

# Board of Trustees, Advisory Board and Governance



**Tony O. Elumelu, CFR**  
TEF Founder

Tony O. Elumelu is a leading investor and philanthropist.

He is the Founder and Chairman of [Heirs Holdings](#), his family-owned investment company committed to improving lives and transforming Africa, through long-term investments in strategic sectors of the African economy, including financial services, hospitality, power, energy, technology and health care.

Tony is the most prominent champion of entrepreneurship in Africa. In 2010, he created the [Tony Elumelu Foundation \(TEF\)](#), the leading philanthropy empowering a new generation of African entrepreneurs, catalysing job creation, driving poverty eradication, and ensuring inclusive economic empowerment across all 54 African countries.

In 2020, in recognition of his business leadership and economic empowerment of young African entrepreneurs, Tony was named one of Time100's Most Influential People, and received the distinction of Officer in the Order of Leopold, Belgium's oldest and highest royal honour.

In 2022, TIME recognised Tony in its inaugural TIME100 Impact Awards, honouring him alongside a very small group of five global leaders who have gone above and beyond to move their industries — and the world — forward.

He sits on a number of public and social-sector boards, including the Global Leadership Council of the United Nation's Generation Unlimited.



**Dr. A.V Elumelu, OFR**  
TEF Co-Founder

Awele is a leading voice in African health care.

She is Co-Founder of the Tony Elumelu Foundation. She also serves as a director on the Board of Heirs Holdings, her family-owned investment company committed to improving lives and transforming Africa.

She is a Board member of the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development and an Advisory Board member of the Yale Institute for Global Health.

In January 2018, Awele was appointed as the Private Sector Champion for Immunisation in Africa by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. In this role, she leverages her knowledge, corporate networks, and expertise from the health care and business sectors to champion vaccination and immunisation in Africa, where almost 10 million children are yet to be fully immunized.

She holds a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree from the University of Benin. Her experience as a medical doctor includes medicine, surgery, paediatrics, obstetrics, gynaecology, and emergency medicine. She has worked with the Lagos University Teaching Hospital in Nigeria, and with Grantham and District Hospital in the United Kingdom.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ADVISORY BOARD AND GOVERNANCE



### **Alexander Trotter**

TEF Trustee

Alexander has considerable experience in investment, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy, with a particular focus on Africa. He held senior roles with UBS, GAM and the United Bank for Africa (UBA), one of Africa's largest financial services groups, and is a non-executive director of UBA's UK subsidiary. He also sits on the Board of Heirs Holdings, an African investment company with assets in power, resources, financial services, health care, hospitality, and real estate.

He co-founded Quality Foods Africa, a Nigerian quick service restaurant business, with an investor base including the International Finance Corporation and the development agencies of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. He is a third-generation trustee of one of London's leading youth charities. He began his career as a corporate lawyer at Linklaters. Alexander holds degrees from Oxford University and Imperial College London.



### **Lionel Zinsou**

Advisory Board Member

Lionel is Founder and Managing Partner of SouthBridge. He served as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of PAI Partners, prior to which he worked at Rothschild & Co as General Partner and Head of Global Consumer Goods/Head of Africa Middle East.

He is on the Board of several companies, including the PAI Supervisory Board (Vice Chair), the Danone Group Board of Directors, and the Americana Board (UAE). He is also actively involved in community work, serving as President of the Foundation of the École Normale Supérieure of the Foundation Terra Nova and of the Société des Amis du Musée du Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, as well as Director of the Ashinaga Foundation (Tokyo), the Foundation Sanofi, and the Foundation Zinsou, the latter of which he also founded.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ADVISORY BOARD AND GOVERNANCE



**Fatou Assah**

Advisory Board Member

Fatou is Global Business Manager, Financial Institutions Group, at the International Finance Corporation. She focuses on managing financial inclusion, agriculture finance, and small and medium enterprise programmes, structuring innovative products for underserved populations in developing countries.

She has also worked in various parts of the World Bank Group, including the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, on financial-sector analysis, advisory services, and investment projects. She holds a Master's in Insurance Business from the École Supérieure d'Assurances (Paris), and a Master's in Business from the Université de Paris.



**Somachi Chris-Asoluka**

Chief Executive Officer

Prior to becoming Chief Executive Officer of the Tony Elumelu Foundation, Somachi served as Director of Partnerships and Communications for the Foundation.

Under her leadership, the Foundation is increasingly sharing its unique ability to identify, train, mentor, and fund young entrepreneurs across Africa, through partnerships with institutions such as the EU, UNDP, ICRC, US Government via the USADF, OACPS, AFD, DEG, GIZ, AfDB, and Google.

She is a Board Director of WINGS, a global network of over 190 philanthropy development and support organisations in more than 50 countries, committed to ensuring philanthropy reaches its fullest potential as a catalyst for social progress. She also serves as Treasurer and Chairperson of the Finance Board Committee of WINGS. She sits on the Advisory Board of the Michigan State University Alliance for African Partnership.

She is a Deputy Champion of the World Economic Forum EDISON Alliance, and a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon (National Economics Honor Society, USA). She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Saint Mary's College of California with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a minor in Mathematics, and received the Adam Smith Award, given to the highest performing graduating student in Economics. She also has a Master's in International and Development Economics from Yale University

### **The governance structure of the Tony Elumelu Foundation includes:**

- A Board of Trustees with the ultimate responsibility for the management of the affairs of the Foundation
- An Advisory Board that provides strategic and advisory support across structural, operational, and programmatic activities

### **Organisationally, the Board of Trustees is structured around the following four Committees:**

- Entrepreneurship Programme
- Partnerships, Monitoring, and Evaluation
- Marketing and Communications
- Data and Technologies

### **Working with the management team, the Committees provide strategic focus in relation to:**

- Strategic direction for the Foundation, including the next stage Coalition for African Entrepreneurs.
- Expanding relationships with development institutions and African governments.
- Further developing the fully digitalised proprietary platform, [TEFConnect](#), that has delivered access to over 1.5 million young Africans.
- Bespoke programmes with partners, focusing on conflict-affected youth, fragile states, green and female entrepreneurs.
- The supervision of the Monitoring and Evaluation Department, which issued a robust 2015–2022 impact report, underscoring the relevance of our entrepreneurship programmes and the economic impact of the supported and funded entrepreneurs within their national ecosystems.