



# **AFRICA**

## **2016 Think Tank Conference**

**Building a Sustainable and Secure Future for  
the People and Institutions of Africa**

**Hotel Sofitel, Marrakesh, Morocco**

**2-4 May 2016**

## **PROGRAMME OUTLINE**



## Background

In recent years several issues facing North Africa have become more and more comparable to the issues facing the rest of Africa. Additionally, the rest of Africa is experiencing economic growth, and the Mediterranean-facing countries are increasingly looking south for trade and investment opportunities.

Among the more frequently mentioned issues of common interest are the following:

- **Economic issues:** Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) issues and related trade opportunities; investment opportunities; infrastructure development; energy resources; industrialization; production value chains; innovation
- **Social issues:** poverty; gender equity; education and health services; employment; urbanization; social protection; migration and displaced populations; violence against women; cultural heritage
- **Environmental issues:** climate change; water resources; biodiversity; sustainable agriculture; natural resources management; endangered species
- **Creating a sustainable future for think tanks in Africa:** effective communication, resource mobilization, human resource management, research utilization and impact.

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 marked the initiation of a new global effort to eradicate poverty in all its forms. The 17 goals and 169 targets are now a global mandate for all nations to make life better for their people, and are designed to encompass the interrelated and interdependent actions relating to their achievement. They are also consistent with the vision spelled out in Africa's Agenda 2063, endorsed by African Heads of State two years earlier. As such, it would be of great interest for countries facing similar challenges, for think tanks – organizations devoted to doing the deep thinking to help policy-makers make informed decisions – to share their challenges and successes so that all their countries can be smarter in designing their futures.

It will also be an excellent opportunity to explore how think tanks can implement the strategies developed in previous Summits to enhance capacity, increase impact and assure the long term viability of think tanks in the region. Much work has been done lately on the issue of making think tanks “fit for purpose”, in terms of quality, vibrancy, relevance and sustainability. More think tanks from across Africa would benefit from learning about and finding ways to introduce innovations and adaptations identified in other think tank fora.

## Conference Venue, Date and Participation

Accordingly, a meeting is being convened for African think tanks to interact on issues of common concerns and share solutions relating to strengthening the role of think tanks in building a sustainable and secure future for the people and institutions in Africa. The event, which will take place from Monday-Wednesday, 2-4 May in Marrakesh, Morocco, will be hosted by the OCP Policy Center, in partnership with the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Programme of the University of Pennsylvania, and the UN Economic Commission for Africa. Directors of approximately 80 think tanks are being invited. French-English interpretation services will be available throughout.

## **Conference Objective and Expected Outcomes**

The Conference will feature a dialogue between think tanks located in each of Africa's sub-regions – North, West, Central, East and Southern. Emphasis will be placed on the East and Southern think tank participants sharing their experiences with the North, West and Central think tank participants, to help clarify the role of these think tanks in supporting SDGs and Agenda 2063, COP22, CFTA and sustainability.

**Objective:** The Objectives of the Think Tank Conference is to identify strategic contributions from think tanks in Africa for making progress on four key common areas of concern:

- **Implementing the SDGs/Agenda 2063** – engaging Think Tanks in support of SDG and Agenda 2063 programming, operationalizing and monitoring
- **Climate Change** – preparing for COP22, being held in November in Marrakesh, in terms of common issues and implementation strategies
- **Trade and economic exchanges** – in the context of the ongoing effort to introduce Africa's Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).
- **Establish a Sustainable Futures Task Force:** creating a working group to develop and help implement strategies and programs that will create a sustainable future for Africa's think tanks.

**Outcomes:** Under these three headings, the conference is expected to generate the following outcomes:

- **Suggestions on the way forward**, in terms of actions participating think tanks can take, individually and collectively, to further the three thematic agendas
- **Recommendations for sustainability**, in terms of innovations and adaptations needed for participating think tanks to produce quality work and remain vibrant and relevant.
- **Professional and Institutional linkages between think tank's scholars and executives** to promote opportunities for knowledge sharing of and collaboration around solutions identified

## **Format**

The Conference will follow a tested format introduced by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Programme – an opening panel of thought leaders in the evening of the first day (Monday 2 May), followed by a welcome reception, and then 1½ days of consultations with presentations panels, breakout sessions and keynote addresses. The format is intended to maximize interaction between participants to allow for networking, exploration of issues, and sharing of knowledge and experiences.

## AGENDA

<b>2 May 2016 (Monday)</b>	
<b>14:00 – 17:00</b>	Arrival of participants in Marrakesh and hotel check-in (all day) Conference registration (at Sofitel)
<b>15:30 – 16:15</b>	<b>Press Conference</b>
<b>17:00</b>	<b>Conference Starts</b>
<b>17:00 - 17:30</b>	<b>Keynote Addresses</b>
	High level Moroccan official/representative
<b>17:30 - 18:00</b>	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>James McGann</b>, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) University of Pennsylvania</li> <li>• <b>Bartholomew Armah</b>, Chief of the Renewal of Planning, U.N. Economic Commission for Africa</li> <li>• <b>Karim El Aynaoui</b>, Managing Director, OCP Policy Center</li> </ul>
<b>18:00 – 19:30</b>	<b>Policy Panel: Africa – Recent Developments and the Role of Think Tanks</b>
	<p><i>This Policy Panel will gather Senior Policy Makers with deep expertise in the recent developments Africa to address the role think tanks can play in helping Governments to address them. Suggested queries include: What are the key issues and challenges facing African Governments today? What are the experiences with think tanks in helping policymakers tackle these issues? Where are the areas of opportunity for think tanks to play a more influential role, including through collaboration?</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: <b>John Yearwood</b>, Vice Chair, International Press Institute, and Former World Editor, Miami Herald</i></p> <p><i>Panelists (75 minutes – 15 min each):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Abdellah Saaf</b>, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center and Former Minister of Education, Morocco</li> <li>• <b>Hamid Temmar</b>, Former Minister responsible for Economic Transition, Algeria</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Newai Gebre-ab</b>, Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, and Executive Director, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), Ethiopia</li> <li>• <b>Frédéric Nikièma</b>, Former Minister and Spokesman of the Transitional Government of Burkina Faso</li> </ul> <p>Open Floor discussions (15 minutes)</p>
<b>19:30 - 21:30</b>	<b>Welcome Dinner Reception</b> – Participants and invited guests
	<p>Remarks by reception (co-)sponsor(s)</p> <p>Dinner Reception</p>

<b>3 May 2016 (Tuesday)</b>	
<b>8:30 - 9:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9 :00 – 9 :15</b>	<p><b>Background and Overview of the Conference</b> (15 minutes)</p> <p><b>James McGann</b>, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP)</p>
<b>9:15 – 10:45</b>	<p><b>Thematic Panel 1: Implementing the SDGs/Agenda 2063</b> – How can think tanks, individually and collectively, support SDG programming, operationalizing and monitoring?</p>
	<p><i>The first of four panels addressing the conference topics – What are the key challenges and opportunities for think tanks with respect to achieving the SDGs in Africa? How can think tanks help? Can insights from the UN or other countries shed light on possible ways forward? Are there specific areas of opportunities relating to the issues mentioned – poverty, gender, social services, employment, urbanization, migration etc.?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Euphrasia Mapulanga</b>, Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR), Zambia</p> <p><i>Panelists (75 minutes – 15 min. each):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bartholomew Armah</b>, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Ethiopia</li> <li>• <b>Said Moufti</b>, Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES), Morocco</li> <li>• <b>Salomon Nsabimana</b>, Institute for Economic Development (IDEC), Burundi</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Job Imharobere Eronmhonsele</b>, Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED), Nigeria</li> </ul> <p>Open floor discussion (15 minutes)</p>
<b>10:45 – 11:15</b>	<b>Photo Session; Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:15 – 12:45</b>	<b>Thematic Panel 2: Climate Change</b> – How can think tanks, individually and collectively, support COP22 preparations?
	<p>The second of four panels addressing the conference topics – What are the key challenges and opportunities for think tanks with respect to helping prepare country and regional positions for COP22? Are there specific area of opportunities relating to the issues mentioned – climate change, water, biodiversity, sustainable production etc.?</p> <p><i>Moderator: <b>Jean-Christophe Boungou Bazika</b>, Center for Analysis and Political Economy Research (CERAPE), Congo Brazzaville</i></p> <p><i>Panelists (75 minutes – 15 min. each):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Badr Ikken</b>, Institut de Recherche en Energie Solaire et Energies Nouvelles (IRESEN), Morocco</li> <li>• <b>Agathe Maupin</b>, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), South Africa</li> <li>• <b>Moussa Seck</b>, Institute of Panafrican Strategies (IPS), Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Wellington Otieno</b>, Center for Research and Technology Development Centre (RESTECH), Kenya</li> </ul> <p>Open floor discussions (15 minutes)</p>
<b>12:45 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch; Networking</b>
	<i>Welcome from lunch sponsor</i>
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Thematic Panel 3: Trade and economic exchanges</b> – How can think tanks, individually and collectively, facilitate adoption of the Continental Free Trade Area?
	<p><i>The third of four panels addressing the conference topics – What are the key challenges and opportunities for think tanks with respect to supporting the CFTA policy-making process? Can experiences from EAC-COMESA-SADC or elsewhere shed light on ways forward for facilitating negotiations for North, West and Central Africa? How can negotiations be supported by think tanks from all the regions present? Are there specific areas of opportunities relating</i></p>

	<p><i>to stimulating industrialization, production, competitiveness, infrastructure connectivity etc.?</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: <b>Nassim Oulmane</b>, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Sub-Regional Center North Africa</i></p> <p><i>Panelists (75 minutes – 10 min. each):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amani Al-Taweel</b>, Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, (ACPSS), Egypt</li> <li>• <b>Nadhir Laggoune</b>, Notre Algérie Bâtie sur de Nouvelles Idées (NABNI), Algeria</li> <li>• <b>Amedee Darga</b>, Straconsult, Mauritius</li> <li>• <b>Margaret Sengwaketse</b>, Botswana Institute for Development and Policy Analysis (BIDPA), Botswana</li> <li>• <b>Isaac Shinyekwa</b>, Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC), Uganda</li> </ul> <p>Open floor discussions (15 minutes)</p>
<b>15:30 - 16:00</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>16:00 – 17:30</b>	<b>Thematic Panel 4: Think Tank Sustainability</b> – Sharing views and experiences from Africa and beyond
	<p><i>The last of four panels addressing the conference topics –What could the future of think tanks in Africa be as they support the implementation of Agenda 2030 and 2063? What issues should be included in a “white paper” for building a sustainable future for think tanks in Africa?</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: <b>Giuseppe Porcaro</b>, Bruegel, Belgium</i></p> <p><i>Panelists (75 minutes – 15 min. each):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tom Carver</b>, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, US</li> <li>• <b>Paolo Magri</b>, Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale (ISPI), Italy</li> <li>• <b>Felix Murithi</b>, Kenya Institute for Public Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), Kenya</li> <li>• <b>Bouchra Sidi Hida</b>, Centre d’Etudes et de Recherche en Sciences Sociales (CERSS), Morocco</li> </ul> <p>Open Floor discussions (15 minutes)</p>
<b>17:30 - 18:00</b>	<b>Remarks and Announcements</b>
	Remarks from Organizers
<b>19:00 - 21:00</b>	<b>Gala Dinner</b>

	<p>Remarks by dinner (co-)sponsor(s)</p> <p>Dinner</p>
--	--

#### 4 May 2016 (Wednesday)

9:00 – 11:00

#### Strategic Brainstorming Panels: Recommendations for Policy Actions

*Groups will be expected to consider the presentations and identify specific opportunities for think tanks to move the agendas forward, including leaders (“champions”) and preconditions for action*

Four Strategic Brainstorming Panels, one for each topic

**SBP 1: Implementing the SDGs/Agenda 2063** – How can think tanks support SDG/Agenda 2063 programming, operationalizing and monitoring?

*Chair: Maximilian Weylandt*, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), Namibia

*Speakers* (5 minutes each)

- **Foly Ananou**, L'Afrique des Idées, Senegal
- **Witness Simbanegavi**, AERC, Kenya
- **Barnabe Okouda**, Policy Analysis and Research Center (PARC), Cameroon
- **Haile Kebret Taye**, The Horn Economic and Social Policy Institute (HESPI), Ethiopia
- **Victor Magnani**, Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI), France
- **Younes Sekkouri**, Parliament Member, Morocco

**SBP 2: Climate Change** – How can think tanks support COP22 preparations?

*Chair: Arthur Bainomugisha*, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Uganda

*Speakers* (5 minutes each)

- **Thula Sizwe Dlamini**, Swaziland Economic Policy and Research Centre (SEPRC), Swaziland
- **Brahim Fassi Fihri**, Amadeus, Morocco
- **Abel Alfred Kinyondo**, REPOA, Tanzania
- **Aaron Shull**, Center for International Governments Innovation (CIGI), Canada

**SBP 3: Trade and economic exchanges** – How can think tanks facilitate adoption of the Continental Free Trade Area?



	<p><i>Chair: Walid Maaouia, Ifriqya, Tunisia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Olakunle Aremo Gilles Yabi</b>, West Africa Citizen Think Tank, Senegal</li> <li>• <b>Olivia Kokushubila Lwabukuna</b>, African Institute of South Africa, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa</li> <li>• <b>Jok Madut Jok</b>, the Sudd Institute, South Sudan</li> <li>• <b>Shinichi Nakabayashi</b>, Asian Development Bank Institute, Japan</li> <li>• <b>Hossam Hassan Mohamed Ibrahim</b>, Regional Center for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Egypt</li> <li>• <b>Abdelhak Saaf</b>, Centre d'études et des Recherches en Sciences Sociales (CERSS), Morocco</li> </ul> <p><b>SBP 4: Think Tank Sustainability</b> – How can think tanks implement the plans and programs that will create a sustainable future for think tanks in Africa?</p> <p><i>Chair : Fortunata Songora Makene</i>, Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Tanzania</p> <p><i>Speakers (5 minutes each)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yahia Abou El Farah</b>, Institut des Etudes Africaines (IEA), Morocco</li> <li>• <b>Elwood Dunn</b>, Center for Policy Studies (CERPS), Liberia</li> <li>• <b>Gountiéni D. Lankoandé</b>, Groupe de Recherche et d'Analyse Appliquées pour le Développement (GRAAD), Burkina Faso</li> <li>• <b>Sebhat Nega Medhanye</b>, Ethiopian International Institute for Peace and Development (EIIPD), Ethiopia</li> <li>• <b>Winfried Weck</b>, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Germany</li> <li>• <b>Sadou Abdoulaye Yattara</b>, Centre d'Etudes et de Renforcement des Capacités d'Analyse et de Plaidoyer (CERCAP), Mali</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:00 - 11:45</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee; Showcasing Participant Materials</b></p>
	<p>Participants visit presentation tables and interact with presenters</p> <p>Breakout chairs and rapporteurs prepare report back presentations</p>
<p><b>11:45 - 12:15</b></p>	<p><b>Plenary – Reports Back from the Strategic Brainstorming Panels</b></p>
	<p><i>Breakout SBP chairs present recommendations</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: James McGann</i>, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), US</p> <p><i>Panelists (20 minutes – 5 min each):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maximilian Weylandt</b>, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), Namibia</li> <li>• <b>Arthur Bainomugisha</b>, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Uganda</li> <li>• <b>Walid Maaouia</b>, Ifriqya, Tunisia</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fortunata Songora Makene</b>, Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Tanzania</li> </ul> <p>Open Floor discussions (10 minutes)</p>
<b>12:15 – 13:00</b>	<p><b>African Think Tanks and Policy Making:</b> What are the common challenges and opportunities facing African Stakeholders in implementing the SDGs/Agenda 2063, climate change and trade and economic exchanges?</p>
	<p><i>This session closes the conference, offering the thoughts of a panel of experts on previous conference topics, panels and discussions. Panelists should identify the insights from the deliberations to shed light on possible ways forward.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> <b>Lauren Gelfand</b>, African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) Kenya</p> <p><i>Panelists</i> (45 minutes – 10-15 min. each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Karim El Aynaoui</b>, OCP Policy Center, Morocco</li> <li>• <b>Carlos Carnero</b>, Fundacion Alternatives, Spain</li> <li>• <b>Moubarak Lo</b>, Office of the Prime Minister, Senegal</li> <li>• TBD, ECA</li> </ul> <p>Open floor discussion (15 minutes)</p>
<b>13:00 – 13:30</b>	<p><b>Closing Remarks and Future Plans</b></p>
	<p><b>James McGann</b>, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, University of Pennsylvania</p> <p><b>Bartholomew Armah</b>, Chief of the Renewal of Planning, U.N. Economic Commission of Africa</p> <p><b>Karim El Aynaoui</b>, Managing Director, OCP Policy Center</p>
<b>13:30 - 14:30</b>	<p><b>Lunch and Think Tank Networking Event</b></p>
<b>Afternoon and beyond</b>	<p><b>Check out and transfers to airport</b></p>