Professor Eddy Maloka

Chief Executive Officer, APRM Secretariat

Professor Eddy Maloka was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in February 2016. He is also Adjunct Professor (University of Witwatersrand, School of Governance, Public and Development Management). Formerly Professor Eddy Maloka was Special Advisor to the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (Republic of South Africa), South Africa’s Special Representative to the Great Lakes Region and Special Advisor to the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa. He was also Advisor on Governance, Public Administration and Post-Conflict Reconstruction at the NEPAD Secretariat. He was an African Legacy Delegate for the 2010 FIFA World Cup Organizing Committee. He also served as Chief Executive Officer for the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA). Professor Eddy Maloka has also served as Political Advisor to the Premier, Mpumalanga Provincial Government as well as Political Advisor to the Premier, Gauteng Provincial Government. Lecturer, (University of Cape Town, South Africa). Professor Maloka has published extensively on aspects relating to the politics, history and development challenges facing Africa.
Mr. Eric Chinje is the CEO of AMI. Mr Chinje was appointed CEO on 1st July 2014. Before taking up his position at AMI, Eric served as Senior Advisor at the KRL International LLC, a Washington based consultancy specializing in the emerging markets. Prior to that, he was the Director for Strategic Communications at the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, a position he took up at the start of 2012. He was the World Bank’s Communications Manager for Africa; he also led the Global Development Program at the World Bank Institute (WBI) and, in that capacity, launched the IMAGE (Independent Media for Accountability, Governance and Empowerment) capacity building program for development journalists in the Bank’s client countries. Mr. Chinje spent four years at the African Development Bank in Tunis as head of that institution’s External Affairs and Communications Unit. He studied at the Universities of Yaounde (Cameroon), Syracuse (New York) and Harvard (Cambridge, Massachusetts). Other previous positions include journalistic activities, e.g. as Editor in Chief of Cameroon Television and contributing Reporter for CNN World Report. Eric Chinje has received several awards and distinctions. Mr. Chinje is an Officer of the Cameroon Order of Merit and an Officer of the Dutch Order of Orange Nassau.
Mostefa Souag is currently Acting Director General of Al Jazeera Media Network and Managing Director of Al Jazeera News Channel (Arabic). Prior to this, he had held various positions within the network, including Director of News of Al Jazeera (Arabic) and Media Advisor to the Chairman of the Board for Al Jazeera Media Network. He also served as Director for Al Jazeera Center for Studies and was also based in London as Editorial Bureau Chief. Prior to Al Jazeera Media Network, he worked at the BBC World Service and at the MBC media group. Souag
holds a PhD in literary studies, and was professor of Literary Theory at the University of Algiers (Algeria) till 1993. He is fluent in Arabic and English.

Roukaya Kasenally is a democracy scholar, senior advisor on Media Development at the African Media Initiative) and senior lecturer on Media and Political Systems at the University of Mauritius. Kasenally also has wide experience working in Africa as a consultant for a number of International and Pan African institutions on media and democratic governance. Since July 2015, she is a board director for the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA).

Kasenally has authored / co-authored a number of publications on media and democratic systems. Kasenally has been a Regan Fascell Democracy Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy (Washington DC) (2011 – 2012) and a Draper Hills Democracy Fellow at Stanford University (2015). She holds a PhD from the University of Sheffield and is fluent in English and French.
Mwanja Ng’anjo is a self-starter with 19 years professional experience in communications, advocacy, knowledge-sharing, project management and partnerships management. Currently working as Senior Communications Officer / Acting Head of Communications for the African Union’s NEPAD Agency, Mwanja has successfully implemented a communications strategy that includes broad engagement with governments, development partners, regional economic communities and non-governmental organisations. The approaches used in the NEPAD Agency strategy target global, continental, regional and national level stakeholders in creating awareness of and fostering buy-in for Africa’s transformation, in the context of the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

With degrees in International Communication, Gender Studies and Library Science, Mwanja has over the years also specialised in the development of research and media networks in all the regions of Africa.
Mr. Gabriel Baglo

Mr. Gabriel Baglo is 8 General Secretary of the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ). From February 2003 to July 2017, Gabriel Baglo was Africa Director of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). In that capacity Baglo actively participated in the structuring of the media sector in Africa, especially the development and strengthening of trade unions and associations of journalists and other media workers. He led the process to the creation of the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) in 2007, and cumulatively headed the FAJ Secretariat. Baglo is actively engaged on issues affecting press freedom, safety of journalists, access to information, and media development in Africa.

Gabriel Baglo served on the Board of a number of Media Freedom and Media Development organizations, among others the Global Forum for Media Development (2008-2012), the Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC) from 2006, and as Chair (2011-2013). He has been active
over the last years in engaging the African Union notably through the Pan-African Media Network, and through a number of Campaigns on the Safety of Journalists, and on Access to Information in Africa.

Helen Yosef Hailu works as Advocacy, Strategic Partnership and Communication specialist at UN Women Ethiopia, where she manages the regional project, African Women Changing the Narrative: Our Story. Helen’s career began as an English teacher then later community development and social worker. Her professional path turned to journalism as she pursued her childhood dream of being a journalist. A logical extension to that was her move to the communications field. She has extensive experience in journalism, communication, media, and peace and Security in Africa. She also taught courses in gender and peace building, media, peace and conflict in which she has contributed to the debate on the issues of the role of media in peace and security in Africa. With an academic background in Political Science and International Relations, she holds a MA in Media, Peace and Conflict studies. She is active at the grassroots levels of media
engagement. She also serves as the board president of the Ethiopian Media Women Association (EMWA).

Abdulwaheed Odusile

Prior to his election as President of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in 2015, and as President of the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ) in 2016, Abdulwaheed Odusile was the Managing Editor of *The Nation Newspapers* based in Lagos. He had also held various other Editorial positions including being the pioneer Editor of *National Life Newspaper* also based in Lagos.

An activist and crusader, the challenge of re-positioning the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in particular and Journalism to attain its rightful position as the fourth estate of the realm is his concern, hence actions targeted towards Journalism enhancement and practice, achieving the capacity building of media professionals in Nigeria and weeding out quacks from the system. This is based on his conviction that it is only when such is attained that we can reposition ourselves effectively to ensure accountability and good governance and to fight corruption and electoral fraud.

A researcher and resourceful person in media, Abdulwaheed Odusile has many publications amongst which are Media Ethics and Promotion of Democratic Culture in Nigeria, the Media, Socio-cultural and political Integration, Thoughts on policy and many others.
Several times National officer of the NUJ and member of the Nigerian Guild of Editors, he is a graduate of Journalism and also holds a Masters’ degree in Legal Studies. A vastly travelled personality, this experience has brought him in contact with Journalists all over the world through solidarity in trade union activities and conferences. **Abdulwaheed Odusile** is a member of International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Federation of African Journalist (FAJ), West Africa Journalists Association (WAJA) and Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ).

He is married with three children.

**Dr. George Nyabuga**

Dr. George Nyabuga is currently a Senior lecturer at the University of Nairobi’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Prior to joining the University of Nairobi, he was the Managing Editor in charge of the Weekend Editions, and Media Convergence at The Standard Group. Dr. Nyabuga taught Journalism, and Media and Cultural Studies at the University of Worcester in the United Kingdom between September 2005 and September 2008. He also taught international media and communication, and comparative politics at Coventry University also in the UK. Dr. Nyabuga was, between April 2012 and July 2013, the Head of Communications and Public Relations at AFRINIC, the regional Internet registry for Africa based in Mauritius. He has also previously worked at Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission as the head of corporate communications. He is the author of, among other works, *Click on Democracy: Uses and effects*
of the Internet on Kenyan Politics (2009) and co-edited With WambuiKiai The Media in Kenya: Evolutions, Effects and Challenges (2011). Dr. Nyabuga’s research interests include the sociology of journalism, and new media, journalism and media theory, and comparative media systems. He has a PhD in Media, Politics and History from Coventry University.

Mr. Cabral has extensive experience in diplomacy, development and political affairs issues, having worked as the UNAIDS Representative in Mozambique, as Senior Programme/Liaison Officer at the WFP in New York, as a Senior Political Affairs Advisor to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Angola and as Secretary of the Joint Commission/ the Main Body of the Angola Peace Process. In addition, Mr. Cabral has served as the WFP Deputy-Director-General Coordinator responsible for the overall information on policy and execution matters in the UN Office in La Paz, Bolivia. He was also a Team Leader-UN Observer to the first democratic multiparty elections in South Africa.

Mr. Raul De Melo Cabral is presently the Chief of the Coordination, Advocacy and Programme Development Branch (CAPDB) in the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA). In this role he conducts advocacy to enhance international support for Africa's peace, security and development, and works to raise awareness about persistent and emerging African issues. Prior
to joining OSAA, Mr. Cabral served twice in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa and High Representative for the Least Developing Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, first as Special Assistant and latterly as Senior Advisor.

Mr. Cabral was the Ambassador-Deputy Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the UN from 1988 to 1992. Earlier in his career, Mr. Cabral served as Directeur de Cabinet (Ambassador) of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Guinea-Bissau and as a researcher and consultant in African and Asian Studies at the “Centro de Estudos Afro-Asiaticos” - University Candido Mendes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He entered the diplomatic service of Guinea-Bissau in 1977 and served in Senegal, Guinea-Conakry and Portugal.

Mr. Cabral holds a Masters Degree in International Law from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, and a specialisation in Diplomacy from the Instituto Para a Diplomacia in Brazil.

Letty Chiwara

Letty Chiwara is the UN Women Representative to Ethiopia, the Africa Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. In her 20-year career in development and with the United Nations, she has served in various capacities at country, regional and global levels. Prior to her appointment to her current position; she was the then UNIFEM and now UN Women Chief of the Africa Division based in New York.
She has also led Global Programmes spanning all regions of the world including in, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and East and Central Europe. Letty is technically competent in areas including agriculture, governance and political participation, peace and security, environment and climate change, housing and urban development, financing for development including aid effectiveness, economic empowerment of women, ending violence against women. Letty successfully led UN Women’s strategic partnerships with many organizations including the European Commission, the World Bank and the Africa Development Bank. Previously Letty served in various capacities in Government including as Senior Town Planning Officer in the Ministry of Local Government Rural and Urban Development, in Zimbabwe, a country where she hails from.

A gender expert and women’s rights activist of regional and global acclaim, Letty’s 20 years of work with the United Nations has seen her partner with civil society and women’s organizations to lobby for and ensure that the voices and issues of women are included in several Intergovernmental Negotiations including the UN General Assembly, the Africa Union Summits, Global Financing for Development and Aid Effectiveness Conferences, Commission on the Status of Women and many more. Letty has authored several papers and publications including on “Gendered Implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness”; “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Towards the Eradication of Poverty in Africa”; “Best Practices in Financial Inclusion of Women in Nutrition, Climate Change, ICT and Women in Agribusiness”; “Inclusiveness for Sustainable Development: Women’s Participation in Peace and Security to Enhance Good Governance: A Pillar for Sustainable Development” and is currently co-authoring a Book on “Culture, Gender and African Women’s Leadership”.

Letty is a Board Member and Founder of several networks and organizations in Africa and Globally. She holds a Master’s Degree in Urban Development Planning from the University of London. Letty is married with 2 children.
Dr. Jim Ocitti is the Director of Public Information and Knowledge Management Division in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) where he provides strategic guidance and transactional leadership in four critical areas of ECA’s work: communications, knowledge management, publications and information technology. These specialisms form ECA’s strategic and collective platform through which the organization’s image and profile as a think tank of reference on Africa’s development is developed, shaped and implemented.

Prior to joining ECA, Dr. Ocitti served as Regional Communications Director for World Vision in West and Central Africa where he developed, managed and supervised the regional communications strategy at the height of the Sahelian food crisis. Based in Dakar, Senegal, his remit covered Senegal, Niger, Mauritania, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Mali and Chad.

Earlier, he had worked as a Senior Communications and Coordination Advisor as well as Head of Office in the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator’s office in South Sudan. Dr. Ocitti has also previously served as a Public Information Advisor and Spokesman in the
Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Afghanistan.

Prior to that, he worked in the Balkans as a Public Information Coordinator and Senior Editor for the United Nations Mission in Kosovo and, later, Media Advisor to UNDP’s election programme in the South American state of Suriname. He has also served in New York as a Media Consultant for the UNDP’s Action 2 programme, which was the UN Secretary General’s initiative to harmonize human rights policies and actions of the United Nations Country Teams globally.

Dr. Ocittistarted his professional career as a Journalist in Uganda, later moving to Germany and the Netherlands as Producer, Editor and Senior Producer respectively. He got his PhD in Politics from the University of Bristol in the UK and attended Harvard University as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Programme on International Conflict Analysis and Resolution and a Fellow at the Weather head Center for International Affairs. He was also a Centre Associate at Harvard. Dr. Ocitti has authored three books on Ugandan politics, history and the media.
LESLIE RICHER
Ms. Richer is the Director of Information & Communication for the African Union (AU). She has 20 years experience in Strategic Planning and Marketing Communications. Before joining the African Union she worked mostly in the private sector for companies such as Coca-Cola where she was a Regional Marketing Director, Nestle Central & West Africa as a Regional Business Manager. She has also worked for South African Breweries and as a Consultant for UNDP Private Sector Engagement Programme. Ms Richer is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK) has an MBA and undergraduate degree in Economics and Political Science.
Mercy Wambui is Chief, Communications Section for the UN Economic Commission for Africa, headquartered in Addis Ababa with subregional offices in 5 Countries across Africa. Previously, Ms. Wambui served in various capacities at the Economic Commission for Africa, including as Publications Advisor and as Communications Officer. She is a Stanford University Digital Visions Fellow, a role that emerged from her work, piloting ICTs in rural communities and advocating for policy shifts in East Africa. In the area of development communications, she was one of three co-founders of EcoNews Africa, a regional NGO, whose aim is to have communities at the centre of decision-making on issues that affect them and promoting timely strategic information flows at all levels. In her spare time, Wambui spends time enjoying the literary world of post-colonial writings over sumptuous Ethiopian Arabica coffee or sampling jazz and playing the guitar.

François Charlier is a journalist with extensive experience in communications gathered from around the globe. The latter started his career in Belgium as a free-lance journalist in the early 1990s. Prior to his UN career, he was a travel writer for Travel Magazine. In the span of eight years, he visited almost 100 countries in five continents. Subsequently he moved on to become a war reporter and covered the conflict in former Yugoslavia in 1992, witnessing the empty streets of the besieged Vukovar and barely escaping a tank battle on the front lines. Since 1999, he has been serving the United Nations in different locations and capacities, starting with the United Nations Interim Mission in Kosovo (1999-2001), initially as a regional spokesperson and later as the Press Attaché of Bernard Kouchner, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (2006-2008), he served as Head of the United Nations
Development Programme Communications Department and witnessed first-hand the armed conflict between the two contenders in the 2006 elections. Francois Charlier also worked for UNICEF in Pakistan and Niger, where he was in charge of social mobilization for polio and measles immunization campaigns. From these experiences, his takeaway is a passion for mankind, peace and harmony. Since 2009, Mr. Charlier has been in charge of public information at the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in New York, where he advocates relentlessly for Africa's development. Mr. Charlier holds a Masters Degree in Journalism and in International Politics from the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) in Belgium.

Myriam Crété-O’Carroll is the international correspondent for Reporters d’Espoirs/Reporters of Hope, as well as an international communication consultant and media development expert. Myriam has worked and still collaborates with international influential media outlets and large organizations such as Havas Media, Accenture, CNN, the World Economic Forum, E&Y, Renault, Décathlon, the Women’s Forum, Tompson Reuters Foundation, CNBC Europe, French Radio London, BBC World Service, BBC Media Action…
Passionate about innovation, storytelling and creativity as drivers for positive transformation, Myriam puts meaningful content at the heart of communications. She believes in ‘well told stories as a call to action for positive impact and driving change’, hence why she has been actively engaged in raising the voice of constructive journalism and solution-oriented initiatives. Myriam is the founder and director of Smart-Content Ltd, a boutique consultancy specialising in positive storytelling. Working with influential media outlets and organisations on brand leadership, content engagement and influence. Through inspirational and experiential educational programmes and training courses, she empowers her clients to maximise their credibility, visibility, creative performance and growth. Myriam delivers workshops and speaks on media leadership around the world including Algeria, Tunisia, Francophone and Anglophone Africa and the Middle East. Her buzz words are #Positivity #Co-economy #Conscious Leadership #Social Impact #Collective Intelligence Myriam is a French Londoner and has a 13-year-old son who is already a vlogger!

TEGUEST YILMA is the Managing Editor f CAPITAL, a weekly newspaper concentrating on business and political affairs. She received her Masters in Economics from Gohkale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, India and then worked for Infotec, a local ICT company in various capacities including Telecom Manager from 1992 to 1997.
TEGUEST established her own technology company SYSCOM Pvt. Ltd. Co. in 1997 and in 2000 took over the full running and management of CAPITAL newspaper as its Managing Editor and led the paper to its status today: the longest established, largest English newspaper in Ethiopia. She has now more than 18 years of experience as a journalist and media manager, mostly specializing in news about Africa.

As the Managing Editor of CAPITAL, she has a good record of ‘firsts’. She has introduced various columns to the newspaper at different stages such as Readers’ View, Society; launched a section named Entrepreneur Profile and promoted young business starters by profiling their business etc...

In addition to running CAPITAL and her company SYSCOM, she is an active member of Rotary, and has served in various capacities in advancing various developmental causes. As the founding member of Rotary Club of Addis Ababa Entoto, she participated in several services to the community in areas of health, education, and water, as well as leadership training to the future generation.

She is the Vice Chairperson of the National Polio+ Committee and works to eradicate Polio from the earth. And as such she has received the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World from the Rotary Foundation Trustees 2015-16, in recognition of significant active personal service toward the goal of polio eradication.

She has also been honored with the medal of the ‘National Order of Merit’ in 2008 and the ‘Chevalier dans l’Ordre National de la Legion D’Honneur’ in 2016, the highest honor attributed to civilians by the Government of France.
LAEEED ZAGHLAMI

Professor Laeed Zaghlami holds a PhD from Algiers University, Mphil from the University of Surrey, UK, and a Diploma from the International Academy of Broadcasting, Montreux, Switzerland. Currently he is a Professor in the Faculty of Information and Communication, Algiers University, and associate professor for Algiers National High School of Politics and Diplomatic Institute and International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Laeed is also a correspondent for africareview.com based in Nairobi, Kenya, as well as an External Examiner at Mauritius University. He has authored numerous publications and articles, the latest one of which is a chapter on Public Diplomacy and Soft Power in Algeria’s Foreign Policy in The Routledge Handbook of Soft Power edited by Naren Chitty, Li Ji, Gary Rawnsley, Craig Hayden, Routledge Australia 2016.

Prof. Bartholomew Armah

Professor Armah is a product of the University of Notre Dame (USA) where he obtained a doctoral degree in Economic Development from. He began is career as a Professor of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He subsequently served as Senior Economic Advisor at the National Planning Commission in Ghana where he played a lead role in the drafting of Ghana’s first and second Poverty Reduction Strategies.

In 2005 he joined ECA as a Senior Regional Advisor where he provided advisory services to member states on national development planning, poverty reduction strategies and the MDGs. He played a lead role in the drafting of Liberia’s poverty reduction strategy; specifically in the design of a monitoring framework.

Between 2008 and early 2011, he served in UNDP’s Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery as a Policy Advisor on post-crisis economic recovery. In this capacity he facilitated the drafting of the Accra Declaration. This document articulated the MDGs priorities of the g7+ group of post-conflict countries and informed the Outcome Document of the MDG Summit of 2010. Professor Armah also played a lead role in the rollout of the UN-global policy on post-conflict employment creation in Sierra Leone and Burundi. Furthermore, with the support of the Pakistan
UN Country Team, he played a lead role in developing a methodology to analyze the impact of the July 2010 floods on Pakistan’s MDG performance.

In his current capacity as Chief of the Renewal of Planning Section (Macro-Policy Division) in the Economic Commission for Africa he initiated and coordinated the drafting of the Common African Position a document that framed Africa’s negotiation stance on the post 2015 development agenda. He coordinates the drafting of the Africa Regional Sustainable Development Report in partnership with the AU, UNDP and ADB, provides analytical support to member States in the design, implementation and monitoring of national development frameworks and monitors and assesses development trends in African LDCs.

Professor Armah has several publications including a recently edited volume titled: Poverty Reduction Strategies in Action – A Case Study of Ghana.