



# Africa 2020 Think Tank Summit

**Repositioning Africa's Think Tanks to Realize the Power and  
Potential of Partnerships in Domestic Policy and World Politics**

**Cape Town, South Africa  
February 26-28, 2020**

## ABOUT THE THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at 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. Over the last 30 years, the TTCSP has developed and led a series of global initiatives that have helped bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environmental issues, information and society, poverty alleviation, and healthcare and global health. These international collaborative efforts are designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that improve policy making while strengthening democratic institutions and civil societies around the world.

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# Contents

## **Report Acknowledgments**

### **Think Tank Challenges**

African Think Tank Executive Panel

The Risks and Rewards of New World Reorder for Africa

The Rise of Foreign Investment in Africa & its Impact on Development and National and Regional Sovereignty

### **Policy and Growth Opportunities for African Think Tanks**

Updating Africa's Approach to Internally Displaced Persons, Migration and Refugees

Reframing Africa's Security Alliances to Meet Enduring and Emerging Threats

Can You Hear Us Now?: Strategic Communications for Think Tanks

Brain Drain and Flighty Funding: Addressing Threats to Think Tank Sustainability

The Role of States, Constitutions and Effective Governance in Shaping Africa's Future

The Promise and Peril of AI and 5G for Africa

Balancing on the Head of a Pin: Managing the Employment and the Youth Dividends

The Power of Parity in Africa

### **Future of Think Tanks**

Synergistic Partnerships: Using the Global Think Tank Arena to Advance the African Development Goals and the G20 Africa

Future Directions

### **Summit Program**

#### **List of Participants**

#### **List of Participating Institutions**

#### **Summit Acknowledgements**

#### **TTCSP Recent and Forthcoming Publication**

#### **About TTCSP**





## Report Acknowledgments

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The views expressed are those of participants from the 2020 Global Think Tank Summit and should not be attributed to the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, the Lauder Institute, or the University of Pennsylvania. Any attributed quotes have been expressly consented to by the relevant participant.

# Introduction

## Repositioning Africa's Think Tanks to Realize the Power and Potential of Partnerships in Domestic Policy and World Politics

At the first Africa Think Tank Summit held in 2014 in South Africa, Dr. Frannie Leautier, the then Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation, reported that 30 percent of Africa's think tanks may close or be in a serious crisis<sup>1</sup>. Dr. James McGann suggested, based on his research and evaluation of Africa's think tanks, that an additional 25-30 percent are fragile or failing. With ongoing major shifts in private and public-sector support, as well as with major organizational challenges, an urgent effort is needed to raise awareness about the think tank sustainability crisis in Africa. Africa's think tanks face small staff complements and budgets due to insufficient and irregular funding, high staff turnover due to low salaries, and financial instability. Taken together, they create widespread institutional fragility and an acute sustainability crisis. An effort is required to reposition Africa's think tanks to be powerful so that they can collaborate in domestic policy as well as the global stage.

Although regional cooperation is weaker in Africa than other places, in the past 25 years there has been an expansion of collective regional problem solving strategies. Much of this comes from the economic regionalization in which neighboring countries are beginning to address issues collectively<sup>2</sup>. The potential to significantly spur economic development is on the rise after the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) was accepted by 54 out of 55 African countries in 2019. It aims to stimulate domestic trade opportunities and promote new economic development. Africa has a great potential in improving local manufacturing. Currently only 15% of goods are traded intra-regionally, compared to about 60% in Asia and Europe. New trading agreements will help expand local economies and stimulate employment<sup>3</sup>.

However, amongst some African countries, the legacy of conflict, cultural practices, and widely diverse priorities and economic interests have made it a challenge for all countries to view things in the same way. Thus, as a result, if countries and their internal policies are fragmented from one another, it makes it exponentially more difficult for think tanks in particular countries to partner with one another.

Recent global developments have positioned the African continent as a new political and economic epicenter. China's investments into African countries have triggered similar financial contributions from India, Russia, and Turkey<sup>4</sup>. The influx of foreign capital into emerging economies is associated with global interest in a growing economy that is rich in human capital

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<sup>1</sup> James McGann, Landry Signé, and Monde Muyangwa. *The crisis of African think tanks: Challenges and solutions*. Brookings, 2017

<sup>2</sup> Gilbert M. Khadiagala. *Regional Cooperation on Democratization and Conflict Management in Africa*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2018

<sup>3</sup> Nick Lowndes. *Africa's economies draw closer, slowly*. The Economist, 2019

<sup>4</sup> *Africa is attracting ever more interest from powers elsewhere*. The Economist Briefing, 2019

and natural resources. Mutual collaboration will allow Africa to build infrastructures that benefit not only foreign investors, but also Africans, thereby supporting their individual development aspirations.

The 2019 Think Africa Partnership (TAP) is yet another initiative that can potentially aid in a successful future of Africa's think tanks. TAP is a multi-donor trust fund that was initiated by the World Bank Office of the Chief Economist for the Africa Region. The TAP initiative hopes to connect policy-makers with relevant data and experts. TAP connects African scholars, students and experts along with 30 policy officials who are looking to produce homegrown policy recommendations. The partnership is also looking to engage more women researchers and has three programs to ensure all voices on the continent are being heard. The hope of the collaboration is to expand the voices being heard when it comes to policy making both at the bilateral and multilateral level<sup>5</sup>. The TAP initiative further exemplifies how crucial it is not only to have a working relationship between policy experts and government officials but also highlights the importance of uplifting everyone's voice along the policy making pipeline. The initiative will hopefully address some sustainability and inclusivity issues that will allow think tanks to partner with both their national and international communities.

African think tanks have the potential to provide much-needed localized expertise that can infuse policy debates with rigorous evidence-based data and an authentic African perspective. By focusing on examples of African think tanks that are succeeding, African think tanks can come together to collaborate and create a unified African voice, whereby showing donors how crucial they are to the success of their respective countries, and increase support for the fragile African think tank ecosystem. As a think tank community, we must work to ensure that African think tanks have the tools to thrive, prosper, and grow.

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<sup>5</sup> *Think Africa Partnership: A Knowledge Platform for Economic Transformation and Growth in Africa*. The World Bank, 2019



### Think Tank Challenges

## Africa Think Tank Senior Executives Panel

The senior executive panel presented on some of the main policy challenges facing African countries today. Presenters noted that there are deep structural issues within African think tanks that will take about 30-40 years to resolve. Lack of economic transformation and rapid population growth with consecutive urbanization leads to the emergence of unplanned cities without infrastructure or basic services. Modern Africa is largely agrarian except for South Africa, which exhibits some industrialization. Currently there is a pressure for the government to create jobs and provide for the ever-growing population, which is dominated by youth. Although Africa is in an era of peace and development to ensure that African governments can provide for their populations effective governance and leadership in Africa must be resolved.

Furthermore, African think tanks often work in silos and therefore experience physical and ideological isolation in addition to ineffective communication. As a result, many think tanks are hindered from being active participants in policy curating and are often limited in capacity building. Another crucial challenge many think tanks in the region face is involving women in decision making. Women's participation can bolster the global economy because women are more likely to invest in their local communities. Africa cannot develop if half of the population - women, are not represented. Current policies are insufficient to support Africa globally when committing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and locally due to regional geopolitical

shifts. Africa's demographic distribution is changing which leads to unemployment, an additional burden on governments to provide social support.

Operational challenges for African think tanks include: access to credible data to inform policy, funding difficulties, high reliance on traditional donors, and lack of interest from the state in funding local think tanks. If not quickly addressed, youth unemployment will lead to serious policy implications such as exploitation and radicalization and there will be a rise in regional conflicts and community security issues. It is therefore imperative that in Africa peace, development, and governance issues are addressed to mitigate the detrimental effects many of these issues will have on society.

### **Challenges**

- It is difficult to be an autonomous think tank in Africa due to lack of external funding. Due to the fact that think tanks are always in a fundraising mode, there is very little time allocated to research and analysis on the issues.
- Decreasing funding creates a more competitive environment rather than a collaborative one.
- Operational Challenges: access to reliable data to inform policies, funding difficulties and high reliance on traditional donors.
- Irrelevance of data because of the inability for think tanks to be autonomous;
- Mistrust, especially from the government, many of whom do not consider think tanks to be relevant or trustworthy.

### **Recommendations**

- Explore the nexus between peace, government and development.
- Develop global multidisciplinary solutions to address the think tank crisis in Africa.
- Galvanize a global community to mobilize social dialogue.
- Provide training on policy making and develop a strategic engagement.
- Develop social policy and peace resolution with governments.
- Project funding approach: Create creative venues to attract funds and partner with other think tanks in order to produce valuable data.
- Embrace technology and analytical tools.
- Work towards increased collaboration; although it may not always be easy, it is an important tool to leverage knowledge and development.
- Engage you and policy makers while performing research.





Think Tank Challenges

## The Risks and Rewards of New World Reorder for Africa

Many scholars believe the differentiating factor between developing nations and developed nations is the respect for the rule of law. Therefore it is imperative for the rule of law to be strengthened for Africa to take full advantage of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) the world is currently undergoing. There is an urgent need for unity amongst African nations to facilitate development. One area in which the disunity of African nations is delaying progress is the war against terrorism in the Sahel region and East Africa. There is a need for African governments and the private sector to leverage technology for continuous growth and development. Technology should be used as a means to strengthen deliberative democracy and put power in the hands of the citizens. Ideas about how to implement more technology in governments include: digital transformation and entrepreneurship, consultation-using software developed locally, youth engagement, and citizen-to-citizen policy making. This will aid in the creation of an African narrative controlled by Africans and not by the Western world. Using think tanks, Africa can create its own narrative by creating solutions to African problems by Africans.

## **Challenges**

- The prevalence of infectious diseases and how to combat them. COVID-19 is a prominent topic of discussion and its impact on the social, economic and political future of the continent and the world in general.
- The prevalence of the dichotomy of Authoritarianism versus Democracy. According to the participants, authoritarianism is obsolete and should be done away with. There is a need for the creation of new paradigms in order to conceptualize new avenues of growth and development.
- One of the challenges to good governance in many countries in Africa is adversarial elitism and new forms of internal apartheid where individuals within communities are excluded and ostracized.

## **Recommendations**

- One Vision for Africa: Multilateral development parties should work to create an untied strategy for Africa.
- Role of the private sector: Pan-African investment company (small or large contributions) should invest in the continent to combat challenges and invest according to the immediate needs of regional communities.
- Getting rid of authoritarian regimes and finding alternative forms of governance.
- Transition from thinking about development to transformation. Think tanks should begin to align a strategy for Africa between multilateral development banks that have to work together.
- Target the general population through social media rather than solely addressing policy makers.
- Think tanks should partner with regional and global universities.
- Invest in regionalization and create a concerted structure such as a Pan-African investment company. The company will bolster economic progress and promote unity amongst African nations and will be financed by mandatory contributions made by member states.
- Reframe how think tanks operate in relation to governments with the hope to become multidisciplinary bodies that speak to various issues.
- Policy makers alone should not be the target of think tanks, the general public will greatly benefit from the knowledge of think tanks through public conversation and dialogue.



### Think Tank Challenges

## The Rise of Foreign Investment in Africa & its Impact on Development and National and Regional Sovereignty

It is extremely challenging for economic investments to take place in socially or politically unstable environments. Despite this, China has been aggressively financing trade, investments, and infrastructure on the African continent. This has raised suspicions about ulterior motives sino-investment companies have in Africa. Many argue Chinese investors have researched, identified, and taken advantage of and capitalized on the needs of the African market. For example, in the telecommunications industry where TECNO phones( a Chinese brand) has sold over \$4 billion worth of phones in Africa alone resulting in economic growth for China, but not Africa.. This, and many other examples are indications of how foreign corporations and governments have made huge economic inroads into Africa. Many claim that Chinese investment in Africa often overlooks the interests of Africans whilst advancing their own. Sadly, China is not the only country with questionable initiatives in Africa. All of this begs the question

about the effect on the sovereignty of African nations that receive substantial economic investments.

Overall, there is a lack of common agenda and single-minded developmental consensus amongst African leaders and national cabinets that discourages possible investment opportunities in many African countries. Beyond taking advantage of natural resources, the panel also addressed how African countries can position themselves to leverage other opportunities to effectively channel capital for growth and development.

### **Challenges**

- Security challenges: The rise of terrorist attacks in the sub-region and the threat of civil unrest and conflict deters potential investors from investing in the continent.
- Migration: As an effect of the aforementioned point, high numbers of intra-national migration and international migration affects the image of stability in many African countries which affects investment opportunities in the region.
- There is a lack of a common agenda and single-minded developmental consensus amongst African leaders. This political instability:
  - Discourages honest investors to invest in the continent
  - Encourages a space for corruption and financial malpractice in other investments that come into the continent
- The lapse between research and policy in the think tank world, often they have helpful insights related to foreign investment and national development yet are either unable to strategically communicate these ideas to governments or are not given the space to do so.
- The recolonization of the African continent by its leaders and the mortgaging of the future of young people to the West and other big corporations. Thus, there is a need for accountability and transparency, in order to fuel development.

### **Recommendations**

- African nations must commit to regional economic blocs that will encourage trade integration across the continent.
- African nations need to develop policies that encourage internal job creation. These nations must implement investment policies that will ensure greater participation in a global stage.
- The African economic space must begin to be diversified from a natural resources-based economy to a more industrial and production-based economy.
- Governments should consult with think tanks in order for them to guide national investment decisions.
- There is a need for more competitive sectors in Africa that will drive development. Our Extractive industries pour a lot into the African development narrative but countries will begin to face what scholars describe as the “resource curse.”





Policy and Growth Opportunities for African Think Tanks

## Updating Africa's Approach to Internally Displaced Persons, Migration and Refugees

In Africa many issues are presented as double edged swords. Migration, for instance, is an opportunity but can also present challenges in the area of security. It can be led by numerous factors and to better understand this phenomenon, there needs to be an examination of the root causes, facilitated by think tanks, who in turn will share the recommendations with leaders. Internal displacement in Africa is a significant issue and to handle it effectively and efficiently there needs to be an active effort to understand the underlying causes. In West Africa, particularly in Côte d' Ivoire, 26% of the population is made of non-nationals, an indication of a high migrant population. Another example of this is the Northern African country of Morocco which was, until recently, a country of origin to transition. Persons migrating to Morocco with hopes of continuing their journey to Spain or other European countries sometimes had to end their journey in Morocco, creating an environment where the authorities had no choice but to think about migration. An influx of internal migrants can create a fragile environment and therefore there needs to be concrete solutions. Aside from the instability internal migrants can cause, there is also the need for security and protection. There needs to be a political push to look at and reevaluate asylum strategy as well as other aspects of



migration laws. Migrating persons need humanitarian protection and a way to access the job market. The African continent needs to be ready and willing to address issues relating to internal migration in an effective and humane manner.

### **Challenges**

- There is a lack of extensive research on the causes of internal and external migration amongst the African population,
- Governments are unable to provide jobs for their citizens therefore many of them turn to migration in order to look elsewhere for promising job markets.
- A lack of management and support of young people on departure and arrival at their respective destination countries.

### **Recommendations**

- States should begin work with international migration borders to see how to support young people and integrate them into the job market.
- Recruitment for young people coming out of university and potential funding to boost the incentives of young people to stay in their home countries.
- Focus on why people are migrating and not just the people themselves.
- Think tanks need to work on migration policies, prove scientific evidence, clarify the issues, and present and publish recommendations to stakeholders.
- Work with the government to help produce scientific evidence as needed.
- Produce a policy brief that includes extensive research and recommendations concerning the issue of migration and its detrimental effects.



Policy and Growth Opportunities for African Think Tanks

## Reframing Africa's Security Alliances to Meet Enduring and Emerging Threats

The threat of terrorism and breakdown of the security apparatus in many nations is imminent and ongoing. Countries such as Mali, Central Africa and Burkina Faso are finding themselves in a constant battle for stability and resources. There is a need to ameliorate the situation to prevent the destruction of the already weakening social, economic, and political frameworks within the country. There are two kinds of crises that affect the African continent: enduring and emerging situations. Examples of enduring situations are situations such as the protracted crisis in Somalia, Darfur, and the Sahel region. Examples of emerging situations are the locust crisis in Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan. Another example is the COVID-19 pandemic and African countries' responses to it. These situations expose the challenges of handling adversities on the continent and highlight the continued dependence on Western aid.

Throughout the panel there was significant discussion of Alliance 46 which requires states to ratify the rule of law and democratic ideals within the nation. Even though the charter presumes the importance of freedom of speech as the cornerstone for dialogue, some of the nations have displayed actions that have gone against the tenets of the charter (ie. Cameroon, DRC, and Rwanda). Many of these nations were involved in violations of democratic rights and freedoms (i.e. jailing of journalists, political prisoners). The charter upholds constitutional

sacrosanctity and thus it must be obeyed at all costs. However, many nations have found ways to amend the constitution in their favor, often sighting support from 'the people' when questioned. This begs the theoretical question about who are 'the people,' when the majority of the people are poor, economically and socially disenfranchised, and politically agitated. How is that they agree to acts that directly go against their rights? Poor governance is the bedrock of many of the problems in Africa and to move forward it needs to be properly addressed.

### **Challenges**

- A major challenge is the lack of economic transformation and the danger of addressing the symptoms of underdevelopment and not the root causes.
- The young restless energy that we find all across the continent. This needs to be channeled into appropriate sources otherwise many young people will be radicalized into political and religious causes which may feed into the rising rate of terrorism on the continent.
- A fundamental challenge is the weakness of the security apparatus in many African countries which in turn has a profound impact on the perception of state sovereignty. The weakness in the state apparatus is also reflected in the working of the African Union which is largely unable to bring a peaceful resolution to disputes in the region - an example of this being the Libya crisis.
- The majority of African leaders have hijacked democracy and have equated elections with democracy. This privileges the procedural part of democracy and not the real practical and qualitative aspect of democracy. The international community is complicit in this issue.
- The issues that face the African continent are now populism, nationalism and authoritarianism which is closing the space for think tanks and democratic institutions to operate and affect policy. This opens the space for military approaches, para-govt activities and private security services.

### **Recommendations**

- Other African nations ought to follow the good example of the security alliance between Nigeria, Cameroon, and Chad which has stabilized the conflict in the Chad Basin.
- Transnational brigades ought to be formed in places where there are none and energized in areas where they have been weakened in order to strengthen security in these areas before they reach a point of high insecurity within the nations.
- The need for an African Peer Review mechanism - a non-confrontational mechanism that seeks to address the issues of political leadership within many African states.
- There needs to be more nuance in describing good governance. The challenges of nation building with bad governance is a huge disservice. We can't conflate both. To ask African nations to build states in one or two generations is a huge disservice.
- There needs to be a restructuring of regional organizations like the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and the African Union with a more practical mandate.



Policy and Growth Opportunities for African Think Tanks

## Can You Hear Us Now?: Strategic T20 Communications for Think Tanks

No doubt, communication is a crucial skill of any policy-making organization. If one cannot get their research findings and recommendations across and catch stakeholders' attention, all other frameworks and mechanisms will not be feasible. How can African think tanks convey sensitive information in resource-limited settings? How does one navigate complicated political structure and social disregard in countries where issues are most severe? Why are think tanks not priority for the governments? How do think tanks provide information in a friendly and accessible manner to the public? A panel of communication experts gathered to discuss the aforementioned questions and shared successful strategies in disseminating their findings.

According to the panelists, digital presence is one of the primary tools for communicating and building an African narrative. All social media platforms can be utilized in promoting policy organization and distributing research results. Experts shared the following strategies of communication: publishing everything on a website including policies and reports in two languages, free access to publications, social media watch of other institutions to explore global trends, aligning organizational reports and research with utmost important issues, linking publications with current trends and events on Twitter, coaching fellows and staff to promote

company on social media to increase outreach, showing photos of behind the scenes of events and interviews on Instagram, bringing national and international press to the organizational conferences, and promoting fellows on TV to assist with building regional view.

Think tanks need to understand their position in communication and engage in strategic communication with their citizens. Communication is crucial for advocacy around equality which was highlighted in movements such as the MeToo movement. To build capacity, one has to empower different communication teams to put out well researched data. Public-level communication can be managed via citizens' debates geared towards the public and policy-makers to assist them in learning about think tank work. This communication is based on a digital platform. Every three months a citizen's debate is launched online, and its results are documented in a digital newspaper. Graphic reports and videos are extremely successful because they draw people's attention to the full publications. Content is shared on WhatsApp. Other communication venues include podcasts and radio presence for people who are not connected online.

### **Challenges**

- Lack of financial support from the governments due to controversial research findings. While some African think tanks are affiliated with national governments and produce research projects supported by the federal funds, some policy organizations struggle to disseminate their research results because they can contradict current political views. It is important for think tanks to maintain balance between speaking up and keeping quiet.
- Public and private sector distrust in research findings is linked to the history of “fake news”. This issue can be addressed by conducting fact checks within teams and communicating not just the end results, but the study process to maintain transparency and accessibility of a research product.
- Funding organizations are often disinterested in policy recommendations because research findings are too lengthy and hard to interpret.
- Lack of citizen participation into the research process related to misinformation, poor communication practices, and overall social disengagement.

### **Recommendations**

- Communications and marketing strategies will need to constantly adapt and transform to remain relevant and to meet the demands of one's audience.
- Packaging of information is of utmost importance (the shorter the better). Speak the language of one's audience and tailor-make products per audience grouping.
- Design research dissemination around key policy windows/ key influencers. Include the use of multiple social media platforms, including images and sound.
- Engage stakeholders and the audience in the communications strategy from the outset. This will encourage buy-in of the end product.





Policy and Growth Opportunities for African Think Tanks

## Brain Drain and Flighty Funding: Addressing Threats to Think Tank Sustainability

Brain drain is the idea that once the domestic population becomes formally educated they emigrate to other countries, leaving their home country depleted of human skills and resources. Many times when the highly educated population moves away, crucial funds move with them leading to a prominent shift in the funding many think tanks receive. Even though the African Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) attracted foreign investors, policy research is generally not supported by domestic governments. This leaves them vulnerable with no chance to access the necessary funds to run their operation. As a result, it is important for think tanks to stand out when applying for the fund allocation to support a research project. This could aid in reducing challenges such as small budgets and low salaries. Think tanks must come up with innovative ways to attract funds to compete with brain drain.

## **Challenges**

- Lack of core funding is one of the major reasons for the brain drain.
- Public distrusts civil society programs given that some think tanks have trouble producing transparent and sound research since they have limited funds.
- Sensitive research topics around corruption and accountability often don't get funded by the governments which severely hurts the quality, integrity and independence of the think tank.
- Relying on traditional donors is harder which makes project-based funding an issue.
- Competition for funding between regional think tanks adds to the issue of funding allocation.

## **Recommendations**

- Since donors fund policy research according to the current issues, it is important to articulate why think tanks matter and inform funders on the most relevant issues in a way that upholds the think tank's transparency and credibility.
- Think tanks will survive by adapting to the current trends and needs which is something that think tanks can collaborate together on.
- Brain drain occurs due to lack of funding to support salaries. Think tanks should come up with creative ways to offer careers like access to important stakeholders or other key policymakers as well as hosting workshops or other low-cost events for employees, not just salaries.
- It is crucial to develop systems to keep staff engaged both in and out of work so they are committed to the crucial mission of each respective think tank.
- Foreign investors are an important source of funding, but it is also important to encourage local donations from the middle-class Africans by engaging them into policy making processes and so they feel they are a part of their local think tanks many of whom are trying to enact positive change for all people.
- African Development Bank (AfDB) can support African think tanks by allocating a portion of funds and bridge a gap between governments and private citizens so everyone is committed to furthering policy.
- Collaborations and partnerships between think tanks will allow support to staff and decrease competition for funding amongst think tanks.
- Think tanks will benefit from cultivating talent within the organizations by creating youth leadership programs and other crucial public forums that raise awareness to all people the work think tanks are doing in their community.
- Regional governments can provide funding for the research they are interested in pursuing.



Policy and Growth Opportunities for African Think Tanks

## The Role of States, Constitutions and Effective Governance in Shaping Africa's Future

Although states have a responsibility to their citizens, they are often not upheld. In some places, elected officials are only accountable to the people who nominated and endorsed them, usually a very small number of people as compared to the population of the state. As a result, many countries have an unequal distribution of power and resources held by the small majority of people at the top. The constitution throughout many African states is enshrined in good governance and respect of the law and is founded on the notion that the constitution must protect the general population. Think tanks then must ask what their part can be in ensuring their domestic governments uphold principles like good governance and free and fair elections promised in their constitutions. States may have a good constitution, but political will is equally as important. Many politicians may see the importance of the constitution in principle but may not respect it as a decree to uphold. It is important to remember however, the constitution is implemented and cannot be changed at the will of those in power. As a result, think tanks need to work with citizens and provide a civic education and outlook.

## **Challenges**

- Neglect of the constitution by many African leaders who want to see their own party and selective cabinet hold all the power in their state.
- The state is not playing its role as a regulator to those select people who are abusing power based on the constitutional guidelines set out in that state.
- The integrity of the constitution is in danger because of unconstitutional actions of some politicians which aggravate citizens and other stakeholders who would like to see their government uphold the written constitution.
- Although some countries have protocols and standards, they do not use them to hold governments accountable.

## **Recommendations**

- The state is not playing its role based on the constitution because in many cases it is not holding elected officials accountable to the guidelines set out which is then not applied to the political party. Thus, there is a crucial need to safeguard the constitution.
- Stable constitutions are not derived only to suit the people in power, they are meant for every citizen of the state and cannot be left to politicians alone.
- The constitutions of states should meet the needs of the various sectors, all of which are vital to the development and growth, of the population and not only the rich and powerful.
- Think tanks should begin to tackle the constant interloping of political parties and the constitution by ensuring they are providing apolitical research and recommendations.
- Think tanks should also perform studies and on the ground work that monitors political parties and governments irrespective of their ideology or background.



Policy and Growth Opportunities for African Think Tanks

## The Promise and Peril of AI and 5G for Africa

Africa is as capable of embracing the huge potential of artificial intelligence and 5G technology as the rest of the world. In order for 5G and AI to thrive in Africa, think tanks, businesses, and governments must find ways to be pro-development and support the distribution of Information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure across nations and the continent. Africa, right now, is characterized by low telephone penetration, slow network growth, and poorly dimensioned intercity telephone links. Those who do have telecom access are provided access through 2G /3G.

Since only some parts of most countries have telecom access and most of Africa experiences low rates of digital literacy; investment in hard support infrastructure, connectivity, spectrum allocation, and harmonization of legislation to facilitate e-commerce would still have little impact on 5G and AI. Consequently, African agencies must pursue opportunities to engage similar global agencies in conversations on both technical and best practices standards. These standards will continue to shape cost drivers and the degree to which telecom services will ultimately be rolled out in the continent. These goals can be achieved in ways that range from the promotion of STEM education, newly developed institutions to resource, leveraging knowledge, skill leveraging to secure foreign direct investment, and balanced international trade. Such collective engagement will not only influence technical performance of 5G and AI



on the global stage, but also benefit economies of scale that make the technologies applicable to many fields (ie. medicine, science, transportation, agriculture) making it affordable for all citizens of Africa.

### **Challenges**

- The human capital in Africa hasn't developed in this scene.
- Human capital still hasn't developed in students to support education to support economies to these levels. We need to find a way to train the youth to be active in the economy.
- Access to education to be able to gain skills. There is a niche where economics plays a part, some part of the population willing to do a certain job. If they had access to education, they could upgrade their skills and move ahead.
- How do you develop human capital and industrialization?
- Can technology (i.e. 5G and AI) accelerate a shift to a big economy in the African context or does it present those same challenges of wiping out existing economies?"

### **Recommendations**

- One of the policies that African countries need to push for is developing local context, if a certain country or company is investing in a country, that country has to have local policies and have institutions capable of delivering that.
- Government policy has to be wide enough so that it supports a lot of other opportunities. If it observes a niche growing a particular sector then it has to enable policies that support that particular sector and it has to evolve as the sector evolves, it cannot be stagnant. They have to be evolving as the technology evolves.
- Think tanks have access to a wide range of people across different sectors to reach out to people and see how technology is evolving then it will help policy makers.



Policy and Growth Opportunities for African Think Tanks

## Balancing on the Head of a Pin: Managing the Employment and the Youth Dividends

Youth unemployment is a complex issue. It is not always that the unemployment itself is the issue, it is the effects of the unemployment that makes it worth mentioning. For example, we see that other countries have also struggled with youth unemployment as well. However what makes it so critical in Africa, is the unique set of circumstances surrounding Africa's youth. With Africa on its way to having the youngest population in the world, Africa needs a plan to incorporate youth in its future.

The consequences of a high youth unemployment rate are severe in the case of Africa. Youth are leaving the continent in search of better opportunities and those who do not leave are left fighting for resources, consequently contributing to conflict on the continent. These youth typically end up living in poor conditions. 90% of African youth live in low and lower-middle income countries. This creates a lack of access to, and availability of, formal jobs for this demographic. However, even in countries with bigger economies in Africa, youth unemployment is still a major issue.

Youth unemployment can be a threat to things like social cohesion and political stability. In Nigeria for instance, the youth unemployment rate is high. In 2030, Nigeria will have one of the

biggest populations in the world. With such a high unemployment rate, it leaves the country struggling. To deal with the unemployment conundrum, about 4 billion jobs need to be provided annually, however Nigeria provides only 700,000 jobs per year. This lack of opportunity may encourage youth to use their energy in different ways. Militant groups such as Boko Haram, have found it easy to recruit and target jobless young people for their operations. The desperation of African youth for better opportunities creates a situation where the vulnerability of the youth can be exploited to support their agenda.

Incorporating youth into Africa's future has the potential to increase productivity resulting in strong and inclusive economic growth. What we see in Africa today is a lack of economic opportunities for youth populations. According to the African Development Bank, "of Africa's 420 million youth aged 15-35, about one-third are unemployed, another third vulnerably employed, and one-sixth in wage employment." With the rising number of youths, it is important and somewhat critical that the governments find a way to create new jobs, or other wage-earning opportunities for African youth.

### **Challenges**

- Youth employment as a whole is a challenge, however, the disproportionate rates between males and females suggests other underlying issues.
- Creating the jobs themselves is a challenge.
- What is a job? What does it mean to be employed?
- Lack of career planning resources.

### **Recommendations**

- Strategic support in order to enhance and ensure that there is organic transformation.
- Formalization of the informal sector.
- Massive investment in skills development in order to respond to the 4th industrial revolution.
- Equal investment in skill developments and academic degrees.
- Building ecosystems in the rural areas in order to prevent rural urban drift.
- Leveraging and taking advantage of the shared resources that exist within the region in order to improve socio-economic conditions within the country.
- There needs to be an investment in women.
- Change in narratives around informal and formal employment.
- Integration of skill development as an integral part of economic policy.



## Policy and Growth Opportunities for African Think Tanks

# The Power of Parity in Africa

During her keynote address, Lohini Moodley, Partner at McKinsey & Company, shared results and recommendations from the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) report, *The Power of Parity: Advancing Women's Equality in Africa* that was released in November 2019. The purpose of the report was to track the progress on gender equality in Africa. The report finds that accelerating progress towards parity could boost African economies by the equivalent of 10 percent of their collective GDP by 2025. The report included gender parity scores for each country composed of 15 indicators across two areas, gender inequality in society and gender inequality at work. The report identified five priority areas for action to accelerate progress towards gender parity: (1) human capital investment; (2) generate new economic opportunities; (3) leverage technology; (4) shape attitudes and change social norms; and (5) enforce laws and policies. Gender parity is used to measure gender balance. It can aid in achieving gender equality but is not the goal in and of itself. Gender equality is more than equal representation, it is strongly tied to women's rights, and often requires policy changes. They should go together into ensuring the access, protection and civil and human rights of women in society and labor force.



### Future of Think Tanks

## Synergistic Partnerships: Using the Global Think Tank Arena to Advance the African Development Goals and the G20 Africa

Neither the T20 nor the G20 sufficiently represent Africa and the Middle East. In order to ensure the recognition of the multiplicity of views and perspectives in global politics, the T20 and G20 must take steps to incorporate these underrepresented regions. Further, the G20 discusses policy issues directly relevant to Africa, and yet African perspectives are insufficiently represented in such discussions. Think tanks have a responsibility to advance their recommendations for the inclusion of the African Union (AU) in the T20 and G20. The European Union (EU) has identified areas of cooperation with the African Union in its new agenda, with key focuses on 1) Peace and security, Sahel and Horn of Africa, 2) development aid, 3) economic cooperation, 4) need to create jobs in Africa, and 5) migration. Collaboration between the AU and EU is necessary in ensuring that the EU agenda is responsive to African issues and informed by African perspectives, and that its strategy is comprehensive in its coalescing around the goals of both unions. Ultimately, it is imperative that African think tanks collaborate and unify their voices in order to support the AU's petition for T20 AND G20 inclusion, and more specifically a G20 compact with Africa. This is not to suggest that regional nuance within Africa must give way to homogeneity, but that shared policy issues and goals must be established to consolidate and strengthen the voice of the AU.



## **Challenges**

- African think tanks must collaborate in order to present a unified voice to the G20.
- Important to look at the wealth gap between high-income societies and low-income societies.
- Issues of funding representatives from low resourced countries to participate in the T20.
- There is significant underrepresentation of African think tanks at the G20. Out of the 200 that participated, only 22 are from Africa.

## **Recommendations**

- African think tanks need to collaborate to develop a single recommendation to the T20 and G20 summits. Both summits must be more accepting of these recommendations.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are deeply embedded in the G20, and Africa frequently appears on the agenda. Yet, little is ever accomplished due to the lack of African representation. African think tanks must take action to change the opinion of policymakers and press for better representation of and fulfillment of African interests and goals.
- Think tanks must engage more with grassroots organizations.
- The agenda of the G20 needs to be restructured in order to incorporate issues relevant to Africa.
- There is a need for African think tanks to be involved in the T20 and G20.
- African think tanks must advance their recommendations for the African Union to join the G20 and T20.



## Future of Think Tanks

# Future Directions

Think tanks are critical to policy making in Africa, yet they face a growing crisis in sustainability-- a crisis which threatens to shutter the doors of 30% of think tanks on the continent. This pessimistic sustainability trajectory will have a tragic impact on the development of Africa and in the ability of the continent's leaders and thinkers to responsively address policy issues. It is not only crucial that African think tanks coalesce around the continent's most pressing policy issues, but also that they collaborate in their confrontation of the strategic and operational challenges facing think tanks. For example, African think tanks are often hampered by their insufficient capacity and funding. It is through the collaboration witnessed at the 2020 Africa Think Tank Summit, and in the recreation of the capacity for such collaboration beyond the Summit, that African think tanks will be able to address these concerns in the long-term.

### **Recommendations**

- The development of a manual for the successful implementation of policy, in order to produce tangible results.
- Teaching young people to generate their own data and develop relevant policy options based on that data. Then, come with policy options based on their data.
- Creating capacity to develop and complete long-term policy projects in collaboration with other think tanks and policy makers.
- Ensure the relevance of research to pressing policy issues in Africa, as research is sometimes tangential to these issues. Convene civil society to work on participatory processes in research.

# 2020 Africa Think Tank Summit Program

## Repositioning Africa's Think Tanks to Realize the Power and Potential of Partnerships in Domestic Policy and World Politics

26 -28 February 2020  
Cape Town, South Africa

*Hosted by:*

*African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)*

*South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)*

*Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), The Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania*

### Wednesday, 26 February 2020

12.00-17.00 Hotel Check-In

18.00-18.15 Registration

18.15-18.30 Welcome Remark

- **James G. MCGANN** - Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), The Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania (USA)
- **Elizabeth SIDIROPOULOS** - Chief Executive Officer, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) (South Africa)
- **Vasu GOUNDEN** - Founder and Executive Director African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) (South Africa)

18.30-19.30 Opening Panel

#### **Africa Think Tank Senior Executives Panel**

*A group of Chief Executive officers from across the region will discuss the key policy issues confronting the region and the strategic and operational challenges facing their respective think tanks. The discussion will focus on the key policy issues, strategies, plans and programs that each executive has developed to meet both the challenges and opportunities presented by this new, complex and disruptive environment in which all policymakers and think tanks must operate. The objective of the panel is to highlight the cross-cutting issues facing the region and to foreshadow some of the issues that will be explored during the Summit.*

**Chair: Monde MUYANGWA** - Africa Program Director, Wilson Center (USA)

- **Dede AMANOR-WILKS** - Executive Director, Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) (Ghana)
- **Vasu GOUNDEN** - Founder and Executive Director African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) (South Africa)
- **Donald MMARI** - Executive Director, REPOA (Tanzania)
- **Elizabeth SIDIROPOULOS** - Chief Executive Officer, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) (South Africa)
- **Stephen Mwachofi SINGO**, Deputy Director, Security Research and Information Center, Kenya
- **Oladiran (Ola) BELLO**, Executive Director for Good Governance Africa (GGA) (Nigeria)

19.30-20.00 Welcome Keynote Address

**Honourable Thandi Modise, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa (South Africa)**

*A national (South Africa) or regional leader who knows the world of think tanks and policy will welcome the group to Cape Town and share his/her views on the state of think tanks and policy advice or on the state of politics and public policy in the region.*

20.00-21.00 Welcome Buffet Dinner, Dessert, Coffee and Tea

## Thursday, 27 February 2020

08.30-09.00 Registration

09.00-09.15 Summit Opening Remarks

09.15-09.40 Opening Keynote Address

**Professor Charles Villa Vicencio, Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town (South Africa)**

*Speaker to provide an overview of the major opportunities and challenges facing Africa that encourages think tanks to help create the partnerships and policy innovation that will make it possible to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities.*

9.40-10.55 Plenary Panel I

### **The Risks and Rewards of New World Reorder for Africa**

*Geopolitical uncertainty—including established and emerging power rivalries, challenges to multilateralism, the growing influence of non-state actors and the implications of unprecedented technological advances—has created challenges to the Post WWII economic and security alliances and architecture in the African region. These challenges manifest themselves in a number of ways in the African continent and are at the top of domestic and foreign policy agendas—along with the future of Europe's and United States' and China's role in the region. Africa nations share the goal of preserving peace and prosperity, but they have different ideas about how to achieve this goal. How can governments in the region and other actors create a more effective role in strengthening cooperation and reducing regional tensions? What are the prospects for forming a regional security architecture that can manage issues such as economic growth and development, territorial disputes, strategic stability, and nontraditional security challenges? This panel will explore the impact of these challenges to the security and prosperity of the African region.*

**Chair: Neuma GROBBELAAR** - Foreign Policy and Development Expert, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) (South Africa)

- **H H S Viswanathan**, Distinguished Fellow , Observer Research Foundation (India)
- **Bassou ABDELHAK** - Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South (Morocco)
- **Waleed ADDAS** – Head of LLF Management Unit, Islamic Development Bank (Saudi Arabia)
- **Jon Stever** – Chief Executive Officer, Innovation for Policy Foundation (USA)

10.55-11.15 Coffee Break

11.15-12.30 Plenary Panel II

### **The Rise of Foreign Investment in Africa & its Impact on Development and National and Regional Sovereignty**

*Africa is increasingly on the radar of a range of external partners, and there is no shortage of uniquely African-focused policy initiatives to support partnership with the region. A small sample of these include the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) launched in the early 2000s by China and now overtaken by the sheer scale of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI); the recently announced Prosper Africa Initiative launched by the United States; the long-standing Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) of the European Union; the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD); and more recently, the first Russia-Africa Summit. How best can African policymakers make use of the opportunities provided by these engagement strategies to support Africa's development goals, while also securing African agency in the ways that these relationships are articulated and implemented?*

**Chair: Sanusha NAIDU** - Senior Research Associate, Institute for Global Dialogue (South Africa)

- **Cobus VAN STADEN** – Senior China-Africa Fellow, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) (South Africa)



- **Dr. Oladiran BELLO** Executive Director, GGA-Nigeria (Nigeria)
- **Laoye JAIYEOLA** - Chief Executive Officer, The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (Nigeria)
- **Dr. Chukwuka ONYEKWENA** - Executive Director, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) (Nigeria)

12.30-12.45 Group Photo

12.45-14.00 Buffet Luncheon

14.00-15.00 Breakout Session I (*Three Concurrent Sessions*)

## **1. Updating Africa's Approach to Internally Displaced Persons, Migration and Refugees**

*Africa has been aptly described as a continent on the move. Africa continues to experience a complex and sustained crisis that involves both regular and irregular migration of people up and down the continent. The most pronounced forms of migration are labor migration, refugee flows and internal displacement. Over 31 million Africans live outside the country of their birth, the majority within the African continent. In fact, the majority of migration is intra-regional or intra-African, especially in West and Southern Africa, and only about 25 percent of African migrants go to Europe. Although migration data is fragmentary, fluid and often imprecise, it is estimated that African migrants are overwhelmingly located within the eight sub-regional economic communities in Africa: 80 percent in the West, 65 percent in the South, 50 percent in Central Africa and 47 percent in Eastern Africa. The exception is Northern Africa, where about 90 percent of its emigrants move to other localities outside Africa. This panel will explore how think tanks are helping to both understand the issue and to address the humanitarian and policy dilemmas it presents.*

**Chair: Patricia KOUYATE** - Project and Human Resources Coordinator, Centre Ivoirien de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (Côte d'Ivoire)

- **Amal EL OUASSIF** - Research Assistant, Policy Center for the New South (Morocco)
- **Vuyelwa NKUMANDA** - Research Coordination Manager, The Southern African Liaison Office (South Africa)
- **Cesar Moquet FLAN** – Director, Centre de Recherche Politique D'Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)
- **Mamadou Hafiziou BARRY** - Program Coordinator, Initiative pour la Prospective Économique et le Développement Durable (Guinea)

## **2. Reframing Africa's Security Alliances to Meet Enduring and Emerging Threats**

*Africa has been increasingly challenged by three major security dilemmas: threats from proliferating jihadist groups, human trafficking resulting from migration toward European shores and a struggle over its natural and strategic resources. While Africa has made great strides in reducing the number of violent*

*conflicts since the end of the Cold War, a number of deadly cross border and sub-national conflicts rage on. At the same time, the nature of security threats has substantially changed. This requires new regional and international responses to strengthening the security of African citizens. A panel of experts will discuss both the emerging and enduring security threats in Africa and what steps can be taken to address them.*

**Chair: Paul MELLY** – Consultant, Chatham House (United Kingdom)

- **Martin RUPIYA** – Innovation & Training Manager: Operations Department, African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) (South Africa)
- **Singo Stephen MWACHOFI** - Deputy Director, Security Research and Information Centre (Kenya)
- **Charles NYUYKONGE** – Consultant & Peace and Development Specialist (South Africa)
- **Azizou GARBA** - Deputy Director, National Centre for Strategic and Security Studies (Niger)
- **Sylvain N'GUESSAN** – Director, Institut de Strategie (Côte d'Ivoire)

### **3. Can You Hear Us Now?: Strategic Communications for Think Tanks**

*Henry Kissinger described that being a policymaker is like being at the end of a firehose. The problem is that policymakers and the public are both inundated with information. This problem is compounded by the fact that the internet has increased the velocity of information and policy flows. One would think that this would lead to a more informed public and decision-making process but, in fact, it leads to the opposite. Today we are faced with an avalanche of information and not enough time to understand it. The marketplace of ideas is a noisy and confusing one filled with information and disinformation that makes it difficult to know sources to trust. This new reality poses both an opportunity and challenge. How can think tanks make sure that their information, ideas and analysis are in the right form, in the right hands and at the right time? A panel of experts will discuss how strategic communications and marketing have helped their organization reach key audiences and inform key public policy debates. Many think tanks have addressed these challenges by developing a response that involves “strategic communications.” The concept of strategic communications and issues that lead to its adoption will be presented and discussed by this panel.*

**Chair: Romy CHEVALLIER** - Senior Researcher, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) (South Africa)

- **Lilia RIZK** - Program Officer, Policy Center for the New South (Morocco)
- **Thabo SACOLO** - Acting Executive Director, Eswatini Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (ESEPARC) (Eswatini)
- **Babacar NDIAYE** - Research and Publications Director, West Africa Think Tank (Senegal)
- **Barbara Christine NIMUSIIMA**, Programme Manager Gender/ICT International Women's Center for Empowerment (Uganda)

15.00-15.15 Coffee Break

15.15-16.15 Breakout Session II (*Four Concurrent Sessions*)

## **1. Brain Drain and Flighty Funding: Addressing Threats to Think Tank Sustainability**

*As traditional funding sources such as national governments and public and private donors change, think tanks will be forced to explore new ways to fund their research and operations. The panel will explore the challenges and opportunities associated with raising funds from corporations, training programs, consulting, crowdsourcing, endowments and publishing. In addition, think tanks are exploring creative partnerships with new and old media campaigns to raise funds and extend their reach. The new approaches to funding think tanks require careful management and oversight in order to assure that the quality, independence and integrity of the think tank is maintained. A panel of think tank executives will discuss how their think tank is funded and what they are doing to explore new strategies and sources for funding their think tank. Africa's think tanks have been challenged for some time by small budgets and low salaries which makes it difficult to recruit and retain both scholars and executives. A group of think tank executives will discuss how their institutions are meeting these dual challenges.*

**Chair: Oladiran BELLO** - Executive Director, GGA-Nigeria (Nigeria)

- **Daisy AMDANY** - Executive Director, Crown Trust (Kenya)
- **Lohini MOODLEY** - Partner, McKinsey & Company (Ethiopia)
- **Barbara Christine NIMUSIIMA** - Program Manager Gender & ICT, International Women's Centre for Empowerment (IWCE) (Uganda)
- **Graham Peter HOPWOOD** – Executive Director, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) (Namibia)

## **2. The Role of States, Constitutions and Effective Governance in Shaping Africa's Future**

*An understanding of the African State requires knowledge of the various factors that shape national policy and institutions. The African continent continues to face many socio-economic development challenges even as the world seeks to embrace Africa's resources and development potential. There remains a high level of political instability and fragility in many countries which results in displacement and impoverishment for many of its citizens. This unfortunate result of these conspiring factors is that many people live in areas affected by conflict, insecurity and large scale organized criminal violence. What strategies need to be developed and implemented to address the weak state capacity and/or weak state legitimacy of a number of states in the region? A panel of experts from across the region will explore how states can strengthen their constitutions and governance capacity to improve the stability, security and prosperity of their citizens.*

**Chair: Franziska FISLAGE**, Policy Advisor, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Department of Democracy, Rule of Law and Political Parties (Germany)

- **Alain NZADI-A-NZADI** – Director, Centre d'Études pour l'Action Sociale-Research Center for Social Action (CEPAS) (Democratic Republic of Congo)
- **Steven GRUZD**, Programme Head: Governance, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) (South Africa)
- **Thierno Malick DIALLO** - Deputy Director of Analysis and Writing, Stat View International (Guinea)
- **Hervé AKINOCHO** - Director, Center for Research and Opinion Polls (CROP) (Togo)

### 3. The Promise and Peril of AI and 5G for Africa

*Africa is as capable of embracing the huge potential of AI and 5G technology as the rest of the world, even within the limitations of existing infrastructure and complex connectivity challenges. However, only if embracing such technology can only be done with a clear focus on what AI and 5G can realistically deliver and with a clear eye on the future. The acceleration of emerging technologies has reshaped not just jobs but also the skills required for them, increasing the demand for sociobehavioral, adaptive and higher cognitive skilled workers, especially in the industrial sector. Therefore, investment in human capital, such as education and social protection, opens societies to gain from capabilities that technology provides. In particular, investment in education relies on creating skills beginning in early childhood with lifelong learning. How can Africa manage an effective transition towards the future of work? What are the regulatory challenges governments face and how are we to address them? How can think tanks help policymakers and the public understand the promise and peril that these emerging technologies present?*

**Chair: Paul MCALLISTER** - President of the Global Leaders in Unity and Evolvment  
(United States)

- **Jitendra ROYCHOUDHURY** - Research Fellow, King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) (Saudi Arabia)
- **Innocent MATSHE** – Director, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) (Kenya)
- **Eliud MOYI** – Head of Partnerships Department, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) (Kenya)

### 4. Balancing on the Head of a Pin: Managing the Employment and the Youth Dividends

*According to a 2019 Brookings report and other organizations, Africa's working-age population will grow by approximately 450 million people between 2015 and 2035—about 3 percent per annum. By 2050, Africa will have 362 million young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years old. Such a skewed demography presents several problems that include a growing unemployment rate, inadequate social services, insufficient educational reform, and the risky tendency for some young people to gravitate towards extremist positions and radical organizations. Crafting policies and programs to respond to these challenges will require careful consideration of the range of factors that will shape the future job market so Africa can harness the youth dividend.*

**Chair: Chinenyenwa Cheryl OGUNRO**  
Director, Health Research Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (Nigeria)

- **Donald MMARI** - Executive Director, REPOA (Tanzania)
- **Gozo KOFFI** – Director, Centre Autonome d'Etudes et de Renforcement des capacités pour le Développement au Togo (Togo)
- **Khalid CHEGRAOUI** – Senior fellow, Policy Center for the New South (Morocco)
- **Laoye JAIYEOLA** – Chief Executive Officer, The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (Nigeria)

16.30 – 16.45 Buses Depart from Hotel

9.00-22.00 Dinner & Speaker Event

**Lohini Moodley, Partner, McKinsey and Company (South Africa)** *The Power of Parity in Africa*

## Friday, 28 February 2020

09.00-09.45 Keynote Address

**Montie Mlachila, Senior Resident Representative, International Monetary Fund (South Africa)**

09.45-11.00 Plenary Panel III

**Synergistic Partnerships: Using the Global Think Tank Arena to Advance the African Development Goals and the G20 Africa**

*For a number of years now the SDGs and African Development have been a central pillar of the G20 Summits. It has, however, never made it into the G20 Communiqué. The T20 comprises think tanks that aim at developing research and evidence-based briefs and positions to guide governments in policy development. The T20 Africa Standing Group was established in 2017 to bring together think tanks from the G20 and African countries to work together on G20 policy matters. But as of now there is little information about T20 Africa's influence and impact on G20-Africa related policies. The Panel will discuss strategies and partnerships that can help advance the SDGs for Africa and to ensure that Africa has a role in helping shape the proceedings in the upcoming G20 Summit in Saudi Arabia. More importantly, Africa's development goals get the support of the G20 countries at the G20 Summit.*

**Chair: Fahad Alturki, KAPSARC, Chair of T20 Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia)**

- **Ainhoa MARIN-EGOSCOZABAL** - Senior Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute (Spain)
- **Patrick MALOPE** - Senior Research Fellow, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) (Botswana)
- **Elizabeth SIDIROPOULOS** - Chief Executive Officer, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) (South Africa)
- **Martin Rupiya**, Innovation & Training Manager: Operations Department, African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) (South Africa)

11.00-12.15 Plenary Panel IV

**An Action Agenda for Africa**

*A panel of journalists, policymakers and civil society groups will share what think tanks need to do to help policymakers and the public understand and meet the policy challenges facing Africa.*



12.15-12.45 Closing Plenary Panel V

### **Think Tanks: Catalysts for Ideas, Innovation and Action in Africa**

*A group of senior scholars and executives from across the region will discuss the constructive role that think tanks can play in helping Africa meet the challenges and opportunities that the region faces now and in the future. The Panel will be asked to provide specific areas where think tanks can play a constructive role in developing or advancing key policies. The panel will also explore areas where cross border and cross disciplinary partnerships might be forged among think tanks and countries inside and outside the region. Finally, what steps do think tanks need to take to enhance their role and knowledge and policy brokers in Africa? Panelists are encouraged to try to identify key issues and highlights from the Summit Panels and Keynote Addresses. The overall objective is to create a bold set of programs and actions that think tanks can work on to address some of the policy challenges facing policymakers and the public and the operational and strategic challenges facing think tanks in Africa.*

#### *Questions:*

- *How can African think tanks be more effective and offer action-oriented recommendations to government and society?*
- *How is the institution contributing to the formulation of public policies in Africa? Feel free to present a case of the institution.*
- *Political changes can be challenging for think tank activities. How can African think tanks maintain their impartiality and ensure the visibility of long-term agendas in the context of rapid and sometimes disruptive political and economic changes?*
- *Does the institution have strategies to measure the impacts of its propositions on public discourse and public policy? Do you have examples of observed results?*

**Chair: James G. MCGANN** - Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), The Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania (USA)

- **Charles NYUYKONGE** - Consultant, Peace and Development specialist (South Africa)
- **Paul KARIUKI** - Executive Director, Democracy Development Programme (DDP) (South Africa)
- **Mare Gisèle TAPSOBA** - Project Manager, Centre national d'analyse des politiques économiques et sociales (CAPES) (Burkina Faso)
- **Jon Stever**, Innovation for Policy Foundation (USA)
- **Sylvain N'GUESSAN** - Director, Institut de Stratégie (Côte d'Ivoire)

12.45-13.00 Closing Remarks and Future Directions

- **James G. MCGANN** - Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), The Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania (USA)
- **Elizabeth SIDIROPOULOS** - Chief Executive Officer, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) (South Africa)
- **Vasu GOUNDEN** - Founder and Executive Director African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) (South Africa)

13.00-14.30 Buffet Luncheon and Networking

14.30-18.00 Optional Cultural and City Tour



## List of Participants

First Name	Last Name	Position	Organization
Bassou	<b>ABDELHAK</b>	Senior Fellow	Policy Center for the New South
Waleed	<b>ADDAS</b>	Head-LLF Management Unit	Islamic Development Bank
Pamela Ariane	<b>AGBOZO</b>	Partner Coordinator	Social Watch Benin
Hervé	<b>AKINOCHO</b>	Director	Center for Research and Opinion Polls (CROP)
Abdullah	<b>ALJARBOUA</b>	Researcher	King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)
Hayden	<b>ALLEN</b>	General Manager: Corporate Affairs	ACCORD
Hossa	<b>ALMUTAIRI</b>	Research Fellow	King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center
Fahad	<b>ALTURKI</b>	Vice President, Head of Research	King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)
Daisy	<b>AMDANY</b>	Executive Director	Crawn Trust
Sarasa	<b>ANANMALAY</b>	Events Manager	South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)
Mamadou Hafiziou	<b>BARRY</b>	Program Coordinator	Initiative for Economic Prospective and Sustainable Development (IPED)
Alex	<b>BENKENSTEIN</b>	Programme Head of the Governance of Africa's Resources Programme	South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)

Oladiran	<b>BELLO</b>	Executive Director	GGA-Nigeria
Haroon	<b>BHORAT</b>	Professor	University of Cape Town
Martha	<b>BRIDGMAN</b>	Editor	South African Journal of International Affairs
Mariam	<b>CAMARA</b>	Researcher	Ivorian Centre for Economic and Social Research (CIRES)
Khalid	<b>CHEGRAOUI</b>	Senior Fellow	Policy Center for the New South
Romy	<b>CHEVALLIER</b>	Senior Researcher	South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)
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The **Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program** (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at 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. Over the last 30 years, the TTCSP has developed and led a series of global initiatives that have helped bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environmental issues, information and society, poverty alleviation, and healthcare and global health. These international collaborative efforts are designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that improve policy making while strengthening democratic institutions and civil societies around the world.

The TTCSP works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs and produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index that ranks the world’s leading think tanks in a variety of categories. This is achieved with the help of a panel of over 1,900 peer institutions and experts from the print and electronic media, academia, public and private donor institutions, and governments around the world. We have strong relationships with leading think tanks around the world, and our annual Think Tank Index is used by academics, journalists, donors and the public

to locate and connect with the leading centers of public policy research around the world. Our goal is to increase the profile and performance of think tanks and raise the public awareness of the important role think tanks play in governments and civil societies around the globe. Since its inception in 1989, the TTCSP has focused on collecting data and conducting research on think tank trends and the role think tanks play as civil society actors in the policy-making process. To date TTCSP has provided technical assistance and capacity building programs in 81 countries. We are now working to create regional and global networks of think tanks in an effort to facilitate collaboration and the production of a modest yet achievable set of global public goods. Our goal is to create lasting institutional and state-level partnerships by engaging and mobilizing think tanks that have demonstrated their ability to produce high quality policy research and shape popular and elite opinion and actions for public good.

The **Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies** offers an M.A. in international studies and conducts fundamental and policy-oriented research on current economic, political, and business issues. It organizes an annual conference that brings academics, practitioners, and policy makers together to examine global challenges such as financial risks, sustainability, inequality, and the future of the state.

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## TTCSP Recent and Forthcoming Publications

2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index (January 30, 2020)

[https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think\\_tanks](https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think_tanks)

The Future of Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the US (Spring/Summer 2020)

The Future of Think Tanks and Policy Advice Around the World (Summer/Fall 2020)

2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index:

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Think Tanks the New Policy Advisers In Asia (Brookings Press January 2019)

<https://www.brookings.edu/book/think-tanks/>

Think Tanks Foreign Policy the Emerging Powers (Palgrave 2017)

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783319603117>

Think Tanks and Emerging Power Policy Networks (Palgrave 2017)

<https://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9783319719542>

Trends and Transitions in Security Expertise from Deterrence to Climate Change and Back Again  
(Routledge November 2017)

<https://www.routledge.com/Global-Trends-and-Transitions-in-Security-Expertise-From-Nuclear-Deterrence/McGann/p/book/9781138304000>

Think Tanks, Politics and the Policy-Making Process: Catalysts for Ideas and Action Chapter 22 in the  
Handbook on Public Policy Formulation, (Edward Elgar 2017)

<http://www.e-elgar.com/shop/handbook-of-policy-formulation>

Fifth Estate: Think Tanks, Public Policy and Governance (Brookings Press 2016)

<https://www.brookings.edu/book/the-fifth-estate/>

Think Tanks and SDGs: Catalysts for Analysis, Innovation and Implementation (Lauder/TTCSP 2015)

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/james-mcgann/think-tanks-and-sdgs-catalysts-for-analysis-innovation-and-implementation/paperback/product-22563604.html>

How Think Tanks Shape Social Development Policies (University of Pennsylvania Press 2014)

<http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15244.html>

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