

Strong Women – Strong Economies
Promoting Economic Equality post-COVID-19

Co-hosted by
Global Perspectives Initiative & Agency for Business & Economic Development

17 Nov 2021 | 19-22 h | Quartier Zukunft

Speakers:



Elke Büdenbender

First Lady of the Federal Republic of Germany and Judge

Elke Büdenbender was born in the Weidenau district of Siegen on 14 January 1962. She has been married to Frank-Walter Steinmeier since 1995. They have one daughter.

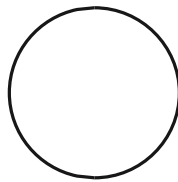
Elke Büdenbender attended intermediate secondary school in Siegen, after which she trained as an industrial clerk at a company of machine building industry in Siegen. She attended Siegerland College in Siegen in 1982 and then worked as a clerk at a logistics company. In 1985, she began her degree in law at Justus Liebig University in Giessen, where she passed her first state law examination in 1991. From 1987, she worked as a student assistant and later as a research assistant to Professor Brun-Otto Bryde at the Chair of Public Law. She completed her practical legal training at Hanover Regional Court in 1994, when she passed her second state law examination. Thereafter Ms Büdenbender worked as a judge at Hanover Administrative Court. She has been a judge at Berlin Administrative Court since 2000. (She is currently on long-term leave.)



Vera Songwe

Executive Secretary UN Economic Commission for Africa

Vera Songwe is the UN Under-Secretary-General and 9th Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), becoming the first woman to lead the institution in its 60-year history. As Executive Secretary, Songwe's reforms, focusing on 'ideas for a prosperous Africa', have brought to the fore critical issues of macroeconomic stability, development finance, private sector growth, poverty and inequality, the digital transformation, trade and competitiveness. She was recently listed as one of Africa's 50 most powerful women by Forbes, named as one of the '100 Most Influential Africans' by Jeune Afrique in 2019, '100 Most Influential Africans' by New African Magazine in 2020 and one of the '25 Africans to watch' by the FT in 2015. Ms Songwe is widely acknowledged for her long-standing track record of providing policy advice and her wealth of experience in delivering development results for Africa. Prior to ECA, she held a various senior leadership roles with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the World Bank.



Olaedo Osoka

CEO of Daystar Power in West Africa

Olaedo Osoka is the Chief Executive Officer of Daystar Power in West Africa (excluding Nigeria), a renewable energy company, which helps businesses in West Africa bridge the power gap with solar hybrid systems and innovative financing solutions. She has led the company's expansion in West Africa into Ghana, Togo and Senegal. The company has installed and currently operates approximately 200 sites across West Africa and has an installed power capacity of +24MW. In January 2021, Daystar Power raised USD 38 million in equity from the Danish Investment Fund for Developing Countries, STOA, Proparco and Morgan Stanley to support its expansion in West Africa.

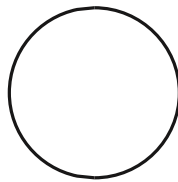
Ms Osaka previously led corporate communications, business development and governance at Sunray Ventures, a venture builder that establishes high-growth businesses with significant socio-economic impact in Africa. Prior to this, she worked as a lawyer in Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie's corporate and commercial teams, advising domestic and international clients looking to structure investments in Nigeria. Ms Osaka graduated with a first-class degree in law (LLB Hons) from the University of Essex and holds a Masters of Law degree (LLM) with a distinction from the London School of Economics and Political Science. In 2020, she was recognised by the Africa Solar Industry Association as 'Woman of the Year in Solar'.



Dr Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, MdB

FDP-Federal Board Member

Dr Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann was born in 1958. She is married and has three children. After graduating from high school, she studied journalism, Political Science and German language and literature at the Ludwigs-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, where she also earned her doctorate. She then worked for more than 20 years as a publishing representative in sales for the youth book publisher Tessloff. She has been active in local politics in Düsseldorf since 1999 and has been a member of the state capital's council since 2004. From 2004 - 2009 and 2014 - 2017, she was chairwoman of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) council faction and served as First Mayor of the state capital Düsseldorf from 2008 to 2014. From 2013 to 2019, Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann was deputy federal chairwoman of the FDP, and since 2019 she has been a member of the Federal Board. Ms Strack-Zimmermann has been a member of the Bundestag since 2017. She is spokeswoman for defense policy as well as for local politics of the parliamentary group of the Free Democrats in the German Bundestag.



Dr Anja Langenbucher

Director European Office, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Dr Anja Langenbucher is Director of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's European Office. She manages the foundation's policy, advocacy, government relations and communications activities in Europe. Prior to joining the foundation in 2011, she has worked for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in a range of roles including managing the EBRD's technical assistance program. As a transaction leader in the EBRD's agribusiness team, she led both debt and equity transactions. Dr Langenbucher also worked at the IFC / World Bank in Washington D.C. and for the European Commission in Brussels. She started her career at the Boston Consulting Group in Munich. Dr Langenbucher holds a doctorate and a master's degree in Economics.

Moderated and hosted by:



Carolin Welzel

Senior Advisor, Agency for Business & Economic Development (AWE)

Carolin Welzel is Senior Advisor at AWE, focusing on international organizations. She has been with German International Development Cooperation (GIZ) for the past 10 years, working in various functions on private sector development in Germany, East- and North Africa. Before joining GIZ she spent several years with the Bertelsmann Foundation. She served as an expert to the European Union as well as to the Council of Europe for eGovernment development in Europe and founded a non-profit start up for political communication.



Dr Ingrid Hamm

Co-Founder & CEO, Global Perspectives Initiative

Dr Ingrid Hamm is Co-founder and CEO of the Global Perspectives Initiative. She is deeply involved in the international dialogue on global development. Dr Hamm has three decades of experience working in major German foundations, including 15 years at the Bertelsmann Foundation where she led the media & society division. From 2003 to 2015, she was the managing director of the Robert Bosch Foundation. In addition, Dr Hamm has served and continues to serve on German and international boards, including the University Council of the University of Tübingen, the General Assembly of the Goethe Institute, the Board of the European Forum Alpbach Foundation, and the Board of Trustees of the Karl Schlecht Foundation.

Global Perspectives Initiative

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