

Speaker Bios

Accelerating Research, Innovation & Technology for African Cities

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Manuel de Araújo, Mayor of Quelimane



Manuel A. Alculete Lopes de Araújo is a Mozambican politician who has been mayor of Quelimane since December 2011. Manuel de Araujo was elected (2018) Member of ICLEI of the Global Executive Committee responsible for Resilience (Co-President). In 2017, De Araujo was elected vice president of ICLEI for Africa. He was educated in Mozambique (BA Hons, Higher Institute of International Relations), Zimbabwe (MPS, University of Zimbabwe and SARIPS), and in the UK in SOAS, University of London (MSc) and University of East Anglia (PhD, 2011). He was a member of the Parliament of the Constituency of Maganja da Costa, Province of Zambezia, Shadow Minister for Youth, Sports, Tourism and Culture and Shadow Secretary of State for Europe, North, Central and South America.

He has taught Economics, Development Economics, International Relations and Comparative Foreign Policy at the Pedagogical University, at the Higher Institute of Sciences and Technologies of Mozambique, at the A Polytechnic University and at the Higher Institute of International Relations.

Manuel de Araujo was one of the activists of the African Countries of Portuguese and Spanish Language (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe) and later Coordinator of the Project Campaign of the Southern African Development Community in Policing and Human rights. Amnesty International (London). Previously, Manuel de Araújo was a researcher on the Human Development Report Project of the Southern African Documentation and Research Center (SARDC).

M. LOGLO Kossi Amétowoyona, Mayor of Tsévié

The Mayor of the city of Tsévié, Mr. LOGLO Kossi Amétowoyona, was born on 31 December 1958 in Assomé (Zio prefecture, Togo). He is married and father of 6 children. He holds a BEPC diploma of Tsévié (CCOT, current high school 1) since 1975. He received training in accounting and management of companies (2001 to 2003) with obtaining a Certificate of Completion Training (CFA). He has successfully completed communication training from 2001 to 2006. He served as a bank executive (caisse National Bank of Agricultural Credit CNCA) from 1981 to 1985. He held high office at the National Confederation of Workers of Togo (CNTT), the central union of workers of Togo from 1990 to 2001. He's held the position of Mayor since 2001. Between 2005 to 2010, he was an advisor to the Union of Communes of Togo (the Togolese communes) and since 2010 he's held the position of General Treasurer of the Union.

Amanda Eichel, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy



Amanda Eichel is the Executive Director of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy based in Brussels. Previously, Amanda worked at the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, where she led the regional and programmatic teams, and directed research and knowledge management efforts. Prior to joining C40, Amanda worked for Mayor Bloomberg's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability in New York City, and served as Climate Protection Advisor to the Mayor of Seattle, Washington.

Melissa Kerim-Dikeni, Professional Officer, ICLEI Africa



Melissa is a Professional Officer at ICLEI Africa under the energy, climate change and resilience work stream. At ICLEI, she is technically supporting cities across Sub-Saharan Africa to develop their climate change plans and strategies. In parallel, she is a PhD candidate in Energy and Sustainable Development at the Energy Research Centre, University of Cape Town. Her research focuses on the multi-level governance of energy transition in South African secondary cities. Before starting her PhD and joining ICLEI, she graduated from Sciences Po and La Sorbonne University in Paris and worked for international organizations such as the United Nations and Amnesty International in several countries.

Jean Pierre ELONG MBASSI, Secretary General, UCLG Africa



Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi is the Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) since 2007. He has been the Chairperson of the Cities Alliance Interim Management Board till April 2016. He is also Co-Chair of World Cities Scientific Development Alliance-WCSDA, and Deputy Secretary General of the China-Africa forum of local governments. Mr. Elong Mbassi is the man behind the Africities Summit, the largest event of cities, regions and local communities in Africa, where he oversees the organization since the first edition in 1998. Mr. Elong Mbassi has a rich experience of nearly 40 years in the field of urban development and planning, urban services, local economic development, local governance, housing and of slum upgrading. From 1996 to 1999 he was the first Secretary General of the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination-WACLAC at the same time he held the position of Secretary General of the Municipal Development Partnership, MDP from 1992 to 2006. Previously, from 1981 to 1991, Mr. Elong Mbassi was the director of the first urban project financed by the World Bank in Cameroon and which focused on the restructuring and development of a slums area of 300,000 inhabitants in the city Douala. Mr. Elong Mbassi began his career in Paris, France where he was responsible for research and project manager at the Agency of Cooperation and Planning ('Agence Coopération et Aménagement') from 1973 to 1980.

Toshiaki Nagata, Senior Programme Officer at the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, IRENA



Toshiaki Nagata is a Senior Programme Officer at the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre (KPFC) of IRENA, leading work relating to climate change. His role is focused specifically on assisting developing countries in implementing renewable energy component of their Nationally Developed Contributions (NDCs), which they submitted to the UN to define their climate actions, and also in enhancing the component through the process of revising NDCs, which will start in 2020. Prior to joining IRENA, he was engaged in the policy designing at the Japanese Government, aimed at proliferating advanced renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and practices at a global scale. He also had been a long-time climate change expert focused on domestic and international carbon markets. In that function, he played an active role in a number of UN climate talks as part of the Japanese delegation, including in the process of giving birth to the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Blake Robinson, Professional Officer, ICLEI Africa



Blake Robinson is a Senior Professional Officer at ICLEI Africa, whose work focuses on mobility, circular development and the future of African cities. He is a sustainable cities expert with extensive experience in infrastructure and urban resource management, and has worked on a number of international projects for UN Environment and other organisations. He has a Business Science degree in Marketing from the University of Cape Town, and a Master's degree in Sustainable Development from the University of Stellenbosch.

Mr. Joseph Yaovi KOGBE, International Coordinator, Climate & Development Network and Executive Director of the Organization for the Environment and Sustainable Development (OPED)



Mr. Joseph Yaovi KOGBE is the International Coordinator of the Climate & Development Network, the largest network of French-speaking NGOs on climate change and development in 22 countries in Africa. He is also Executive Director of the Organization for the Environment and Sustainable Development (OPED) based in Lomé, Togo. Holder of a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Environmental Sciences, Mr. Kogbe has experience coordinating projects related to environmental protection and sustainable management. Mr. Kogbe's experience for over 10 years has been focused in supporting civil society organizations and public administrations in French-speaking Africa and contribute to strengthening the voice of Francophone countries in regional, national, and international forums. In recent years, Mr. Kogbe has engaged in an advocacy campaign for supporting cities and integrating climate and energy constraints in communal development plans in Benin, Niger and Togo. Under his coordination, two

books have been published as a prelude to the UN conferences on climate change in 2017 and 2018, one on the driving role of non-state actors in implementation of the Paris Agreement, and the other on the coherence of local planning development with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Mr. Kogbe is also very involved in a national campaign to strengthen capacity of local and regional authorities in the implementation of assessed contributions (CDN) of Togo. He is one of the experts who contributed to the development of the Action Plan for access to sustainable energy and climate (PAAEDC) of the municipality of Tsévié in Togo, one of the pilot cities of the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA).