

SEÁN CLEARY

Chairman of Strategic Concepts (Pty) Ltd, Founder and Executive Vice
Chair of the FutureWorld Foundation

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. After an extended exposure to all of the challenges of the Levant and the broader Middle East, we now shift to a much larger landscape which fortunately is not yet in the same state of crisis. However, as I think our panel this afternoon will show, there are many steps that have to be taken, both by Africans and by those who have an interest in Africa's success, to create the sort of environment that will avoid catastrophe and enable success. That is the focus of what we shall discuss this afternoon.

The panel is entitled 'Building a Sustainable Future in Africa'. We have from my left going across all the way, Nardos Bekele-Thomas, who is of course the CEO of AUDA/NEPAD; Vincent Biruta, the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Rwanda; Nialé Kaba, who is the Minister of Economy, Planning, and Development of Côte d'Ivoire; and Jean-Michel Severino, known to all of you, the Chairman of Investisseurs et Partenaires. The approach that we are going to take is to recognize what you have heard throughout today. If you reflect first, on the discussions this morning about conflicts, you'll recall that there are wars across the Sahel extending from the West coast all the way to Sudan and the Horn of Africa, and also in the Eastern DRC and down into Mozambique.

The health challenges across the continent are legion due to shortages of both nutritious food and appropriate healthcare. There is a large measure of food insecurity: you saw the maps presented this morning, showing that a high percentage of Africa's population lives in conditions of food insecurity. There are energy challenges aplenty, with at least 600 million Africans today who do not have access to modern energy. If we reflect on industrialization, digitization and value-added beneficiation of primary export products, you heard Trudi Makhaya say yesterday that not even the BRICS have enabled a significant increase in the beneficiation of Africa's primary exports.

Lastly, we must address the challenge of education, and related to that, employment, in a continent which has the youngest population of all the SDG regions and will have a population of working age and below by today's standards, until the end of the 21st century. It will effectively triple its present population by 2100. Between now and 2050, Africa will roughly double its present population. It will then add another third up to the end of the century. Therefore, these challenges are enormous.

The opportunities are equally extraordinary because Africa will have the largest demographic dividend in the world over the course of the next 70 years.



We are going to try and unpack what Africa is doing about these challenges and opportunities; how investors are reacting to the opportunities and risks; and what we have to do together as citizens of one world to enable a sustainable and effective future for all Africans.