



## Speakers and Panelists

### 1. Dr Ally Y. Simba



Executive Secretary, East African Communications Organization

Dr Ally Y. Simba is the Executive Secretary of East African Communications Organization (EACO). EACO is a regional organization responsible for communications sector policy harmonization in East African region based in Kigali, Rwanda. He has more than 20 years of experience in communication industry where he has worked as an Engineer with a mobile phone operator, as a researcher, as regulator, and as policy maker with the central government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Dr Simba received his B.Sc. (Hons.) degree in Electronics Science and Communications from the University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, in 1998, and the M.E and Ph.D. Degrees in Electronics and Information Engineering from Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, in 2003 and 2006, respectively

Dr. Simba was an Expert Researcher with the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, Tokyo, Japan from 2006 to 2011, where he was involved in research on the effect of exposure from mobile phones and base stations to the human health. From 2011 to 2013, he was a Manager for Planning and Research with the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. From 2013 to 2015, he served as a Director of ICT at the Ministry of Communication Science and Technology (MCST) of the United Republic of Tanzania and later appointed to the position of Director General of TCRA in July 2015, a position he served until December, 2016. Dr. Simba has published widely in peer-reviewed international journals and presented his research work in more than 30 international conferences. He participated actively in the work of the Study Group 5 of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) since 2009.

Dr. Simba is a Chartered Engineer, registered with the U.K. Engineering Council and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, U.K., where he served an International Professional Registration Advisor for Engineering Professional Registration from April 2011 to March 2014. He is also a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

## 2. Dr Samuel MUHIZI



### **Director General, ARCT, Burundi**

Dr Samuel MUHIZI have 4+ years career in telecommunications, Information and communication development, strategy, public policy and regulation.

Result focused and adept of leading teams through major transformation in highly multicultural environments, Dr MUHIZI took office as Director General of Burundi Communication Authority January 2021.

As a senior government adviser in sector development, he has led ICT strategies in Burundi and regularly participate in regional regulatory policy planning and harmonization. He also has served as academic at Bujumbura International University where he Contributed to the University's strategic development of Science and Technology faculty programs.

Samuel MUHIZI holds a PhD in Electronics, Radio Technics and Communication Systems from Bonch-Bruevich Saint Petersburg State University of Telecommunications (2019); a Science Diplomacy certification from TWAS the world academy of sciences (2020).

He is a married man with one beautiful daughter.

## 3. Patrick Emile BAGANIZI



### **Ag. Director General of Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA)**

Patrick Emile BAGANIZI is a highly qualified and experienced professional in the fields of transportation, regulation, and technical consultancy.

Since October 2022, he has been serving as the Ag. Director General of Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA), where he is responsible for regulating all utilities, including telecommunications, transport, energy, water, and sanitation services. In addition, he holds the distinction of being the nominated Rwanda's Councilor to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Prior to his current role, BAGANIZI served as the Deputy Director General of Rwanda Transport Development Agency (RTDA) from July 2019 to October 2022. He brought to this position a wealth of experience gained from his over 11-year tenure as a consultant in the Road Maintenance Fund Administration (RMFA), where he provided technical support for financing the maintenance of the core road network in Rwanda.

#### 4. Mutua Muthusi



**Director of the Development and Cooperation at the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).**

In this role, he is in charge of enhancing cooperation between various stakeholders and the UPU. He also oversees coordination of technical assistance towards developing and least developed countries in various parts of the world. His docket pays special attention to landlocked developing countries (LLDC) and small islands developing states (SIDS) in uplifting their levels of postal development.

The overall vision of the UPU's development cooperation work is to assist the less developed countries in attaining a good level of advancement within the global communication supply chain. The aim is to build a strong and reliable global postal network to serve all

citizens of the world.

Mr. Muthusi has over 30 years' experience working in Information and Communication Technology environment. He began his career in the media industry where, he held various editorial positions in magazine, newspaper and television businesses. He also had a stint in the academia, as a lecturer in journalism.

In 1994, he joined the now defunct Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation – Kenya's pioneer provider of postal and telecommunications services – where he handled communications, public and international relations matters. He later moved to the Communications Authority of Kenya at its inception in 1999, and held position of Director of Consumer and Public Affairs. The organization is the regulatory authority for Posts, Telecommunications, Broadcasting and E-Business.

Throughout his career, Mr. Muthusi has participated in numerous high-level ICT forums in different parts of the world, both as a Kenyan delegate as well as representing his current organization. He joined the UPU in 2015.

Mr. Muthusi holds a Master's degree in Business Administration, a Post Graduate Diploma in Mass Communications, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from leading institutions in Kenya.

#### 5. Dr. Christine Sund



**Senior Advisor, Regional Office for Africa, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

Dr. Christine Sund serves as Senior Advisor for International Telecommunication Union (ITU)'s Regional Office for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Previously she was the Advisor for ITU's Development Sector technical membership-driven study groups, and has held different roles within the organization spanning from cybersecurity to human capacity development, and more.

Christine is passionate about exploring digital connectivity solutions that are demand-driven and human-centric, and pursued with sustainability integrated into their design and implementation. Bottom-up and inclusive strategy work also constitutes her research portfolio.

## 6. Kezias MWALE (BEng, MSc, MBA)



**Head of Radiocommunications Department African Telecommunications Union**

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He holds three degrees: MSc in Broadband and Mobile Communications with distinction, an MBA and a Bachelor in Telecommunications. He started his spectrum management career as an engineer at ZICTA in 2003, rising to manager spectrum management in 2010 – a position he held until his appointment by the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) as

Head of Radiocommunications Department in 2012.

He has been a keen and key contributor to national, regional and international spectrum management successes including development of the 1st edition of the Zambian national spectrum plan, the SADC spectrum plan; the 1st edition of the African Spectrum Allocation Plan (AfriSAP); recovery of the lost satellite resources benefiting 31 African countries; optimization of the FM Frequency Plans (the GE84 Plan) for Africa; and a number of ATU key reference documents in form of recommendations, strategies, and model frameworks, and many other contributions including GE06 Planning.

Outside of his core area of spectrum management, he has significantly contributed to the ATU we know today. His key contributions at ATU has included reviews of the ATU Constitution and Convention, ATU PP Plenary secretary and lead report drafter since ATU PP of 2014, reform of the financial contribution mechanism by ATU Membership, and acquisition and operationalization of dot Africa domain for the ATU digital presence, among other notable contributions.

## 7. Mr. Matano Ndaro



**Director, Telecom, Postal and Courier and Electronic Transaction Licensing.**

He is currently pursuing a Master's degree of Business Administration degree and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and a Postgraduate Diploma in Regulation of Telecommunications.

## 8. Eng. Irene Kaggwa



### **Ag. Executive Director & Director for Engineering and Communication Infrastructure, UCC, Uganda**

Eng. Irene Kaggwa is Ag. Executive Director at the Uganda Communications Commission. She is also the Director for Engineering and Communication Infrastructure at the Commission. Eng. Kaggwa Sewankambo possesses vast experience in the ICT sector spanning policy development, research, regulation, and implementation in various aspects, including internet development, licensing, universal access, quality of service, numbering resource management, as well as promotion of research and innovation. She holds a Master of Science in Communications

Systems and Signal Processing from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom, and a Master of Science in Economic Management and Policy (Business Economic Pathway) from the University of Strathclyde, also in the United Kingdom. Prior to this, Eng. Kaggwa Sewankambo obtained a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Makerere University Kampala

## 9. John Daffa



### **Director of Licensing and Compliance for TCRA, Tanzania**

Mr. John W. Daffa is a lawyer by profession and an Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania since the year 2000. He has experience in the communications sector for over 20 years since joining the regulator (TCRA) in 2003.

He is a Director of Licensing and Compliance for TCRA since 1918. He holds Master of Laws in Communications Laws from the University of London in 2007. Holds Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB) from the University of Dar es Salaam in 1995.

Mr. Daffa attended various trainings at various institutes across the globe on relevant areas to the sector including Legislative Drafting, Arbitration and Mediation, Contract Negotiation and Management, Regulating Quality of Service, Planning Compliance Monitoring & Enforcement. Others are Arbitration and Mediation, Utility Regulation and Strategy, and Legal and regulatory issues in telecommunications.

He once served as a Vice Chair and Chairman of the EACO Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.



## 10. Hon. Napoleon Adok Gai



### **Director General and Secretary to the Board of South Sudan's National Communication Authority.**

Eng. Napoleon holds a Diploma in Software Engineering and a Master's degree in ICT and is an expert in cyber security. The more than 20 years of experience in the ICT sector has endowed him with extensive skills in using technology to create opportunities and foster development in areas prone to conflict.

Prior to his appointment as the Director General for the authority, he served as the CEO of South Sudan International Gateway, the first ever launched international gateway to ease call rates and boost internet services nationwide. He was also the Director of ICT in the Office of South Sudan's President where he established the Presidential Communication Department.

He has worked for several humanitarian and civil society organizations as a child's rights advocate and promoted the demobilization of child soldiers in the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army).

Over the last two years, he has spearheaded projects and led to the success of ICT rural connectivity to foster peace and development and spur socio-economic development for the benefit of the Republic of South Sudan. He has also promoted capacity building, awareness, and confidence building in the communication sector which has led to massive public awareness about NCA as an institution as ICT sector regulations

## 11. Bienvenu IRAKOZE



### **Executive Secretary, SETIC**

(Information System and Digital Transformation Specialist)

After having held several positions from Technical Level to Management in the Digital Sector, both in private and public administration, from Field Engineer, Chief of Department, Permanent Secretary too Advisor to the Presidency of the Republic of Burundi. Bienvenu Irakoze is currently a Member of the Board of Directors of ARCT, Executive Secretary of

SETIC and Coordinator of the PAFEN (Burundi Digital Foundation Project).

SETIC is a Government ICT implementation agency under the ICT Ministry, whose mission is to monitor and coordinate all projects and programs aimed at the implementation of the National ICT Policy in Burundi. he coordinates the PAFEN project which is financed by the World Bank and newly implemented, the PAFEN aims to increase access to high-speed Internet, in particular for underserved populations. and improving the government's ability to deliver public services digital.