

THE FUTURE OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Charting strategic directions

11-12 May 2026 | OECD, Paris



Conference session note – 11 May 2026, 11:30-13:00

Bold ideas for international co-operation in a fragmenting world

Description

Geopolitical and economic disruption are converging with [a historic decline in official development assistance](#), which fell 23.1% from 2024 to 2025 with further reductions projected. Combined with budget [cuts to multilateral organisations](#) that threaten to trigger system-wide delivery failures, these forces are compounding pre-existing fragilities, and driving increases in unproductive debt, poverty and inequality. Life-saving services, growth and resilience are undermined.

This session examines how these forces shape the outlook for low- and middle-income countries, how space for international co-operation has changed and asks how development co-operation can remain relevant in a fragmenting world.

Additional background material can be found on the [Resources page](#).

Key takeaways

- **Confront the global shifts** that are redefining the space in which development takes place.
- **Outline visions for the future** of international development co-operation, including opportunities and risks.
- **Strategically position development co-operation**, highlighting its unique contributions and support to multiple policy objectives.

Speakers

Keynote: Hon. Nana Oye Bampoe Addo, Deputy Chief of Staff, on behalf of H.E. President John Dramani Mahama, Republic of Ghana

Panellists

- Wellington Dias, Minister of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger, Brazil
- Isata Mahoi, Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs, Sierra Leone (tbc)
- Serah Makka, Africa Executive Director, ONE.org
- Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi, President and CEO, African Center for Economic Transformation
- Maharani Putri S. Wibowo, Director of Foreign Relations, Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia
- Ilana Seid, Ambassador of Palau to the United Nations and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States
- Areef Suleman, Chief Economist, Islamic Development Bank

Moderator: David Pilling, Africa Editor, Financial Times

Speaker Bios



Hon. Nana Oye Bampoe Addo is Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Republic of Ghana and Government Liaison to the Accra Reset Secretariat. Hon. Nana Oye Bampoe Addo is a distinguished Ghanaian human rights lawyer, governance expert, and public servant with more than three decades of experience advancing social justice, gender equality, and democratic governance across Africa. She currently serves as Deputy Chief of Staff (Administration) at the Office of the President of the Republic of Ghana under H.E. President John Dramani Mahama. A respected advocate for human rights and inclusive development, Hon. Bampoe Addo previously served as Ghana's Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection from 2013 to 2017, where

she led major policy reforms focused on social protection, child welfare, and women's empowerment. She is the founder of the Human Rights Advocacy Centre and formerly served as Africa Regional Coordinator for the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative. Throughout her career, she has played a leading role in advancing landmark legislation and regional policy initiatives on domestic violence, children's rights, gender equality, and access to justice. Hon. Bampoe Addo holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Ghana and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Her leadership and advocacy have earned her numerous regional and international recognitions for public service and women's rights leadership.



Wellington Dias (José Wellington Barroso de Araújo Dias) is a Brazilian politician currently serving as Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger in Brazil. Born on 5 March 1962 in Oeiras, Piauí, he has held several senior public offices, including four terms as Governor of the state of Piauí and a term as Senator. Over his career, he has been closely associated with policies on social inclusion, poverty reduction, and regional development, playing a key role in advancing Brazil's social protection agenda.



Dr. Isata Mahoi, Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs for Sierra Leone, brings over 20 years of operational and research experience to her role. Her specialties are in the areas of gender inclusion and women's empowerment, social risk management, monitoring and evaluation, and peace and reconciliatory processes. Prior to her appointment as Minister, she was an active Civil Society advocate and lecturer. Isata holds an MSc in Development Economics and International Cooperation from the University of Rome, and a PhD in Economic Policy from the Catholic University of Milan.



Serah Makka is the Africa Executive Director at [ONE Campaign](#), where she leads the organization's advocacy and strategic engagement across the African continent and with global stakeholders on issues of governance, accountability, and economic opportunity.

Over the course of her leadership at ONE, Serah has held several senior roles advancing citizen engagement, public accountability, and policy reform. She previously led ONE's work in Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, where she helped drive advocacy efforts that increased domestic financing for Nigeria's Basic Healthcare Provision Fund. She also led initiatives that mobilized citizens across backgrounds to participate in campaigns for social and economic justice.

Prior to joining ONE, Serah worked across Afghanistan, Nigeria, and the United States, developing solutions and partnerships for public and social sector institutions.

Serah has been recognized among the "Global Top 35 Under 35 in International Affairs" for her contributions to global policy and citizen engagement. She is also a Desmond Tutu Fellow, recognized for her leadership in strengthening citizen voice and accountable governance across Africa.

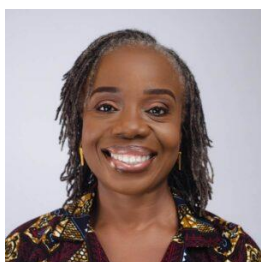
She teaches on the "Office of the Citizen" through online public policy and governance programs and serves on the boards of several community organizations, including Resilience Action Network Africa (RANA) and Future Perspectives, a pan African organisation driving transformational change on the African Continent through Youth Leadership and Innovation.

Serah holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from University of North Florida and a master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School.



Ambassador Ilana Victorya Seid is the Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations in New York since 2021. She also serves as the non-resident Ambassador of Palau to Israel, Sherpa Co-Chair of the High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, and Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the Blue Economy and Finance Forum. Prior to her diplomatic appointment, Ambassador Seid was the founder and CEO of the online e-commerce company Sunday Morning. Her professional background includes roles as a software engineer and technology project manager in New York, as well as an

investment banker at Lehman Brothers and Nomura Securities, with assignments in Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and New York. In 2005, she was an intern at Palau's Permanent Mission in New York. Ambassador Seid holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University.



Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi is President and CEO of the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), Africa's leading economic policy institute focused on moving Africa beyond growth and toward transformation, following four years with the organization as Executive Vice President. Ms. Owusu-Gyamfi's career spans over twenty-five years in economic and social policy making and development, across Africa, Asia and the Caribbean working with institutions including the UK Department of International Development, Save the Children, and the Power of

Nutrition. As President and CEO, Mavis plays an instrumental role in crafting ACET's strategy and driving its effectiveness and partnerships. She has helped create a stronger ecosystem of policy institutes

across the continent, mobilized essential resources for ACET's long-term sustainability, and recruited top talent to bolster ACET's research, advisory, advocacy, and thought leadership capabilities. Ms. Owusu-Gyamfi is a Desmond Tutu Leadership Fellow and holds an MPhil from the University of Sussex.



Maharani Putri Samsu Wibowo is the Director of Foreign Affairs at Indonesia's Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas). She leads strategic coordination and policy formulation on international relations and development cooperation, supporting Indonesia's global diplomacy and international partnership agenda. Her work focuses strongly on advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), strengthening collaboration among Global South countries, actively engaged in international forums and policy platforms that promote effective development cooperation, reflecting Indonesia's commitment to fostering inclusive and collaborative global development architecture.



Areef Suleman, Group Chief Economist, Islamic Development Bank. Dr. Areef Suleman is the Group Chief Economist at the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), where he provides strategic thought leadership on economic policy, socio-economic analysis, and data-driven solutions. In this role, he guides evidence-based interventions that advance the Bank's mission of fostering sustainable and inclusive growth across its member countries, while also building strategic partnerships at regional and global levels to support development agendas. Dr. Suleman has held several senior leadership positions within IsDB, including Manager of Strategy Development and Director of Economic Research and Institutional Learning. Throughout his tenure, he has made significant contributions to economic research and policy advocacy, playing a key role in shaping the Bank's strategic direction and strengthening its impact on socioeconomic development. Prior to joining IsDB, Dr. Suleman served as CEO of a government fund in South Africa focused on promoting innovation. He also co-established and managed the consulting arm of one of South Africa's leading development finance institutions, where he oversaw advisory services across the African continent. He holds a PhD in Economics, a Master in Commerce, and a Master in Business Leadership.



David Pilling is the Africa editor and a columnist at the Financial Times. He covers business, politics and development on the continent and writes a regular column on topics from Africa. Before that he was the Asia editor and assistant editor. Previous roles include Tokyo bureau chief, pharmaceuticals correspondent, deputy features editor and correspondent in Buenos Aires and Santiago. He is the author of two books - *The Growth Delusion* (2018), shortlisted for the Orwell Prize, and the highly acclaimed *Bending Adversity: Japan and the Art of Survival* (2016). He is a regular moderator and speaker both for the FT and for organisations including the World Bank, OECD and ADB. In 2023 he briefed a G7 meeting in Kamakura, Japan on the ideas behind his book, *The Growth Delusion*.