

## A New Economy for Middle East and North Africa Countries: Youth, Technology and Finance

March 26-27, 2018

The Centre International de Conférences Abdelatif Rahal (CIC) BP 67-16098 Club des Pins, Staoueli –  
Algiers, Algeria

### List of Speakers

DAY ONE	OPENING SESSION
	<p><b>Ahmed Ouyahi</b> Prime Minister, People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria</p> <p>Ahmed Ouyahi has been appointed Prime Minister of Algeria in August 2017. Previously, he was Prime Minister from 1995 to 1998, from 2003 to 2006, and from 2008 to 2012. Mr Ouyahia also served as Minister of Justice. A career diplomat, he was Ambassador to Mali, served as Algeria’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations and held the positions of Director General for Africa in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Head Office and Secretary of State for Cooperation and Maghreb Affairs. Mr. Ouyahi was one of the founders of the National Rally for Democracy (RND) as well as the party's Secretary-General.</p>
	<p><b>Jim Yong Kim</b> President, World Bank Group</p> <p>Jim Yong Kim, M.D., Ph.D., is the 12<sup>th</sup> President of the World Bank Group. Kim’s career has revolved around health, education, and improving the lives of the poor. Before joining the World Bank Group, Kim, a physician and anthropologist, served as the President of Dartmouth College and held professorships at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health. Kim also served as director of the World Health Organization’s HIV/AIDS department and co-founded Partners in Health, a non-profit medical organization that now works in poor communities on four continents. Kim was recognized as one of America’s “25 Best Leaders” by <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>, and was named one of <i>TIME</i> magazine’s “100 Most Influential People in the World.”</p>
	<p><b>Abderrahmane Raouya</b> Minister of Finance, People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria</p> <p>Abderrahmane Raouya was appointed Minister of Finance in May 2017. Previously, he was Director General for Taxes, Expert in the Office of the Minister of Finance. He also served as International Monetary Fund Expert in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Director for Fiscal Legislation.</p>



**Hafez Ghanem**

Vice President, Middle East and North Africa (MENA), The World Bank Group




**Hafez Ghanem**, an Egyptian and French national is a development expert with more than thirty years of experience in policy analysis, project formulation and supervision, and management of multinational institutions and has worked on World Bank operations and initiatives in over 20 countries in Africa, Europe and Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, and Southeast Asia. Dr. Ghanem leads the World Bank's engagement with 20 MENA countries through a portfolio of ongoing projects, technical assistance and grants. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Ghanem was a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution in the Global Economy and Development program leading the Arab economies project and served as the Assistant Director-General at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He also led the reforms of the Committee on World Food Security to make it more inclusive and responsive to country needs.



**Abdulrahman A. Al Hamidy**

Director General Chairman of the Board, Arab Monetary Fund

Dr. Al Hamidy currently serves as Director General Chairman of the Board in the Arab Monetary Fund. Dr. Al Hamidy held several positions: Vice Governor of Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Deputy Governor for Technical Affairs, Director General of the Economic Research and Statistics, Director of Training and Research Center and Information at Banking Institute. He was an Assistant Professor in the Economics Department at King Saud University. Dr. Al Hamidy was a member of the Board of Executive Directors of the Arab Monetary Fund for the period from 2003-2013, in addition to his membership in the Boards of Directors in several leading Saudi Institutions. With his appointment as Chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund, Dr. Al Hamidy is also the Chief Executive Chairman of Arab Trade Financing Program by virtue of office.

<b>PANEL SESSION 1. START-UPS AND UNICORNS</b>	
	<p><b>Rebeen Pasha</b>            Founder of MyeDream Incubator, Iraq, and StartUP Middle East</p> <p><b>Rebeen Pasha</b> is founder of Social Development Horizons, a social enterprise, and the Middle East Young Entrepreneurs’ Dreams (<a href="http://www.MyeDream.me">www.MyeDream.me</a>), working in Iraq to inspire youth to “dream”, connect network of like-minded entrepreneurs, and build entrepreneurship development and business incubators. Pasha is also co-founder of American Friends of Kurdistan (<a href="http://www.friendsofkurdistan.us">www.friendsofkurdistan.us</a>) with Lionel C Johnson. Pasha also served as Senior Advisor to the Middle East Bureau of USAID and Health Team Lead. Pasha was with the United Nations in Iraq after the war, both WHO and UNDP, and was part of the drafting of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) section on Inclusive Economic Growth for Iraq. Pasha has extensive experience in global health and development throughout Africa and Asia, including managing 44 countries programs in youth engagement and vocational training in Africa.</p>
	<p><b>Mudassir Sheikha</b>            CEO, Careem</p> <p><b>Mudassir Sheikha</b> Co-Founded Careem Networks FZ LLC in 2012 and served as its Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Sheikha served as the Vice President of Solutions at Keynote DeviceAnywhere Inc. He was responsible for the Solutions organization managing all aspects of delivery of products to customers. He serves as Vice President of Solutions at Keynote DeviceAnywhere Inc. He spent two years in Karachi, Pakistan where he established and headed Mobile Complete's offshore development center. Prior to joining Mobile Complete, he founded Solerent and served as its Director. Previously, he was part of the Venture Finance group at Garage Technology Ventures, where he worked with seed-stage companies in the software and consumer Internet industry. Before Garage, he held various technical positions at Brience and Trilogly Software and he started his career as a Consultant at Ernst &amp; Young.</p>
	<p><b>Kamran Elahian</b>            Founder and Chairman, Global Innovation Catalyst</p> <p><b>Kamran Elahian</b> serves as the Co-Founder and Chairman of the Board at Global Catalyst Partners and serves as Global Innovation Advisor at 500 Startups since January 2016. He has co-founded more than ten high-tech companies and two nonprofit organizations. He serves as the Chairman of the Board of Actelis Networks, Greenfield Networks, Entopia and Actelis Networks. He served as the Chairman of the Board of Centillium Communications, Inc. He served as the Chairman of PlanetWeb, Inc., and Director at Ikoa, SoundHound Inc., and Yoomba. He was presented The Dr. Morris Chang Exemplary Leadership Award, in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the development, innovation, growth and long-term opportunities of the fabless semiconductor industry.</p>



**Ala' Alasallal**  
CEO, Jamalon

Ala' Alasallal is the Founder and CEO of Jamalon, the largest online bookstore for Arabic and English books, offering more than 10 million titles with worldwide delivery. He holds a Masters of Science in Information Technologies and Telecommunications from Athens Information Technology. Before starting Jamalon, he worked for CCC as an Automation Engineer in five different countries. Ala' has worked on web development projects since 2004, and he has been working to administer the translation process of Wordpress.com into Arabic since 2006. As an undergraduate, Ala' supervised a team of volunteers who translated "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" into Arabic and it crossed 1M downloads in 1 month, which was a driving force in the later creation of Jamalon.com. Jamalon's vision is to break the barriers of knowledge sharing between individuals and works to accomplish its mission to create platforms that facilitate knowledge sharing.



**Riad Hartani**  
Partner, Xona Partners

Dr. Riad Hartani has been involved in a string of technology startups in the Silicon Valley over the last 2 decades, from initial venture capital funding to product engineering to global market growth, working with major venture capital firms and leading to successful startup exits. He co-founded Xona Partners, a global technology advisory firm and iValley.co, a startup co-creation studio. Prior, he held leadership positions in a string of Silicon Valley startups focused on building the backbone of the internet and cloud infrastructure, engineering many industry firsts. Earlier, he held lead roles in various R&D centers primarily in Japan, Canada, the USA and France.



**Ghinwa Jalloul**  
Chairwoman, Torch

Ghinwa Jalloul is the chairwoman and co-founder of Torch, an IT boot camp, accelerator and startup enabler with mission of accelerating transition of Lebanon to Knowledge Information Technology Economy (KITE). Previous positions include Founder and CEO of \*.Technology sarl, a software consultancy and software development house with pioneering and award-winning applications and solutions; Chairwoman and Co-founder of VIP Rescue. Ghinwa is a Former Member of Lebanese Parliament and Former Chair & Founder of Information Technology Parliamentary Committee.



**Xavier Reille**  
IFC Country Manager for the Maghreb region, World Bank Group

Xavier is the current IFC Country Manager for the Maghreb Region. Prior World Bank Group experience include Manager, Global Industry, Financial Markets, Financial Institutions Group Advisory Service, Lead Private Sector Specialist, Senior Private Sector Development Specialist at the Consultative Group for Assistance to the Poor.

**PANEL SESSION 2. DIGITAL JOB PLATFORMS**



**Parmesh Shah**  
Global lead on jobs, World Bank Group

**Parmesh Shah** is the Global Lead for Rural Livelihoods and Agricultural Jobs at the World Bank. His current areas of interest are economic and social organizations and networks of the poor, making markets and public services work for the poor, social entrepreneurship, ICT-based innovations in agriculture and rural development, promotion of on farm and off farm jobs and public private and people partnerships for rural poverty reduction. Prior to his current position, Parmesh worked as Coordinator of the Bank-wide Community of Practice on "Participation." Before joining the Bank, Parmesh worked for governments, civil society organizations, foundations and other bilateral and multilateral development organizations in Asia and Africa regions in the areas of community driven development, participatory approaches, institutional change and natural resources management.



**Waleid Asad**  
Executive Director of Enterprise, Silatech

Waleid Asad Ismail has over 20 years of experience as a consultant for Fortune 500 companies in the United States, as a college department chair and an adjunct lecturer at various US colleges, former VP of Microfinance at the Central Bank of Sudan, and a former director of leading apex and microfinance institutions in Sudan. His fields of experience span microfinance, business development, investment, training and development. Waleid has led the microfinance sector in the Sudan for over 4 years and participated in its strategy formulation. He founded one of the largest specialized microfinance institutions in Sudan and chaired the largest microfinance project in the country, with an allocated budget of over 17 million USD and a beneficiary base of 150,000 small entrepreneurs. Waleid founded Alwatanyia Microfinance Foundation, the first and only microfinance institution to support and empower entrepreneurs among the youth army personnel. He was the Chairman of the Board for AlMithal Microfinance Company, and was a board member at many leading financial institutions in the Sudan.



**Mahmoud Shayeb**  
Chief Operating Officer, SoukTel

A past Operations Manager at Motorola in Chicago, Mahmoud brings close to 15 years of experience as a project and personnel manager in multiple divisions of Motorola's US offices, overseeing the development of the company's market-leading DROID smartphone--the first mobile phone to run Google's Android operating system. Mahmoud holds an Master's Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University in Washington, DC, and an M.Sc. in Computer Science from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



**Sean Blagsvedt**  
Founder and former CEO Babajobs.com







**Krimo Salem**  
Founder and CEO, If And Then, Inc.

**Krimo Salem** is an American computer scientist, entrepreneur. Salem is founder of If & Then Inc. and the co-creator of the Video Conference Call Software under the name of One Touch, which was later renamed to WebEx and merged with Cisco Systems in 2007. Salem was also the Chief Information Officer at IntelliSync (acquired by Nokia), where he served as a strategic advisor and provided key direction for IntelliSync's shift from a desktop-based software company to an enterprise and internet-based company. Salem was the Director of Network Services at Electronic Arts (EA) with responsibilities that spanned four continents. At EA, Salem was responsible for engineering one of the world's first corporate intranet systems. For this accomplishment, Salem was recognized and featured in several magazines and publications like Fortune, CIO Magazine, Info World and Network World.



**Mudassir Sheikh**  
CEO, Careem

**Mudassir Sheikh** Co-Founded Careem Networks FZ LLC in 2012 and served as its Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Sheikh served as the Vice President of Solutions at Keynote DeviceAnywhere Inc. He was responsible for the Solutions organization managing all aspects of delivery of products to customers. He serves as Vice President of Solutions at Keynote DeviceAnywhere Inc. He spent two years in Karachi, Pakistan where he established and headed Mobile Complete's offshore development center. Prior to joining Mobile Complete, he founded Solerent and served as its Director. Previously, he was part of the Venture Finance group at Garage Technology Ventures, where he worked with seed-stage companies in the software and consumer Internet industry. Before Garage, he held various technical positions at Brience and Trilogy Software and he started his career as a Consultant at Ernst & Young.

<b>PANEL SESSION 3. REGULATION AS A CATALYST FOR INNOVATION</b>	
	<p><b>Faraoun Houda-Iman</b> Minister of Post, Information Technology &amp; Communication, People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria</p> <p>After completing her PhDs, Faraoun Houda-Iman started her career as a teacher researcher at the Tlemcen University and became a Professor in 2013 at only 34. She then directed the National Agency for the development of university research (ANDRU). She was President of the inter sector based commission for promotion, program and evaluation of the technical and scientific research and a member of the sectorial permanent committee MERS. She also presided the board of directors of the Research Centre in Physics and Chemicals (CRAPC) as well as the public markets commission of the research center in applied economy (CREAD). Mrs Feraoun was appointed Minister of post and Technologies of’ Information and Communication in 2015.</p>
	<p><b>Mr. R. S. Sharma</b> Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)</p> <p>Prior to joining TRAI Mr. R.S.Sharma was working as Secretary to Government of India in the Department of Electronics and Information Technology. He also worked as Chief Secretary to the State Government of Jharkhand (India). His other assignments include Director General &amp; Mission Director of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) where he was responsible for over-all implementation of this ambitious and challenging project undertaken by the Government of India for providing Unique Identification (christened as “Aadhaar”) to all its Residents. Mr. Sharma has held important positions both in the Government of India and State Governments in the past and has been deeply involved in the administrative reforms and leveraging IT to simplify the administrative processes.</p>
	<p><b>Martin Peitz</b> Professor, University of Mannheim</p>
	<p><b>Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly</b> Country Director for the Maghreb Region, World Bank Group</p> <p><b>Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly</b> joined the World Bank in 1994 and has held a variety of positions focusing on the restructuring of public enterprises, support to private sector development, regional integration, and management of the oil sector. Prior to her current position, Ms. Marie-Nelly spent four years as Country Director for Nigeria, and held a number of posts including Country Director for the two Congo (Brazzaville and DRC), Director for the World Bank Group Program related to the Chad Petroleum and the Chad-Cameroon pipeline project and Director for the regional integration program in Africa. She worked for many international firms and was advisor to several governments before joining the World Bank.</p>



**Federica Maiorano**

Senior Competition Expert, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Federica Maiorano is a Senior Competition Expert in the Competition Division of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). She has been with the OECD since January 2013. Federica spends most of her time on in-country projects aiming at reviewing legislation and lifting regulatory barriers to competition. She is also regularly involved in drafting papers for the meetings of competition agency heads from around the world, held at the OECD twice a year. She has recently worked on a survey of regulations in the digital economy, leading to an overview of main barriers by sector.

Federica previously worked in economic consulting for several years, as well as a regulatory economist in the telecommunications sector. She graduated in economics from Bocconi University (Milan) and holds an MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics and a PhD in Economics from City University (London).







**Noureddine Tayebi**

Founder and CEO, InSense Inc. and Founder and Chairman of the Board of VA Technologies, Algiers

Noureddine Tayebi holds a PHD in Electrical Engineering received numerous awards, including the Intel SPA Award, in recognition of contributions in the field of DNA sequencing. Noureddine Tayebi also holds more than 40 patents. Noureddine is the founder of start-ups in the Silicon Valley region.



<b>PANEL SESSION 4. FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT</b>	
	<p><b>Abderrahmane Raouya</b> Minister of Finance, People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria</p> <p>Abderrahmane Raouya was appointed Minister of Finance in May 2017. Previously, he was Director General for Taxes, Expert in the Office of the Minister of Finance. He also served as International Monetary Fund Expert in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Director for Fiscal Legislation.</p>
	<p><b>Lemma Senbet</b> Executive Director, African Economic Research Consortium and University of Maryland</p> <p>Lemma W. Senbet is the Executive Director of African Economic Research Consortium, on leave from the University of Maryland as the Mayer Chair Professor of Finance. He was a Founding Director of the Center for Financial Policy. He also served as Chair of the Finance Department, 1998-2006, and spearheaded its transformation into world class. Prior to his position at the University of Maryland, he was a chaired professor at Wisconsin.</p>
	<p><b>Ragavan Venkatesan</b> Head Alternate, Alternate Channel &amp; Payment Services, IDFC Bank</p> <p>Mr. Ragavan Venkatesan is the Head- Digital Payments &amp; Alternate Channel, Retail Banking division at IDFC bank, India. He was the founding member of IDFC Bank and has conceptualised and successfully rolled out IDFC Bank, Digital Payments &amp; Alternate Banking channel from scratch across 23 states &amp; 2 Union territories across India. Prior to IDFC Bank, at National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), he lead the Financial Inclusion &amp; Government Payments vertical and went on to co-create the world’s largest interoperable biometric payment platform. He spearheaded, the creation of Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS). He was also part of committees set up for the standardisation of last mile devices and related payment systems.</p>
	<p><b>Abhishant Pant,</b> Founder, Cashless Journey</p> <p>Abhishant is a Mumbai-based FinTech expert. On March 13, 2016, to enhance his understanding of the challenges and catalysts in India’s journey towards a cashless society, he started his cashless journey (essentially, he stopped carrying physical manifestation of money, i.e., cash) experiment. During more than 200 days of journey, he traveled the length and breadth of India and did a comparative study with the Singapore market as well. He has spoken about the learnings from his journey via Ted Talks, Lectures at NUS, IIM and IIT’s and at various banking conferences. He is closely associated with the FinTech world (as a mentor) via incubators like Barclays Rise, Zone Startups and writes regularly on the FinTech landscape’s opportunity and challenges.</p>



**Kamran Elahian**  
Founder and Chairman, Global Innovation Catalyst

Kamran Elahian is an Iranian-American Entrepreneur who is the chairman and co-founder of Global Catalyst Partners, an international, multistage, technology-oriented venture capital firm. GCP has invested in leading-edge technology companies in the U.S., China, Japan and Israel. Kamran serves on the boards of Actelis Networks, Beceem Communications, iKoa and SoundHound.






**Habib Attia**  
Senior Financial Economist, Arab Monetary Fund

Senior development professional with more than 18 years extensive experience in financial sector development issues from donor, regulators, MFIs and private sector perspective. Habib Attia is currently Senior Financial Sector Specialist at the Arab Monetary Fund since March 2016. Prior to joining AMF, he spent almost six years at the African Development Bank as Financial Sector Advisor, laying the foundation and the development of the Making Finance Work for Africa Initiative, among others. Prior positions include Development Manager at MicroCred, Policy Advisor Consultant for CGAP, Research Officer at the Algerian Banking Commission.



**Issa Aghabi**  
IFC Investment Officer, Venture Investing, World Bank Group

Issa has been in the finance and investments industry for 13+ years with a focus on Venture Capital in the wider TMT space. He has successfully closed over 50+ direct and indirect investment deals, managed over \$150m in MENA Venture funds and served as a BOD member for a number of companies, providing commercial and business strategies, along with general operational, and financial support. In 2015, he led the exit of twofour54's largest two investments, and more recently in 2017, led the exit of IFC's largest MENA direct deal, souq.com. He also led the creation and launch a leading accelerator in the MENA region. He currently oversees IFC MENA venture investments both from a growth capital and fund of fund perspective.

DAY TWO	PANEL SESSION 5. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
	<p><b>Nouria Benghabrit</b> Minister of National Education, People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria</p> <p>Nouria Benghabrit has been appointed Minister of National Education in May 2014. A sociologist and researcher, Mrs Benghabrit served as Director of the National Centre of Research in Social and Cultural Anthropology and headed the Department of Sociology at the University of Oran. She was a member of The Committee for Development Policy (CDP), subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.</p>
	<p><b>Nadir Mohammed</b> GCC Country Director, World Bank Group</p> <p><b>Nadir Mohammed</b> joined the Bank in 1998 as Country Economist for Egypt and then Yemen. He held a number of positions including Senior Advisor in the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management network, Country Manager for Albania and Operations Director for the Middle East and North Africa (MNA) region. While on external assignment, Dr. Mohammed served as Acting Director of Strategy for the Prime Minister’s Office, State of Kuwait and worked at the African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank. Mr. Mohammed started his career in academia as a lecture and research officer in the universities of Khartoum (Sudan), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Cambridge (UK), and Oxford (UK).</p>
	<p><b>Hayat Sindi</b> Special Advisor to the Islamic Development Bank’s President, IsDB</p> <p>Hayat Sindi is a leading biotechnologist and a champion of science and technology in the Middle East. She co-founded a non-profit organization with a team at Harvard called “Diagnostics For All” which creates innovative, inexpensive, point-of-care diagnostic devices for people in impoverished regions. She also invented a machine combining the effects of light and ultra-sound for use in biotechnology. Along with her scientific activities, she participated in numerous events aimed at raising the awareness on science amongst women, particularly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Muslim World. She launched “i2”, the Institute for “Imagination and Ingenuity”, to encourage innovation among young people specifically male and female scientists, technologists and engineers. Hayat Sindi was selected by UNESCO to be one of the 5 jurors for “UNESCO Prize on Girls and Women's Education” supported by the First Lady of China</p>



**Salvatore Nigro**

Global Vice President, Education for Employment

**Salvatore Nigro, Global Vice-president, Education For Employment**

Salvatore Nigro is Global Vice-President of Education For Employment (EFE), the largest youth employment organisation in the MENA region. In this capacity, he leads EFE’s business development, partnership and programme management in Europe, supporting operations across 8 countries in the region. With over fifteen years of experience in workforce development and strategic management, prior to joining EFE Salvatore was Director of Advocacy at the Glocal Forum. He advised governments, international organisations and employment agencies in the Mediterranean on the development of youth employment policies and programmes.



**Lesly Goh**

Director, Information and Technology Solutions Vice Presidency, World Bank Group





Lesly Goh is the World Bank Group Chief Technology Officer, Director of Enterprise Architecture and Technology. Lesly’s past FSI experience covers a broad spectrum ranging from Capital Markets, Retail Banking, Commercial Banking, Asset Management, Development Banks and Financial Data Providers. She is recognized as a thought leader in the industry, especially in FinTech and the use of Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain technologies as a new frontier for Digital Financial Services. Lesly is a mentor/advisor for several FinTech startups in Asia and a Fellow at Singapore University of Social Sciences. Lesly has been an advocate for Women in Technologies and academia for students in STEM such as DigiGirlz from her background in Computer Engineering and Mathematics.







**Mussaad Al-Razouki**

Chief Business Development Officer, Kuwait Life Sciences

Dr. Razouki is the current Chief Business Development Officer of Kuwait Life Sciences Company (KLSC) where he is responsible for identifying new business opportunities for all KLSC subsidiary companies as well as sourcing investments opportunities for KLSC. An Oral and Maxillofacial surgeon by training, Dr. Razouki has completed clinical rotations at the world’s top hospitals including New York Presbyterian Hospital of Columbia University Medical Center, Harlem Hospital, Cleveland University Hospital of Case Western Reserve University and Mass General Hospital of Harvard University. A graduate of Columbia Business School, Dr. Razouki was recently selected by Stanford Medicine as part of a group of 20 global authors to write a chapter on digital health investing in the upcoming Springer published book: Digital Health: Scaling Healthcare to the World.

<b>PANEL SESSION 6. DIGITAL AGRICULTURE</b>	
	<p><b>Parmesh Shah</b> Global lead on jobs, World Bank Group</p> <p><b>Parmesh Shah</b> is the Global Lead for Rural Livelihoods and Agricultural Jobs at the World Bank. His current areas of interest are economic and social organizations and networks of the poor, making markets and public services work for the poor, social entrepreneurship, ICT-based innovations in agriculture and rural development, promotion of on farm and off farm jobs and public private and people partnerships for rural poverty reduction. Prior to his current position, Parmesh worked as Coordinator of the Bank-wide Community of Practice on "Participation." Before joining the Bank, Parmesh worked for governments, civil society organizations, foundations and other bilateral and multilateral development organizations in Asia and Africa regions in the areas of community driven development, participatory approaches, institutional change and natural resources management.</p>
	<p><b>Castro Antwi-Danso</b> Director of Sales and Marketing, Esoko</p> <p>Castro Antwi-Danso is currently the Director of Sales and Marketing for Esoko Ghana. Before joining the company, he had a similar role for The Okyenhene (King of the Akyem Abuakwa Kingdom in Ghana) where he developed business for the Kingdom both locally and internationally and managed their financial activities. Castro has a unique mix of professional experience, from accounting to business development to law. He started of his career with Ernst and Young where he gained experience in Financial Accounting, Cost Accounting, Management Accounting as well as numerous external audit and operational reviews. He then worked as the General Manager of Joseph’s Foresight Limited, a commodity trading company with five regional offices in Ghana as well as Burkina Faso.</p>
	<p><b>Lavandez (Van) Jones</b> co-founder, Hellotractor</p> <p>Lavandez (Van) Jones is theco-founder of Hellotractor, a startup that addresses the pressing problem of inefficiency in Nigeria’s agriculture sector. The company develops and deploys low-cost smart tractors retrofitted with GPS antennae designed to work in areas with little or no internet penetration. Lavandez (Van) Jones has over10 years of experience co-founding startups, managing global strategy, and developing growth plans for both startups and mature companies.</p>
	<p><b>Maurits Voogt</b> Managing Director, Eleaf</p> <p>Maurits Voogt is the Managing Director of eLEAF. He stood at the basis of the development of eLEAF’s first operational satellite data driven farmer support service ‘Mijn Akker’ aimed at individual farmers in the Netherlands. eLEAF’s operational web-portal has been used to provide satellite derived information services to clients in South Africa, Russia, Ukraine, Canada, Spain, Egypt, Sudan</p>

	<p>and Ethiopia. Maurits has in depth knowledge and experience in using remote sensing satellite technology in real-time and narrow-time operational conditions. He combines his technical background with sound project management skills and has managed projects executed for a range of different clients and donors.</p>
	<p><b>Simone Strey</b> CEO, PEAT/Plantix</p> <p>Simone Strey is the CEO of PEAT/Plantix and a geographer specialized in geobotany and soil science.</p>
	<p><b>Maria Claudia Pachon</b> Engagement Director, CiBO</p>

<b>MINISTERS CLOSING ROUNDTABLE</b>	
	<p><b>Abderrahmane Raouya</b> Minister of Finance, People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria</p> <p>Abderrahmane Raouya was appointed Minister of Finance in May 2017. Previously, he was Director General for Taxes, Expert in the Office of the Minister of Finance. He also served as International Monetary Fund Expert in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Director for Fiscal Legislation.</p>
	<p><b>Hafez Ghanem</b> Vice President, Middle East and North Africa (MENA), The World Bank Group</p> <p><b>Hafez Ghanem</b>, an Egyptian and French national is a development expert with more than thirty years of experience in policy analysis, project formulation and supervision, and management of multinational institutions and has worked on World Bank operations and initiatives in over 20 countries in Africa, Europe and Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, and Southeast Asia. Dr. Ghanem leads the World Bank’s engagement with 20 MENA countries through a portfolio of ongoing projects, technical assistance and grants. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Ghanem was a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution in the Global Economy and Development program leading the Arab economies project and served as the Assistant Director-General at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He also led the reforms of the Committee on World Food Security to make it more inclusive and responsive to country needs.</p>
	<p><b>Abdulrahman A. Al Hamidy</b> Director General Chairman of the Board, Arab Monetary Fund</p> <p>Dr. Al Hamidy currently serves as Director General Chairman of the Board in the Arab Monetary Fund. Dr. Al Hamidy held several positions: Vice Governor of Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Deputy Governor for Technical Affairs, Director General of the Economic Research and Statistics, Director of Training and Research Center and Information at Banking Institute. He was an Assistant Professor in the Economics Department at King Saud University. Dr. Al Hamidy was a member of the Board of Executive Directors of the Arab Monetary Fund for the period from 2003-2013, in addition to his membership in the Boards of Directors in several leading Saudi Institutions. With his appointment as Chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund, Dr. Al Hamidy is also the Chief Executive Chairman of Arab Trade Financing Program by virtue of office.</p>