



TTCSP

THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

AFRICA VIRTUAL THINK TANK SUMMIT REPORT

December 4th, 2020

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Introduction

The Africa Virtual Think Tank Summit was hosted by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) on Friday, December 4, 2020. Think Tanks and scholars from all over the continent and beyond gathered to reflect on how the COVID-19 pandemic transformed the world and what implications were unique to Africa. The panelists offered actionable ideas to prepare Africa for such *black swan* events and the role of think tanks in leading such initiatives. A plan for the immediate, as well as distant, future was considered indispensable to help Africa emerge successful from a global calamity. The speakers also mentioned important steps think tanks must take to survive in such an environment and to adapt to the global and regional challenges. The event promoted an optimistic and pragmatic approach to the post-pandemic world and emphasized the need for a ‘Resilient, Responsive, and Inclusive Government.’ The Summit concluded with discussing the T20 and the need to make it ‘Fit for an Uncertain Future.’ Below is the access link to the recording of the Summit and a breakdown of the participants, countries, and organizations represented, followed by the Africa Think Tank Summit Report.

Access Link To Recording:

<https://youtu.be/-m5kg0YanLc>

Participants

Total Participants Joined for part or all of the Conference	219
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Countries Represented: **47**

Algeria	Egypt	Mauritania	South Korea
Austria	Ethiopia	Morocco	South Sudan
Azerbaijan	France	Netherlands	Spain
Belgium	Germany	Nigeria	Tanzania
Botswana	Ghana	Pakistan	Tunisia
Brazil	India	Poland	Turkey
Burkina Faso	Iraq	Romania	Uganda
Cameroon	Italy	Rwanda	United Kingdom
Canada	Japan	Saudi Arabia	United States
Côte d'Ivoire	Jordan	Senegal	Venezuela
Democratic Republic of Congo	Kenya	Somalia	Yemen
Denmark	Lesotho	South Africa	

Institutions Registered & Represented: **150**

A N SINHA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES	Cellule d'Analyse de Politiques Economiques du CIREC (CAPEC)	Final Mile Consulting	Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research	Tavistock Institute of Human Relations
Academic	CEMI	Foundation for Studies and Research on International Development (FERDI)	King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center	The Danish Foreign Policy Society

ACCORD	Center for Economic and Social Development	Foreign Policy Research Institute	Korean National Strategy Institute	The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies
ACET	Center for Strategic Strategies	Freedom and Citizenship Association (FC Mauritania)	Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania	The Institute of Economic Affairs
Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE)	Centre d'Analyse des Politiques Economiques et Sociales (CAPES)	Frontier Centre for Public Policy	Libre Afrique	The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis
Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution	Centre de Recherche Politique D'Abidjan (CRPA)	Fundación Alternativas	Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA)	The Lauder Institute
African Center for Economic Transformation	Centre for Democracy and Development	Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV)	MCH & Asociados C.A	The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG)
African Centre for Economic Centre	Centre for Objective Research and Development	Funema Group	Missouri State Government	Tunisian Observatory for Democratic Transition
African Economic Research Consortium	CERAB	GCS Institute Pakistan	Moroccan Institute for Policy Analysis (MIPA)	Turkish Center for Asia Pacific Studies
African Health Hazard Mitigation Foundation	CEROS	Global Leaders in Unity and Evolvment	NAJ Enterprises LLP	UN Global Compact Network Nigeria
African Heritage Institution	Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches en Sciences Sociales (CERSS)	GRAAD Burkina	National Administration Association, Romania	University of Maryland, College Park
African Objectivist Movement	CIDOB	Green Burton Development Care Foundation	Nigerian Global Affairs Council (NIGAC)	University of Sherbrooke
African Union Development Agency NEPAD	Community Empowerment for Progress Organization-CEPO	Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (HIPS)	Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG)	University of Venda
AHON-ODE	CourseAD	Horn Economic & Social Policy Institute (HESPI)	Nigerian Global Affairs Council	WATHI (West Africa Citizen Think Tank)
Aksantys	DDP	IEMed	Nigerian Institute of Social & Economic Research	Wellesley Centers for Women
Al Nahda Thought Center for Research	DELIQUAS	Impact Development Solutions	Oeko Institut	West Africa Think Tank (WATHI)
Al-Ahram center for political and strategic studies	Earth People Democratic Party	Information and Decision Support Center - Egyptian Cabinet	Organisation paysanne pour le développement durable	West Africa Think tank WATHI

Amadeus Institute	Eastern Africa Policy Centre	Institut Marocain des Relations Internationales (IMRI)	Peacebuilder without Borders	Yemeni Institute for Strategic Affairs
Amani Kwetu	Economic Policy Research Centre	Institut Montaigne	Policy Analysis and Research Institute of Lesotho	Youth Innovators and Entrepreneurs Empowerment Initiative
American Christian Liberal Arts University Congo—UCI	Economic Policy Research Institute	Institute for Global Dialogue	Policy Center for the New South	
ARL Foundation	Economic Policy Research Network	Institute for Liberty and Policy Innovation	Public Policy in Africa Initiative	
ASUL: South-South Cooperation Research and Policy Center	Edo State Government	Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University	REPOA	
Audace Institut Afrique	Elcano Royal Institute	Institute for Social Research in Africa (IFSRA)	Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH	
Bingham University	Eni SpA	Institute of Economic Affairs, Ghana	Saint John Fisher College	
Blending Community Service Organization (BCSO)	European Centre for Development Policy Management	Italian Institute for International and Political Studies (ISPI)	Sarid Inc.	
Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis	European Council on Foreign Relations	Iraqi Journalists Rights Defense Association (IJRDA)	SCOOPS/CREF-VEP	
CARE	Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association	Japan Institute of International Affairs	Stichting Mission Lanka	
CASE	European Think Tanks Group (ETTG)	Joyalty Unisex Fashion	Strategic Fiker Center for Studies	
CCECC Nigeria Limited	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Policy Studies Institute	Julius Raab Stiftung	Sustainable Waste Management	

Event Summary & Key Takeaways

Session I: Opening Session

Opening remarks: James McGann, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, USA

Dr. James McGann opened by welcoming the 200+ registered participants to the 2020 Africa Think Tank Virtual Summit, which was themed “Think Tanks and Policy Advice in a World Disrupted and Transformed.” He went on to thank the intern team at TTCSP, with special gratitude to the TTCSP International Planning and the Africa Summit Planning Committees. He further thanked the participant and chairs for their input. Dr. McGann then went on to briefly preview the five panels on the events agenda. While doing so, he stressed his hope and belief that there will be a “renaissance” globally for research institutions in the wake of COVID-19, citing that every time throughout history that institutions were unable to respond effectively to a crisis, they were replaced with newer ones. He also expressed that with 54 countries, Africa is unrepresented on the T20 and only represented by South Africa on the G20, and therefore the T20 needs to “walk the walk and talk the talk” and be inclusive, democratic and transparent. He closed by thanking the institutions who served to help organize the summit and participated internationally to build stronger relationships with Africa.

Session II, Panel I: The Invisible Black Swan: How COVID-19 Changed the World

Chair: Judd Devermont, Director, Africa Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies, USA

Judd Devermont opened by stating the pandemic is an economic, political and security crisis as much as a public health one. He stated that the panel will both cover the negative and positive effects of the pandemic, beyond its public health and economic impact. For negative effects, he included an increase in xenophobia, discrimination against minorities within countries like Somalia and South Africa, increase in corruption and insurgent activities, and democratic backsliding. On the positive side, he included the largest expansion of social welfare programs since the independence period, massive adoption of technology, philanthropy from the region’s richest people, more releases from prison, and

an increase in assertiveness and effectiveness of the African Union. He posed the question to the panelists of how to mitigate negative effects of the pandemic and make concrete the positive.

Tadesse Kuma Worako, *Lead Researcher, Policy Studies Institute, Ethiopia*

Tadesse Kuma Worako began by urging that think tanks must focus their efforts on those most impacted by COVID-19. Among these he listed those working in the lower levels of the economy who had been laid off, farmers, frontline health workers, women living in informal sectors, children going to school, HIV/AIDS victims and internationally displaced people. He echoed Dr. Devermont's sentiment that there were both good and bad consequences from the pandemic. He noted among the positives the increase in digital communications. He went on to explain that agriculture was very severely impacted by COVID-19, dropping by 30% in some countries. Since this industry is essential to many African nations' economies, this can have severe impacts on their citizens. He further stated that failure to observe social distancing and mask wearing practices contributed to the rise of COVID-19, made worse by poor government assistance and enforcement.

Vasu Gouden, *Founder and Executive Director, ACCORD, South Africa*

Vasu Gouden began by covering what had been discovered before and during the pandemic, as well as where he saw the region going after it. In the before category, he stated that there was large population growth in southern Africa and unplanned cities without employment infrastructure, as well as poor economic growth. He stated that at the time he foresaw conflict and unrest as a result. In the present, he stated that the pandemic worsened all of these issues and that the public health crisis in of itself has not had a large negative impact on the continent compared to the efforts to stop the pandemic, which had much a more severe impact of a recession and a sharp rise in unemployment, impacting most heavily small businesses. He explained these will contribute to a security crisis which will in turn contribute to a humanitarian crisis.

Dr. Gouden expressed optimism that the African Union's gathering and development of countermeasures will be effective, and that it may bode well for economic decisions like the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. In the future category, he stated that economically, it is important to keep cooperation going to build the economy, for peace and security, it is necessary to build early warning and preventive mechanisms, and on the humanitarian side, the continent needs to have all the logistics in place and prepare for future crises. He went on to say that think tanks can assist by providing evidence based suggestions and guidance to inform policy and actions centered around creating this infrastructure expediently to protect the continent. He closed by saying that research

shows that COVID-19 can create unrest and dissatisfaction with government and also an increase in government abuse of power.

Virginie Tallio, Director, IFSRA-Institute for Social Research in Africa, *Burkina Faso*

Virginie Tallio opened by stating the spread of COVID-19 in Burkina Faso was very swift, being primarily in schools, markets and public places. This led to quarantining entire cities and freezing public transportation within their inner cities, which have been slowing recently as cases drop. This led to a severe drop in economic activity, especially in the informal sector. Cost of living has risen significantly and the supply of healthcare products has been heavily regulated due to scarcity. This is worsened by governmental issues in enforcing social distancing policies and the populace's difficulty following them. She noted that in some regions, what may be considered a "low tech" solution by the rest of the world, like a face covering, may be considered "high tech" within Burkina Faso.

Miss Tallio went on to state that while enforcement of preventative measures leads to an increase of distrust in the government, this was not seen as dramatically in the region. She closed by highlighting the effects of the pandemic locally: it has most heavily impacted those working in the informal sector, most notably women, who often take the role of a caretaker and have seen a significant rise of violence aimed against them; that underrepresented groups have been less present in hospitals or medical centers, which poses challenges to vaccination; that the increased poverty poses challenges to the stability and security of the area; and that the economic recession will have negative impacts on the education system as more students are unable to pay fees.

Karim El Aynaoui President, Policy Center for the New South, *Morocco*

Karim El Aynaoui had one major idea and two supporting ideas. The major idea was that the pandemic could serve as the "return of the state," allowing governments to act decisively and impactfully in medical assistance, employment programs and public support. This was most notably felt by strong states with the ability to mobilize, and a strong democratic presence with public support behind the decision made. The second lesson is that initial conditions matter. Country's macroeconomic policies served as a predictor of their ability to weather the pandemic, like Morocco for instance, who was able to deliver aid to its economy due to the structuring of its economic policies. The third lesson was the importance of social safety nets and healthcare measures. Using Morocco as an example, he explained that the country tested much more than surrounding countries, and intends to use the same strength of infrastructure to vaccinate widely and effectively. It plans to vaccinate 80% of its population. He

closed by emphasizing the importance of having a strong state that has effective and equitable economic policies and public support in addressing the pandemic.

Ufo Okeke-Uzodike, Professor, African Heritage Institution, Nigeria

Ufo Okeke-Uzodike started by expressing it was difficult to generalize the effects of COVID-19 across the continent due to the diversity of economic and social conditions between African countries. Nevertheless, he believed that the countries had enough in common to produce an effective response by working together. In Nigeria, he stated that the pandemic caused significant development in public health infrastructure, which had been given inadequate financing before the pandemic. However, he expressed that Nigeria has not been as heavily impacted as other countries in the region, with a lower case rate, which may be caused in part because of poor access to testing centers and fees to be tested. Dr. Okeke-Uzodike further explained that the educational sector has been severely negatively impacted. Many universities remain closed and further unemployment is seeing a continuing rise, which has caused public frustration with government responses and also police brutality.

Session III, Panel II: Mandate for Ideas and Action in the Face of a Pandemic, Twindemic or Hydrademic

Chair: Erika Barks-Ruggles, former U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda, USA

Ambassador Barks-Ruggles began by introducing the concept of a “twindemic” — the combined effect of the pandemic and economic crisis facing the world today. She then introduced the first panelist, Rose Ngugi, to provide action recommendations for African countries to the COVID-19 twindemic.

Rose Ngugi, Executive Director, Kenyan Institute for Public Policy and Research, Kenya

Dr. Ngugi noted that although the future trajectory of the COVID-19 crisis is not entirely clear, the panel provided an opportunity to reflect and share ideas about how to avoid future pandemics and global crises. Turning to her solution proposals, she first established that in developing effective economic recovery responses understanding economic systems of each country is essential. She cites Kenya’s private sector as an example, pointing to the fact that their private sector is primarily small and medium-sized enterprises and consequently were badly beaten given that micro-enterprises are prone to be badly affected by economic crises because of their informal nature.

In response, Dr. Ngugi presented three key solutions. First, for countries to establish good platforms for dialogue between the government, expats, and citizens to avoid misunderstandings and build up of negative energy between them. She argued that when everyone is in agreement on the way forward during a crisis as widespread and impactful as COVID-19 it becomes easier for citizens to implement recommendations and guidelines put forth by the government as communication is clearer. Second, she called for the cooperation and coordination of intervention at global and national levels. It is not enough for one jurisdiction to implement interventions in combating virus spread while others do not if borders are open. Virus controls and testing capacity must be coordinated across jurisdictions. She noted that mechanisms by which this could be accomplished are platforms for leaders to engage expats and the international community to share experiences and ideas about how to address issues posed by COVID-19. Third, Dr. Ngugi called for increased public education so that control measures are taken seriously. She claimed that when the public sees the current situation with COVID-19 controls as the “new normal” they can continue their economic and social responsibilities without forgetting their individual responsibilities to control the virus.

Ultimately, governments are relying on citizens to mobilize to combat the virus spread. As such, messaging must be clear and leadership must be strong. If leaders cannot set a good example of adhering to control measures the public cannot be expected to follow. She stressed that leaders must continue to wear masks in public and adhere to their laws if citizens are to collectively follow suit to control COVID-19 spread.

Moquet César Flan , Director, Centre de Recherche Politique D'Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire

Dr. Moquet divided his solutions into three categories: economic development , social and humanitarian measures, and sanitary and health protections. On economic development he called for greater social safety nets for disadvantaged households and those likely to fall into precarious situations as a result of the pandemic. He also advocated for a more flexible tax system for smalls and medium-sized enterprises. Turning to social and humanitarian measures, he stressed the importance of raising awareness about the reality of COVID-19 in order to prevent the spread of misinformation. Additional social proposals included promoting respect for privacy measures and civic mindedness as well as fostering solidarity with vulnerable populations. Finally, on public health protections, he underscored widespread population testing, timely availability of test results, rigorous communication to the public about the necessity of preventative measures, and meticulous management of people at risk. To conclude, he noted that these recommendations ought to be devised and implemented in synergy across West Africa.

Gloria Somolekae, Acting Executive Director, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis, *Botswana*

Dr. Somolekae explained that a strong state is necessary if the state is to deliver on its mandate to its citizens. To this end, she outlined a range of recommended actions for African states to combat COVID-19. Beginning with the economy, Dr. Somolekae noted that the gap between the rich and poor has widened as a result of the pandemic. As such, government programs need to step up to create a stronger and more inclusive social safety net. She noted that the think tank she represents, BIDPA, was the task team for Botswana's recent government stimulus. She then turned focused to gender-based violence — highlighting its spike during the pandemic and calling for governments special courts to address gender-based violence specifically as Botswana has done. Next, she addressed the need for increased public information regarding COVID-19. Although this effort has been ongoing, there are still lapses — instances where people do not follow protocols or they are not clear.

Therefore, building upon this initiative is vital. She stressed that each of these solutions are vital to preventing damage to society in the case of another virus wave. Concluding, she posed recommendations for improving the state of policymaking in general. First, she indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the indisputable importance of evidence in public decision making. Governments should look to enhance the culture of evidence-based policy making. Finally, she suggested that the international community needs to rethink the economic strategies and models currently in use. This is an opportunity to rethink, to build more inclusive models. Think tanks can be effective in steering this effort.

Gebrehiwot Ageba Kebedew, Director of Research and Senior Research Fellow, Horn Social Policy Institute in Addis Ababa, *Ethiopia*

Dr. Kebedew focused his response on developing a preventative approach to public health, noting that public health systems across many countries are in need of reform. African countries need to revisit and reprioritize their development plans post-COVID. He offered two solutions and one warning.

The first solution was to build strong economic infrastructure. This could be in the form of ensuring flow and supply of basic consumer items, normalizing promoting agricultural productive inputs and supplies, replenishing food services, and stabilizing food prices. Second, he called for public works programs to create jobs. He mentioned that using rural labour to implement environment conservation measures to support rural poor and low-income regions are key. This could be in the form of reforestation, developing water retention structures, or building irrigation dams. Such

programs have already been implemented in Ethiopia with success. They are also inexpensive and can be initiated quickly on a large scale. The positive implications of such programs include addressing poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition. Further, these initiatives benefit future generations by improving capital assets. Dr. Kebedew noted, however, that funding for the continuation of such programs is needed.

To conclude, Dr. Kebedew offers a word of caution. There have been propositions that loan guarantees and debt forgiveness to countries should be conditional on meeting certain criteria such as environmental improvements. However, he warns that this could be a new form of donor conditionality on external aids and loans which when emphasized too much can be damaging to recovery — especially African countries facing capacity constraints brought upon by the pandemic.

Session IV, Panel III: The COVID-19 Effect: Accelerator, Transformer or Terminator: What Think Tanks Must Do to Survive and Thrive in a World Disrupted

Chair: Landry Signé, Senior Fellow, Brookings Africa, Cameroon

Landry Signé began the panel by stressing the title of the panel concerning the COVID-19 pandemic as being an accelerator, transformer or terminator. A few years ago, awareness was already being about the critical challenges faced by African think tanks which includes the likelihood of many ceasing operations and some of the challenges including funding. COVID-19 has exacerbated these glaring issues. Competition from the private sector and governments with their abilities to offer higher salaries, among other factors, have brought quality and capacity concerns for the rising next generation of think tanks. These are just some of the core challenges that are facing African think tanks and there is no better time than now to speak about these challenges. He then posed the question of whether COVID-19 will accelerate, transform or terminate African think tanks before introducing the other panelists.

To facilitate the discussion, a follow-up question was posed to Elda David Samuel asking how he would assess the impact of COVID-19 and how his organization's strategy had had to adjust given his context.

A second follow-up question was directed at Olusegun Omisakin asking for his recommendations for think tanks that may be struggling and near termination in order for them to succeed during and post-COVID-19.

Elda David Samuel, President-In-Council, Nigerian Global Affairs Council (NIGAC), Nigeria

Elda David Samuel themed his talk around the ease of information's spread to the public amid the current digital age. A primary issue in Nigeria today is that Nigerian citizens are largely ignorant of what their government is doing. With the increased digitization, the spread of misinformation has become more prevalent than ever. This increased misinformation had only fed into that ignorance. To combat this, one must look to more relevant digital means of engaging the public. The tech heavy society of today means that people no longer need to tune into television or radio stations to become informed. Rather, governments could shift towards using something such as a phone app or website which would allow the average citizen to know what the government's policy positions are. Organizations must be proactive and engage with their target audiences directly through mediums like social media instead of waiting for the audience to come to them.

Responding to Landry Signé's follow-up question, Elda David Samuel stressed that citizens seek to learn about policy and have the capacity to do so with technology making availability ubiquitous. Many African countries, when asked questions about their policies, view it as a sign of opposition instead of mere curiosity by others, making it important for governments to be more receptive to that kind of questioning. Changing that apprehensive engagement would greatly assist in a more informed public, which requires governments to make information as a whole more accessible.

Siré Sy, Founder, Think Tank Africa WorldWide Group, Senegal

Siré Sy was unable to attend the summit and thus was absent from the panel.

Olusegun Omisakin, Director of Research and Development, Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), Nigeria

Olusegun Omisakin began by framing his discussion around the perception of think tanks globally on the impact of COVID-19 on the daily operations and the specific experience of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG). He then quoted a 2020 study which gauged the impact of COVID-19 on

think tanks with sixty percent of think tanks globally responding positively, believing that think tanks will always continue to operate despite the pandemic's challenges. Transitioning towards his own personal experiences, Olusegun notes that think tanks may only realize that positive outlook by continuing to adapt and innovate, seeing innovation as something inevitable due to the inevitability of challenges and hardship. With that in mind, NESG operates with a sense of innovation as a core aspect of its work culture. One example that he gave was the shift of summits, being the primary platform in which his organization engages with governments and policy stakeholders, to the online digital format. This shift allowed NESG to operate with more leverage in how it engages with governments as the summits experienced a higher overall attendance than any in-person held event. This allowed NESG to better spread the clarity of its goals. Overall, COVID-19 has allowed NESG to seize opportunities despite the challenges that it has posed, being further demonstrated by policymakers' increased willingness to listen to think tanks amid the pandemic as they run out of their own ideas. Think tanks must take the crisis as an opportunity to demonstrate their importance while incorporating a culture of innovation in order to never again be paralyzed by world events such as a pandemic.

Answering Landry Signé's follow-up question, Olusegun Omisakin highlights that due to the unique challenges experienced by African think tanks prior to the pandemic, they will inevitably have a tougher time as those issues are only exacerbated. Addressing this, he stresses the need for African think tanks, and think tanks globally, to operate in a leaner format. Think tanks do not need to operate with large building complexes and the like. Think tanks should move forward by focusing on the core goal of their operations which includes framing how people view think tanks not as being a physical structure, but instead seeing them in their overall capacity for facilitating change.

John Asafu Adjaye, Director of Research, Africa Center for Economic Transformation, Ghana

John Asafu Adjaye began by highlighting three points. The first concerns a need to redefine research agendas and work plans to make think tanks more relevant to the needs of the times. Even though the present moment is one of crisis, it must also be an opportunity for governments to make policy changes that can pay short and long-term dividends. What ACET has done is create a high-level panel of people from various different backgrounds including the private sector, government and think tanks which is committed to act as champions of ACET's recommendations and brings them to political and business leaders in order to have realized implementation. The second thing that must be done is to put an emphasis on collaboration with other think tanks and organizations. By collaborating, the work being put out is perceived as being more convincing and credible, thus being more likely to be implemented. Thirdly, there is a need in these times for African think tanks to diversify their funding

sources. He urges reaching out to the private sector more and to pursue funding related to philanthropic foundations. Across a variety of areas, think tanks must innovate in order to survive the constantly changing times.

Session V, Panel IV: The Post Pandemic Renaissance: An Era of Resilient, Responsive and Inclusive Government

Chair: Aloysius Ordu, Senior Fellow and Director of the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institute, United States

Aloysius Ordu moderated the panel. He organized giving the speakers time through letting each guest individually answer the question. He then included a succinct summary of the last guest's point to reiterate and provide time for clarifications, and then he asked a few questions in between the next speaking time that the last speaker could answer.

Seth Kwizera, Executive Director of the Economic Policy Research Network in Rwanda, Rwanda

Seth Kwizera introduced the Economic Recovery Fund introduced by the Rwandan government as a holistic solution to assisting many institutional sectors, such as hospitals and manufacturing industries. This fund exists to revive businesses. However, one flaw he found in this system is that there are some other businesses that are not registered. Kwizera mentioned that he inquired how the government can continue to keep them in check in the future. This is where Rwandan researchers are organizing in their goals. He provided the example of how, on a smaller scale, researchers have identified how to help workers return to the market after the lockdown. This fund and plan contain the same ideas on a master scale. He found that many smaller businesses were emerging as a consequence of the pandemic and therefore the fund is first seeking the largest of registered companies.

Kwizera elaborated that Africa, as a continent, should focus on what opportunities it can gain from the pandemic to grow bigger. He noted that the Rwandan GDP growth was very quick, but currently the government should check on the contributions of think tanks' researches to continue to promote this growth. Researchers can better show how to revive the economy in general. In his opinion, there were many positive economic effects and revealed potentials due to the pandemic.

Wilson Winston Muhwezi, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry at the Makerere University-Kampala College of Health Sciences, Uganda

Wilson Winston Muhwezi started off his speaking time by going over his research specialty and the daily work he does as a Director of Research because he has COVID-related responsibilities. In the aspect of resilience, Muhwezi stressed the importance of thinking about if there would be another pandemic in the future. He believes that this is very likely. Muhwezi said that African nations need to prepare for another pandemic now because while it did improve many African economies, there were great levels of mortality, morbidity, disability for survivors, and economic cost. Muhwezi put into perspective how many countries arranged robust infrastructure to contain the spread of this virus, but many countries with more fragile healthcare infrastructure did and could not. Muhwezi remarked that in history, humanity has always successfully beaten widespread infection, therefore he wanted to come out in his time on this panel with a message of hope.

Muhwezi found it very important to include in his discussion that firsthand many countries with robust healthcare infrastructure have not had a threat on their corporations. As a result, preparing for another pandemic looks like fortifying healthcare. Secondly, if another type of pandemic happens again as he predicted, researchers need to prepare and innovate for future problems like bacterial and viral mutations more resistant to treatment. Every year, he's found that more diseases continue to mutate when the public begins to think that it is almost eradicated. Countries in their preparation need to understand that a future pandemic may look very different and more dangerous.

Yusuf Shamsudeen, Senior Programmes Officer with the Centre for Democracy and Development, Nigeria

Yusuf Shamsudeen began his speaking time by expressing the importance of collaboration between African nations in tackling the aftermath of the pandemic. He has found that many nations have suffered by adopting isolationist policies in their politics and elections. Because of the many linkages in politics and economy, African nations need to improve their predictive abilities. Shamsudeen suggests improvement in medical technology as the primary way to advance healthcare industries in African nations to prepare for another pandemic.

Session VI, Panel V: Making T20 Fit for an Uncertain Future

Chair: James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, United States

Dr. McGann opened the session by underscoring the purpose of the summit. It not only seeks to raise issues facing African think tanks, but also to create a sense of solidarity and send a message to international organizations and potential donors regarding the vulnerable position of think tanks in Africa. Now, more than ever, there is a need from both a policy and institutional standpoint to support African think tanks in this moment of crisis. Efforts have been made to reach out to think tanks in Africa to make the T20 more inclusive, more resilient, more digital and more responsive. The T20 and the discussion here is the think tank community's opportunity to bring that message to the global community. Following that framing of the discussion and its importance, Dr. McGann then introduced the panelists.

Jitendra Roychoudhury, Senior Research Fellow, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC), Saudi Arabia

Jitendra Roychoudhury emphasized the disparity evident in the T20's overall participation. The most recent Saudi T20 was the largest T20 in the history of the summit's existence. It had 146 policy briefs from 606 authors representing 438 institutions across 55 different countries. African participation alone represented 37 authors of those briefs across 22 institutions from just 10 countries.

Comparatively, Germany, a single country in the European Union, had 39 policy brief authors, more than the entire African continent. This disparity in participation by African institutions must change and the Italian T20 provides an excellent opportunity to begin that change. The T20 is open to everybody, regardless of whether an institution is part of a G20 country or not, and the excellent insight and knowledge from institutions around the world must be leveraged as a result, which largely includes research coming from Africa. The continent is a large fountain of knowledge, especially given the current challenges faced by the world, and that should be communicated to world leadership. Using large engagement platforms like the T20 will be to the benefit of everyone from policymakers to think tank donors and to the think tanks themselves.

As a concluding point, Jitendra Roychoudhury stressed that in policymaking, context matters. The more that people hear about policy briefs coming out of experiences from Africa, the more context that policymakers from a nation in a similar position will be able to see how that context fits into their future policy plans. The information flow of success stories in Africa for other nations must be improved and if that can be done at the Italian G20, everybody would benefit.

Paolo Magri, Executive Vice President, Italian Institute for International Policy Studies (ISPI), Italy

Paolo Magri began by noting that the pandemic has demonstrated, now more than ever, the need for multilateral and global coordination. However, the T20 will inevitably run into many usual challenges in addition to new ones in pursuing that need. There are two usual challenges: 1) producing effective and actionable policy recommendations and 2) having the ability to be heard in the G20 final deliberations and in their eventual actions. The new challenges are seen in the differing schools of thought on the G20's format. For some, the G20 is too large to be relevant. For those people, the G20 should be scaled back to a grouping of like-minded countries such as a G7 or G10. Others see things in the opposite light, arguing that the G20 is too small and not representative enough of the collective will of the world. While these two opposing views both share an uneasiness with the G20 format, it must be acknowledged that the G20 is and remains the only attempt to take a full picture of the world and its views. Paolo Magri then makes a statement establishing his commitment to keep the G20 as open, inclusive and diverse as possible, with a particular focus put on Africa. The African continent will be central for many topics addressed by the Italian G20, including development aid, migration and renewable energy. Despite this, African participation has still not become a reality. Only one country, South Africa, is included in the G20 summit and the participation of African think tanks is far more limited than it should be. Mr. Magri states, on behalf of the ISPI, that the upcoming T20 is determined to include as many African voices as possible in the policy brief drafting process and all of the summit's activities.

Landry Signé, Senior Fellow, Brookings Africa, Cameroon

Landy Signé first emphasized that many of the debates that frame what happens in Africa gets decided outside of it, whether the conversation be held in Washington D.C., Paris, London, Geneva and others. This makes collaboration between African think tanks and think tanks from around the world vital, especially collaboration with those from G20 countries. Signé noted that this has been realized with the Brookings Institution where African think tanks partners have been systematically included in Brookings projects due to this philosophy of representation. He then outlined four points which relate to the spread of African representation in think tanks and their impact on the world. First is awareness raising and reaching a broader public, second deals with agenda setting, third is policy adoption to ensure that policy briefs do not remain merely briefs and fourth is policy implementation and evaluation.

Closing Remarks

James G. McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, *United States*

James McGann individually thanked every participant of the panel as well as the organizations and efforts of previous panelists. He included the impact that the pandemic had on the economies and government functions toward African nations and recognized the swift innovation and partnerships these governments enacted to tackle its effects. He also remarked that education infrastructure, violence, and economic hardships primarily affect women and minority immigrant groups, thus governments need to be committed to addressing these problems. McGann included the TTCSP's goals for the upcoming year to study the effects of the environmental crisis as well as the aftermath of this pandemic to continue to participate in the Think Tank community.



A special thank you to those who participated on our Africa Report
Planning Committee:

Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Uganda
Africa Heritage Institution, Nigeria
African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), Ghana
African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), South Africa
African Economic Research Consortium, Kenya
Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS), Egypt
Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA), Botswana
Brooking Institution, Africa Growth Initiative, United States
Cellule d'Analyse des Politiques Economiques du CIRES (CAPEC), Côte d'Ivoire
Center for Strategic and International Studies Africa Program, United States
Centre d'Études pour l'Action Sociale (CEPAS), Democratic Republic of the Congo
Centre for Democracy and Development, Nigeria
Chatham House, United Kingdom
Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN), Rwanda
Egyptian Center for Economics Studies (ECES), Egypt
Elcano Royal Institute, Spain
Ethiopian Policy Studies Institute (FNA EDRI), Ethiopia
Groupe de Recherche et d'Analyse Appliqués pour le Developpement (GRAAD), Burkina Faso
Horn Economic & Social Policy Institute (HESPI), Ethiopia
IMANI Center for Policy and Education, Ghana
Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), Namibia
Institute for Social Research in Africa (IFSRA), Burkina Faso
Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), Ghana
Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), Kenya
McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), United States
Nigerian Economic Summit Group, Nigeria
Nigerian Global Affairs Council (NIGAC), Nigeria
Policy Center for the New South, Morocco
REPOA, Tanzania

Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania
United States
WATHI (West Africa Citizen Think Tank), Senegal
Woodrow Wilson Center, United States

A special thank you to our panelists:

Opening Session

James McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), USA

James G. McGann, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer at the Lauder Institute of the Wharton School and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania.

He conducts research on developments and problems that think tanks and policymakers around the world face, and offers guidance and technical assistance to think tanks, governments and public and private donors on how to enhance the quality and effect of policy analysis. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think tank based in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. McGann was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Villanova, where he taught international relations, international organizations and international law.



Session II, Panel I

Judd Devermont, Director, Africa Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies, USA



Judd Devermont is the director of the Africa Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Prior to joining CSIS, he served as the national intelligence officer for Africa from 2015 to 2018. In this position, he led the U.S. intelligence community's analytic efforts on sub-Saharan African issues and served as the DNI's personal representative at interagency policy meetings. From 2013 to 2015, he was the Central Intelligence Agency's senior political analyst on sub-Saharan Africa. Mr. Devermont also served as the National Security Council director for Somalia, Nigeria, the Sahel, and the African Union from 2011 to 2013. In this role, he contributed to the U.S. Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa, signed by President Obama in 2012, and managed the process that resulted in U.S. recognition of the Somali government for the first time since 1991. Mr. Devermont spent two years abroad working at the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, Nigeria from 2008 to 2010.

*Tadesse Kuma Worako, Lead Researcher, Policy Studies Institute,
Ethiopia*

Tadesse Kuma Worako (PhD) is a lead researcher at Policy Studies Institute (PSI). He holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of the Free State, Republic of South Africa, in September 2008. His PhD dissertation investigates “Performance of Agricultural Commodity Marketing in the Emerging Market Economies”; specifically, evaluating “Price Transmission the Deregulated Ethiopian Coffee Market.” Since then he deeply engaged in various policy research works mainly focus on production and marketing agricultural products, agricultural extension, value chain assessment, private investment in commercial agriculture, rural-urban development, food and nutrition security, resilience to climate change, forest management, food price analysis, CAADP initiatives and its implementation, land certification and tenure security, and multiple other works.



Vasu Gounden, Founder and Executive Director, ACCORD, South Africa

Vasu Gounden is the Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) which he founded in 1992. He is a lawyer, mediator, and an experienced conflict management practitioner and trainer. Vasu studied at the University of Durban-Westville (UDW) where he obtained his LL.B. He was President of the Students Representative Council (SRC) at UDW during the State of Emergency in 1985/6. He practiced as a human rights and trade union lawyer. He holds a Masters degree in law (LLM) from Georgetown University in Washington DC, which he obtained under a Fulbright Scholarship in 1990 specialising in international negotiations, mediation and arbitration.

*Virginie Tallio, Director, IFSRA-Institute for Social Research in Africa,
Burkina Faso*

Virginie Tallio, Ph.D., is an anthropologist. She worked at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Germany), ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (Portugal) and Makerere University (Uganda). She has developed an expertise on refugees (social impact of camps, social impact of resettlement of former refugees), oil exploitation areas (impact of CSR policies, preservation of cultural capital in oil exploitation areas) and qualitative survey methods in sensitive terrains in Africa, particularly in Angola and Uganda. Virginie also holds a Diploma of Advanced Studies in Economic Demography of Developing Countries from Sciences Po Paris, and is an associate member of the laboratory Les Afriques dans le Monde-Sciences Po Bordeaux and the Centro de Estudos Internacionais of ISCTE-Instituto Universitario de Lisboa. Moreover, she is a member of the editorial board of the Revue Internationale des Etudes du Développement.





Karim El Aynaoui President, Policy Center for the New South, Morocco

Executive President of the Policy Center for the New South, and Executive Vice-President of the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University and Dean of its Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social Sciences. From 2005 to 2012, he worked at the Central Bank of Morocco (Bank Al-Maghrib) where he served as Director of Economics, Statistics and International Relations. He was also in charge of the Research Department and was a member of the cabinet of the Governor. Prior to joining Bank Al-Maghrib, Karim El Aynaoui worked for eight years at the World Bank, as an Economist within the Middle East, North Africa, and Africa regions. He has published books and journal articles on macroeconomic issues in developing countries. His recent work includes co-authored books on renewing Morocco's growth strategy and on the Moroccan labor market.

Ufo Okeke-Uzodike, Professor, African Heritage Institution, Nigeria

Prof. Ufo Okeke-Uzodike is the Executive Director of the African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage) since August, 2016. He is a Political Scientist with early educational training in Nigeria and further studies at Wake Forest University, the University of South Carolina, and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA.



Session III, Panel II

Erika Barks-Ruggles, former U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda, USA



Ambassador Erica Barks-Ruggles is the Senior bureau Official for the Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO). Prior to joining IO, Ambassador Barks-Ruggles was a Senior Diplomatic Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center and was the Acting Chancellor of the College of International Strategic Affairs (CISA) at the National Defense University (NDU). From January 2015- March 2018, she served as the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda. In the past, she has also served as U.S. Consul General in Cape Town, South Africa, Deputy to the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor in the Middle East and South and Central Asia, and Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council at the White House. She has been a Visiting Fellow at The Brookings Institution and an International Affairs Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. She speaks and reads French and Norwegian

Rose Ngugi, Executive Director, Kenyan Institute for Public Policy and Research, Kenya

Dr. Rose Ngugi is the Executive Director of the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) and serves as the Secretary to the Board. She provides technical guidance and capacity building on policy and strategy formulation to the Government of Kenya and other stakeholders, with the overall aim of contributing to the achievement of national development goals. In the past, she has served as a Senior Advisor in the Office of Executive Director, the Africa Group 1, and the International Monetary Fund. Dr. Ngugi has been a member of the Central Bank of Kenya Monetary Policy Committee and taught at the University of Nairobi's School of Economics. She holds a PhD from Birmingham University specializing in Financial Markets, a Masters and Bachelors degree in Economics from the University of Nairobi, Kenya.



Moquet César Flan, Director, Centre de Recherche Politique D'Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire

Dr. Moquet Cesar Flan is the Director of the Centre de Recherche Politique D'Abidjan in Côte D'Ivoire. His research and advocacy focuses on the role of young people in politics and elections in Côte D'Ivoire.

Gloria Somolekae, Acting Executive Director, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis, Botswana

Dr. Gloria Somolekae is the head of the Governance and Administration Unit at BIDPA. In this role, her research focuses on democracy development, corruption, e-governance, rural development and policy analysis among other issues. She holds a PhD in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. She obtained a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration from the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Netherlands and an undergraduate degree in Public Administration and Political Science from the University of Botswana and Swaziland. In the past she has worked as a lecturer at the University of Botswana for 18 years, a policy consultant and eventually a program director at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, focusing on poverty eradication and rural development in Southern Africa. She has also served a Specially Elected Member of Parliament in Botswana, member of the Pan African Parliament, and Director for the African Development Bank representing the Botswana Government



Gebrehiwot Ageba Kebedew, Director of Research and Senior Research Fellow, Horn Social Policy Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Dr. Gebrehiwot Ageba Kebedew is the Director of Research at the Horn Economic and Social Policy Institute. He has worked as a Director of Programmes at the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), Senior Economics Advisor at UNDP Malawi CO, Dean and Associate Professor at Addis Ababa University, member of the University Senate and the Council of Graduate Studies at AAU), board member and Chairman of Loan Review Committee at the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, member of the Board of Trustees of the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre (AAU), member of the Technical Committee on Ethiopia's Accession to the WTO, Chief Expert at the Office of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and Executive Committee member at the Ethiopian Economics Association. His research focuses on issues including structural economic transformation, productivity and wages, monetary policy, financial sector policy, regulation & supervision, and capital market development among others. He holds a DPhil in Economics from Oxford University and an MPhil in Monetary Economics from the University of Glasgow.

Session IV, Panel III

Landry Signé, Senior Fellow, Brookings Africa, Cameroon

Landry Signé is a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development Program and African Growth Initiative. He is also the founding co-director of the Globalization 4.0 and Fourth Industrial Revolution Initiative at the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University, in addition to serving as a professor. His other roles include being the chairman of the Global Network for Africa's Prosperity, a Distinguished Fellow at Stanford University's Center for African Studies and a member of numerous advisory boards and councils for international organizations. Signé's scholarship has earned him recognition as a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, Desmond Tutu Fellow and Woodrow Wilson Public Policy Fellow while also being named one of JCI's Ten Outstanding Young Persons in the World.





Elda David Samuel, President-In-Council, Nigerian Global Affairs Council (NIGAC), Nigeria

Elda David Samuel serves as President-In-Council at the Nigerian Global Affairs Council (NIGAC). He has additional roles as the Pioneer Director for the Nirmala Chellarams Centre for Entrepreneurship Skills at the University of Lagos and is a Mandela Washington Fellow at the U.S. Department of State. His other work includes being the driving force behind the first academia industry alliance platform which is set to debut at the University of Lagos. He works at the intersection of the public and private sectors, providing strategy, leadership and guidance in the fulfillment of NIGAC's core objectives which include policy simplification, policy design and advocacy.

Siré Sy, Founder, Think Tank Africa WorldWide Group, Senegal

Siré Sy is the Founder and President of Think Tank AfricaWorldWide Group. With his organization, he tackles issues of geostrategy, geoeconomics and public relations in relation to Africa. He is an economist by training in finance and public management in addition to being a public relations specialist. His prior roles include being the Editor-in-Chief of the *African Business Journal* magazine and a publication from the Pan-African Strategy Institute (IPS), among other civil service and broadcasting roles.



Olusegun Omisakin, Director of Research and Development, Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), Nigeria

Olusegun Omisakin is the Chief Economist and Director of Research and Development at the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG). At NESG, he coordinates and provides strategic direction for development initiatives, research, advocacy and engagement. His professional experience, spanning over fifteen years, covers economic planning strategy, emerging economies and market research, public policy analysis and advocacy, macroeconomic and industry outlook analytics and high-level economic research management. Other past and present roles include being a Senior Research Fellow at the West African Institute (WAI), a Research Fellow for the Centre for Econometric and Allied Research (CEAR) and an economic consultant for the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (UNIDEP).

John Asafu Adjaye, Director of Research, Africa Center for Economic Transformation, Ghana

Dr. John Asafu Adjaye is a Senior Fellow and Director of Research at the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET). His prior roles include being a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Institute for Economic Affairs in Ghana and being a professor of economics at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. At ACET, he leads the implementation of its research program and assists in providing advice to African leaders and other economic policy actors. His expertise in environmental and economic development has been utilized in consultancy roles with numerous countries from around the world.



Session V, Panel IV

Yusuf Shamsudeen, Senior Programmes Officer with the Centre for Democracy and Development, Nigeria



Yusuf Shamsudeen is the current Senior Programmes Officer with the Centre for Democracy and Development in Abuja, Nigeria. He recently created a civil society group for International Anti-Corruption Day in Nigeria against Illicit Financial Flows and relevant committees in the National Assembly. Previously, Shamsudeen served as the observer for Nigerian elections at the local, sub-national, and national levels. Shamsudeen holds a Bachelors in Political Science from Lagos State University and a Masters in Political Science from the University of Ibadan. He is also the current lead officer for the Buhari Project and a member of the Project Research Advisory Group in Nigeria.

Wilson Winston Muhwezi, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry at the Makerere University-Kampala College of Health Sciences, Uganda

Wilson Winston Muhwezi is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry at the Makerere University-Kampala College of Health Sciences. Previously, he was a researcher on the Makerere University-Johns Hopkins University Bill Gates Learning Grant team and senior researcher for Makerere University. He has a Ph.D. in Medical Science from the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden, a Masters in Health Promotion from the University of



Bergen in Norway, and a Bachelors in Social Work and Social Administration from Makerere University. Muhwezi also serves as a Board Member of Communication for Development Foundation Uganda and is a Research Fellow with ACODE.

Seth Kwizera, Executive Director of the Economic Policy Research Network in Rwanda, Rwanda



Seth Kwizera is the Executive Director of the Economic Policy Research Network in Rwanda. Prior to this position, Kwizera was the Director of Industrial Development Units at MINICOM and the MINICOM Imprest Administrator. He holds a Masters in Intellectual Property from African University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, a Masters in Business Administration from the Kigali Independent University, and a Bachelors in Economics from the University of Rwanda. Kwizera also works as the Coordinator for the Economic Policy Research Network.

Aloysius Ordu, Senior Fellow and Director of the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institute, United States

Aloysius Ordu is a senior fellow and director of the Africa Growth Initiative in the Global Economy and Development program at Brookings Institute in Washington, DC. Prior to holding this position, Ordu was the lead adviser of the African Development Fund Policy Innovation Lab created by the Bill and Melinda Gates Trust Fund for the African Development Bank Group, Senior Consultant for the World Meteorology Organization, Vice President of the African Development Bank, and regional operations director for the World Bank. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from Sussex University, Masters. in Quantitative Economics from Bristol University, and Bachelors in Economics and Law from University College, Cardiff, Wales. Ordu also holds membership to the board of directors to the Partnership for Transparency Fund.



Session VI, Panel V

James McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), USA



Jitendra Roychoudhury, Senior Research Fellow, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC), Saudi Arabia



Jitendra is a research fellow in the Transport and Urban Infrastructure program. His ongoing research portfolio at KAPSARC covers various issues related to economics, energy and freight, transport policy developments in India, and the impact of such policies on global energy markets. Before joining KAPSARC, Jitendra was director and chief consultant at HDR Salva, India. He has worked extensively as a commodity consultant within India's energy and infrastructure sectors, advising on developing commodity market entry strategies. He has authored and contributed to numerous consulting studies related to coal and coal policy in India, Indonesia and China. Jitendra has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pune, India, and a postgraduate diploma in business management from Welingkar's Institute of Management, Mumbai.

Paolo Magri, Executive Vice President, Italian Institute for International Policy Studies (ISPI), Italy

Paolo Magri is Executive Vice President of the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) and Professor of International Relations at Bocconi University. He is member of the Strategic Committee of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, member of the Europe Policy Group of the World Economic Forum (Davos) and member of the Board of Directors of the Italy-China Foundation. He is also a member of the Scientific Committees of the Elcano Royal Institute, the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units and of the Military Center for Strategic Studies.





Landry Signé, Senior Fellow, Brookings Africa, Cameroon

Closing Remarks

James McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), USA



About the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program:

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the Lauder Institute of the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations.

Since its formation, TTCSP has laid the foundation for a global initiative that will help bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environment, information and society, poverty alleviation and health. This international collaborative effort is designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that will improve policy making as well as strengthen democratic institutions and civil societies around the world. TTCSP at the Lauder Institute works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs.

About the Lauder Institute:

Founded by brothers Leonard and Ronald Lauder in 1983 in honor of their father, Joseph, the Joseph H. Lauder Institute for Management and International Studies provides a fully integrated business education to a new generation of leaders coming of age in a rapidly globalizing world.

About the University of Pennsylvania:

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is an Ivy League school with highly selective admissions and a history of innovation in interdisciplinary education and scholarship. As a world-class research institution, The University of Pennsylvania peer institutions are Stanford, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth, Cornell, Cambridge and Oxford. Penn was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 to push the frontiers of knowledge and benefit society by integrating study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical, pre-professional training at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Penn is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates with grant-based financial aid, making this intellectually compelling integration of liberal and professional education accessible to talented students of all backgrounds and empowering them to make an impact on the world. Penn boasts a picturesque campus in the middle of Philadelphia, a dynamic city that is conveniently located between Washington, D.C. and New York, New York.

About the Director:

James G. McGann, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer at the Lauder Institute of the Wharton School and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania. He conducts research on developments and problems that think tanks and policymakers around the world face, and offers guidance and technical assistance to think tanks, governments and public and private donors on how to enhance the quality and effect of policy analysis. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think tank based in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. McGann was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Villanova, where he taught international relations, international organizations and international law.

His main research priorities include: analyzing global developments in research on safety and international affairs; influencing United States' foreign and domestic policies through think tanks; strategic advice to BRICS and G20 countries from think tanks and transnational and regional public policy challenges. He is the creator and author of the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index which ranks think tanks in every region of the world.

Dr. McGann has served as a consultant and advisor to the World Bank; the United Nations; the United States Agency for International Development; the Soros, Rockefeller, MacArthur, Hewlett and Gates foundations; the Carnegie Corporation; and foreign governments on the role of nongovernmental, public policy and public engagement organizations in the US and developing and transitional countries. He has also served as the Senior Vice President for the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomats, the Public Policy Program Officer for the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Assistant Director of the Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has also served as a Senior Advisor to the Citizens' Network for Foreign Affairs and the Society for International Development.



“Helping to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy”

The mission of TTCSP is to increase the profile, capacity and performance of think tanks at the national, regional and global levels so they can better serve policymakers and the public.

TTCSP conducts research on the relationship between think tanks, politics and public policy, produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index, develops capacity-building resources and programs, manages and supports a global network of over 8,000 think tanks and trains future think tank scholars and executives.

TTCSP is often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank.”

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