



EDIF | European Union
Global Diaspora Facility

FUTURE FORUM

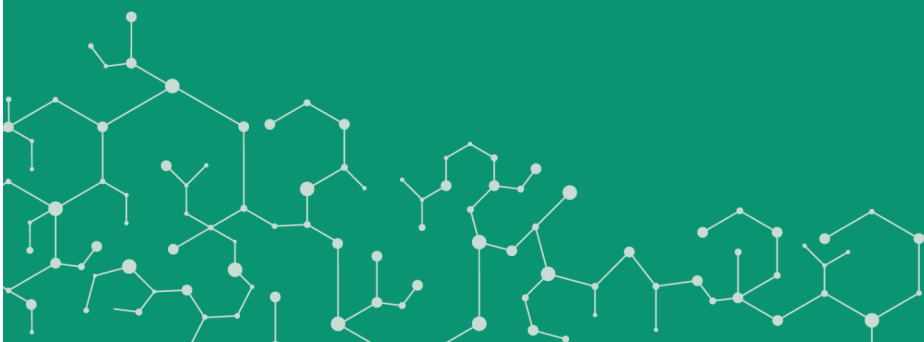
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

17-18 October 2023 | Brussels, Belgium

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Aurélie Sgro

Senior Project Manager, EUDiF, ICMPD

Aurélie Sgro serves as Senior Project Manager of the EU Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF) at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in Brussels. Aurélie joined ICMPD in 2012 and successively worked on various capacity building, dialogue and research projects, including the Rabat Process and the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative. Prior to joining ICMPD, she worked at the European Commission's DG Home Affairs; the Centre d'Analyse Stratégique; the European Association for the Defence of Human Rights; and the Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights in Helsinki. Her main fields of expertise include the migration and development nexus, diaspora engagement, mobility in the context of climate change and migrants' protection throughout crisis. She holds a PhD in public international law for her research on EU responses to climate-induced migration.



Agustín Searle Vial

Associate Project Officer, EUDiF, ICMPD

Agustín Searle Vial, born in Chile, holds a law degree from the University of Chile and a Master of Science in International Relations from the London School of Economics, with a focus on migration diplomacy in Latin America. Agustín's career has been multifaceted. He started in the private sector, practising law, and later served as a policy and legislative advisor in the Chilean government. In 2020, he joined ICMPD becoming the first diaspora youth intern with EUDiF. Currently, he serves as an Associate Project Officer, leading capacity development initiatives with diaspora organisations and countries of origin, while also coordinating EUDiF's Diaspora Youth Community, an alumni network.

17 OCTOBER 2023 (TUESDAY)

Opening ceremony



Erica Gerretsen

Director, DG INTPA Directorate G "Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace"

Erica Gerretsen holds a Master in Business Administration from Université Paris Dauphine and a Master in Urban planning and local administration of Sciences Po in Paris. She has been working for the European Commission since 1995, in external relations. She is a French and Dutch national.

She has been posted in EU Delegations in Slovenia prior to accession and in Benin as Economic advisor. She has been working in the European Commission Directorate General in charge of international development cooperation (DG DEVCO) since 2003, mostly on Africa. She has been deputy Head of Unit for West Africa in 2012 and then became Head of Unit of the Central Africa region in 2013. She shortly led the Unit in charge of financing for development and development effectiveness in 2016. In 2016, she was appointed Head of Unit in DEVCO A4 "Budget Support, Public Finance Management and Domestic Revenue Mobilisation". In 2021, she was the Acting Director for the newly established Directorate in charge of "Sustainable Finance, Jobs and Growth, an Economy that works for the People" of DG INTPA for International Partnerships. Her previous post was the Head of Unit in DG INTPA E1 "Macroeconomic Analysis, Fiscal Policies and Budget Support and Deputy Director in DG INTPA E "Sustainable Finance, Investment and Jobs; Economy that works for the People".

Setting the scene



Oleg Chirita

Head of Global Initiatives, ICMPD

Oleg Chirita joined ICMPD in 2009. Since then, he took up different duties and functions within the organisation, currently holding the position of Head of Global Initiatives. A Moldovan national, he studied International Public and European Law, as well as Human Rights and Migration Law and Policies in Moldova, Sweden, Poland and Belgium. Before joining ICMPD, he worked for UNHCR, ILO and the EU.



Julien Simon

Head of Mediterranean Region and Head of Regional Office for the Mediterranean, ICMPD

Julien has held various positions since starting at ICMPD in 2001, including in the Headquarters in Vienna and at the Brussels Mission before moving to Malta in 2016 where he set up ICMPD's first regional office for the Mediterranean from which he oversees ICMPD's presence and actions in the Mediterranean region, including the Regional office in Valletta, and Field Offices in Amman, Beirut, Tripoli and Tunis. Passionate about migration in all its diversity, dedicated to international cooperation and driven by innovation, Julien has developed novel initiatives such as the interactive map on migration (iMap), the Mediterranean Migration Media Award, the Mediterranean-City-to-City-Migration, and most recently the Migration Capacity Partnerships for the Mediterranean (MCP Med) for which he has overseen the inauguration of the MCP Med Training Institute. Julien is an advocate for diaspora engagement, currently developing the concept of the Year of the European Diaporas for European Identity (YED 4 EID).

Lightning talks: A dynamic landscape for diaspora partnerships



Gibril Faal

Director, GK Partners

Visiting Professor, London School of Economics (LSE)

Professor Gibril Faal is a multi-disciplinary business and development executive. He is the co-founder and director of GK Partners specialising in socially responsible business models, sustainable development and programme implementation. He is a visiting professor in practice at the London School of Economics (LSE), Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa (FLIA). He is also a council member of Carnegie African Diaspora Program and Lead Consultant to the African Union Commission on innovative, development and diaspora finance. In the early 2000s, he was one of the small team of experts that worked on a Department of Trade and Industry project to develop UK's social enterprise business support, legal and financing structures. In 2003, he founded RemitAid™ as a mechanism to transform remittances into a sustainable form of development finance. In 2017, he initiated the Migration and Sustainable Development in The Gambia project (MSDG) in partnership with the governments of Switzerland and The Gambia.

Prof. Faal has previously served as: vice chair of Bond, the network of UK NGOs working on international development; chairman of AFFORD-UK, the pioneering diaspora-development charity; founding director of Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform (ADEPT); magistrate in Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service. He has worked as a technical expert with the United Nations, World Bank, European Union, University of Oxford, and many development institutions and governments across the world. In 2017, he served as overarching expert for the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), and has addressed the UN General Assembly several times. In the past 25, he has been appointed to various strategic, development and management boards and panels across the world. In the UK, he has been appointed to several public function roles by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State for International Development, Home Secretary, and the Lord Chancellor. In 2014, Prof. Faal was appointed OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to international development.



Paddy Siyanga Knudsen

Vice President, GRFDT

Paddy Siyanga Knudsen is a Zambian national with over 17 years of professional experience as a Development Economist. She holds a Master in Financial Economics from SOAS and BSc Development & Economics from London School of Economics. Her work covers development cooperation, regional integration and migration governance. Her experience includes supporting governments, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), bilateral development partners, EU institutions, Civil society as well as UN agencies in research, programme formulation, implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation. On migration governance, she has worked with IOM, UNESCO, UNHCR, EU, civil society, foundations and diaspora organisations in continental Europe, Jordan, China, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe as well as other assignments in West, East and Southern Africa. Her areas of interest in migration governance include labour migration, migration and development as well as diaspora engagement. She is a Vice President of the Global Research Forum on Diaspora & Transnationalism, member of the Advisory Board of the Global Diaspora Summit and an International advisory board member for Public Finance by Women. She has also worked in Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi on Public Finance Management (PFM) and is a sector lead on governance, PFM, and budget support for French-speaking African countries for ECORYS NL.

Thematic panel: Partnering for success

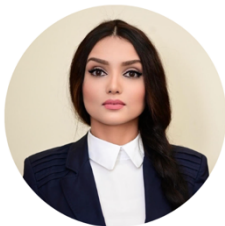


Moderator: Raphaël Capony

Head of the Diaspora Programme, Danish Refugee Council

Raphaël Capony is the Head of Danish Refugee Council's Diaspora Programme, overseeing all DRC's initiatives and programmes related to diaspora's humanitarian and development engagement. Raphaël previously served as Global Coordinator for the Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination initiative, leading advocacy, visibility, and strategic partnerships on diaspora humanitarianism at global level. Prior to that, he was DRC's Country Director in South Sudan, managing multi-donor projects in a complex environment and previously served as ACTED Country Director in Iraq and North-East Syria.

Raphaël holds a degree in Management and Operations from HEC Montreal, as well as an MBA in Sustainability Management from the Sustainability Management School (SUMAS).



Lilit Khachatryan

Advisor, Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of Armenia

Lilit works as coordinator of [“iGorts”](#) program within the Office, a program which invites the Armenian diaspora to serve in the public sector. She specializes in project management, guiding support and solutions for diaspora deployment, and conducts the monitoring and evaluation of the program. Lilit maintains the communication with diaspora professionals and coordination with public institutions on the diaspora transfer of expertise. Previously, Lilit has been working for 7 years as the head of the MBA program in Healthcare.

She holds a Bachelor degree of Languages from the Yerevan State Linguistic University after B. Bryusov, As well, she holds a Masters' degree of Public Administration from the Public Administration Academy of Armenia. She is proud of her work and impact of the IGORTs program meant to reintegrate and repatriate Armenian diaspora.



Oula Tarssim

Senior Project Manager, GIZ

Born and raised in Germany. Currently, Oula serves as a Senior Project Manager with a focus on Migration, Diaspora Engagement, and Financial Inclusion within GIZ. She holds a Master's Degree in Information and Organization Management and Strategic Marketing with a specialization in Ethnic Marketing from the Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences.

Project Manager for several initiatives funded by the German government, including youth employability, diaspora returning experts, vocational training, dual training systems, HR assistance, and the conceptualization of the “Center for Career Guidance and Reconversion – CORP” project. Oula joined the German Development Cooperation as a coordinator for the Program Migration and Development, overseeing returning experts, supporting diaspora startups, and managing projects within the diaspora civil society. She also led projects including the GIZ Global Program Migration and Diaspora (funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) and the ProGreS Migration Program (financed by the European Union EUTF and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development). Oula pioneered the creation of the first Tunisian Diaspora Incubator, “Diaspora for Development by Afkar,” while conceptualizing and securing projects in the private sector development domain.



Nahid Benani

Communications Officer, #DiasporaVote!

Nahid is a 24-year-old master's student in International Cooperation at the University of Turin, Italy. She volunteers as a Communication officer for #Diasporavote!, an organisation that is active in connecting the African diaspora with the EU institutions. Along with this, she is active in Italy as a project manager on social sustainability projects in the field of training, mentoring, coaching, and other activities aimed at supporting young people, characterised by diversity in the cultural background, engaged in building their own training and professional path.



Fernando J. Diaz Lopez

Director of Research Climate Resilience and Regional Eco-innovation, EIT Climate KIC

Dr Fernando J. Díaz López is the co-director of the cluster of resilient and climate neutral regions of EIT Climate KIC. He is also the director of the Transitions Hub, the applied research and policy unit of the same organisation. Prior to joining EIT CKIC, he worked for over 12 years as a senior scientist at TNO, the Dutch Organisation for Applied Scientific Research.

A dual Mexican-Dutch national, he has more than 23 years of professional and multi-cultural experience in Europe. He works in the field of transformative climate resilience, circularity, and eco-innovation. Fernando has led many projects funded by the European Commission, the World Bank/ IFC, UN Environment, the Inter-American Development Bank, National and Regional Governments, and to the private sector. He is currently the coordinator of Pathways2Resilience project, a €30 million project of the EU mission on adaptation to climate change.

Fernando holds a doctorate degree (PhD) in international economic development from the University of East Anglia (United Kingdom), a Mphil in economics and management of Innovation from Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana – Xochimilco, and a BSc in Chemical Engineering from Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Mexico (Mexico). He has also professional education in strategic leadership and senior management from the INSEAD business school (France).

A welcome on behalf of the city of Brussels



Lydia Mutyebele Ngoi

Alderman of Housing, Public Patrimony and Equal Opportunities

Lydia Mutyebele Ngoi was born in 1978 in Lubumbashi, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She moved to Belgium at the age of six when her father was called to work there, where she completed all her studies: a degree in law and a specialised master's degree in international private law at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). A lawyer at the Brussels bar, she worked for "Avocat sans frontières" before moving on to a number of political offices. Her political career began in 2006 when, at the age of 27, she was elected a local councillor in the largest municipality in the country: the City of Brussels. Thanks to her commitment to the non-profit sector and her tenacity, she was appointed Deputy Mayor for Housing, Public Heritage and Equal Opportunities in 2020. This was a first for the sub-Saharan community, not least because her portfolio of responsibilities had never before been entrusted to a woman. Privately, she is active in the Brussels community, notably in the not-for-profit organisation (Groupement des Femmes

Africaines Inspirantes et Actives). She is also a trained musician and director of a gospel choir at New Jerusalem, a church founded by her father, the late Bishop MUTYEBELE, and her late mother, Pastor Rosiane.

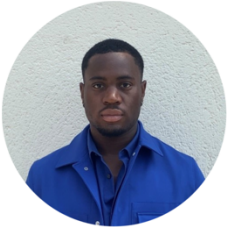
Diaspora Youth Pitch Competition



Host: Charlotte Griffiths

Communications Officer, EUDiF, ICMPD

Charlotte is the Communications Officer for the EU Global Diaspora Facility. Charlotte joined ICMPD in 2016 and has worked in events, communication and project management for the Brussels Mission and with the Migration and Mobility Dialogue. Prior to ICMPD, Charlotte worked in communications in the private sector, at the European Commission and at the British Embassy in Tokyo on a range of topics from environmental sustainability to international trade. Charlotte has a Masters in Communication for Development and a keen interest in inclusive storytelling and communication as a process for change.



Host: Rodrice Kingue

Diaspora Youth Intern, EUDiF, ICMPD

Rodrice Thomas Kingue Ekollo, born in France, holds a law degree from the University of Orléans and is working on a Master of Science in Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs at the University of Milan. His thesis focuses on second and third generation migrants in Western societies and how they fall through the cracks of social theories, specifically migration and non-discrimination theories. He believes that our current notion of identity is progressively meeting its limits and that as political and environmental crises draw closer, refugee and nationality policies will need to adapt by inputting new data and different perspectives.



Aitolgon Boronbaeva

Executive Director, Danaker

Aitolgon is a Kyrgyz native with a global perspective. Originally from Kyrgyzstan, she completed her schooling at the Kyrgyz Turkish High School in Osh city. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in International Relations from the University of Warsaw, Poland. Currently, Aitolgon is pursuing a PhD in Political Science at the same university. She is a junior expert in International Migration, Modern Slavery, and Human Trafficking. Beyond academia, she gained practical experience through Erasmus Internships across Finland, Denmark, and Norway in the area of human rights and migration. My dedication extends beyond academia. As the Public Representative of the Council for Migration under the Speaker of the parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic in Poland, she works to foster positive change. Additionally, she is the co-founder of the Danaker diaspora association and has become Executive Director of the association, an endeavor to empower women from Kyrgyzstan in Poland. Her multifaceted roles reflect the commitment to making a lasting impact on both academic research and the lives of those she engages with.



Taman Mhoumadi

Climate Fellow, #DiasporaVote!

Taman Mhoumadi is a French-Comorian individual based in Dakar. She is a low carbon innovation specialist and a singer. She is also a Climate Fellow at #DiasporaVote! association where she is incubating « The African Loop ». A project aiming at supporting the creation and expansion of african businesses focusing on sustainable solutions.

In 2018, an internship on water scarcity in Kenya opened up her eyes on climate change and (in)justice. Since then she has worked to fight climate change in France, Brussels and Senegal where she has been living since 2019 to roll out a low carbon strategy for a construction company. Through her diverse commitments, she aims at bridging the gap between climate knowledge and the regular audience by using art and innovation tools. Her main goal being to trigger sustainable business and practices, especially in African countries.



Jennifer Kwao
Co-founder, 1.2 Diaries

Jennifer Kwao is an editor, human rights campaigner, and social entrepreneur with a background in EU law and external relations. Her work and advocacy focus on climate justice, racial justice, diaspora youth mobilisation, and Africa-EU relations. She is the co-founder of the climate justice platform 1.2 Diaries which documents and amplifies the ideas, expertise, and lived experiences of those most impacted by a world at 1.2+ degrees warming. As Public Relations Officer of the African Union Diaspora Youth Initiative, she mobilised young Africans around Agenda 2063 by facilitating workshops and live debates, campaigning on social media, and instituting a Youth Peace Ambassador programme. She is published in the online and print edition of the Green European Journal as well as on the Climate and Development Knowledge Network blog cdkn.org.

Lightning talks: From emergency to recovery



Pefi Kingi
Pacific Regional Climate Migration Focal Point, Pacificwin & Pacific Civil Society Climate Migration

Pefi is an active Pacific civil society leader from the Pacific region, educated in Niue, Aotearoa New Zealand, USA and Australia. She is a human rights defender, community development specialist, labour migration advocate, climate mobility champion, and an indigenous rights activist - with a varied background in public, private and especially civil society. She carries a mandate for Pacific civil society as the Pacific Regional Civil Society Focal Point for Migration and sits on various and numerous climate-centred global, international, regional and other fora.



Bashair Ahmed
Executive Director, Shabaka

Executive Director of Shabaka and Research Associate at the University of Sussex with over eighteen years of experience in research, advocacy and programme management. Worked with several UN and international organisations including Human Rights Watch, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).



Marta Barandiy
President and Founder, Promote Ukraine

Dr. Marta Barandiy is an international lawyer and a founding chair of Brussels-based NGO Promote Ukraine, European Citizen's Prize Winner 2022. Marta has organised numerous events on the geopolitical situation of Ukraine since the Revolution of Dignity (Euromaidan). For 3 years, she has been editor-in-chief of the journal Brussels Ukraïna Review. With the start of the full-scale war, Marta has given her full support to a big team of volunteers who help Ukraine and Ukrainians. Today, her organisation runs the Ukrainian Hub at Station Europe, which was inaugurated by the President of the European Parliament and at the European Economic and Social Committee, inaugurated by the President of the EESC.



Hafiza Hamoud
Outreach and Partnerships Coordinator, Union of the German-Syrian Organisations in Germany

Hafiza Hamoud moved from Syria to Germany in 2015 After completing a Bachelor in Hispanic Studies at the University of Damascus, she was successfully awarded a scholarship from the Hans Böckler Foundation and completed her Master studies at the University of Leipzig in Hispanic Studies and Political Science. She has been an active member of the Syrian civil society for the last eleven years, volunteering for established INGOs such as UNICEF and Amnesty International in Jordan. Currently, she continues this work in Germany on issues of racism and inclusion of refugees; but she also very active in international networks of the diaspora. As outreach and partnership manager at the Union for German-Syrian Associations, she actively supports syrian CSOs in Germany and the region in providing support to local Syrian communities. It is based on 11 years of experience that she talks to you today.

Thematic panel: Diversifying partnerships



Moderator: Habiba Addi

Project Manager, Expertise France

After being an entrepreneur in social business for many years, Habiba launched an incubator for entrepreneurs in Marseille suburbs and started consulting to support organization in their social innovation strategies and entrepreneurship. She then lead an NGO in Algeria on migration, women empowerment and youth before integrating Expertise France to manage MEET Africa, a French-European program to develop Entrepreneurship of Diaspora between Europe and Africa in 6 African countries. She is now in charge of Entrepreneurship Unit at Expertise France.



Nupur Kohli

CEO, drnupurkohli.com

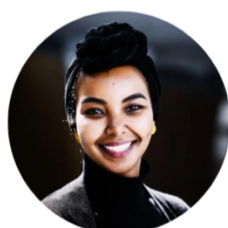
Dr. Nupur is a multi-award-winning Healthcare Leader, Advisor, Speaker, Author, Medical Doctor and Harvard Business School, Exec MBA PLD Leadership and Strategy. Currently also is also a board member on a number of Boards across sectors including UNICEF Netherlands, Shell Netherlands, and Impact Advisory Council member of the World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community. She is an appointed member of the European Health Parliament (EHP) and focused on creating a resilient European Health Union. Winner of the TEDx speaker award in Delft, Netherlands she has given 6 TEDx Talks in Europe and Asia. Nupur is author of the book "Chill! How to survive stress and improve personal and professional productivity. Symptoms and solutions to chronic pressure" with a foreword from two former Prime Ministers from Europe and Asia.



Stella Opoku Owusu

Executive Director, AFFORD

Stella has over 20 years' experience in the development sector at community, national and international levels, working with diaspora and migrant communities. She has solid experience and knowledge of diaspora, migration and development, in policy and practice and is responsible for overseeing AFFORD's work on Diaspora & Migrants Investment and their contributions to Enterprise and Employment including managing the AFFORD Diaspora Finance Portfolio, to a value of £2.5 million. She also oversees AFFORD's engagement with Diaspora & Migrants, Network Building and Training.



Eiman Kheir

Diaspora and Community Engagement Manager, Meta

Eiman specialises in fostering connections between diaspora communities and their countries of origin. With a focus on driving inclusive public policy and empowering communities, Eiman plays a pivotal role in shaping advocacy initiatives and strengthening global networks.



Mariam Keburia

II Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Department of Relations with Diaspora

Mariam's involvement with Migration and Development dates to 2012, when she held the position of an Adviser to State Minister for Diaspora Issues. Since then, Mariam has participated in Diaspora policy implementation and contributed to different programs promoting Georgian Diaspora engagement for development. Prior to joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she served as the head of International Relations Office at the National Science Foundation of Georgia, where, among other duties, she participated in Georgian scientific diaspora program administration.

18 OCTOBER 2023 (WEDNESDAY)

Lightning talks: Inspiring partnerships in practice



Denise Margaret Matias

Professor, BRI of the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development

Denise Margaret Matias is a Professor at the Biosphere Reserves Institute (BRI) of the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development. She acted as a lead expert in one of EUDiF's DP4D actions. Before joining BRI, Denise held research and postdoctoral positions in projects focusing on grassland sustainability in Mongolia, climate change adaptation, and indigenous forestry livelihoods in the Philippines. Originally from the Philippines, where she completed her bachelor's degree in biology, she moved to the EU and finished her master's in environmental sciences and policy from the Central European University and her Ph.D. in Agricultural Sciences at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn. She is an Associate of the Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Asia and is engaged in international science-policy as one of the lead authors of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Nexus Assessment and as a member of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Selection Committee for its International Climate Protection Programme.



Kweku Lisk

Deputy Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone

Mr. Kweku Lisk was the managing partner at BMT Law Chambers. Mr Lisk has practiced law for two decades in Sierra Leone in international trade, corporate, admiralty and intellectual property law. He has worked with companies like Mano Oil, African Petroleum, European Hydrocarbonate, and Eco petrol in areas of incorporation, due diligence, compliance, partnership, bid submissions, structure and National Petroleum Leases and Joint Ventures. Mr. Lisk was part of the creation of FC Johansen a football club that has gone on to win the Sierra Leone Premiere League.



Maureen Duru

Founder & Director, Food Bridge

Maureen Duru is the founder of The Food Bridge vzw, a Belgian registered non-profit organization working on indigenous food cultures, agrifood entrepreneurship and food security. Ms. Duru has a PhD in history from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel Belgium. Her research interests cover Diasporas, Food and Identity. She is a researcher at FOST-The international social and cultural food studies research group of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. She currently serves as the vice president of Sankaa, a Flemish government funded federation of over 80 associations in Belgium.

Thematic panel: Maximising the diaspora-development value chain



Moderator: Fanny Tittel-Mosser

Knowledge Management & Research Officer, EUDiF, ICMPD

Fanny Tittel-Mosser is currently Knowledge Management and Research Officer at ICMPD in Brussels. She joined EUDiF at the start of the journey and has researched and worked on varied topics related to diaspora engagement ranging from the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement to skills mapping, to green transition. Before joining EUDiF, Fanny worked on various migration-related issues at ICMPD, the UN and with NGOs and completed a PhD in law on the legal and policy relevance of Mobility Partnerships in Morocco and Cabo Verde. Fanny has experience in research and training as well as project implementation on the ground and her topics of interests are related to diaspora engagement, international development, migration governance and labour migration.



Mauro Martini

Senior Technical Specialist, IFAD

Mauro Martini is the Senior Technical Specialist – Remittances, Migration and Development, of the Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR), a multi-donor fund aimed at promoting innovative remittance models and migrants' investments for development. Martini provides strategic, planning and programme support on the topics of remittances, migration and development to the FFR and IFAD divisions, and liaises with donors, promoting new partnerships and resource mobilization. Before joining the Fund in 2013, Martini served the European Commission as Programme Manager on migration and asylum, contributing to the annual action plans and policies, and the implementation of its portfolio of programmes and projects worldwide. He then joined the International Organization for Migration as Policy and Programme Analyst, and was also in charge of resource mobilization.

Previously, Martini was Policy Adviser of the Secretary-General at EMF. Martini holds a Bachelor's Degree on Contemporary History and a Master's degree on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid from the University of Bologna, Italy.



Achsuthan Thiruketheeswaran

Co-founder, Comdu.it

Following the completion of my M.Sc. in Economics at the University of Muenster, I entered the management consulting industry, currently holding a managerial role at Capgemini Invent. In parallel, I've been instrumental in scaling Comdu.it, an organisation focused on global sustainable development through diaspora engagement. My core purpose revolves around the establishment of a model for transnational sustainable development in partnership with diaspora communities. This initiative seeks to leverage diaspora resources to empower marginalised groups, catalyse development, and transcend geographical boundaries. The core objectives are to create lasting impacts, motivate diaspora involvement, and facilitate collaboration for sustainable development, ultimately contributing to the well-being of vulnerable communities worldwide.



Freedanz Ferdinandz

Co-founder, Comdu.it

Since the completion of my Masters in Biochemical Engineering at University College London ten years ago, my career focus has been on process advisory and management consulting. Currently I am part of the German management team at the consultancy Arcwide, focusing on digital cloud transformation. At comdu.it, I have been a key driver of our growth towards building a scalable model to channel diaspora passion, know-how and networks into sustainable impact and community empowerment in the Global South. Born in Germany to Tamil war refugees from Sri Lanka, I thrive to accelerate the holistic empowerment of vulnerable and marginalized communities by creating win-win partnerships and sustainable empowerment frameworks facilitated by diaspora communities.



Angela Naa Afoley Odai

Acting head of the Diaspora Division, AU CIDO

Angela Naa Afoley Odai is the Acting Head of the Diaspora Division, Directorate of Citizens and Diaspora (CIDO), at the African Union Commission. She is a Migration and Diaspora expert with 16 years of professional experience. Angela has previously worked as a Labour Migration Advisor with the Programme Migration for Development of the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the IOM as a Diaspora Engagement Consultant where she contributed to the setting up and operationalization of the erstwhile Diaspora Support Unit, the National Platform for Diaspora Engagement, Migration and Development for Ghana. Angela holds a BA in Political Science with Information Studies from the University of Ghana and a Research Master's degree in Democratic Governance and Civil Society from the University of Osnabrueck in Germany. Angela started her career in Public Relations and Communication with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, Ghana.



Raffaella Greco Tonegutti

Team Leader, Enabel

Raffaella Greco Tonegutti (PhD) is the Team Leader in migration and development at the Belgian Development Agency, Enabel, where she focuses on Labour Mobility; Diaspora engagement ; inclusion and (re)integration ; and forced displacement. She has a background in Migration Studies, a PhD in Fundamental Rights (University of Pisa, Italy) and a MSc in International Cooperation from the Institute of Advanced Studies (University of Pavia, Italy). Before joining Enabel, Raffaella served as migration expert at the European Commission, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). She writes on migration and integration issues and has recently published a novel on women on the move in the Mediterranean basin.

Bringing the Future Forum outcomes to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)



Caroline Dumas

Ambassador, Representative of the French Chairmanship of the GFMD

Caroline Dumas, born in 1958, is a career diplomat, who entered the Ministry of Foreign affairs after graduating in political sciences (IEP Paris), English (La Sorbonne) and Arabic language (INALCO). She spent her childhood in West Africa (Senegal). Her expertise is mainly on Africa and MENA region, as well as on humanitarian and development issues, with a good knowledge of working in a UN environment.

She is 1st class Plenipotentiary minister. Her career lead her to serve France in different countries and continents (Africa, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and United States) and work in different kinds of situations, some of open which are political tensions or crisis and violations of human rights, others of acute humanitarian and development needs. She also served in the UN, having been seconded to the International Organization for Migration.

Ambassador Caroline Dumas just started as the Representative of the French presidency of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in the French MFA (October 2023) after more that two years as the IOM Director General's Special Envoy for Migration and Climate Action (2021 - 2023). Before that appointment, she was a negotiator in the French delegation to 73rd UNGA, in 2018, and then, has been the Ombudsperson of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign affairs (2018-2021).

She has been ambassador to Iceland (2009-end of 2011), Jordan (2013-2016) and Chile (2016-2018). Before that, she served as first Secretary in South Africa (1990 to 1993), Deputy Chief of Mission in Kenya (1993 to 1997), Head of the Department for Cooperation and Development for Northern Africa and the Middle East, in the MFA in Paris (1997-2000), Head of the Cultural and Cooperation Services in the French Embassy in Madrid (2000 - 2003), then sent as a Fellow researcher to a one year Harvard mid-career program, and First Counsellor in the French Embassy in Washington DC (2003-2006). Finally, as Deputy Director General for Africa in Paris (2006-2009), she participated in different negotiations with African countries or regional organisations, mostly on crisis resolution processes, including in the European Union framework and France rotating presidency of the EU.



Jorge González-Mayagoitia

First Secretary, Migration and Forced Displacement Expert, Permanent Mission of Mexico in Geneva

A career diplomat with the Mexican Foreign Service, since 2006, Mr. Gonzalez-Mayagoitia has had various responsibilities at the Foreign Ministry. Abroad, he was Head of the political and legal affairs section at the Consulate General of Mexico in Phoenix, in the United States (2011-2015), and Head of the citizens' services section at the Consulate General of Mexico in Denver (2006-2010). At the Foreign Ministry, he served as advisor for North America and multilateral affairs at the Office of the Minister (2015-2017).

Since 2017, he is the migration and forced displacement expert at the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in Geneva. In this function, he served, in a personal capacity, as Rapporteur of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2021-2022).

Mr. Gonzalez-Mayagoitia holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from TEC de Monterrey (Mexico) and a Master's degree in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Boston). He also completed post-graduate studies in United States Law at the School of Law of the University of New Mexico (Albuquerque).



Violina Donu

Deputy Head of the Diaspora Relations Bureau, State Chancellery of Moldova

Violina Donu holds a Master degree in political sciences. Currently she is working on her PhD research "Diaspora state policy of Moldova". Within the Bureau, Violina is involved in monitoring diaspora dynamics and establishing partnership relations with diaspora associations; cooperation with specialized national and abroad institutions in order to develop studies and analysis of the phenomenon of migration and human mobility; monitoring the actions implemented by the central and local public authorities in the field of diaspora state policy; coordinating the implementation of governmental diaspora programs. Violina has extensive working experience in international projects on developing diaspora entrepreneurship.



Rapporteur: Diana Hincu

Capacity Development Specialist, EUDiF, ICMPD

Diana joined ICMPD in 2011 functioning as the Head of local office in the Republic of Moldova. Diana has been involved in various capacity building and dialogue projects, mostly implemented in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Her areas of expertise include the legal migration, human rights of migrants, migration and development nexus. She holds a Master in International Law and has been teaching International Migration Law and European Law at the University in Moldova for more than 12 years. Before joining ICMPD, Diana worked as a diplomat at the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, being the national focal point for the Mobility Partnership with EU.



Rapporteur: Elvina Quaison

Diaspora Engagement Specialist, EUDiF, ICMPD

Elvina has worked in the international development field, with a focus on the African diaspora, for over 18 years. Her experience includes supporting the understanding and engagement of diaspora in international development, humanitarian response, migration, entrepreneurship and the private sector. She also has a keen interest in diaspora identity and inclusion.



Rapporteur: Hala Tarabay

Project Officer, EUDiF, ICMPD

Hala joined the EU Global Diaspora Facility at ICMPD in September 2019 as Project Officer- Capacity Development. Since then, she has been coordinating projects involving diaspora organisations, government institutions and experts with a focus on the MENA region. Prior to joining ICMPD, Hala worked for several years with humanitarian and development actors in Lebanon and in Mexico, such as UN ESCWA, MSF and Altai Consulting, as well as with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Lebanon.

Closing ceremony



Tamar San Miguel Garcia

Counsellor and Coordinator for Justice and Home Affairs, Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU

Tamar San Miguel Garcia, who holds a degree in Law, entered the Spanish Diplomatic Service in 2002. She has served in the Spanish Embassies in Equatorial Guinea, Brazil and Uruguay, where she has held various positions, such as Embassy secretary, consul and counsellor.

She has also held different positions in the central services of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs: in the Technical Cabinet of the Undersecretary, in the Diplomatic Information Office and in the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for International Cooperation and Latin America, where she was an advisory member. She has also held the post of advisor in the Cabinet of the Presidency of the Government of Spain. Since 2020, she has been a counsellor at the



Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU, where she coordinates and is responsible for JHA matters, including, most notably, migration issues.



Francesco Luciani

Head of Unit, Migration and Forced Displacement, DG INTPA

Francesco Luciani, Ph.D. in Political Science, is an official of the European Commission since 1998. He worked between 1998 and 2005 at the EU Delegations in Chad and in Ukraine, between 2005 and 2016 in Brussels at the Commission's Directorate General "Home Affairs", and between 2016 and 2019 as advisor in international matters to Dimitris Avramopoulos, then European Commissioner in charge of migration and security. In 2019, he joined the Commission's Directorate General "International partnerships", responsible for the EU cooperation with countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, where he leads the Unit in charge of migration and forced displacement.



Ralph Genetzke

Director, ICMPD

Ralph Genetzke is a Director at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and Head of Mission in Brussels, Belgium, since 2011. He oversees ICMPD's outreach to EU institutions and EU Member State representations, diplomatic missions and other organisations or institutions relevant to ICMPD's work in Brussels. Ralph is also the Project Director of various EU-funded capacity building facilities including the EU Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF), the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), and the MIEUX+ (Migration EU expertise) Initiative. As a former staff member of the European Commission (DG DEVCO, now known as DG INTPA), Ralph has more than 20 years of experience in the field of migration and cooperation between the EU and countries outside the EU.

Regularly engaged in discussions as a panellist or moderator, he is committed to discussing migration and asylum issues in all their complexities without losing sight of practical and feasible solutions. His particular interest lies in translating policies into practical cooperation with partner countries outside the EU, be it at EU level using various financial instruments, or at bilateral level. Ralph holds a BA in Russian Studies from the University of London and an MA in European Studies from the College of Europe.



Maria Regina Tongson

Diaspora Youth Community, EUDiF

Maria Regina "Gia" Tongson is a Junior Expert at EUDiF. She joined the team as a Diaspora Youth Intern in March to August 2021, where she supported the project's capacity development component. Born and raised in the Philippines, now based in France, Gia holds a Master in International Development (with a focus on Methods and Global Risks) from Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of the Philippines. She is a young development professional with experience in multiple sectors, but is most passionate about the links between migration, education and decent work. She has extensive experience conducting mixed-methods research on human capital development and skills issues in various regions across the world, and providing technical assistance to governments in designing policies and interventions that target vulnerable groups, including migrants and youth.

