

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS BETD.24

*These remarkable people, their stories and their projects show how the energy transition can be accelerated with ingenuity, commitment and determination.*

### **NDIARKA MBODJI**

*Managing Director, Kowry Energy Services*

Ndiarka, a seasoned leader with over 23 years across automotive and aerospace and power systems, now spearheads Kowry Energy, the company she founded, bringing clean energy access to Sub-Saharan Africa. Her diverse expertise in supply chain, operations, and customer relations, honed by her strategic vision at Rolls-Royce, fuels her leadership at Kowry. Beyond technical skills, Ndiarka excels at building relationships and fostering collaboration, driven by her belief in people's power. This, coupled with her global perspective shaped by her French and Senegalese heritage, and her commitment to lifelong learning, positions her as a key figure driving sustainable energy solutions in Africa.



### **GLORY OGUEGBU**

*Founder, CEO & Obama Scholar, Renewable Energy Technology Training Institute & Africa Fellowship for Young Energy Leaders & Columbia University, USA*

Glory Oguegbu is an award winning climate specialist, energy transition entrepreneur and author dedicated to advancing a zero-carbon world. She's the founder and CEO of the Renewable Energy Technology Training Institute (RETTI) and the RETTI Virtual University for Energy Education which is investing in skills development for the energy transition, ultimately to benefit 600 million Africans living without access to electricity. RETTI has since trained 3000+ engineers who provided electricity for 25, 000 homes/businesses. RETTI recently launched the RETTI Solar Panel Factory to promote local creation of solar technology. Fueled by a passion for bridging the gap in Climate knowledge, Glory pioneered Climate Smart Nigeria, an ambitious environmental program designed to combat low climate literacy in Africa. As an accomplished author, she has written five books focusing on climate and energy transition tailored to African contexts, Her books were key in creating



Africa's first contextualized climate education toolkits which has reached 60, 000 students and 123, 000 community members.

## **AMAL RIDENE**

*Tunisian Young Climate Negotiator, Tunisian Delegation*

Amal is a Tunisian Young Climate Change Negotiator and a Party Delegate in COP26, COP27, and COP28, leading the sub-team of Climate Finance Negotiations. She is a Sustainable Development MSc Candidate at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) of the University of Sussex where she is studying as a Chevening Scholar. Before that, Amal served as an Investor Engagement Officer at the AfricInvest Group, a leading pan-African private equity firm, where she supported the workaround fundraising, due diligence missions, communication, investor relations and events, and climate-related initiatives. Amal is a World Economic Forum Global Shapers' Tunis Hub Curator and a former board member of World Scouting, where she is currently co-leading the "World Events" workstream. She also serves as a board member of RIVET, Arab Youth4COP Initiative, a UNICEF Generation Unlimited YPAT member, and a GFANZ advisory panel member.



## **DR. AUMA OBAMA**

*Foundation Chairwoman, Auma Obama Foundation Sauti Kuu*

Dr. Auma Obama, born in Nairobi, is a renowned academic, author, and philanthropist, distinguished for her work beyond her familial connection to former U.S. President Barack Obama. With a passion for German literature, she pursued her studies in Germany, earning a PhD by comparing work attitudes in Germany and Kenya. Auma's commitment to social issues led her to found the Auma Obama Foundation „Sauti Kuu“ in 2010, aiming to empower underprivileged youth in Kenya through practical, sustainable initiatives. Her involvement extends to significant roles in various organizations, including the World Future Council and the German Museum in Munich, highlighting her dedication to youth and cultural exchange. Auma has also made her mark as a keynote speaker and author, sharing her insights and experiences to inspire change. Recognized for her contributions to social and humanitarian efforts, she has received multiple awards, illustrating her impact both in Africa and globally. Dr. Auma Obama's legacy is defined by her advocacy, scholarly work, and the empowerment of the next generation.



## DR. HAMED BEHESHTI

*Co-Founder & CEO, Boreal Light GmbH*

Dr. Hamed Beheshti, is the CEO/Co-founder Boreal Light GmbH in Berlin, Dr. Beheshti and his partner have designed and manufactured one of the most simple and highly affordable solar desalination system with great chance of operating safely in the most remote parts of the world. At Boreal Light GmbH, the team developed both technologies of drinking and irrigation water supply for the off-grid parts of the planet. Establishing WaterKiosk Ltd is the other initiative co-founded by Dr. Beheshti in East Africa, securing the access of local communities to products and services offered by Boreal Light GmbH. Apart from the technical/commercial aspect of his works, Dr. Beheshti has recently established OffGrid Water Alliance, as an international arm of representing the sector at the global stage.



The rich on-field experiences, along his strong management skill make Dr. Beheshti always a great candidate to give speech in whatever events focusing on development and sustainability of the unprivileged parts of the world.

## KADIJA SIMBORO

*Energy Thematic Lead, Practical Action West Africa*

Kadija Simboro, a Burkinabe with 8+ years of experience in the renewable energy sector, champions energy access and women's empowerment. She works on several initiatives and programmes for access to productive use of energy as a lever for empowerment of vulnerable people and women's empowerment. Kadija currently works at Practical Action as Energy thematic Lead for West Africa. She leads Practical Action's energy initiatives in West Africa, managing projects and providing technical expertise. As a young entrepreneur, she co-founded Farafina Eco-Engineering SARL, a water and energy access social enterprise. Kadija Simboro is also co-founder of Farafina Agri-Funding, an aggregator facilitating farmers' access to finance and innovative technologies through a crowdfunding and agri-marketing platform. Kadija also founded FLA, an organization advocating for women's rights and technology access. Recognized as a young leader, she received awards from the Moremi Initiative, Mandela Washington Fellowship, African Changemakers, the United Nations, One Young World and British Petroleum for her climate advocacy and leadership.



## NIDHI PANT

*Founder, S4S Technologies*

Nidhi is Co-Founder of Science For Society – S4S Technologies, where she works at the intersection of agriculture, gender, energy access and financial inclusion, leading the Finance and Partnerships department. S4S Technologies provides smallholder farmers with solar-powered food preservation & processing capabilities at the farm gate. S4S converts the cosmetically damaged produce (which would go wasted) into food ingredients using solar powered food processing system, aggregates processed produce from the farmers and sells this to the food & beverage industry as food ingredients. S4S can process a wide variety of materials – vegetables, fruits, spices, marine products, milk – without using coal/wood or electricity thus preventing food wastage and CO2 emissions. Through processing at the farm gate, S4S enables women farmers to increase their profits by 2X and come out of poverty. S4S is democratizing food processing for smallholder women farmers by transforming farmers into food processors and helping them earn dignified livelihood and building climate resilience. S4S helps 2000 women farmers increase their household income by 2X. S4S works with 100k farmers in 400 villages in India and reduces 60k Tons of food from getting wasted annually and also reduces 300k Tons of CO2 from entering the environment.



Nidhi is the winner of Women Transforming India Awards by NITI Aayog & United Nations (UN) and has also been listed in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia and India. She is also winner of the Earthshot Prize instituted by HRH Prince Williams and supported by Bills Gates and Mike Bloomberg and the Unilever Young Entrepreneur Award 2019 by Unilever and the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. She was also named 'Emerging Innovator of the Year' at the inaugural edition of the Economic Times Women Leadership Awards (ETPWLA) and has won the Cisco Youth Leadership Award 2022 by Global Citizen & CISCO and the Earthcare award by JSW Foundation and Times of India Group. Nidhi holds a bachelor's in Chemical Technology from the Institute of Chemical Technology.