

# CONFERENCE AGENDA



## EQUITY IN EXTRACTION CONFERENCE 2025

High-Level West Africa Conference

Equity in Extraction: Addressing Inequalities in Natural Resource Governance,  
Critical Mineral Resources and Climate Change

14-16 October 2025

Location: Alisa Hotel, Accra, Ghana



**Ford  
Foundation**





# EQUITY IN EXTRACTION CONFERENCE 2025

## About the Logo

The logo for the **Equity in Extraction Conference 2025** expresses the core vision of the event, promoting fairness, sustainability, and accountability in the governance of West Africa's natural resources.

## Four Upright Bars

The four vertical bars represent the four key themes of the conference: *Inequalities, Natural Resource Governance, Critical Mineral Resources, and Climate Change.*

Their upright shape stands for strength, balance, and transparency, the guiding principles needed to ensure equity in extraction.

## Colour Meaning

The logo features two main colours that convey the spirit and purpose of the conference:

- **Earth Brown:** Represents the land, minerals, and the drive for fair and responsible management of natural resources.
- **Teal Green:** Symbolizes climate consciousness, renewal, and the shared pursuit of sustainable development.

Together, the colours and design reflect unity, purpose, and progress, moving from inequality toward fairness and a sustainable future.



## Background:

West Africa is rich in natural resources, including critical minerals essential for global technological advancement and energy transition. However, the governance of these resources often reinforces existing inequalities within communities, exacerbating social, economic, and environmental disparities. The interplay between resource extraction, climate change, and systemic inequalities raises urgent questions about sustainable development in the region.

Despite significant policy frameworks aimed at equitable resource distribution, the benefits of natural resource wealth frequently do not reach the most vulnerable populations. During the 2022 high-level Conference organized in Accra with support from Ford Foundation, the issues and complexities within the nexus between natural resource governance and inequalities was broadly discussed in all presentations and, this issue came out strongly in all presentations and conclusions. Climate change poses additional challenges, threatening livelihoods and intensifying existing vulnerabilities.

With increasing demand for electric vehicles, solar panels, and other clean energy technologies, global demand for critical minerals is projected to surge—nickel demand is expected to double, cobalt to triple, and lithium to increase tenfold by 2050. This creates an enormous opportunity for Sub-Saharan African countries, but also introduces new forms of extraction. While the continent could see significant economic benefits from rising mineral revenues, increasing inequalities and negative impacts on an already fragile climate could have implications for the livelihoods of vulnerable populations.

This conference builds on the 2022 High-Level Conference which focused on the nexus between natural resource governance and inequalities. The proposed conference aims to critically examine these issues and **collaborate on actionable climate-change oriented solutions that promote sovereignty in managing, and equitable distribution of, natural resources**. The three-day conference will bring about, researchers, activists, policy makers and civil society leaders, and trade unionists or labour groups, to discuss some of the following topics.

# Day One

14 : 10 : 2025

<b>9:00-9:15</b>	Registration	
<b>9:15 – 9:30</b>	Welcome	Sam Danse
<b>9:25-9:40</b>	Remarks by Ford Foundation	Emmanuel Kuyole, Program Officer
<b>9:40-10:00</b>	Framing of the conference by IDEAs	Dr. Charles Abugre
<b>10:45 – 11:45</b>	Keynote Address by the Director General of the National Development Planning Commission	Dr. Audrey Smock Amoah
<b>11:45 – 12:15</b>	Coffee Break	
<b>12:15 – 13:45</b>	<b>Panel 1:</b> The Political Economy of Resource Governance	<b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Prof. Saa Ditto
<p>This panel explores the broader political and economic structures that shape natural resource governance in Sub-Saharan Africa. It will explore how national and regional policies, trade agreements, and macroeconomic factors influence who benefits from and who is burdened by resources.</p>		
<p>Boom and Burden: Ghana’s Macroeconomic Structures, Resource Extraction, Informality and Inequality in Ghana</p>		Bishop Akolgo (Technology Integration Point Ventures)
<p>Gold mining in Darfur: Its role in the general economy, political conflicts and the current war</p>		Mohamed Salah Abdelrahman (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)
<b>13:45 – 14:45</b>	Lunch	
<b>14:45 – 15:15</b>	<b>Panel 2:</b> Critical minerals, climate justice and the just transition	<b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Paschal Kaba, Deputy General Secretary, GAWU
<p>This panel will examine the relationship between the global demand for critical minerals and its impact on climate justice in Sub-Saharan Africa. Discussions will focus on the environmental costs of extraction, the challenges of a just transition, and how to ensure that climate policies do not exacerbate existing inequalities.</p>		
<p>From Extraction to Exclusion: Critical Minerals, Structural Inequality, and Climate Injustice in West Africa</p>		Mayank Kumar (Ambedkar University New Delhi, India)
<p>Between Gold and Cocoa: Linkages Shaping Rural Labour and Sustainability in Ghana</p>		Hedvig Lagercrantz and Dagmar Mithofer (Humboldt University)
<p>Critical Mineral Governance and Local Inequality: Lithium Extraction, Land Access, and Benefit-Sharing in Mali</p>		Abraham Ename Minko (Istanbul University)

# Day Two

15 : 10 : 2025

<b>9:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Panel 3: Subnational governance and local communities</b>	<b>Moderator:</b> Muez Ali, Energy Working Group Coordinator, IDEAs
<p>This panel focuses on how resource governance plays out at the local level. It will explore the role of traditional authorities, community-level agreements, and multi-level governance structures in addressing inequalities related to resource extraction.</p>		
Chiefs and ASM Governance in Ghana		Joel Agbesinyale (Malmo University)
Governing the Shift: Lessons from Subnational Climate Policy for a Just Transition		Oluwatosin Akinjiola (Spaces for Change)
Bridging the Gap in Community Development Agreements and Multi-Level Governance in Enugu's Coal Mining Sector		Udochukwu Egwim and Stanley Ilechukwu (South Saharan Social Development Organisation, Nigeria) and Nnamdi Arum (Enugu State Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Nigeria)
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	Coffee Break	
<b>11:00 – 12:30</b>	Book Presentations	<b>Moderator:</b> Prof Abdulai Gafaru, University of Ghana Business school
State Capture in the Militarized Fight against illegal small-scale Goldmining in Ghana		Jasper Abembia Ayelazuano (University for Development Studies) and Maxwell Akansina Aziabah (SD Dombo University of Business and Integrated Development Studies)
Extractive Industry Indigenisation in Zimbabwe: Neoextractivism, Resource Nationalism and Uneven Development		Kennedy Manduna (African Center for the Study of the United States, University of Witwatersrand)

Continued on the next page

# Day Two

cont.

15 : 10 : 2025

12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	<b>Panel 4:</b> Transparency and accountability in governance	<b>Moderator:</b> Damilola Ifeanyi Decker Programme Officer, Civic Space Strengthening, Global Rights (Nigeria)
<p>This panel will focus on the role of transparency and accountability in resource governance. Papers will present case studies and lessons from efforts to improve institutional frameworks and ensure that the benefits of natural resources are distributed more equitably.</p>		
Positives Are Possible: Increased transparency in Liberia’s mineral resource governance as the push for strengthened socio-economic governance and service delivery	Monique Cooper-Liverpool (Petra Resources)	
Mining for Socio-Economic and Climate Justice in West Africa	Emmanuel Gbondo (Network Movement for Justice and Development)	
Ressources stratégiques et justice climatique: repenser la gouvernance minière au Sénégal	Ndéye Fadiaw Diagne (CRS)	

# Day Three

16 : 10 : 2025

<b>9:00 – 11:00</b>	<b>Panel 5: Gender, poverty and livelihoods</b>	<b>Moderator:</b> Mrs. Charlotte Kpogli-Dzadey, Lecturer Department of Multidisciplinary Studies Ho Technical University
<p>This panel will highlight the specific gendered dimensions of resource extraction and its effect on livelihoods. It will explore how extractive industries disproportionately impact women, and their struggles for social and economic justice.</p>		
	Energy Poverty in Mining Communities: A Gendered Perspective on Fuel Use and Income Disparities	Maud Gracious Fuko and Patience Ohegwu Ogbodep (Africa Center for Energy Policy, Ghana) and Eliasu Ali (University of Rostock, Germany)
	Critical Mineral Extraction, Structural Inequality and Gender Gaps: Recent Evidence from West Africa	Prince Amadichuku (Africa Research and Development Foundation)
	“Salt is All We Know”: Women, Commons, and the Biography of a Struggle in Ghana	Adwoa Yeboah Gyapong, Faustina Obeng Adomaa, Gertrude Dzifa Torvikey
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	Coffee Break	
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	<b>Panel 6: The politics of infrastructure and industrial development</b>	<b>Moderator:</b> Professor Agyepomaa Gyeke-Dako, Professor of Economics, University of Ghana
<p>This panel will discuss the political economy of infrastructure and industrialisation. It will examine how infrastructure development, which are often linked to resource extraction and energy transition goals, affect power dynamics, social equity, and climate outcomes.</p>		
	The political economy of natural resources: how the GERD is shaping politics in the Horn of Africa	Abdelfatah Hamed (Middle East Council on Global Affairs)
	A new era of industrial policy in Africa: political economy considerations to address new challenges	Rex Kweku Awuku Asiamah (University of Environment and Sustainable Development)
<b>13:00 – 13:30</b>	Closing remarks	Dr. Esther Ofie-Aboagye/ Professor Joseph Saa Dittoh
<b>13:30 – 14:30</b>	Lunch and departure	



**Inequalities and Natural Resource Governance:**

# PROFILE OF SPECIAL GUESTS



**EQUITY IN  
EXTRACTION  
CONFERENCE  
2025**



# Charles Abugre

Executive Director - IDEAS

**Charles Abugre** is a co-founder of **ISODEC**, the **Third World Network** and the **Centre for Public Interest Law**, and **TAMA Foundation**, among others.

He is currently the **Executive Director** of the International Development Economics Associates (**IDEAS**). He is trained as a **Development Economist** and previously worked at senior management at **UNDP** and **Christian Aid**. As a Ghanaian public servant, he was previously the **CEO of SADA** and is currently the **chairman** of the **Board of Directors of MiDA**.

## Topic:

Framing of the conference

## Date:

14:10:2025

## Time:

9:40 – 10:00

# Dr. Audrey Smock Amoah

Director - General - NDPC

**Dr. Audrey Smock Amoah** (FGIP) is a seasoned **development planner** and scholar with over 24 years of experience in **local governance, decentralization, gender, and development**. She holds a **PhD in Planning** from KNUST, where she also earned her BSc and MSc degrees. Her advanced professional training includes certificates in **Gender and Development** (GIMPA), Human Rights-Based Approaches to Planning (Danida Fellowship Centre, Denmark), **Women in Management** (GIMPA/Danida), and Investment Appraisal and Risk Analysis (University of Ghana Business School).

A Fellow of the Ghana Institute of Planners, Dr. Amoah has served at district, regional, and national levels within the Local Government Service. Her career spans roles at **Mpohor Wassa East, Tarkwa-Nsuaem, and La Dade-Kotopon** Municipal Assemblies. She later became **Regional Development Planning Officer** for the Eastern Region and **Director of Management and Technical Services**. In February 2025, she was appointed **Acting Director-General of the National Development Planning Commission**.

## Topic:

Keynote Address

## Date:

14:10:2025

## Time:

10:45 – 11:45





**Critical Mineral Resources**

# PROFILE OF SPEAKERS



**EQUITY IN  
EXTRACTION  
CONFERENCE  
2025**



# Udochukwu Egwim

Head of Programs  
South Saharan Social Development Organisation (SSDO),

**Udochukwu Egwim** is a development practitioner and climate advocate with over 10 years of experience in governance, climate justice, and natural resource management across Nigeria and West Africa.

As Head of Programs at **South Saharan Social Development Organisation (SSDO)**, he leads work on climate resilience, agroecology, and equitable resource governance. He has contributed to key policies, including the **Enugu State Climate Change Policy and Action Plan**, and engages youth, farmers, and marginalized groups in shaping climate and land-use decisions.

In 2024, he joined global climate discussions at **COP29 in Baku**, strengthening his commitment to bridging grassroots action with policy and international advocacy

## Topic:

Bridging the Gap in Community Development Agreements and Multi-Level Governance in Enugu's Coal Mining Sector

## Date:

15:10:2025

## Time:

9:00 – 10:30

# Ndéye Fadiaw Diagne

Project Assistant - CRS, Dakar,

**Ndéye Fadiaw Diagne** is an economist with a strong interest in agriculture and climate change. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Rural Economics and Agricultural Policies at the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management, Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar.

Alongside her studies, she works as a **Project Assistant with CRS in Dakar, Senegal**, where she contributes to humanitarian and development initiatives. She also serves as the Coordinator of *Waxtaane Kom-Koom*, a student association established in 2019 to promote economic sciences in local languages.

Her work reflects a deep commitment to advancing sustainable development and making knowledge accessible to communities



## Topic:

Ressources stratégiques et justice climatique:  
repenser la gouvernance minière au Sénégal

## Date:

15:10:2025

## Time:

13:30 – 15:00



# Dr. Jasper Ayelazuno

Associate Professor and Dean of the Faculty

**Dr. Jasper Ayelazuno** is Associate Professor of Political Science and Dean of the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies at **the University for Development Studies, Ghana**. With over 30 years of experience in law enforcement, teaching, and research, he has served with the Ghana Police Service, the National Reconciliation Commission, and UN Peacekeeping Missions.

His research focuses on capitalism, class, extractive industries, social justice, and inequality in Africa. He has published widely, including books with Routledge, McGill-Queen's University Press, and Palgrave Macmillan. Beyond academia, he is an activist-scholar engaged in the fight for justice in Ghana

## Topic:

State Capture in the Militarized Fight against illegal small-scale Goldmining in Ghana

## Date:

15:10:2025

## Time:

11:00 – 12:30

# Emmanuel Michael Tommy Gbondo, Esq.

Private Legal and Development Consultant

**Emmanuel Michael Tommy Gbondo** is a Private Legal and Development Consultant with extensive experience in natural resource governance and economic justice. He serves as **Programme Lead** of the Natural Resource Rights and Governance Programme at NMJD and is the **National Coordinator** of the Natural Resource Governance and Economic Justice – Sierra Leone (NaRGEJ-SL).

He also acts as the National Focal Person of the Multi-Stakeholder Task Force on Public Disclosure of Revenues from the Mines to Mining Affected Host Communities and is a member of the Sierra Leone Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Multi-Stakeholder Group (SLEITI-MSG)

## Topic:

Mining for Socio-Economic and Climate Justice in West Africa

## Date:

15:10:2025

## Time:

13:30 – 15:00





# Maud Gracious Fuko

Chemical and Process Systems Engineer

**Maud Gracious Fuko** is a Zimbabwean Chemical and Process Systems Engineer and African Climate Ambassador. With three years of experience in climate advocacy and negotiation, she has represented least-developed countries in UNDP COP simulation models and at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, where she championed loss and damage discussions.

She has worked in the chemical and processing industries as a lead process engineer and marketer, and in 2024, interned at the Africa Center for Energy Policy in Ghana, contributing to a policy paper on energy poverty in mining communities from a gender perspective

## Topic:

Energy Poverty in Mining Communities: A Gendered Perspective on Fuel Use and Income Disparities

## Date:

16:10:2025

## Time:

09:00 – 11:00

# Mohamed Salah Abdelrahman

Environmental Researcher, And Activist

**Mohamed Salah Abdelrahman** is an environmental researcher, and activist, focusing on environmental and resource extraction issues, such as hydroelectric dam projects and gold mining.

Mohamed is interested in the correlation between environmental policies, questions of justice and markets drivers of conflict in different communities around Sudan. He is a PhD candidate at Pantheon-Sorbonne University, UMR Prodig, Paris, France.



## Topic:

Gold mining in Darfur: Its role in the general economy, political conflicts and the current war

## Date:

14:10:2025

## Time:

12:15 – 13:45



# Dr. Bishop Amigya-Bia Akolgo

Economist And Governance Expert

**Bishop Amigya-Bia Akolgo** is an economist and governance expert with advanced degrees in Economics, Finance, and International Development. A former Executive Director of ISODEC, he has over 20 years of experience in research, policy advice, and capacity building across Ghana and West Africa.

He currently leads work on illicit financial flows in Ghana, supporting government agencies to recover lost revenue and strengthen domestic resource mobilization. His focus areas include taxation, natural resource governance, and the use of technology to drive transparent and accountable development

## Topic:

Boom and Burden: Ghana's Macroeconomic Structures, Resource Extraction, Informality and Inequality in Ghana

## Date:

14:10:2025

## Time:

12:15 – 13:45

# Dr. Gertrude Dzifa Torvikey

Research Fellow - ISSER

Gertrude Dzifa Torvikey is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER). She pursued PhD in Development Studies and MPhil in Migration Studies at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) and the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) respectively. Her research interests include agrarian livelihoods, gender, migration and labour issues. She analyses these issues through political economy theoretical lens.



## Topic:

“Salt is All We Know”: Women, Commons, and the Biography of a Struggle in Ghana

## Date:

16:10:2025

## Time:

9:00 – 11:00



# Dr. Rex Asiama

Applied Economist

**Dr. Rex Asiama** is an **applied economist** whose work spans industrial policy, technology upgrading, development economics, and energy economics, with a broader focus on sustainable development and economic transformation. He is currently a **Lecturer** in the School of Sustainable Development at the University of Environment and Sustainable Development, and a **Research Fellow** with the DSI/NRF SARCHI Industrial Development programme at the University of Johannesburg. He earned his PhD in Economics from the University of Johannesburg.

Dr. Asiama brings extensive experience as both an academic and a researcher, having collaborated with international and regional institutions including UNIDO, UNICEF, Ashesi University, SOAS University of London, and Central University. His research has been published in reputable journals such as Energy Policy, Water Policy, Cogent Economics & Finance, and Global Environmental Change Advances.

## Topic:

A new era of industrial policy in Africa: political economy considerations to address new challenges

## Date:

16:10:2025

## Time:

11:30 – 13:00

# Hedvig Lagercrantz

Doctoral Researcher

**Hedvig Lagercrantz** is a Doctoral Researcher in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Germany. Her research explores labour, rural transformation, and agrarian change in Ghana, focusing on how agricultural and extractive economies have shaped livelihoods and labour relations over time. Her current project examines the Ghanaian cocoa sector, analysing changing labour dynamics on cocoa farms in relation to artisanal and small-scale gold mining (galamsey) and assessing the compatibility of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) with the local context. By integrating fieldwork, oral histories, and policy analysis, her work contributes to broader debates on sustainable livelihoods, agrarian change, and resource governance in West Africa.



## Topic:

Between Gold and Cocoa: Linkages Shaping Rural Labour and Sustainability in Ghana

## Date:

14:10:2025

## Time:

13:45 – 14:45



# Dr. Kennedy Manduna

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Dr. Kennedy Manduna is a **Postdoctoral Research Fellow** at the **Centre for Excellence: Adaptation and Resilience, University of South Africa (UNISA)**. He serves as an **Academic Trustee** of the **Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Berlin**, a **Fellow of the Just Climate Transitions Network in Potsdam**, and an **Associate Fellow** with the **International Research Group on Authoritarianism and Counter-Strategies (IRGAC)**.

He previously held a postdoctoral fellowship at IRGAC, hosted by the Wits School of Governance, where he earned his **PhD in mineral resource governance**. His research applies praxis-epistemology and Marxist methodology to explore political economy and geopolitics, focusing on ecoauthoritarianism, green extractivism, critical minerals, resource nationalism, and uneven development.

Dr. Manduna is the **author of Extractive Industry Indigenisation in Zimbabwe: Neoextractivism, Resource Nationalism and Uneven Development**, published in the Routledge Studies of the Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development Series.”

## Topic:

Extractive Industry Indigenisation in Zimbabwe: Neoextractivism, Resource Nationalism and Uneven Development

## Date:

15:10:2025

## Time:

11:00 – 12:30

# Joel Agbesinyale

Malmö University.

Joel Agbesinyale writes about the **governance of mineral extraction** and **environmental politics** at the Department of Global Political Studies, Malmö University. His project focuses on the governance of **Ghana's Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM)** sector, and speaks to the Quality of Government (QoG) agenda. He particularly addresses how local, national, and international dynamics shape the politics of mineral extraction in Ghana and beyond.

He holds an **MSc in Development Studies** from Lund University, Sweden, and a **BSc in Development Planning** from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana.

## Topic:

Chiefs and ASM Governance in Ghana

## Date:

15:10:2025

## Time:

09:00 – 10:30



A portrait of Abdalftah Ali, a man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue suit jacket, a white shirt, and a purple tie. He is standing with his arms crossed against a green background with a subtle geometric pattern.

# Abdalftah Ali

Visiting Fellow, MECGA - Doha

**Abdalftah Ali** is a Junior Visiting Fellow at the **Middle East Council on Global Affairs (MECGA)** in Doha, where his research focuses on the **intersection of energy policy, climate change, and development** in the Middle East and Africa. He holds an **M.A. in Public Policy** and an **M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering** with a focus on **renewable energy**.

His work examines how **natural resource governance, energy transitions, and climate vulnerability shape political and economic relations** across regions such as the Horn of Africa, the Gulf, and Sub-Saharan Africa. He has contributed to policy dialogues and research projects on energy access, climate resilience, and sustainable development, including studies on community-based solar microgrids in Ghana and post-conflict energy recovery in Sudan.

Abdalftah has presented and published on topics ranging from the **geopolitics of energy to climate finance and environmental peacebuilding**, with a growing focus on how resource politics influence interregional cooperation and conflict dynamics in Africa.

## Topic:

The political economy of natural resources: how the GERD is shaping politics in the Horn of Africa

## Date:

16:10:2025

## Time:

11:30 – 13:00

# PROFILE OF MODERATORS



**EQUITY IN  
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CONFERENCE  
2025**



# Dr. Esther Ofei-Aboagye

Private Consultant

**Dr. Esther Ofei-Aboagye** is a **social policy analyst and development management consultant** with over 25 years of experience in governance, social protection, and local development. She served as **Director** of the Institute of Local Government Studies (2005–2015) and was formerly a **senior lecturer** at GIMPA. Her work spans decentralization, gender equity, social inclusion, and institutional development. She has consulted for the Government of Ghana, UN agencies, and international partners.

Dr. Ofei-Aboagye holds a PhD in Public Policy from the University of Birmingham, an MPA from Carleton University, and degrees in Social Studies and Education from the University of Cape Coast. She has served on several national boards, including the NDPC, Local Government Service Council, and University of Ghana Council. She is also a member of Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) and has contributed to shaping policy and leadership development across Ghana's public and civil society sectors.

## Topic:

Closing remarks

## Date:

16:10:2025

## Time:

13:00 – 13:30

# Dr. Muez Ali

Energy Working Group Coordinator, IDEAs

**Dr. Muez Ali** is a **Research and Policy Lead** at Earthna: Center for a Sustainable Future at Qatar Foundation, an **Honorary Research Fellow** at the Bartlett School of Environment, Energy and Resources at UCL, London, and an **Adjunct Lecturer** at Georgetown University in Qatar. His research activities and interests span the energy transition, industrial development, food security, climate change in the MENA region and Sub-Saharan Africa, electrification and energy access, and the political economy of knowledge production and development. He has a PhD in Economics and Energy from UCL.

## Topic:

Subnational governance and local communities

## Date:

14:10:2025

## Time:

9:00 – 10:30





# Charlotte Kpogli-Dzadey

Economist, Researcher, And Policy Analyst

**Charlotte Kpogli-Dzadey** is an accomplished **economist, researcher, and policy analyst** with extensive expertise in illicit financial flows, social policy, gender, and development. With over 15 years of progressive experience spanning academia, civil society, and government agencies, she has developed and led research, advocacy, and training initiatives at national and international levels. Charlotte combines advanced academic training, including a PhD in Economics (in progress) and an MPhil in Economics, with deep practical skills in policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation, curriculum development, and capacity building.

Her work covers a wide range of areas such as national budget analysis, gender-responsive policy design, economic empowerment, and statistical research. She has produced numerous policy briefs, research papers, and training manuals, and has facilitated workshops for diverse stakeholders, including government institutions, CSOs, and international organisations. She is also experienced in managing programmes, mentoring women-led organisations, and leading multi-stakeholder engagements to influence policy and legislative reforms

## Topic:

Gender, poverty and livelihoods

## Date:

16:10:2025

## Time:

9:00 – 11:00

# Dr. Paschal Ajongba Saviour Kaba

Deputy General Secretary - (GAWU) of TUC, Ghana

**Dr. Paschal Ajongba Saviour Kaba** is the **Deputy General Secretary** of the General Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU) of TUC, Ghana, and the **National Project Coordinator** overseeing donor-funded projects. With over 18 years of trade union experience, including 12 years in management, he has also served as Regional Officer for Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions and Head of Administration for the Union. His expertise spans management, labour relations, safeguarding, and social protection.

Dr. Kaba has consulted for organizations such as ActionAid Ghana, Chamber of Agribusiness Ghana, CDD Ghana, TOUTON South Africa, Durham University's DemandAT Project, and LO Norway.

His doctoral research explored how microfinance empowers women's groups. His work and research focus on decent work, productivity, migration, occupational safety and health, child and forced labour, and agricultural value chains. He holds a Doctorate in Management, a Master's in Adult Education and Business Management, and a Bachelor's in Integrated Development Studies

## Topic:

Critical minerals, climate justice and the just transition

## Date:

15:10:2025

## Time:

9:00 – 10:30





# Dr. Agyapomaa Gyeke-Dako

Associate Professor of Economics - UGBS

**Dr. Agyapomaa Gyeke-Dako** is an **Associate Professor** of Economics at the University of Ghana Business School. She holds a PhD in Economics and an MSc in Economics and Financial Economics from the University of Nottingham, and a BA in Economics with Geography from the University of Ghana. Her research and teaching focus on fiscal and monetary policy, MSME development, financial inclusion, and economic growth. She previously lectured at Durham Business School (UK) and managed the Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa's Financial Journalism Training Programme.

Dr. Gyeke-Dako has led projects funded by IFC, Mastercard Foundation, IGC, UNICEF, OXFAM, and others, supporting MSME capacity building and financial access, especially for women and youth-led enterprises. She is affiliated with the Leverhulme Centre for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy and the Chinese Economic Association. Her work appears in leading journals including Small Business Economics and Journal of Institutional Economics.

## **Topic:**

The politics of infrastructure and industrial development

## **Date:**

16:10:2025

## **Time:**

11:30 – 13:00

# Prof. Saa Dittoh

Agricultural development and food systems economist

Professor Saa Dittoh is an **Agricultural Development and Food Systems Economist** at the **University for Development Studies (UDS)**, Tamale, Ghana. With over **40 years of experience** in **teaching, research, and consultancy across Africa**, his work focuses on **smallholder agriculture, food and nutrition security, sustainable natural resource management, and rural women's empowerment**. He has led research **on farmer-led ecosystem-based management** and teaches **graduate courses on natural resource governance and ecosystem restoration**.

Professor Dittoh has worked with institutions such as the **World Bank, AfDB, EU, FAO, IFAD**, and the governments of Ghana and Nigeria. He currently serves as **Co-Principal Investigator of CIRAWA**, an EU-funded agroecology project in Cape Verde, Ghana, Senegal, and The Gambia. He is a **former Pro-Vice Chancellor of UDS**, a **Distinguished Fellow of the African Association of Agricultural Economists**, and a **Board Member of ISODEC**

## Topic:

The Political Economy of Resource Governance

## Date:

14:10:2025

## Time:

12:15 – 13:45





# Damilola Ifeanyi Decker

Lawyer And Human Rights Advocate

**Damilola Ifeanyi Decker** is a Nigerian lawyer and human rights advocate with over fifteen years of experience promoting accountability, civic participation, and governance reform across Africa. He is the **Programme Officer for Civic Space Strengthening** at **Global Rights**, where he leads efforts to advance transparency, citizen engagement, and the protection of fundamental freedoms.

He previously served as **Chief Legal Officer** at the **National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria**, investigating and resolving human rights violations. He was part of the Commission's response team that addressed the lead poisoning crisis in Niger State, which led to urgent interventions for affected communities.

Earlier, as **Senior Project Officer** at **Access to Justice Nigeria**, he helped establish the Justice Support Network, a coalition of over 100 pro bono lawyers offering free legal aid to indigent persons. Damilola continues to advocate for inclusive governance, civic empowerment, and fair resource management

## Topic:

Transparency and accountability in governance

## Date:

15:10:2025

## Time:

13:30 – 15:00



**Interconnectedness and Solutions**

