

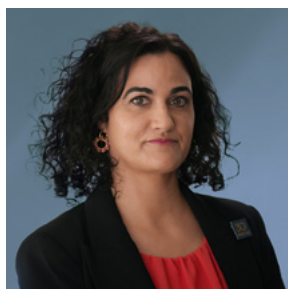
# MSCA-GLOPOL Regional Flagship Event in the African Union

20 May 2026 | Chandaria Hall, University of Nairobi, Kenya

## SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

SESSION 1 – 09:35 | MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS: COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES WITH AFRICAN INSTITUTIONS

Moderator: [Laurent Bocheureau](#), *Minister-Counsellor for Science, Technology & Innovation at the EU Delegation to the African Union*



### **Cristina Gómez**

*MSCA-GLOPOL Management Team*

Cristina Gómez has over 20 years of experience in the European research landscape, specialising in researcher career development, mobility, and EU–Latin America cooperation within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), being MSCA National Contact Point and Programme Committee Representative for Spain. She has consistently supported researchers throughout the full lifecycle of EU projects - from promotion and proposal review to hands-on training - and has successfully participated in international initiatives. She is currently the EURAXESS Worldwide Coordinator, an initiative of the European Commission to promote Europe as a research destination and foster international collaboration in R&I and part of the MSCA-GLOPOL Management Team. Cristina holds a B.A. in Tourism Management, a Postgraduate Degree in R&I Management, and a Master's in International Cooperation.



### **Lizél Senekal**

*Manager: Multi-National Grants*

*Stellenbosch University, South Africa*

Lizél Senekal has more than 25 years of experience in the South African Higher Education sector. Since 2011, she has been part of the Division for Research Development at Stellenbosch University, where she manages international research funding in pre- and post-award phases, with a focus on all EU-related opportunities - including Horizon Europe (Pillars 1 & 2), MSCA, Erasmus+ and EU-SA Joint Programmes. She acts as the University's EU LEAR (Legal Entity Appointed Representative) and established the first South African platform for EU MSCA Doctoral Network candidates at South African universities. Previously, she project-managed large-scale evaluations at the South African National Research Foundation and served as Editorial Manager at the South African Journal of Science. Lizél holds an MPhil in Science Communication (cum laude) from Stellenbosch University.



### **Prof. W. Onyango-Ouma**

*Director, Institute of Anthropology, Gender & African Studies (IAGAS)*

*University of Nairobi, Kenya*

Prof. W. Onyango-Ouma is an Anthropologist and Research Professor at the Institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies (IAGAS), University of Nairobi, with over 20 years of experience in teaching and research. He holds a BA, MA and PhD in Anthropology and has an extensive background in socio-behavioural research. Throughout his career, he has conducted research on a wide range of topics including children and youth, cultural change and development, anthropology of education, sexual and gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, quality of health care, vaccine introduction, policy analysis, cash transfers for social protection, and environmental anthropology.

**SESSION 2 – 11:15 | MSCA OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL, INTER-SECTORAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION****Moderator: Thierry Devars, MSCA Unit, DG Education and Culture, European Commission****Prof. Marleen Temmerman****Full Professor & Chair, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology | Director of Women's Health, Faculty of Health Sciences***Aga Khan University East Africa (AKU), Nairobi, Kenya*

Prof. Marleen Temmerman is a globally recognised leader in women's, child and adolescent health. She is Full Professor and Chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Director of Women's Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Aga Khan University East Africa. She also holds the AKU UNESCO Chair on Youth Leadership in Science, Health, Gender and Education. She is the Founding Director and Board member of the International Centre for Reproductive Health (ICRH) Global, and Professor-Emerita in OB/GYN at Ghent University (Belgium). Prior to joining AKU, she served as Director of the Department of Reproductive Health and Research at the World Health Organization (Geneva). A former Belgian Senator and Chair of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, Prof. Temmerman co-authored the UN Global Strategy for Women's, Children and Adolescents' Health 2016–2030. She is a member of the EDCTP Scientific Advisory Committee, a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing, and a Fellow Honoris Causa of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. She holds an MD from Ghent University, an MPH from the Free University Brussels, and a PhD from Ghent University.

**Dr. Muhammad Aminu Idris****Scientist & Researcher | MCAA Member***Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria, Nigeria*

Dr. Muhammad Aminu Idris is a scientist and researcher working with Ahmadu Bello University and its teaching hospital in northern Nigeria. He specialises in Haematology and Blood Transfusion Science, holding a postgraduate fellowship as well as postgraduate degrees in public health and forensic science. He teaches practical haematology at the university and provides diagnostic services at the teaching hospital. From 2022 to 2024, he participated in the MSCA Staff Exchange Programme under the African Research and Innovative Initiative for Sickle Cell Education (ARISE), conducting research at the Gianni Benzi Foundation in Italy and the Royal College of Pathologists in the UK.

**Dr. Thomas Dzeha****Co-Founder & CEO | MCAA Member***D. John Faulkner Centre for Marine Biodiscovery and Biomedicine (DJFC), Kenya*

Dr. Thomas Dzeha holds a PhD in Chemistry from Macquarie University, Australia (2009) and an MSc from Rhodes University, South Africa (2003). He is co-founder and CEO of the D. John Faulkner Centre for Marine Biodiscovery and Biomedicine (DJFC) in Kenya, which aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry by building regional capacity in marine biodiscovery. He was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie IIF Fellow at Newcastle University, UK (2012–2014), and has held research positions at the Helmholtz Institute for Pharmaceutical Research (Germany) and University College London. He is an Honorary Research Associate of the South African Institute for Aquatic Biology (SAIAB) for the period 2026–2031, a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and a chartered Chemist member of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.