The Fourth Industrial Revolution and the African Security Landscape

Panelist Biographies:

Professor Landry Signé is a world-renowned professor and leading practitioner who has won over seventy prestigious awards and distinctions globally for his academic, policy, business, and leadership accomplishments. He has received the fastest reported tenure and promotion to the highest rank of full professor in the history of the U.S. universities in his discipline. He has served as the Managing Director and is now the Executive Director and Professor at the Thunderbird School of Global Management, Senior Fellow in the Global Economy and Development Program at the Brookings Institution, Distinguished Fellow at Stanford University, Chairman of the Global network for Africa's Prosperity, Senior Adviser to top global leaders (presidential, prime minister, and C-suite levels) in business, policy, and international affairs, and a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Agile Governance, and the World Economic Forum's Regional Action Group for Africa, among others. He is also Founding Director of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Globalization 4.0 Initiative, Chairman of the Global Network for Africa's Prosperity, Senior Adviser to top global leaders (presidential, ministerial, and C-suite levels), and author of numerous books published by the world's #1 ranked academic press in the field (Cambridge University Press). In addition, he has been on numerous boards and councils including for the World Economic Forum, the United Nations, and the African Union.

Professor Signé's achievements have been recognized internationally with dozens of distinctions for his accomplishments as an extraordinary professor, prolific author, cutting-edge scholar, influential public intellectual, exemplary and dedicated academic leader, innovative entrepreneur, sought-after strategic thinker, problem-solver, board member, and keynote speaker. He was selected as a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader for "finding innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing issues," an Andrew Carnegie Fellow for being one of the "most creative thinkers," a Desmond Tutu Fellow for driving "the transformation of Africa," a Woodrow Wilson Public Policy Fellow for "preeminent scholarship uniting the world of ideas to the world of policy," and one of JCI's Ten Outstanding Young Persons in the World for "extraordinary achievements and dedication exemplifying the best attributes and leadership in academia." He has won over a dozen of teaching awards including the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, and was recognized by the World Economic Forum in 2021 as one of their "[top 50] foremost future-oriented thought leaders," and one of "the world's leading thinkers to fashion longer-term perspectives and co-create a narrative that can help guide the creation of a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable vision for our collective future." He was also named to the inaugural list of "Apolitical's 100 Most Influential Academics in Government" in the world, which "highlights work that has influenced the policymaking process by providing insights into policy problems and contributing innovative ideas and solutions." As a pioneer in Silicon Valley, he is the first to have taught at Stanford an award-winning course presenting Africa as a continent of economic opportunities (Emerging African Markets: Strategies, Investments and Government Affairs), and received the Stanford Center for African Studies Distinguished Leadership Award for "innovative teaching, outstanding mentorship and exceptional service to the community." As a pioneer in Silicon Valley, he is the first to have taught at Stanford an award-winning course presenting Africa as a continent of economic opportunities (Emerging African Markets: Strategies, Investments and Government Affairs), and received the Stanford Center for African Studies

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Professor Signé has taught or has been a visiting scholar globally, including at the universities of Oxford, Stanford, Georgetown, Montreal, Ottawa, Witwatersrand, as well as the Sub-Regional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics in Central Africa, Mohamed VI Polytechnic University and HEC Paris School of Management, among others. He often engages with global policymakers and business leaders to bridge the world of ideas and practice, has testified before the U.S. Senate, the United States House of Representatives, and the U.S. International Trade Commission, as well as briefed top global leaders. His work has also appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, CNBC, Forbes, the Hill, and Harvard International Review, among others. Professor Landry Signé completed his education (valedictorian) and executive education at Stanford University, Harvard University, the University of Oxford, McGill University, the University of Montreal, and Sciences Po Paris, the University of Lyon 3, receiving many of the most prestigious awards and distinctions.

Ms. Moliehi Makumane is a researcher with the Security and Technology Programme at UNIDIR. Her expertise spans the international cybersecurity domain with an interest on the implications of emerging technologies for security in developing countries. Before joining UNIDIR, Moliehi was with South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation where she led the international cybersecurity file, as negotiator in the OEWG and a senior advisor in the UN GGE. Ms Makumane was profiled as " People to know" in the 2021 Foreign Policy Analytica Special publication titled " Securing our digital future".