

# SPEAKERS' PROFILES



**ALVARO LARIO**

**President  
IFAD**

Alvaro Lario is President of the International Fund of Agricultural Development (IFAD). A seasoned international development finance leader, he has more than 20 years of experience across academia, private sector asset management, World Bank Group and the United Nations, including as Associate Vice-President of Financial Operations at IFAD.

Under his stewardship, IFAD became the first United Nations Fund to enter the capital markets and obtain a credit rating, enabling the IFAD to expand resource mobilization efforts to the private sector.

Before joining the Fund in early 2018, he was the Treasury Capital Markets Lead and Principal Portfolio Officer at the International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank Group, where he focused on local capital markets development and emerging markets investments.

President Lario received a PhD in Financial Economics from the Complutense University of Madrid after completing a Master of Research in Economics at the London Business School and a Master of Finance from Princeton University.



**GLADYS H. MORALES**

**Global Head  
of Innovation  
IFAD**

Gladys H. Morales is Global Head of Innovation at IFAD. She leads the design and implementation of innovation initiatives and partnerships that positively impact poor rural people. She is also the Regional Ambassador in Italy of the Global Blockchain Business Council.

Prior to joining IFAD, Morales led digital transformation in Multilateral Development Banks and United Nations agencies' projects in Latin America, Asia and Europe. She worked for the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China where she led the design of digital platforms and established the Global Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Portal. She was also part of the management team for a digital advertising startup in Indonesia and founded her own startup in Italy.

Morales is a graduate from the Executive Program on Digital Business Leadership at Columbia Business School. She has a Master of Science in Development Economics and International Cooperation from University of Rome, Tor Vergata, and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and International Economics from Georgetown University.

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**RON THOMAS HARTMAN**  
Director  
Global Engagement,  
Partnership and Resource  
Mobilization  
IFAD

Ron Hartman is IFAD's Director for Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization. He is responsible for leading IFAD's global engagement and multilateral relations including with the private sector; south-south and triangular cooperation, resource mobilization and funds management. Prior to his current position, Hartman served as IFAD Country Director and Representative at its South East Asia and the Pacific sub-regional office in Jakarta.

With over 25 years of professional experience, including over 18 years with the United Nations, Hartman has acquired an extensive managerial and operational experience in over 25 countries. He has specialized knowledge in promoting sustainable socio-economic development and poverty reduction, public policy and partnerships. In 2011, Hartman was awarded the IFAD Presidential Award for outstanding performance.



**TONYA ALLEN**  
President  
McKnight Foundation

Tonya Allen, president of the McKnight Foundation, is a leader and a change agent with a passion for co-creating an equitable, sustainable world. In 2021, she became president of the McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based family foundation that advances a more just, creative, and abundant future where people and planet thrive.

The Foundation grants approximately \$100 million annually in support of equitable communities, a clean energy economy, global food systems, artists and culture bearers, and innovative neuroscience research. In 2022, Tonya helped launch the GroundBreak Coalition, an ambitious, multi-sector effort to close wealth gaps in Minneapolis-St. Paul. In 2023, GroundBreak announced nearly \$1 billion in early commitments towards its goals, which Inside Philanthropy called the "fundraising success story of the year."

Tonya is a philanthropic, civic, and thought leader, leveraging her position to create significant, systemic change. She is the co-chair of the President's Council on Impact Investing and serves on many boards, including the GHR Foundation, Women Presidents Organization Minnesota, and Greater MSP.

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**SONIA MEDINA**

**Chief Ecosystem Development  
Officer (CEDO) & Executive  
Director, Climate  
Children's Investment  
Fund Foundation**

As CEDO, Sonia drives ClIFF's commitment to strengthen global ecosystems and philanthropic communities to solve some of the toughest challenges children face. Sonia also leads ClIFF's climate team and portfolio. Over 50 professionals at ClIFF manage more than \$1 billion in active investments, spanning a range of sectors, including energy, transport, industry, food and land use, alongside cross-cutting strategic levers such as climate finance, diplomacy, legal action, and communications.

Before joining ClIFF in 2013, Sonia was COO of a biomass start-up in Africa. Before this she spent seven years at EcoSecurities, a large carbon offset project developer, where she was US Country Director and Global Head of Origination.

Sonia started her career at UNEP and holds a BSc in Environmental Sciences from Madrid University, an MSc in Environmental Change from Oxford University and an MBA from the London Business School. Sonia was named a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader in 2014.



**MASEGO MADZWAMUSE**

**Director of the Environment  
Programme  
Oak Foundation**

Masego previously worked at the Southern Africa Trust, where she was the Chief Executive Officer. Masego had an established track record as grant maker and a policy analyst specialising in climate justice, natural resources management, and social development. With over 20 years of experience, Masego has worked on the rights of communities in conservation and supported social movements and civil society organisations advocating for social and economic justice. This has involved leading research and advocacy and working with: economic justice networks; trade, debt, and aid advocacy groups; parliamentary portfolio committees; and conservation and environmental organisations working on natural resource governance and socio-economic and cultural rights. Her previous leadership roles included team leader of the Social and Economic Justice programme at the Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa and country director of the Botswana Office for International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). While at the IUCN, she was part of the IUCN social policy team. She is also a member of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Economics and Social Policy.

Masego previously lived in Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa and holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Sciences and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Environmental Science.

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**ANNA LAPPÉ**

**Executive Director  
Global Alliance for  
the Future of Food**

Anna Lappé is the Executive Director of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food, a strategic alliance of philanthropic foundations working for food system transformation around the world.

For more than a decade, the Global Alliance has been at the forefront of organizing philanthropy to work together for a transition to food systems grounded in the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, interconnectedness, health, renewability, and resilience.

At the Global Alliance, Anna builds on this legacy, in partnerships inside and outside philanthropy, to support the urgent transition to food systems that work for people and the planet.

Before joining the Global Alliance in 2023, Anna had worked for more than two decades as an advocate and author on food, farming, and sustainability. The founder or co-founder of three national organizations, including Real Food Media, a communications strategy nonprofit, and the Small Planet Fund, which supports food and farming advocacy and movements worldwide, Anna is a frequent public speaker, with TEDx talks and Food MythBuster videos viewed millions of times.

A recipient of the James Beard Leadership Award, Anna is also the national bestselling co-author or author of three books and is the contributing author to, or featured in, nineteen more. Anna is based in the San Francisco Bay Area, working with a Global Alliance team across six countries.