



Speaker Bios UAA Annual General Meeting 2025

James Kunder - Keynote Speaker

James Kunder is principal at Kunder/Reali Associates, an Alexandria, Virginia-based consulting firm, specializing in international development, post-conflict reconstruction and civil-military relations. Concurrently, he serves as an Affiliated Expert at The Lugar Center, in Washington, DC, and as a member of the Steering Committee of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network.

Kunder has extensive government and private sector experience managing international development, relief and reconstruction programs. He served as Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. government organization responsible for administering the U.S. foreign assistance program in ninety nations. Previously at USAID, he served as Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Near East, Director for Relief and Reconstruction in Afghanistan, Deputy Assistant Administrator for External Affairs, and Director of the Agency's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance. Since retiring from USAID, Kunder led a major evaluation project for the Department of State Bureau of Intelligence and Research, examining whether U.S. Government programs attempting to counter violent extremism abroad were achieving their objectives.

In the private sector, Kunder was Vice President for Program Development at Save the Children Federation, an international non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children in the United States and around the world. Previously, he served as Director of Marketing for Widmer Engineering, a Pennsylvania-based engineering firm.

He has also served as a legislative director in the U.S. House of Representatives, and was a candidate for Congress in Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District. Prior to his service on Capitol Hill, he was on active military duty as an infantry platoon commander in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Kunder has a bachelor's degree from Harvard University in American Government and a master's in international relations from Georgetown University. He pursued doctoral studies in international relations at The George Washington University. He taught at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute, the Marine Corps University, and at USAID's Washington Learning Center, and has authored numerous publications on international humanitarian issues, reconstruction, peacekeeping and crisis management.

Kunder lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with his family.

Panel on The Future of International Development Cooperation – Speaker Bios

Sir Masood Ahmed – President Emeritus Center for Global Development

Masood Ahmed is the president emeritus of the Center for Global Development. He joined the Center in January 2017, capping a 35-year career driving economic development policy initiatives relating to debt, aid effectiveness, trade, and global economic prospects at major international institutions including the IMF, World Bank, and DFID.

Ahmed joined CGD from the IMF, where he served for eight years as director, Middle East and Central Asia Department, earning praise from Managing Director Christine Lagarde as a “visionary leader.” In that role, he oversaw the Fund's operations in 32 countries, and managed relationships with key national and regional policy makers and stakeholders. In previous years, he also served as the IMF's director of External Relations, and deputy director of the Policy Development and Review Department.

From 2003-2006, Ahmed served as director general, Policy and International at the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID). In that role, he was responsible for advising UK ministers on development issues and overseeing the UK's relationship with international development institutions such as the World Bank.

Ahmed also worked at the World Bank from 1979-2000 in various managerial and economist positions, rising to become Vice President, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management. In that role he led the HIPC (heavily indebted poor countries) debt relief initiative, which has to-date brought relief from debt burdens to 36 of the world's poorest nations.

Born and raised in Pakistan, Ahmed moved to London in 1971 to study at the LSE where he obtained a BSc Honors as well as an MSc Econ with distinction.

As a leading expert on international development finance, Masood Ahmed has served on a number of international committees and forums. Currently, he is Policy Advisor to the G20 High Level Independent Expert Group on Strengthening Multilateral Development Banks and co-chair of the World Economic Forum Global Future Council on the Future of Growth. Previously, he was a member of the G20 High Level Independent Panel on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response and the High-Level Advisory Group of on Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery and Growth set up by the World Bank and IMF.

In January 2023, he received a knighthood (KCMG) from the UK government for his services to international development.

Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli – CEO ONE Campaign

Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli is an expert on food ecosystems, entrepreneurship, social innovation, and philanthropy. She was born and grew up in Nigeria. ONE was founded

in 2004 by Bono and is now a global, nonpartisan organization advocating for the investments needed to create economic opportunities and healthier lives in Africa. Its advocacy uses hard-hitting data, grassroots activism, political engagement, and strategic partnerships to influence decision-makers. ONE is non-profit, strictly nonpartisan, and does not receive government funds. It has a global team of campaigners, advocates, and experts based in Abuja, Berlin, Brussels, Dakar, Johannesburg, London, New York, Ottawa, Paris, and Washington D.C.

Ms. Okonkwo Nwuneli has over 25 years of international development experience and is deeply involved in fostering impactful solutions in the global social innovation landscape, with a focus on Africa. Ndidi started her career at McKinsey & Company's Chicago office and returned to Nigeria in 2000 to serve as the pioneer Executive Director of the FATE Foundation.

Ndidi serves on the boards of the Rockefeller Foundation, AGRA, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd. India, Stanbic IBTC Group, the Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum, and the Bridgespan Group.

Ndidi holds an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School and an undergraduate degree with honors from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. She was a Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business & Government at the Harvard Kennedy School, a visiting Scholar at Max Bell School of Public Policy at McGill University, an Aspen Institute New Voices Fellow, and an Eisenhower Fellow.

Ndidi is a TED speaker, and has been recognized internationally for her contributions, including as a Schwab Fellow and a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum and receiving a National Honor by the Nigerian Government and the Harvard Business School Distinguished Alumni Award. She is also a published author on topics related to entrepreneurship, social innovation, and resilient agriculture businesses in Africa, including "Social Innovation in Africa: A Practical Guide for Scaling Impact," and "Food Entrepreneurs in Africa: Scaling Resilient Agriculture Businesses," and "Walking for God in the Marketplace."

Charles Kenny – Senior Fellow, Center for Global Development

Charles Kenny is the author of *Getting Better: Why Global Development is Succeeding and How We Can Improve the World Even More* (Basic Books: 2011); *The Upside of Down: Why the Rise of the Rest is Great for the West* (Basic Books: 2014) and *The Plague Cycle: The Unending War Between Humanity and Infectious Disease* (Scribner 2021). He spent fifteen years as an economist in the World Bank and now works at a Washington DC think tank, the Center for Global Development, where he researches and advocates for policies governing investment, trade, technology and migration that would be good for both developing and industrialized countries alike. In addition, he is a widely cited researcher on the economics of happiness.

Kenny was a contributing editor at Foreign Policy magazine and was a columnist for Bloomberg Business, where he wrote on global development and its impact on the US. He has also written for outlets including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Politico, the Washington Post, the Atlantic, Time, the Guardian, Salon and CNN. He has presented at the World Economic Forum, Aspen Institute and Legatum Institute events. He has given talks at numerous colleges and universities. He has appeared on PBS, Al Jazeera, CCTV, Vox, Reuters TV and Bloomberg TV. On radio he has been a guest on NPR and the BBC as well as numerous podcasts.

Charles has a history degree from Cambridge University, Masters degrees from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a PhD in Development Studies from Cambridge. The product and beneficiary of transoceanic romances, he thinks globalization is an immense force for good.

Andrew Herscowitz – Rockefeller Foundation - Chief Executive Officer, Mission 300 (M300) Accelerator, RF Catalytic Capital

Andrew Herscowitz serves as the Chief Executive Officer, Mission 300 (M300) Accelerator, a unit established by Rockefeller Catalytic Capital to help coordinate and support the efforts of many partners working together to advance the World Bank's and African Development Bank's ambitious commitment to help 300 million Africans gain access to electricity by 2030.

Andy is a globally recognized leader and organization builder, most recently serving as the inaugural Executive Director for ODI Washington, one of the world's leading global affairs think tanks. He was the first Chief Development Officer (CDO) at U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), where he devised and oversaw a \$75 billion development strategy and served on the Investment Committee. Prior to his appointment as CDO, he was the Coordinator of the U.S. Government's Power Africa program from 2013-2020, where the initiative became the world's largest partnership for development with 170 partners and \$56 billion in commitments. He is a Minister Counselor in the Senior Foreign Service and served overseas as Mission Director, Deputy Mission Director, and Regional Legal Advisor for USAID in multiple countries in Latin America and the Caribbean from 2002-2013. Upon joining USAID in 2001, he served as the lawyer for USAID's Office of Development Credit, which has leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars in private sector funds through its loan guarantee program.

He has received two Lifetime Achievement Awards for his work in advancing the African power sector. In 2018, Andy was awarded the "Serve to Americas" medal, given to the U.S. Government officials who have provided the greatest benefit to the American people. In 2005, the Federal Bar Association recognized Andy as one of the five most outstanding lawyers under the age of 35 in the U.S. government. He also has been named as an MIT/Rockefeller "Global Commissioner for Ending Energy Poverty" and has served on three different World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Future Councils (GFC) since 2013, including the GFC on the energy transition. He also serves as part of the high-level WEF Network for "Unlocking barriers and solutions to scale capital for energy transition in the Global South."

Andy has authored more than 30 articles and opinion pieces, most of which have focused on how to improve development finance architecture to advance investments in the Global South and in challenging sectors.