

Opening session

**8 June
14:00-15:00 (CET)**



**After the COVID-19
shakeup: realities and
opportunities for Africa's
development partners**

#BuildForwardAfrica

**Building forward more
inclusively**

Edward Brown

Jean-Paul Adam

Isa Baud

Kitty van der Heijden

Steven Collet

Edward Brown



Edward Brown is the Senior Director, Research & Policy Engagements at the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), based in Accra, Ghana. He has more than 35 years experience in international development and public policy, half of which were spent at the World Bank. He has worked extensively in Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

Currently at ACET, he manages a pool of in-house senior policy advisors, researchers and economist, drawing on a worldwide pool of expertise to assist African policymakers respond to specific challenges and opportunities—with the explicit goals of transferring knowledge, building local capabilities and spurring economic growth and transformation.

He holds a PhD and MA in Development Economics and Demography from the University of Pennsylvania.

Jean-Paul Adam



Jean-Paul Adam is the Director for Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Prior to taking on this role, he served in the Government of the Republic of Seychelles in several Cabinet positions. He was Minister of Health from 2016 to 2019. He served as Minister of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy from 2015 to 2016 where he negotiated a debt for climate change adaptation swap and launched the process for Seychelles to become the first issuer of a Blue Bond. Between 2010 and 2014, he was Seychelles' Minister of Foreign Affairs, where he advocated for countries to embrace the concept of the Blue Economy, to improve sustainability for island and coastal countries.

Before entering the Cabinet, between 2005 and 2009, he occupied several senior roles in the Office of the President of the Republic of Seychelles including Director General for presidential affairs, Principal Secretary for the Office of the President and Secretary of state in the presidency.

He started his career as a career diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 2001 and 2004.

He is a holder of a Masters in International Political Economy from the University of Manchester (UK) and a BA in English Literature and French from the University of Sheffield (UK).

Isa Baud



Isa Baud is emeritus Professor in International Development Studies at the University of Amsterdam. As a Professor, she was responsible for the acquisition and implementation of research programmes on major themes, including Spatial information infrastructure and urban governance for multi-dimensional poverty reduction: comparing middle-size Indian cities, New Forms of Urban Governance, Urban Environmental Management (EU 4th Framework INCO-DC) and Poverty and development between state, market and civil society. Isa is the former head of EU 7th Framework project Chance2Sustain: Urban Chances, City Growth and the Sustainability Challenge, coordinating an international research programme on urban knowledge management configurations for sustainabilities in medium-sized fast growing cities in India, Peru, Brazil and South Africa. Previously she was Professor in Urban Studies in developing countries at the VU University Amsterdam and a staff member of the Institute of Housing and Urban Development Studies in Rotterdam. Isa Baud is the current President of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) and Chair of the NWO-WOTRO 'Urbanising deltas of the world' (UDW) Programme Steering Committee.

Kitty van der Heijden



Kitty van der Heijden is Director-General for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Drs. Kitty van der Heijden has been working at the World Resources Institute since 2014. In her current position as Vice President, Director Africa and Europe, she leads the work on the two continents from Ethiopia. she completed the position of Director of Climate, Environment, Energy and Water, also ambassador for Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously she was director of the UN Resident Coordinator Office/Senior Advisor UN Reform at the United Nations Development Program in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Kitty van der Heijden studied General Economics at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Steven Collet



Steven Collet is Director Sustainable Economic Development Department and Ambassador for Business and Development at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. Steven is a change maker, with a passion for both international and organizational development. He has been working on economic development and trade throughout his career, working in multilateral, bilateral and private sector arena's. He served as a diplomat in Tanzania and Vietnam.

He was speechwriter and chief of staff at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He was Executive Board member of IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative, making the business case for sustainable value chains.

In his current role, Steven is responsible for promoting responsible entrepreneurship and a sustainable business environment, creating more and better jobs and partnerships with the private sector for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Steven studied Social Sciences in Brussels and Nijmegen, focusing on the role of communications in international development. He is a participant of THINK, the School for Creative Leadership.