

**UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC.** 

# BOARD PROFILE





### MR. BOLAJI BALOGUN

INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / CHAIRMAN

Bolaji is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Chapel Hill Denham and Chief Investment Officer of the Nigeria Infrastructure Debt Fund. Bolaji is a leading advocate for crowding in institutional capital to accelerate Nigeria. He has over thirty-five years of experience in investment banking, investment management, investing and mobile telecommunications.

Chapel Hill Denham, which he founded in April 2005, is Nigeria's leading investment bank, its leading alternatives investment manager and impact investment firm focused on areas accretive to Nigeria and Africa's sustainable development with funds in Infrastructure, Renewables, Real Estate, Gender, Venture and Creative Economy.

Bolaji spent over a decade with FCMB Group, in investment banking and securities trading, until January 2001, when he left to be a co-founder and Director of Econet Wireless Nigeria, now Airtel Nigeria. Econet Wireless was Nigeria's first mobile network to launch commercial service. From April 1993 to January 2001, he was Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer at CSL Stockbrokers Limited. Bolaji was Executive Director at FCMB Capital Markets from January 1996.

Bolaji led the capital raising and license bid auction for Econet Wireless Nigeria's USD285 million GSM license. He was Chief Business Development & Strategy Officer and was appointed Chief Marketing Officer in October 2001. The US1.67 billion sale of Econet Wireless to Celtel in 2005, remains Nigeria's single largest successfully exited private investment. Bolaji left mobile telecommunications and returned to financial services when he founded Chapel Hill in 2005.

Bolaji is a leader and one of the largest domestic investors in Nigeria's venture and start-up ecosystem. Bolaji co-promoted Nigeria's leading gender lens-investing platform, SME.NG, which owns Nigeria's only all-female accelerator, *She Works Here*.

Bolaji is the Chairman of Unilever Nigeria Plc and Endeavor Nigeria. He is also a Board Member of the United Nations Global Compact and is Co-Chair of the Private Sector Advisory Group on the SDGs, which is working with the Nigerian government on tax credits financing from the private sector to support basic education. He is a Director of Trustfund Pensions, one of Nigeria's largest pension fund managers. He is a former Chairman of Lafarge Africa Plc and Nahco FTZ Limited, a former Director of Nahco Aviance Plc and NASD OTC Plc. Bolaji was appointed to the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, Africa Advisory Board in September 2009.

Bolaji is an Economics (Honours) graduate of the London School of Economics and is President of the LSE Nigeria Alumni Association. He was educated at Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey, United Kingdom and at Igbobi College, Lagos, Nigeria.

He was appointed as Independent Non-Executive Director and Chairman of the Board of Unilever Nigeria Plc in May 2024.





#### **MR. TOBI ADENIYI**

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Mr. Adeniyi began his career in 2009 as a Unilever Future Leader who has amassed experience within the Supply Chain and Commercial operations aspects of the business. He is an advocate for virtuous leadership and has over the years successfully steered complex business environments across West Africa, Singapore, Philippines, and Indonesia, delivering strong business performance.

He has led large-scale commercial and operational turnarounds through innovation, cost optimization, and governance, to drive value. He has spearheaded initiatives in digital transformation, route-to- market expansion, P&L margin optimization, successfully integrating AI-driven forecasting, trade partnerships, and cost-efficient logistics models. His leadership in commercial and operational roles has helped position multiple Unilever entities for long-term success and drive competitive edge, more recently leading an integrated business planning approach for Unilever Nigeria to successfully navigate the wave of Covid-19 pandemic and forex volatility.

Mr. Adeniyi is passionate about industry advocacy for Nigeria's non-oil export sector, and mentoring. He serves as current Vice Chairman of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria Export Promotion Group (MANEG) and is a member of the Institute of Directors (IOD). He also actively supports startup innovation and talent development initiatives, fostering the next generation of leaders.

Mr. Adeniyi holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Engineering from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology Ghana. He has completed executive training at Columbia Business School, MIT Sloan, and Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business.

After serving previously as Supply Chain Director and later Sales Director, he assumed the position of Managing Director and was appointed to the Board of Unilever Nigeria Plc in January 2025.





### MR. BEN LANGAT

(KENYAN) – NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Benard Langat assumed the position of Executive Vice President of Unilever East and West Africa region on 1st January 2024 and was appointed to the Board of Unilever Nigeria Plc on 18th January 2024.

He has over 30 years' experience from holding different capacities in multinationals across Africa. He started his career at Unilever Tea Kenya in 1993 and later Unilever Malawi before rising to the position of Finance Director in Kenya and Ghana. In 2009 he moved to be CFO at Coca Cola Hellenic Nigeria, where he was subsequently appointed MD in 2012. In 2017 he joined Friesland Campina where he became the MD of FrieslandCampina WAMCO Nigeria Plc and was promoted in 2021 to Managing Director FrieslandCampina Sub-Saharan Africa Cluster, a position he held till December 2023 when he resigned to rejoin Unilever.

He has extensive experience across African markets where he has consistently led businesses to accelerate performance and build long term growth strategies. He has overseen the businesses to deliver strong results during volatile times. He has a strong legacy of talent development and continuously seeks to bring the best out of people.

He is past Vice President of the Association of Foods Beverage and Tobacco Employers of Nigeria

(AFBTE) and an active member of several industry advocacy groups.

Mr. Langat holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from the University of Nairobi, Master of Business Administration from Edinburgh Business School – Heriot Watt University, Scotland UK and is a certified Public-Accountant of Kenya CPA (K). He is a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK). He is an alumnus of Harvard Business School Advance Management Program AMP191, Boston USA, the London Business School as well as IMD Lausanne Switzerland.

He was appointed to the Board of Unilever Nigeria Plc in January 2024.





## MR. IBRAHIM SODIPE

FINANCE DIRECTOR

Ibrahim has over 13 years of varied experience across financial reporting, financial controls, supply chain finance, forecast & planning, commercial finance and global audit. Within the last 5 years, he has served as the Financial Controller for Unilever Maghreb (Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia), Commercial Finance Business Partner for West Africa and recently seconded to Unilever Ethiopia as Head of Finance.

Given inflationary pressures and currency instability in recent times, Ibrahim has been pivotal in driving business profitability and has helped enshrined this winning mentality in the business. In time past, he has also demonstrated transformational capabilities in turning around business process across West and North Africa.

As a member of Unilever Investor Board (East and West Africa), he helps to shape business strategy as well as portfolio expansion.

He is very passionate about serving the consumer needs with the best brands while driving profitable business growth underpinned with strong controls and talent development. Prior to joining Unilever, Ibrahim worked with Afrinvest (West Africa) Limited and SIAO.

He is a graduate of Industrial Relations and Personnel Management (B.Sc.) from University of Lagos and a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

He was appointed to the Board of Unilever Nigeria Plc in June 2025





## MR MICHAEL IKPOKI

#### NDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michael Ikpoki is an accomplished Multinational Business Executive and leader with over twenty-five (25) years experience across regulatory, commercial, operational, leadership and consulting/advisory roles in the African telecom Industry. Michael has proven experience in successfully managing and growing telecom/consumer businesses in the largest economies in Africa.

Key roles held in his 14-year career in MTN Group include Sales Director in MTN Nigeria, Chief Executive Officer of MTN Ghana and Chief Executive Officer of MTN Nigeria (in addition to being a member of the MTN Group Executive Committee).

Since 2016, he founded and now leads Africa Context Advisory Partners in consulting on Telecom/ICT in Africa; serving as a Senior Resource/Adviser to significant local/pan-African investors/businesses in Nigeria/West Africa across ICT/Fintech and other consumer-related industries. Areas of expertise include market insights & analysis, business strategy development, commercial due diligence, Growth and business operations oversight, policy & regulatory advice, and Board Advisory support. In this vein, he is presently an Adviser to ONAFRIQ which is the largest Pan-African Digital Payments hub primarily to support their growth and expansion in West Africa.

He is the Chairman of the Boards of Capricorn Digital Limited (a digital distribution company in Nigeria owned by Onafriq) and Amplitude Telecoms Africa Limited (an African infrastructure management company). He also sits on the Advisory Board of TERRAGON, a UK company creating sustainable, biodiversity compliant Bamboo forests in Africa. He also serves as a Board Adviser to some progressive Nigerian-owned businesses in the Marketing, Hospitality, Fintech and Investment sectors.

He was appointed to the Board of Unilever Nigeria Plc in February 2021.





### **MR. CHIKA NWOBI**

**NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

Chika Nwobi is the founder and CEO of Decagon where brilliant young Nigerians are trained to be world-class software engineers then connected to local and global opportunities. Before Decagon, Chika has been involved in incubating over 20 startups including Babybliss - Nigeria's top omni-channel platform for mom and baby, Jobberman and Cheki.

Chika was the founder of MTech where he launched Nigeria's first mobile internet service with MTN Nigeria in 2001 and helped pioneer the Mobile VAS industry. Chika has also led consulting engagements for Ford Foundation and IFC. Chika is also venture partner in Rise Capital, an emerging markets focused venture capital firm.

Chika has a BA in Economics and a B.Sc. in Computer Science and is in the MSc Software Engineering program at University of Oxford. He also completed the Stanford University SEED transformation program. Chika is passionate about education and developing young people and has been invited to speak at Wharton, NYU and Lagos Business School. He has

also served as judge and mentor for entrepreneurship programs of the Federal Government of Nigeria and the World Bank XL startup program.

He was appointed to the Board of Unilever Nigeria Plc in January 2019.





### MS. NGOZI EDOZIEN

#### INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ngozi Edozien is currently the Managing Director of InVivo Partners Ltd, an advisory firm providing strategy, operations and ESG consulting and investment support. She is a Partner to ESG in Action Africa (Nigeria) and Competent Boards, (Canada). Both focus on ESG training and consulting.

Ms. Edozien is a seasoned Non-Executive Director sitting on the Boards of several large, listed companies in Africa and the UK. Prior to launching InVivo Partners Ltd she served as Managing Director of Actis LLP's West Africa business – a leading private equity firm across emerging markets. She draws on her over 35 years of experience in finance, strategy consulting, operational management, and board governance in corporations globally to bring value to her investee companies and clients.

Ms. Edozien experience is broad based having a Wall Street executive first at Solomon Brothers and then at JP Morgan. Post her MBA, Ms. Edozien worked for McKinsey & Co. in London and Paris where she became an Associate Principal. In 1999, she joined Pfizer, Inc in New York City, where she was Vice President Strategic Planning and Business Development until 2005 when she was transferred to Nigeria as the Regional Director, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals Group for Anglophone East, West, and Central Africa.

Ms. Edozien currently sits on several Boards including: Bank of Africa, BMCE Group (Morocco);

Imperial Brands PLC (United Kingdom), Guinness Nigeria / Diageo PLC (Nigeria); Ikeja Hotels PLC (Nigeria) and subsidiaries of the Nigerian Stock Exchange in addition to some small privately held businesses within her investment portfolio.

Ms. Edozien's past board roles include: Stanbic IBTC Holdings (Nigeria) of Standard Bank Group; Barloworld Plc (South Africa); PZ Cussons PLC (United Kingdom), Vlisco Group (Netherlands), Seven Energy (Nigeria), UAC (Nigeria), Diamond Bank Plc (Nigeria) and Mouka Foam (Nigeria). She advises several African early-stage businesses in various sectors including healthcare, FMCG, Financial Services and Technology.

She was appointed to the Board of Unilever Nigeria Plc. in May 2024.





# MRS. UMMA YUSUF ABOKI

#### INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Umma Yusuf Aboki is an accomplished leader with over 25 years of diverse experience across the public and private sectors, specializing in banking, investment promotion, and public-private partnerships (PPP). She has a proven track record of driving economic growth, fostering strategic partnerships, and managing high-value client portfolios.

Her extensive banking experience includes roles at Guaranty Trust Bank, Sterling Bank, and Habib Nigeria Bank. She possesses expertise in financial management, risk assessment, regulatory compliance, and delivering tailored banking solutions that drive profitability and enhance client satisfaction.

She was the Executive Secretary/CEO at the Kaduna Investment Promotion Agency (KADIPA) and was Commissioner for Planning and Budgeting in Kaduna State (April 2022 – May 2023), She is a member of some professional bodies including Chartered

Institute of Bankers, Institute of Chartered Economists in Nigeria and the Institute of Islamic Banking & Insurance, London. She has attended various Management and professional courses.

She was appointed to the Board of Unilever Nigeria Plc in January 2025.





### MRS. ADENIKE OGUNLESI

#### INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Adenike Ogunlesi is a trailblazing entrepreneur, corporate leader, and changemaker whose visionary leadership has redefined Nigeria's fashion, retail, and manufacturing industries. As the Founder and Chief Responsibility Officer of Gatimo Limited, she has built a legacy of innovation and excellence, establishing Ruff 'n' Tumble as a premier fashion brand celebrated for its craftsmanship, creative ingenuity, and deep-rooted commitment to African heritage.

With over three decades of transformative leadership, Adenike has pioneered modern retail practices, garment manufacturing, and brand storytelling, positioning Nigeria on the global stage while nurturing a generation of entrepreneurs. Her work transcends business—she is a mentor, public speaker, and advocate for sustainable enterprise, women's leadership, and ethical governance.

Adenike's leadership at Gatimo Ltd. has transformed the company into Nigeria's leading garment manufacturing powerhouse, producing over 1,500 garments daily. Under her stewardship, the company has set new benchmarks for quality, sustainability, and African-inspired fashion, driving an industry-wide shift towards homegrown excellence.

As the Founding President of the Network of Entrepreneurial Women (NNEW), she established a groundbreaking platform that empowers women entrepreneurs through mentorship, funding access, and advocacy, creating pathways for female-led enterprises to flourish.

Adenike's influence extends beyond fashion, serving on the boards of Lafarge Holcim Plc, Enterprise

Development Centre (EDC) at Lagos Business School, WISCAR (Women in Successful Careers), and Garment and Accessories Manufacturers of Nigeria (GAMAN). Through these roles, she drives policy advocacy, ethical governance, and industrial development, shaping Nigeria's business landscape for sustainable growth.

Adenike is a sought-after keynote speaker and thought leader, inspiring audiences with her profound insights on entrepreneurship, leadership, and the future of African industries. She is a certified Family and Life Systems Coach and Neuro-Linguistic Programming Coach, equipping individuals and businesses with tools for transformative success.

Her educational journey spans globally renowned institutions, including IE Business School, Lagos Business School, and Gordon Institute of Business Science, where she honed her expertise in corporate governance, strategic leadership, and retail management.

She was appointed to the Board of Unilever Nigeria Plc in March 2025.





### MR. PETER DADA

**COMPANY SECRETARY** 

Mr. Peter Dada is an astute Legal professional, experienced executive business leader and Chartered Secretary. He has over 20 years experience in various roles and organisations, helping corporations to succeed profitably in Nigeria and West Africa.

His expertise cuts across different aspects of law including Intellectual Property Law, Corporate Law and Governance, Regulatory Advisory and Compliance, Labour & Employment and Brand Protection.

Mr. Dada began his career working with commercial law firms and later joined GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Nigeria PLC as the Assistant Company Secretary and Suntory Beverage & Food Nigeria Limited as the Head of Legal and Company Secretary.

He is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association, Society for Corporate Governance of Nigeria and the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria. He is an alumnus of the University of Lagos (LLB), Nigerian Law School (BL) and the University of Cumbria, UK (LLM). He joined Unilever Nigeria Plc. in 2022 as the Senior Counsel Brand Protection West Africa in 2022.

He was appointed as the Company Secretary of Unilever Nigeria Plc. in October 2024.