

## SPEAKERS' BIOS

Plenary 3: Innovation  
Driving Transformation



**Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals  
through Effective Delivery of Services,  
Innovative Transformation &  
Accountable Institutions**



## Moderator:

### **Ms. Gogontlejang Phaladi, Founder, Pillar of Hope Project, Botswana**



Gogontlejang Phaladi is a seasoned award winning and published development practitioner and communications expert. She is the founder of a community-based organization that focuses on humanitarian work, civic education and human rights advocacy- Gogontlejang Phaladi Pillar of Hope Project. She runs a technology and communication company ([www.swahibabotswana.com](http://www.swahibabotswana.com)). She is also the Board Chair of the Adolescent and Youth Constituency of the global Partnership for Maternal, New-born and Child Health Chaired by President Bachelet. She is a former Radio Presenter, columnist and has worked with UN agencies UNICEF and UNFPA. She has a track record in leading successful campaigns for children and youth on harnessing technology for behavioural change interventions, as well as working in Sexual Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH). She is also a human and social development expert and has done consultancy work aligned to that for the African Union Commission, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, UNFPA, She Decides and the Government of Botswana, among others. As an expert in advocacy and communications, she brings the visionary leadership to SWAHIBA Technologies company. In her spare time, she runs a mentorship programme dubbed SIMI - She Is My Inspiration."

## Panellists

### **Ms. Bo (Layla) Dong, Founder and CEO of Blockshine**



Ms. Bo (Layla) Dong is the founder and CEO of Blockshine, a world-leading transnational blockchain diversified financial services firm founded in 2017. She is also a board member of Blockchain Centre, the first non-profit education and knowledge hub. Blockshine is dedicated to drive social change and build a more diverse and fair future through enabling peer to peer collaboration via blockchain. With a team of more than 200 engineers worldwide, Blockshine has provided blockchain consulting services and corresponding technology implementation for over 50 companies, governments and social organisations, serving companies across eight different industries. Ms. Dong has been a Foundation Board Member of WEF Global Shapers Foundation since 2016.

**Mr. Taghi Taghizada, Director of the “Innovations Center”, State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan**



Mr. Taghi Taghizada, has been working at the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan since 2014 and has served as Director of the “Innovations Center”, LLC. since 2018.

He has worked closely with Tech-Driven Startups and has extensive experience in the field of technological innovation. Mr. Taghizada studied at the Baku State University, Faculty of law and holds an LLM from the University of California, Berkeley.

He was awarded with “Taraggi” Medal by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on December 27, 2018 on awarding employees of the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for professional activity and effective improvement of rendering public services.

**Ms. Gisa Fuatai Purcell, Director of ICT Development Department of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization.**



Ms. Gisa Fuatai Purcell is the first woman to have been appointed as Director of ICT Development Department of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation where she previously served as the regional advisor for South Pacific since July 2016. Prior to this, she was Head of the Division on ICT development in least developed countries, small island development states, and landlocked developed countries of the International Telecommunication Union’s (ITU) with responsibilities for climate change adaption and disaster risk reduction and emergency telecommunication where she successfully managed many projects around the world including early warning systems using different types of technologies and supporting the development of enabling policies and regulations. Through an ITU project, she was instrumental in enabling the Government of Samoa to tackle cybercrime in the revised Crimes Act 2013. Back in 2003, Ms. Purcell was recruited by the Prime Minister of Samoa to help develop Samoa’s first national ICT policy in which the priority project was liberalizing the mobile market. Her work resulted in Samoa being the first Pacific Island country to have launched and implemented a national ICT policy in 2005 and the first Pacific Island country to have liberalized its mobile market in 2006 - promoting sale of mobile phones and competition among mobile companies that brought down the cost of phone calls per minute.