

BIO's



**Dr. Wisdom Akpalu**

Dr. Akpalu is currently the Dean of the School of Research and Graduate Studies at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), and President of the African Association of Environmental and Resources Economists (AFAERE). His research focuses on socioeconomics of natural resource management, including fisheries management, economics of crime and punishment, and economic institutions. Dr Akpalu holds a PhD degree in Economics from Gothenburg University, Sweden.

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**Lily Sommer**

Lily Sommer is a Trade Policy Expert at the African Trade Policy Centre of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Her research is on African trade policy with a focus on the linkages between trade and industrialization, poverty and gender. She has published widely in the fields of development and trade economics, in particular on issues related to the African Continental Free Trade Area, informal cross border trade, e-commerce, industrial policy and the sustainable development goals. Prior to joining UNECA, Ms. Sommer was a Senior Economist at the Macroeconomic Department of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Uganda. Ms. Sommer holds a MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences and a BA in Economics from the University of Cambridge.



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**Dr Angela Lusigi**

Dr Angela Lusigi is the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana. She brings over 20 years of experience in developing national development strategies, socio-economic analysis, partnerships building, inclusive and sustainable development.



Prior to her appointment, Dr. Lusigi was a Strategic Advisor in the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa in New York. She previously held other senior leadership positions in Africa, including serving as a Regional Program Advisor of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), where she developed projects, supervised implementation and led resource mobilization for UNDP/UNEP's poverty eradication and environment

projects in Botswana, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. She also served as an Assistant Resident Representative (Strategy and Policy) with UNDP in Nigeria.

Dr Lusigi has also worked with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, all in Rome, Italy. She has also provided policy support to national programmes and projects in South Africa and Zambia.

She holds Doctoral and Masters degrees in agricultural economics from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, and a Bachelor's degree (honors) in economics and computer science from the University of Waterloo in Canada.

She is passionate about youth empowerment, gender equality and leadership development.

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### **Dr Olumide Abimbola**

Dr Olumide Abimbola is a political economist and Executive Director of APRI – Africa Policy Research Institute. APRI is a Berlin-based think tank providing evidence-based policy recommendations on German/EU-Africa relations in areas such as climate change and trade. Olumide previously worked on trade and regional integration at the African Development Bank. He has also worked on the management of natural resources wealth at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)



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### **Ralf Peters**



Ralf Peters is the Chief of UNCTAD's Trade Information Section and Officer in Charge of the Trade Analysis Branch in the Division on International Trade and Commodities. He has extensive experience in supporting developing countries with quantitative trade analysis and trade negotiations. His recent work focuses on non-tariff measures. Prior to his current position he was Chief Technical Advisor at the ILO for trade and employment. He holds a Ph.D. in economics and was assistant professor for

entrepreneurship.