

# Press Conference Speakers

Accra, Ghana | March 19, 2024



## Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful

*Minister for Communications and Digitalisation, Ghana*

Mrs. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful (MP) has been a pivotal figure in Ghana's digital transformation, serving as the Minister for Communications and Digitalisation since January 2017. Her leadership extends beyond national borders, as she has been a Commissioner of the Broadband Commission since 2019 and a Partner2Connect Focus Area Leader for Connecting people everywhere. Notably, Mrs. Owusu-Ekuful chaired the World Telecommunication Policy Forum 2021 (WTPF-21) and co-chaired the Africa Union and European Union Digital Economy Task Force launched in 2018. Her influence is further demonstrated by her addresses at prestigious global events such as the 2022 Global Standardization Symposium, the 2022 International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary Conference, the 2023 Transform Africa Summit, the 2023 Digital Transformation Conference, the 2023 SDG Digital Conference, and the maiden Berlin Global Dialogue.

Minister Ursula's commitment to digital skills development is evident in her initiative to train 5000 girls in basic school annually. Her dedication to bridging the digital divide is further exemplified by implementing a 155m euro government deployment of rural connectivity, a project that allows all service providers to roam. These initiatives are just a few among the many ongoing digitalization programmes in Ghana, showcasing her relentless efforts to drive digital transformation in the country.

Before assuming her role as a Member of Ghana's Parliament in January 2013 for the Ablekuma Central constituency in the Greater Accra region, Mrs. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful had a rich professional background. She was a member of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Communications, a role that laid the foundation for her current position as the Minister for Communications and Digitalisation. Her experience also includes Serving as the Managing Director of Western Telecommunications (WESTEL) Ltd. and a Managing Consultant with N. U. Consult Legal—Governance and Gender Consultants, further solidifying her expertise in the field.

Mrs. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful is a member of the Ghana Bar Association, an Executive Member of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Ghana, and a member of the African Women Lawyers Association (AWLA), Ghana.



## **Nora Lindström**

***Senior Director of ICT4D, Catholic Relief Services***

Nora Lindström is an international development professional working at the intersection of technology, global development, and human rights. She is the Senior Director of ICT4D at Catholic Relief Services, leading the agency's work to leverage technology for increased programmatic quality, impact, and reach. Nora has worked across four continents and is passionate about advancing user-centric, responsible and impactful use of technology and data, and bridging the digital gender divide. In a previous role at Plan

International, she coined the term Equality Tech, meaning technology that in itself advances equality. Nora also sat on the Digital Principles Advisory Council for two terms, serving as Chair for one of them. She holds an MSc in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and an MA in Economics-International Relations from the University of St Andrews in Scotland. Nora is currently based in Helsinki, Finland.



## **Jude Marie Banatte**

***Regional Director for Central Africa, Catholic Relief Services***

Jude Marie Banatte is the Regional Director for the Central Africa Regional Office at Catholic Relief Services, covering 10 countries: Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, DR Congo, Nigeria, Congo, Rwanda and Togo.

In a long career with CRS spanning 25 years, Jude has served successively and successfully in different capacities in Haiti, the DR Congo and Burundi before becoming the Country Representative in Rwanda prior to his current role. Amongst other achievements, Jude played a key role in CRS' response to the earthquake in Haiti in 2010 in

his capacity as Head of Programming for our Southern Programming and even received an honorary Doctorate Degree from University of Notre Dame Indiana in 2012 for his tireless efforts leading the response.

Jude is a Medical Doctor by training, having received his degree in 1997 from Haitian State University School of Medicine and Pharmacy. He speaks French, English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. Jude is married to a Johane, a dermatologist and is the father of two children, Klarys and Lorenzo.