



## Board of Directors BIO

**Samira Bersoul** has a degree in Change Management, is employed as international HR manager at Ondernemers Zonder Grenzen, has fulfilled different assignments as HR manager and HR change manager at several companies, and therefore has verifiable experience in terms of human resources and employee evaluation. She also has experience as founder and CEO of companies and was director at Flanders Investment & Trade from 2015 to 2020, she therefore has useful experience in business management and international investments.

**Jean-Christophe Charlier** has a Master's degree in Applied Economics and a postgraduate in Environmental Economics, is governance coordinator at the Belgian Development Agency Enabel as well as the Minister of Development Cooperation's former advisor Africa and governance. He has worked for different development organisations and agencies in the intervention countries for several years, and therefore disposes of a rich experience and a thorough knowledge in terms of international development and development cooperation. He has also held a position as auditor for the Tempus program of the European development fund, by which he can pride himself on additional knowledge in terms of audit.

**Laurence Christians** has a Master's degree in Political Science and International Relations, since 2014 she is director at the Belgian Investment Company for Developing countries and she is a former director at Credendo. She works at the Strategy & Legal department of the SNCB, in charge of the negotiation of the new management contract, she is a former advisor at the Benelux Union and employee at AWEX. She has held the function of vice Chef de cabinet for the Minister-President of the Walloon government and the Brussels-Capital Region where she was responsible for international relations and the foreign trade policy, she therefore disposes of extensive knowledge and experience in terms of international investments and business administration.

**Annelies De Backer** has a PhD in Philosophy and served as a diplomat with expertise in development cooperation in the Belgian embassies in Ethiopia, Bolivia, DR Congo and Peru from 2000 to 2019. She is the former consultant on development cooperation of the vice Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and has fulfilled several assignments as project manager and expatriate for several development organisations and agencies, including the former ABOS, she therefore disposes of an extensive and rich experience in international development and development cooperation as well as a thorough field knowledge.

**Géraldine Georges** has a Master's degree in Communication, Information and Journalism, and senior secondary school teaching qualifications, and an interuniversity certificate in Association Management. At the moment, she is a staff member of the political group Parti Socialiste in the Chamber of Representatives charged with European, international and development affairs. She has an extensive knowledge and a large experience in terms of international development and development cooperation as well as communications, advocacy, human resources and organisational management. She worked at the NGO Solsoc as department head and coordinator for

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thirteen years, and in the context of her work she has executed several missions in the intervention countries of BIO.

**Nathalie Gilson** has a Master's degree in Law and another Master's degree in European Law. She works as an advisor in the Policy Cell of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade. She worked as a lawyer in an international law firm for more than ten years, as a parliamentarian in the Federal and Regional Parliaments, and as an advisor in the Policy Cell of the State Secretary for the Budget, then for the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, she thus has acquired a rich experience and extensive knowledge of socio-economic and legal business matters, and the diverse and evolving environments where they carry out their activities.

**Illias Marraha** has a Master's degree in Biochemistry, a degree in Arabic and is studying to become a business engineer, he is head of Social Prevention in the city of Mechelen and the driving force behind several employment projects for young people in Belgium and abroad. He disposes of an extensive knowledge of the socio-economic challenges of diverse and fast evolving societies and environments, and has built a useful experience in business management and social entrepreneurship as founder and manager of the bakery chain Oemie's bakery.

**Peter Moors** has a Master's degree in Germanic Philology, a Bachelor's in Political Science and a degree from the Institut d'Etudes politiques de Paris, he is Chef de cabinet of the Prime Minister, former president of the management committee of the Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs, former Chef de cabinet of the Minister for development cooperation, former director-general of the Belgian development cooperation, former deputy Chef de cabinet and diplomatic advisor of the Prime Minister, former Ambassador and diplomatic representative of Belgium abroad and at the European Union. In the Board of Directors of the Belgian Investment Company for Developing countries he has taken up the mandates of member, representative of the Directorate-general Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid as well as Government Commissioner for the Minister of Development Cooperation and therefore disposes of a large and rich experience, and an extensive knowledge in terms of international development and development cooperation, international investments, human resources and employee evaluation, and organisational management.

**Sophie Tibesar** has a Master's degree in Economics and Management. She is an advisor to the group of the Parti Socialiste in the Chamber of Representatives for the Finance Commission where she has been active since over 13 years. She leads the debates regarding the State's budget and finances, and taxes, she participates in the special commissions regarding financial and banking matters, and thus has an extensive knowledge of financial, budgetary and fiscal matters, and of how banks work.

**Jade Salhab** has twenty years of experience in inclusive and green economic development in the Middle East, North Africa, Latin America, and Europe. Jade is currently a Senior Private Sector Specialist at the World Bank where he leads multi-sectoral investment projects aimed at boosting private sector growth, industry competitiveness, trade, and innovation in emerging economies. Before joining the World Bank, Jade was a partner in an urban planning firm in Belgium, where he led the design of public spaces, mobility plans, and urban renovation projects aimed at revitalizing cities and neighbourhoods. Jade holds a Master in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy



School, a Master in Urban Environment and Sustainable Development from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, and a Bachelor in Architecture from the American University of Beirut.

**Pieter Verhelst** has a Master's degree in Applied Economics and a post university degree in Agricultural Economics, since 2014, he is member of the Board of Directors of the Belgian Investment Company for Developing countries, he is member of the board at Boerenbond where he was also an advisor on European and international policies, and he represents the organisation at the World Farmers' Organisation. He therefore disposes of a thorough knowledge of value chains and global agricultural markets, priority domains of development cooperation, and has an extensive experience in terms of international investments and organisational management.