

S4YE Board of Directors

(presented alphabetically by organization)



Mamadou Biteye

Chair of the Board of Directors

MANAGING DIRECTOR, THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION, AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE

Mamadou oversees the Foundation's work across Africa, which includes initiatives in youth employment, health, philanthropy, agriculture and food security, among others. An agricultural economist by training, he has over 25 years of experience in strategic leadership, program development and implementation, public policy analysis, advocacy and campaigning and community participatory development. His accomplishments at the Foundation include executing Digital Jobs Africa, an initiative to connect Africa's youth to jobs in the IT sector. Mamadou is an honorary Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE), awarded for work done under Oxfam GB. He holds Masters degrees in Agricultural Economics from Ohio University in the U.S. and from The Crimean Agricultural Institute in the Ukraine.



Jill Huntley

GLOBAL MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP, ACCENTURE

Prior to her position as Managing Director for Corporate Citizenship at Accenture, Jill worked in the Talent and Organization practice of Accenture's Management Consulting business. In 2002, she co-founded Accenture Development Partnerships (ADP), an innovative non-profit venture that channels Accenture's skills and expertise to the international development sector. She is also a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Youth Unemployment. Jill grew up in Southeast Asia and has lived and worked extensively in Europe, North America and Asia. She holds a Master's degree in Anthropology and Development from Cambridge University and a Graduate Diploma in Psychology.



Roland Lindenthal

HEAD OF THE DIVISION FOR EDUCATION AND THE DIGITAL WORLD, FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION & DEVELOPMENT, GERMANY

Roland is the Head of the Division for Education and the Digital World of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Prior to this, he had been responsible in the Ministry for German development cooperation with South Africa and Namibia (2007-08), as well as for UN Affairs (1999-2000) and development statistics (1996-1998). He is an economist, and has also worked for the International Labour Organization (ILO) in both Headquarters (Geneva, 1990-96) and the field (South Africa and Indonesia) and for UNDP (Country Office Zimbabwe and Indonesia).



Sukti Dasgupta

CHIEF, EMPLOYMENT & LABOUR MARKET POLICIES BRANCH, INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Sukti is Chief, Employment and Labor Market Policies Branch in the ILO Office in Geneva. She has previously worked at the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok and in the field offices in South Asia and East Asia. She holds a PhD degree in Economics from the University of Cambridge, UK. She has published widely in the areas of employment, poverty and gender. She has extensive experience in working with policymakers on employment and labour market policies.



Bill Reese

PRESIDENT & CEO, INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FOUNDATION

Bill joined IYF in 1998 as its Chief Operating Officer and was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer in 2005. Before joining IYF, Bill spent 12 years as President & CEO of Partners of the Americas, the largest citizen-run, volunteer organization working to promote economic and social development in the western hemisphere. Additionally, he spent 10 years with the Peace Corps and served almost two decades on the U.S. Government’s Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (9 years as Chair). He currently sits on the boards of several non-profits focused on international development and education. Bill received his BA in Political Science from Stanford University and is a 1995 graduate of the Business School’s Executive Program.



Ann Miles

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION, THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION

Ann is a seasoned leader in microfinance with many years of experience in financial services. She brings a collaborative leadership style, strategic experience, broad perspective on financial inclusion, and a deep network in this sector. Ann began her career in banking and spent 18 years with Citibank, where she was responsible for many non-profit clients. From Citibank, Ann was recruited to Women’s World Banking to head the financial products and services team that served microfinance institutions within the network. She joined BlueOrchard Finance in 2005 and has led the development of several microfinance investment funds, including a major fund for Latin America. Ann received her Bachelor of Arts from Drew University.



Yvonne Thomas

DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL PROGRAMS, CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MICROSOFT

Yvonne is the Director of Global Programs within the Corporate Citizenship and Public Affairs Team at Microsoft. In this role, she leads Microsoft YouthSpark, a global initiative aiming to help 300 million young people gain employment, continue their education and training, or start their own business. Previously, Yvonne led Microsoft Elevate America, a set of national programs and partnerships focused on providing individuals with the technology skills and resources needed to successfully prepare for employment in today’s economy. Throughout her tenure at Microsoft, Yvonne has held a variety of roles focused on developing and implementing impactful programs and partnerships for the company. Prior to joining Microsoft, she worked in the nonprofit sector with a focus on youth development.



Jon Lomøy

DIRECTOR GENERAL, NORWEGIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (NORAD)

Jon has been the Director General of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) since 2015, following five years as Director of the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate. He served as Ambassador of Norway to Zambia from 1996 to 2000 and later as Director of Norad’s Southern Africa Department. In 2004, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Deputy Director General of the Department for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, where he was responsible for the overall management of Norway’s bilateral assistance program. As Ambassador of Norway to Tanzania, he managed one of Norway’s largest bilateral aid programs.



Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen
CEO, PLAN INTERNATIONAL

A renowned leader in the sector, AB has worked for over 25 years in international development, human rights, change management, and diplomacy. She took over as the CEO of Plan International in 2015. She is the former UN Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director for Management at the United Nations Population Fund, where she led country operations for UNFPA in Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. AB served with the United Nations Development Program in Indonesia and later, as Director of the Administrator’s Office at their headquarters. She also led Danish humanitarian and civil society affairs work as the director of the relevant division in the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. AB holds a law degree from the University of Copenhagen.



Krishna Kumar
DIRECTOR OF LABOR AND POPULATION, RAND CORPORATION

Krishna a senior economist at the RAND Corporation and is the director of its Labor and Population unit. He holds the Distinguished Chair in International Economic Policy and leads the Rosenfeld Program on Asian Development at the Pardee RAND Graduate School, where he co-teaches a course on economic development. His research interests include economic growth and development, human capital formation, and technological change. He is co-leading projects to study informal labor markets in Bangladesh and has also co-led or worked on several other projects in the Kurdistan Region-Iraq, China, India, and Mexico. Krishna received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Chicago.



Erion Veliaj
MAYOR, TIRANA, ALBANIA

Prior to his current role, Erion was the Minister for Youth and Social Welfare for Albania. His involvement in politics followed a long engagement in civil society, international organizations and the media. In 2003, he founded the Mjaft (Enough) Movement, an organization that streamlined the activist and protest spirit of the Albanian youth, which was recognized with the UN Civil Society Award in 2004. In 2011, he joined the Socialist Party of Albania as the Youth and Emigration Secretary. He was elected member of the Assembly for Gjirokastra Constituency in 2013. He joined the European Stability initiative, a central body for the promotion of EU enlargement. Erion holds a B.A. in Political Studies from Grand Valley State University of Michigan, USA, and an M.A. in European Integration from Sussex University, UK.



Jayathma Wickramanayake
ENVOY ON YOUTH, UNITED NATIONS

Jayathma was appointed as the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth in June 2017 at the age of 26. She works to expand the UN’s youth engagement and advocacy efforts across all four pillars of work – sustainable development, human rights, peace and security and humanitarian action – and serves as a representative of and advisor to the Secretary-General. Originally from Sri Lanka, Jayathma has worked extensively on youth development and participation, and has played a key role in transforming the youth development sector in her home country. She was instrumental in creating the movement for civic and political engagement of young people, especially young women in Sri Lanka named “Hashtag Generation”.

**Michal Rutkowski****SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION, LABOR AND JOBS, WORLD BANK GROUP**

Michal is the Senior Director for Social Protection, Labor and Jobs, overseeing work in developing systems that protect the poorest and most vulnerable from crises and shocks, and supporting private sector-led growth. Until recently, he was the Director for Multilateral Organizations, and prior to that, the Country Director for the Russian Federation and the Resident Representative in Moscow. His published work covers issues around labor markets and social security. Prior to joining the World Bank in 1990, he helped design the Polish pension system while serving as the Director of the Office for Social Security Reform and also taught at the Institute of Economic Policy at the Warsaw School of Economics. Michal holds an M.Sc. and Ph.D from Warsaw School of Economics and finished his post-graduate studies at the London School of Economics. He is also a graduate of the Executive Development program at the Harvard Business School.

**Anita Tiessen****CEO, YOUTH BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL**

Anita serves YBI bringing extensive experience working in a range of executive leadership positions in major voluntary sector organizations, most recently as Chief Executive of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). Throughout her tenure Anita achieved significant progress on WAGGGS's strategic priorities, including growing the membership, developing fundraising capabilities and driving digital transformation. Prior to this role she was Deputy Executive director at UNICEF UK where she led the organization's efforts to protect children's rights in the UK for 14 years. Anita also worked at Amnesty International's global headquarters in London and in provincial government in her native country, Canada.