

Equality fund

WHEN WE MOVE TOGETHER, WE MOVE THE WORLD

Meet our INVESTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

UPDATED OCTOBER 2023



IN MEMORY OF

Suzanne Biegel

**AS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF OUR INVESTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL,
SUZANNE DEEPLY TOUCHED OUR LIVES ALONG WITH OUR WORK.**

A generous and uncompromising leader, Suzanne blazed the path that we and countless others walk today. She was a titan in global finance, often called the “godmother of gender-lens investing.” A visionary who reshaped every field she touched, from impact investing and philanthropy to entrepreneurship, research, climate finance, and far beyond.

To the Equality Fund community, Suzanne was the best kind of ally and friend. She believed wholeheartedly in our vision, even when the road ahead was unpredictable and new. Her commitment was unflinching—and contagious. Her boldness made everyone around her braver, and the result was a sense of possibility in any room she entered. As she so aptly named herself, Suzanne was truly a catalyst at large.

As co-founder of GenderSmart (now 2X Global), she played an instrumental role in connecting gender-smart investors across the capital spectrum into a cohesive field. Through her consultancy Catalyst At Large, she worked with and advised BII, UBS, IDB Invest, Wharton ESG Initiative, the US DFC, responSability, Tara Health Foundation, Intentional Endowments Network, and many others.

In the billions of dollars she influenced, Suzanne’s legacy is flowing across the world: reinvested in countless women entrepreneurs and innovators whose vision and leadership were devalued or ignored. As they realize their own dreams, Suzanne’s influence will live on for generations to come.



CHAIR

Andia Chakava

INVESTMENT DIRECTOR
GRACA MACHEL TRUST

Andia is an Africa gender-lens investment professional recognized for expertise in fund development, women economic and social advancement, fund and business unit management, investment strategy formulation and implementation, strategic partnership negotiations, coalition and network building; multi-disciplinary team leadership; entrepreneur technical assistance program design and management, research formulation, advocacy, and creating Pan African and global linkages.

She serves as the Investment Director at the Graça Machel Trust to co-lead the organization's gender-lens investing initiative, is the founding chairperson of New Faces New Voices Kenya chapter (women in finance network) and founding principal of AC Advisory a gender lens consultancy firm. She is passionate about facilitating intra Africa investment, financing women-owned and led enterprises, strengthening grassroots networks, and supporting first-time female fund managers.

Andia is one of the first female fund managers in the Africa region. She has been instrumental in the set-up of two fund management companies from scratch and was recognized as the youngest female managing director of a non-family-owned business in Kenya at age 30.

Andia serves as a Non-Executive Director of Sterling Investment Bank and East African Educational Publishers, an advisory board member of Kenya's women enterprise fund, an investment committee member of OPES LCEF Restart fund and a member of the BMW Responsible Leaders Network.

She has over 18 years' experience in fund management and over 8 years of driving women's economic empowerment goals. In 2014 and 2018 she was named Africa's most influential woman in financial services by CEO Magazine and in 2018 won the National Diar Inclusion and Diversity Business Executive Champion award in Kenya. In 2019 she was named as a 'Woman to Watch' by Forbes magazine in 2020.

Andia holds a Master of Business Administration in Finance with merit from Cass Business School in London and an honours degree in Economics from York University in Toronto. She enjoys travelling, imparting knowledge, and Bikram yoga.



Amie Patel

PARTNER
ELEVAR EQUITY

Amie has over 20 years of experience working in a variety of organizations, with a focus on emerging market investing. Prior to Elevar, she was a Vice President with Goldman Sachs Asset Management which she joined through the acquisition of Imprint Capital. Amie focused on the firm's Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Impact Investing capabilities within the emerging markets. Prior to Imprint, she was with the Soros Economic Development Fund (SEDF) where she concentrated her efforts on early to growth-stage investments. She managed SEDF's investments in Haiti and worked on several other investment opportunities in Palestine, India, and parts of East and West Africa.

Amie also worked with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation as a Presidential Management Fellow and Investment Funds Officer responsible for developing and evaluating top-quartile and first-time emerging market private equity fund managers.

Amie began her career as an M&A analyst with Merrill Lynch and First Union Securities, covering the automotive, healthcare and telecommunications industries. She has volunteered in Nepal with Students Partnership Worldwide as a Program Manager working on environmental education and women's issues.

Amie holds an MBA from Georgetown University and a BS in Business Administration from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. She serves as the Finance Chair on the Board of Education Through Music, a New York-based non-profit focused on music education. Amie likes to explore new places and hold dance parties with her two daughters.



Dzodzi Tsikata

**PROFESSOR OF DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES**

SOAS, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Dzodzi Tsikata is Professor of Development Studies at SOAS, University of London. Before this, she was Professor of Development Sociology and immediate past Director of the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at the University of Ghana.

Her research in the last 30 years has been in the areas of gender and development policies and practices; agrarian change and rural livelihoods; the labour relations of the informal economy and transformative social policy.

Her recent publications are the co-edited (with Elisabeth Prügl and Fenneke Reysoo) Forum in the Journal of Peasant Studies on the theme “Commercialising Agriculture/Reorganising Gender” (JPS 48,7, September 2021).

She is also the Principal Investigator of a pan-African research, networking and advocacy project, the Gender Equitable and Transformative Social Policy for Post-COVID-19 Africa (GETSPA) which is examining the social policy trajectories of thirty-one African countries.

She is the secretary of the executive committee of IDEAS and a member of the Agrarian South Network and a member of the editorial collectives of Feminist Africa and Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy.



Gertrude Bibi Annoh- Quarshie

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
AFRICAN WOMEN'S
DEVELOPMENT FUND

Gertrude is currently the Director of Operations at the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) and is responsible for leading and directing the Finance, Human Resource, and Administration functions at AWDF to ensure the organization delivers on its commitments.

Gertrude is a feminist who is passionate about women's rights and the pursuit of dignity, equality, respect, and justice for women—particularly African women and girls. Integrity, courage, kindness, empathy, and ethical leadership are at the forefront of her personal and professional values, influencing her day-to-day decision-making and actions.

She tries to balance her multiple responsibilities as a daughter, mother, wife, sister, and an active citizen with a focus on her overall wellbeing. She loves to travel and explore the world. The beach is her favourite place to take a walk and she is inspired by all the African women working tirelessly to transform their communities.



Maria Sagrario Floro

**PROFESSOR EMERITA OF
ECONOMICS**
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Maria S. Floro is Professor Emerita of Economics at American University in Washington, DC. She served as co-director of the Graduate Program on Gender Analysis in Economics (PGAE) between 2008 and 2021.

Her publications include books on Informal Credit Markets and the New Institutional Economics, Women's Work in the World Economy, and Gender, Development, and Globalization: Economics as if All People Mattered (co-authored) as well as monographs and journal articles on gender, vulnerability, informal employment, food security, care work, time use and well-being, financial crises, urban poverty, household savings, credit, asset ownership, and climate change.

She collaborated in early 2000 with researchers, women's groups, and community organizations in Thailand, Philippines, Ecuador, and Bolivia in conducting fieldwork on vulnerability, gender, and informal employment in urban poor communities. She recently led the Care Work and the Economy (www.careworkeconomy.org) project in 2017-2021.



Marijana Savic

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR
NGO ATINA

Marijana Savić is an activist with decades of experience in the anti-war and feminist movement in Serbia. A Yugoslav woman by choice, she is the Founder and Director of the organization Atina (named after the Greek goddess of wisdom)—dealing with the protection of disempowered women and girls, particularly those who have survived human trafficking and gender-based violence.

Marijana Savic has a degree from the Faculty of Law, after which she attended Women's Studies and Gender Research Centre at the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade, as well as the studies at the Columbia University in the United States. In 2018, she was on the Forbes list as one of the eight women in the world most prominently fighting for the rights of refugee women. She is a member of the Global Board of Directors of Global Fund for Children.

Marijana Savic is considered one of the most experienced persons and professionals in the field of combating human trafficking in Serbia, but also internationally, especially when it comes to programming and providing support to girls and women victims of various forms of exploitation. She is the author and editor of numerous publications on women's and human rights, and mechanisms for the protection of vulnerable groups.

Marijana Savic's work and dedication to the cause have been recognized both nationally and globally, through a number of NGO awards Atina received since its establishment in 2003—including a Global Catalyst Award received from the Global Fund for Children in 2014, a "With and For Girls" award received in 2015 in Great Britain, an award for contributing to combating gender-based violence by the U.S. Embassy, and a Hyatt Thrive Leadership Award.

Together with her colleagues, Marijana Savic founded a women's entrepreneurial initiative Bagel Bejgl. In 2018, this initiative received a WeEmpower award for its efforts in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and improving the position of women and girls both in Serbian society and globally. The award was given to Marijana Savic at the United Nations Headquarters, within the WeEmpower UN SDG Challenge.

Bagel Bejgl has been created as a women's social enterprise, which celebrated five years of successful work in May 2020, serving to secure the sustainability of NGO Atina's recovery programs for women victims, but also represents an incubator where many women can gain knowledge and skills which will enable them to acquire jobs in the food industry.



Radhika Balakrishnan

PROFESSOR

RUTGERS SCHOOL OF ARTS AND
SCIENCE

Radhika Balakrishnan, is the former director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, and Professor, Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University, has a Ph.D. in Economics from Rutgers University. Previously, she was Professor of Economics and International Studies at Marymount Manhattan College.

She has worked at the Ford Foundation as a program officer in the Asia Regional Program. She is currently the Chair of the Board of the US Human Rights Network and on the Board of the Center for Constitutional Rights and the International Association for Feminist Economics.

Radhika is the co-author of *Rethinking Economic Policy for Social Justice* with James Heintz and Diane Elson (Routledge, 2016). She is the co-editor with Diane Elson of *Economic Policy and Human Rights: Holding Governments to Account* (Zed Books, 2011). She is the author of *Why MES with Human Rights: Integrating Macro Economic Strategies with Human Rights* (Marymount Manhattan College, 2005).

She edited *The Hidden Assembly Line: Gender Dynamics of Subcontracted Work in a Global Economy* (Kumarian Press, 2001), co-edited *Good Sex: Feminist Perspectives from the World's Religions*, with Patricia Jung and Mary Hunt (Rutgers University Press, 2000), and also authored numerous articles that have appeared in books and journals.

Professor Balakrishnan's work focuses on gender and development, gender and the global economy, human rights and economic and social rights. Her research and advocacy work has sought to change the lens through which macroeconomic policy is interpreted and critiqued by applying international human rights norms to assess macroeconomic policy.