

Welcome Remarks

1. Leslie Nelson Pollard

Leslie Nelson Pollard serves as the 11th President of Oakwood University in Huntsville, AL. President Pollard brings an extensive education to his service and calling. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Oakwood University (1978), a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University Theological Seminary (1983), and the Doctor of Ministry degree in Preaching and Worship from Claremont School of Theology (1992). Seeking higher-level fiscal and administrative enrichment, Pollard earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the La Sierra University School of Business in Organizational Management (2005).



Opening Remarks

2. Ahunna Eziakonwa

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa officially began her role as UNDP's Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa on August 15th, 2018. In this role she leads UNDP's work supporting 46 countries in Africa to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Prior to taking up this post, Ms. Eziakonwa-Onochie was UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia (2015-2018), UN



Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Uganda (2012-2015), and before that held the same position in Lesotho (2008-2012). She has also worked as Chief of the Africa Section for Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) where she managed over 15 country operations in Africa. Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Eziakonwa held a series of senior positions with civil society organisations in Africa.

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie holds a Master's degree in International Affairs with a focus on economic and political development in Africa from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in New York. Ms. Eziakonwa-Onochie is personally passionate about broadening the space for engaging youth and women in sustainable development.

3. Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Banda

An entrepreneur, activist, politician, and philanthropist, Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Banda was also the President of the Republic of Malawi (2012-2014). She was Malawi's first female president and Africa's second. Voted as Africa's most powerful woman by Forbes Magazine for two years running and voted as one of the most powerful women in the world, Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Banda is a champion for the rights of women, children, the disabled, and other marginalized groups.



PANEL I. Leveraging international finance and unlocking private investment

4. Njuguna S. Ndung'u

Njuguna S. Ndung'u is the Executive Director of the African Economic Research Consortium based in Kenya. Before joining AERC, he held the position of Kenya's Central Bank Governor, from 2007 until March 2015. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and master's and bachelor's degrees in economics from the University of Nairobi. Prior to his appointment as Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya, Prof. Ndung'u held positions at the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), the University of Nairobi where he taught advanced economic theory and econometrics, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and the Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA). Prof. Ndung'u has extensive policy, research, and teaching expertise in macroeconomics, microeconomics, econometrics, and poverty reduction.



5. William Spriggs

William Spriggs is a professor in, and former chair of, the Department of Economics at Howard University and serves as chief economist to the AFL-CIO. In his role with the AFL-CIO, he chairs the Economic Policy Working Group for the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and serves on the board of the National Bureau of Economic Research. From 2009 to 2012, Spriggs served as assistant secretary for the Office of Policy at the Department of Labor, having been appointed by President Barack Obama, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.



6. Constance Hamilton

Constance Hamilton is the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa, Office of the United States Trade Representative. In this capacity, she leads U.S. trade efforts in the 49 countries of sub-Saharan Africa and oversees the Administration's implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Ms. Hamilton is responsible for developing and advancing bilateral, regional and multilateral U.S. initiatives to enhance U.S. trade and economic cooperation with sub-Saharan Africa.



Sir Hilary McDonald Beckles KA

Sir Hilary McDonald Beckles KA (born 11 August 1955) is a Barbadian historian. He is the current vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and chairman of the CARICOM Reparations Committee. Educated at the University of Hull in England, Beckles began his academic career at UWI, and was granted a personal professorship at the age of 37, becoming the youngest in the university's history. He was named pro-vice-chancellor and chairman of UWI's Board for Undergraduate Studies in 1998, and in 2002 was named principal of the university's Cave Hill campus. Although his focus has mainly been on Afro-Caribbean history, especially the economic and social impacts of colonialism and the Atlantic slave trade, Beckles has also had a longstanding involvement with West Indian cricket, and has previously served on the board of the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB).



Sola Yomi Ajayi

Sola Yomi Ajayi is currently the CEO of UBA's operations in the United States. With a first degree from Obafemi Awolowo University and an MBA from the Aberdeen Business School, Sola is a highly experienced banker with over 22 years of banking experience. Her specialization cuts across Business Development (managing Corporate and Institutional relationships), Structured Lending, Transaction Banking, Commercial Banking, Correspondent Banking and Banking Operations.



PANEL II. The role of Digital Finance and Innovation

Jo-Ann Rolle

Jo-Ann Rolle is the Dean for the School of Business at Medgar Evers College, a division of The City University of New York (CUNY) system. Dr. Rolle has over three decades of experience in higher education, corporate and government operations. She has over ten years of higher education administration experience, seven years of which are at the Chief Officer level. She has served in senior level positions in a broad spectrum of public and private colleges and universities. Dr. Rolle holds the Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Miami; she earned a Masters of Arts in Economics from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville; and completed the Ph.D. in Economics at Howard University. She is a former Administrative Fellow of Harvard University and former fellow in the Price–Babson Symposium for Entrepreneurial Educators. Dr. Rolle is also a former George Washington University Rehabilitation fellow and also served as an IBM visiting professor to Hampton University.



Tawana Kupe

Tawana Kupe is a Zimbabwean-South African academic. He is the vice-chancellor of the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Prior to this appointment he held several senior positions at the University of Witwatersrand where he also founded the Media Studies Department. He also lectured at Rhodes University. Before Rhodes, he worked in various academic capacities at the University of Zimbabwe.



Dare Okoudjou

Dare Okoudjou is the founder and CEO of MFS Africa, a leading Pan-African Fintech company, operating the largest digital payments hub on the continent. Prior to founding MFS Africa, Dare worked at MTN Group, where he developed its mobile payment strategy and led its implementation across 21 countries throughout Africa and the Middle East. He began his career as a management consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Paris. He has an MSc in Telecom Engineering from ENST-Paris and an MBA from INSEAD. Dare's most recent appearances have included topics on mobile money growth and achieving scale; financial inclusion and responsible mobile financial services; the digitisation of financial services on the continent; and fintech investments and overall fintech entrepreneurship in Africa.



George T. French, Jr.

Dr. George T. French, Jr., is the fifth president of CAU. Dr. French served as president of Miles College, 2006-2019 before taking the lead at CAU. During his tenure, Miles College exceeded capital campaign goals – besting previous fundraising records, achieved an unprecedented financial composite score to position the school for growth, increased student access to educational funding, and more than doubled the size of the existing campus with key land acquisitions.



Edem Adzogenu

Recently elected as Chairman of the Nairobi based African Cotton and Textiles Industries Federation (ACTIF), Edem Adzogenu serves as Managing Director of the AfroChampions Initiative, a public-private partnership launched on the sidelines of the 2017 African Union Summit, in order to galvanize policy frameworks and innovative corporate alliances, supporting the emergence of African private sector champions in the regional and global spheres.



CLOSING REMARKS

Farid Muhammad

Farid Muhammad is the CEO of IHRAAM. Born, raised and educated in Harlem, N.Y., Dr. Muhammad's graduate training covers the fields of clinical psychology, criminal justice, and international studies, with primary focus in higher educational administration and management and a secondary concentration in comparative and international systems of education. He has recently retired from East-West University (EWU) of Chicago as Professor Emeritus where he served as former Dean of the Division of Arts & Sciences and Chairman of the Department of Behavioral & Social Sciences (BHS).

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MODERATORS

Raymond Gilpin

Dr. Raymond Gilpin is Chief Economist and Head of the Strategy, Analysis and Research Team at the Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Program in New York. In this capacity he provides leadership on all matters related to economic analysis, strategy and research in UNDP's Africa bureau, and manages the RBA network on economists. Prior to joining UNDP he was the academic dean at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies in Washington DC and economics director at the United States Institute of Peace, where he also chaired the taskforce on business and peace and managed the web-based International Network for Economics and Conflict. He has also held senior positions at the Central Bank of Sierra Leone, the African Development Bank, and the World Bank. Dr Gilpin was inducted into the Martin Luther King Collegium of Scholars at the historic Morehouse College in Atlanta in 2015 in recognition of his work on economics and peace. He holds a doctorate from Cambridge University in the UK.



Ayodele Odusola

Ayodele Odusola is the Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in South Africa.

Prior, he was Chief Economist and Head of the Strategy and Analysis Team for United Nations Development Programme's Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), where he coordinated economic, social and environmental dimensions of development in Africa. He led the preparation of regional flagship reports for RBA, including the Africa Human Development Report, the African Economic Outlook, Africa MDG/SDGs progress reports and the book *Income Inequality Trends in sub-Saharan Africa: Divergence, Determinants, and Consequences* (which he co-edited) as well as strategic policy notes and occasional policy papers in such areas as fiscal space, youth employment, value chain development, renewable energy, and climate change. Dr. Odusola provides intellectual leadership to SDG acceleration frameworks in sub-Saharan Africa,



managing the network of Senior Economists in UNDP Africa Country Offices and providing strategic advice on policy matters to the RBA Director.

As an economist, Dr. Odusola focuses on dynamics of macroeconomics and development economics pertaining to the African continent. In addition to being an African Visiting Scholar to the IMF in 2002, Dr Odusola had served as a consultant to many international organizations like the World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, the World Institute of Development Economic Research (WIDER), the Global Development Network (GDN), the West African Monetary Institute (WAMI) and the West African Institute of Financial and Economic Management.

Mr. Odusola is a Nigerian national and holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Ms. Kathleen Phillips Lewis, Division Chair for the Humanities, Associate Professor of History, Spelman College

Ph.D., M.A., University of Manitoba
B.A., University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

Awards

CIEE IFDS Travel Awards: Ghana 2001, Cuba 2002, Cuba 2012
Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2002
NYU Faculty Resource Network Scholar in Residence, 2005
Pauline E. Drakes Scholars' Green and White Faculty Award, 2001
Exxon Mobil Fellowship

Professional Leadership Activities

Chair, Department of History
Former Director, African Diaspora and the World Program
Co-Chair, Research Day 2013
Faculty Advisor, CASA (Caribbean American Students Association)
Program director, Spelman/UWI, Trinidad Summer Program

