

## Catalyze sustainable financing through Capital Markets: sharing perspectives of Benin's climate financing framework

### *Moderator*



**Sara PANTULIANO**

**Sara Pantuliano** is Chief Executive at Overseas Development Institute, where she was previously Managing Director and Director of Humanitarian Programmes.

Sara is the Chair of the Seventh Advisory Group of the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, having served on the Sixth Advisory Group, and a member of the High-Level Group on Humanitarian and Resilience Investing initiative of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

She also served on the Digital Currency Governance Consortium Steering Committee and multiple Global Agenda and Future Councils of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Sara is the Editor-in-Chief of Disasters journal and Trustee of the Board of Muslim Aid. She has previously served on a range of executive and advisory boards, including The New Humanitarian, SOS Sahel, Oxford University's Refugee Studies Centre, the UN Association of the UK and of UNFPA's ICPD25 High-Level Commission.

She was a member of the Independent Team of Advisers established in 2016 by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to formulate recommendations on the reform of the UN development system. She previously led a high-profile UN response in Sudan's Nuba Mountains, headed the Peacebuilding Unit in UNDP Sudan, acted as an observer at the IGAD Sudan peace process and lectured at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Sara holds a doctorate in Politics and International Studies from the University of Leeds and has written extensively on conflict, peacebuilding and humanitarian affairs. She has been recognised for her leadership on peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance and international development, and was made a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the 2024 New Year Honours. She is the creator and host of ODI's flagship podcast.

*Communicator*



*Aristide MEDENOU*

**Aristide MEDENOU** is the Director General of the Economy at Benin's Ministry of Economy and Finance. Before this position, he was Director of Forecasting and Economic Conditions in the same ministry. He also worked as a Senior Economist at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC.

With almost 18 years of professional experience in macroeconomic framing and diagnosis, he has been actively involved in Benin's resource mobilization operations on the international market. In particular, he was the project manager of Benin's SDG issuance, the first in Africa.

Aristide MEDENOU is a statistical engineer and economist and Candidate for a master's degree in public administration and policy at American University.



*Guillaume LAFORTUNE*

**Guillaume Lafortune** is Vice President and Head of the Paris Office at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) – the largest global network of scientists and practitioners mobilized for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He joined SDSN in 2017 to lead work on SDG data, policies, and financing including the preparation of the annual Sustainable Development Report (which includes the SDG Index and Dashboards). Between 2020 and 2022 Guillaume was a member of The Lancet Commission on COVID-19, where he coordinated the taskforces on “Fiscal Policy and Financial Markets” and “Green Recovery”, and co-authored the final report of the Commission. Guillaume is also a member of the Grenoble Center for Economic Research (CREG) at the Grenoble Alpes University. Previously, he served as an economist at the OECD in Paris and at the Ministry of Economic Development in the Government of Quebec (Canada). Guillaume is the author of 50+ scientific publications, book chapters, policy briefs and international reports on sustainable development, economic policy and good governance.

## *Panelists*



***Adidjatou HASSAN  
ZANOVI***

**Adidjatou Hassan Zanouvi** has been Deputy Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Economy and Finance of Benin since July 2021. She has also been Director General of Customs since November 2023 and President of the Benin Carbon Project Registration Authority (AEPC) since April 2023. She is financial services professional with nearly 20 years of international experience. She excels in project management, risk management, auditing, strategic planning and sustainable financing.

As Deputy Cabinet Director, she is primarily responsible for the financing strategy of the Government Action Program, mobilizing international financing and developing state projects. As President of AEPC, she ensures the quality of the carbon project portfolio, the high integrity of carbon credits produced in Benin, and promotes the creation of a competitive carbon market and the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms for high-impact projects in the fight against climate change.

Before joining the Ministry of Economy and Finance, she was Managing Director of the African Guarantee Fund for SMEs West Africa, in Lomé, from where she managed all activities in the 16 countries in this sub-region.

She has also worked as a senior risk manager, auditor and consultant at IDEMIA and Deloitte in Paris, where she was involved on complex projects for large French multinationals and the implementation of an enterprise risk management framework.

She has a keen interest in financial inclusion through digitalization and the green economy. She sincerely believes that the key to bridging the poverty gap in Africa lies in empowering women and young people and improving education systems, while seeking mixed and optimized financing levers for Benin's flagship development projects.



***Matthias NAAB***

**Matthias Naab** is the Director of the UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa. He has more than 20 years of experience in international development, notably with the United Nations where he served as Resident Coordinator in the Comoros. He was UNDP Country Director in Mozambique, Governance Specialist in Tanzania, and Governance Advisor in Rwanda.

Prior to joining the United Nations, Mr. Naab was the Resident Country Director in Liberia and Nigeria for the International Republican Institute, a non-profit organization, where he managed the implementation of governance programmes in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Mr. Naab holds a doctorate degree in international affairs and public policy from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh in the USA, where he also obtained a master's degree in public and international affairs.



***Constant LONKENG  
NGOUANA***

**Constant Lonkeng Nguana**, Head of Mission and Deputy Division Chief at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington DC, has long been involved with political decision-makers and civil society in encouraging national reforms in several IMF member countries.

A former resident representative and head of the IMF's office in Jamaica, he began his career as a statistician in Cameroon's public administration. He has extensive country experience at the IMF in the institution's three core functions: lending, surveillance and capacity development.

He has spent most of the last few years working on the design and negotiation of new IMF-supported programs under a range of policy instruments: precautionary stand-by arrangement (Jamaica). Constant Lonkeng has also contributed to the design and implementation of Fund capacity development aimed at strengthening national institutions in several countries (Malaysia and Jamaica) and regions of the world (IMF Regional Training Institute in Singapore and India-IMF joint training program).

His research activities have a particular interest in international finance, public finance and modelling how dynamic strategic interactions between various interest groups shape macroeconomic outcomes, including the application of game theory to economic policy.