (UK) 2012 diplomatic awards.



## **Tesfaye Teshome**

Dr Tesfaye Teshome Fentabil has been the Director General of the Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency (HERAQ) since 2005. Previously he was the Acting President of Debub University, Awasa, Ethiopia (2001 – 2002) and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Research, Debub University, Awasa, Ethiopia (2000 – 2005).

He holds a PhD in Forest Management from the University of Aberdeen, a MSc in Forestry and Natural Resources from the Technical University of Dresden, Germany, and an MBA focused on Human Resource Development from St Mary's University College of Graduate Studies.

In addition to his responsibilities as Director General of HERQA, Dr Tesfaye Teshome also conducts class lectures on Sustainable Forest Management, Land Valuation, Silviculture and other related topics at Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources.

He is a member of the Biological Society of Ethiopia and the Association of Ethiopian Foresters, and a Member of the Board of Educational Advisors of the Ethiopian Journal of Technology, Education and Sustainable Development.

Dr Tesfaye Teshome won Gold Medal when studying at the Technical University of Dresden, Germany (1982) and a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar Grant in 2002, as well as a number of certificates on various pertinent trainings.

He can speak Amharic, English and German.

## **Shiferaw Wolassa**

H.E. Shiferaw Shigutie Wolassa is Minister of Education for the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia as of July 2013. Prior to his current position he served the country in senior management roles since 1993.

He has served in state government in one of the largest regions, the Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Region (SNNPR), as Head of Department in different sectors such as the Regional State Audit Bureau and the Capacity Building Coordination Bureau. He also served as Deputy-President of Regional State Government.

Finally, before becoming the Minister of Education, he was President of the SNNPR for more than seven years.

His Excellency Minister Shiferaw Shigutie received his Masters Degree in Organizational Leadership from the Azusa Pacific University in California, USA.



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