



**Please join the United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa  
for a global online debate on  
'Africa's COVID-19  
lockdown exit strategies'**

Governments across the world are now confronted with the major challenge of putting in place appropriate exit strategies to come out of COVID-19 lockdown measures. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa estimates that one full month of lockdown across Africa would cost the continent about 2.5% of its annual GDP (US\$65 billion). In effort to limit the spread of the virus, at least 42 African countries implemented partial or full lockdowns. Several factors will undoubtedly affect each country's exit strategy. Further, any exit strategy will need to balance the preservation of lives, whilst alleviating economic challenges and continuing to suppress the spread of the virus. Some countries are beginning to announce their plans to exit and the debate around the benefit of lockdowns continues.

This debate will centre on the policy choices, challenges and risks facing governments in identifying appropriate lockdown exit options.

# A global debate on **Africa's COVID-19 lockdown exit strategies**

**11.30-13.30hrs (GMT+3)  
Thursday, 7 May 2020**

*Introductory remarks by Vera Songwe, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa*

**Speakers will include:**

*H.E. Ms Arancha Gonzalez Laya*  
Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
European Union and Cooperation, Spain

*H.E. Mr Uzziel Ndagijimana*  
Minister of Finance and Economic Planning,  
Republic of Rwanda

*Gayle Smith*  
President, ONE Campaign

*Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki*  
CEO, African Union Development Agency

*Mr Amadou Mahtar Ba*  
Executive Chairman, AllAfrica Global Media Inc.

*Prof Haroon Borhat*  
Professor of Economics and Director  
of the Development Policy Research,  
University of Cape Town

*Mostapha Mellouk*  
CEO Casablanca Media Partners  
and Founder, Africa2025 Think Tank



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