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Africa and the EU: Cooperation for a Sustainable Future

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Biographies

HE Dr Anže Logar is Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Slovenia. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics, Ljubljana and holds a doctoral degree from the School of Advanced Social Studies, Ljubljana. From 2000 to 2003, he worked as a product manager in the marketing department at the SKB bank. He twice served as Director of the Government Communication Office and was spokesperson of the Slovenian EU Presidency in 2008. Later he joined the Economic Diplomacy Division within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in charge of OECD. He was elected as Member of Parliament in 2014 and again in 2018 until his appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs in March 2020. In 2007, the Lithuanian President conferred upon him a state award – the 'Life Saving Cross'.

HE Jutta Urpilainen is Commissioner for International Partnerships at the European Commission, overseeing the Commission's work on international cooperation and sustainable development. Before joining the Commission, Ms Urpilainen served as a Member of the Finnish Parliament from 2003 to 2019. In 2008, she became the first woman leader of the Social Democratic Party of Finland. From 2011 to 2014, she served as Finland's Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister. During that time, she became closely involved in development issues, joining the Development Committee of the World Bank Group and IMF and chairing the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development. She served as the Foreign Minister's Special Representative on Mediation (2017-19) and chaired the Finnish National Commission for UNESCO (2015-18).

HE Professor Victor Harison currently serves as the Commissioner for Economic Affairs at the African Union Commission. Previously he held the position of Director General of INSCAE in Antananarivo, Madagascar. Professor Harison holds a PhD in Mathematical Sciences and he is the author of several books and numerous articles published in scientific journals.

Mr Alvin Botes serves as Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation for the Republic of South Africa. In February 2018, he became a Member of the National Assembly and served as a Member of the Portfolio Committees on Basic Education, Water and Sanitation (alternate) and Sports and Recreation. In December 2017, he was elected as an ANC National Executive Committee (NEC) and serves in Information and Communications; National Dispute and Resolutions; Social Transformation and International Relations NEC Sub-Committees.

Ms Natalia Al Mansour is the Head of the Department for Africa and the Middle East at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, a position she has held since February 2020. Ms Al Mansour's diplomatic career started in 2004 and has since served at the Slovenian Embassies in Tehran, Prague and Cairo, and at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the EU in Brussels. Ms Al Mansour was part of the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance Department and has dealt with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy.

HE Ambassador Raychelle Awuor Omamo is the current Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya. Prior to her appointment she served as Cabinet Secretary of Defence and Chairperson of the Defence Council between April 2013 and January 2020. In 2015, she also served as the Acting Cabinet Secretary of Labour and Social Protection. In her capacity as a diplomat, Ambassador Omamo represented

Kenya as Ambassador to France with accreditation to Spain, Portugal, the Holy See and Serbia, and was Permanent Representative to UNESCO during the period 2003–2009. Ambassador Omamo is a lawyer by profession having received her training at the University of Kent at Canterbury in the United Kingdom and at the Kenya School of Law. She is a Senior Counsel and as a practitioner was elected Chairperson of the Law Society of Kenya and the Vice President of the East Africa Law Society. She was also the recipient of the ICJ (K) Jurist of Year award in 2002.

Ms Astrid Schomaker is Director for Global Sustainable Development in the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment. Ms Schomaker is a lawyer by training and since joining the Commission in 1992, she has held a variety of posts in the areas of international relations and environment policy, and has led on the work on chemical policy, marine issues and the EU's environment policy strategy to 2020.

Mr 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, including as Minister of Health; Minister of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy, where he launched the process for Seychelles to become the first issuer of a Blue Bond; and, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Before entering the Cabinet, he occupied several senior roles in the Office of the President of the Republic of Seychelles.

Dr Sonja Kreibich is Head of Division for Pan-African Issues, African Union, Southern Africa and the Great Lakes region at the German Federal Foreign Office. Until summer 2018, Ms Kreibich led the unit for European migration and refugee policy at headquarters in Berlin. She has previously served at the German Embassy in Bucharest/Romania and the Permanent Mission to the UN in New York where she worked on human rights and gender issues.

Ambassador Matjaž Šinkovec serves as the National Coordinator for Relations with African countries and international and regional organizations in Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia. Ambassador Šinkovec received his education in San Francisco, Valencia, Lisbon and Ljubljana, and has been involved in international affairs for 4 decades on the parliamentary, government and NGO sides. He was actively involved in the democracy and independence movement and later recognition of his country, having instigated the founding of the DEMOS coalition that won the first free elections in Slovenia. He has served as Chair of the International Relations Committee of the Parliament, State Secretary and Political Director in the MFA. For the past 28 years he has served as Slovenia's Ambassador to the UK, Ireland, NATO and WEU, Political and Security Committee of the EU, Belgium, Luxembourg, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia and the African Union.

Oureratou Ouedraogo is an Environmental Economist from Burkina Faso with extensive knowledge and experience in gender-related issues and climate change. She holds the position of Deputy Executive Coordinator at the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change, and is also the national focal point for the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) in Burkina Faso. She specializes in development issues, sustainability and gender mainstreaming in development policies and programmes. She also works in the national electricity company of Burkina Faso as an economist planner.

Mr Bob Dewar CMG is an Associate Fellow of Africa Programme at Chatham House. Mr Dewar was formerly a UK diplomat and served predominantly in sub-Saharan Africa, including as High Commissioner to Nigeria and Permanent Representative to ECOWAS; Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; High Commissioner to Mozambique; and Ambassador to Madagascar. He was awarded a CMG in 2006.

Ambassador Badr Abdel Atty has served as Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt since November 2019. Previously he served as

Ambassador to Germany, and as Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for the European Union and Western Europe as part of the Union for the Mediterranean National Coordination. In addition to his diplomatic career, Ambassador Atty, has published extensively in *Al Siyassa al-Dawlia Quarterly* from 1988–2000 including on the Middle East Peace Process and Japanese foreign policy towards the Middle East.

Ms Dorothy Tembo is the Deputy Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, a position she has held since June 2014. Prior to that, Ms Tembo, was the Executive Director ad interim from of the International Trade Centre from January to September 2020. Prior to joining the International Trade Centre, she was the Executive Director of the multi-donor funded Enhanced Integrated Framework Programme (EIF) at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and held various senior positions including for the USAID Zambia Trade and Investment Enhancement Project, the USAID RAPID project in Botswana, Zambia's Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and National Commission for Development Planning.

Mr Luís Leandro da Silva is the Director of the Department for Sub-Saharan Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal. Mr da Silva's career in foreign affairs spans 25 years, and has previously served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Portuguese Embassy in Luanda and as Political Counsellor at the Portuguese Embassy in Washington D. C.

Mr 'Gbenga Sesan is the Executive Director of Paradigm Initiative, a pan-African social enterprise working on digital inclusion and digital rights. He is also a Non-Resident Fellow at the Digital Civil Society Lab at Stanford University. Prior to starting Paradigm Initiative, Mr Sesan led the Lagos Digital Village, a joint project of Junior Achievement of Nigeria, Microsoft and Lagos State Government. Mr Sesan has previously consulted for Microsoft, Harvard University and United Nations agencies, among others, in over 35 countries. A Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the Year and former member of the United Nations Committee of eLeaders on Youth and ICT, he is a CyberStewards Fellow, Crans Montana Forum Fellow, Archbishop Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow, Ashoka Fellow, Our Common Future Fellow and Cordes Fellow. He has been listed by CNN as one of the Top 10 African Tech Voices on Twitter and by Ventures Africa as one of 40 African Legends Under 40.

Ms Ana Kalin is a development and migration expert currently working as Policy Maker and Analyst at the Forum for Equitable Development. She has worked in the governmental and non-governmental sectors, at academic, policy-making and operational levels, as well as national and international spheres. She is also a member of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy European civil society steering group.

Ms Elizabeth Donnelly is Deputy Head and a Research Fellow of the Chatham House Africa Programme. She focuses on Nigeria's political economy, West Africa, political systems and elections, and governance and accountability, as well as the international relations of sub-Saharan Africa. She has given briefings in Europe, Africa and the US, including to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee and the European Parliament. She served as Specialist Adviser to the House of Commons International Development Committee in 2016. She has observed elections with the National Democratic Institute in Nigeria (2015) and Liberia (2017), as well as with the Commonwealth in Nigeria in 2019.

Mr Ante Milevoj is a Senior Consultant at the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Director of Slovenian Defence Industry Cluster, an independent business association of Slovenian manufacturers from defence, security and protection industries. Mr Milevoj has been working in international business, both in private and non-government sectors, for more than 20 years, and was previously the Director of the Centre of International Relations at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, supporting Slovenian companies in the field of internationalisation and offering wide spectrum of services and know-how for their international challenges.

Mr Roman Žnidarič is the Executive Director for Security Printing Solutions at CETIS. For the last decade he has been part of the CETIS Group management as the Managing Director, CEO and Executive Director.

Mr Žnidarič has over 10 years of experience in corporation leadership, he has participated in the sales and implementation of over 50 different governmental projects involving modernization of public administration, citizen identity management, document issuance and upgrading the security of travel and personal documents in Slovenia and more than 20 other countries around the globe.

Mr Ernest Boakai is a Key Account Manager for Security Printing Solutions at CETIS. Mr Boakai started as a consultant for CETIS in 2013 before joining the company as Key Account Manager for various markets on the African continent in 2019. As a general business consultant for over seven years, he has negotiated and implemented major governmental projects, including the printing of ballot papers and passports. Mr Boakai holds a Bsc in Marine Engineering from the Regional Maritime University of Accra, Ghana, and an Honours Diploma in Networking Engineering from the NIIT Technology Institute in Accra.

Ms Alice Munyua is the Director of Africa Innovation at Mozilla where she leads Mozilla's Innovation and Public Policy portfolios for the Africa region. She has served as a member of the Board of the Kenya Communications Regulatory Authority and led African Government engagement in the African Union Commission (AUC) Dot Africa initiative. She has also represented both the Kenyan government and the AUC at the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), serving as Vice Chair for 2 years and founding Chair of the GAC Public Safety and Under-Served Regions Working Groups. She has been involved with the internet society in different capacities, including as a member of the Board of trustees for 3 years. Ms Munyua is the founder and convener of the Kenya ICT Action Network, an interdependent multi-stakeholder platform for people and institutions interested and involved in ICT policy and regulation.

Mr Dušan Olaj is a founder, an owner and a CEO of company DUOLD.o.o., a world leader in engineering, production and assembling of air supported structures. He has more than 25 years of experience in managing global oriented organizations and is an expert on business internationalization. Mr Olaj was awarded for his achievements in a field of business participation in Slovenia with the highest acknowledgment – Podjetnik leta 2013/ Entrepreneur of the Year 2013. He has also received the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Award for exceptional business and entrepreneurial achievements in 2018.

Ambassador Igor Jukič serves as Head of the Department for Bilateral Economic Cooperation II at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia. Ambassador Jukič joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001 and has since served as Acting Secretary General of the Ministry, as Head of the Security Policy Department and a Political Director of the Department for CFSP of the Ministry. He was also posted to the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the UN Office in Geneva (2003–2007) and as Ambassador of Slovenia to Turkey (2015–2019), with non-resident accreditations to Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran.

Ambassador Tone Kajzer serves as State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, a position he has held since 2020. Prior to taking up his current post, Ambassador Kajzer, was responsible for the coordination for the digital transformation. He started his diplomatic career 1995 and has since served as a State Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia in 2012; as Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the Kingdom of Denmark between 2013 and 2018; and was non-resident Ambassador to Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Lithuania until the beginning of 2016. Ambassador Kajzer has authored several contributions on international relations.

Ms Marjeta Jager is the Deputy Director-General for the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development. Ms Jager has been working in the European Commission since 2005, starting as Director for Security in DG Energy and Transport and later becoming Director for International Energy and Transport Files and Coordination, as well as being Head of Cabinet of the Transport Commissioner. Before joining the Commission, Ms Jager worked for over a decade on the accession of

Slovenia to the EU for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and she was the first Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the EU.

Dr Alex Vines OBE has led the Africa Programme at Chatham House since 2002 and became Research Director for Risk, Ethics and Resilience in 2019. Previously, he has held roles at Chatham House as Director for Regional Studies and International Security, and Director for Area Studies and International Law. He chaired the UN Panel of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire from 2005 to 2007 and was a member of the UN Panel of Experts on Liberia from 2001 to 2003. He worked at Human Rights Watch as a Senior Researcher on its Africa, Arms and Business and Human Rights programmes, and has served as a consultant including for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); JICA, DFID, USAID, the EU and for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). He is an Assistant Professor at Coventry University.