

**T20**  **SOUTH  
AFRICA  
2025**

# **T20 Africa High-Level Dialogue**

Strengthening African Agency in the  
G20 within the Emerging Global Order

**P R O G R A M M E**

**29 - 30 April 2025**

CSIR International Convention Centre,  
Pretoria, South Africa

Hosted by the AUDA-NEPAD Africa Policy Bridge Tank Programme, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD), and the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC)



Dear Esteemed Delegate,

On behalf of the AUDA-NEPAD Africa Policy Bridge Tank Programme, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD), and the Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC) it is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the **T20 Africa High-Level Policy Dialogue: Strengthening African Agency in the G20 within the Emerging Global Order**.

This dialogue brings together a distinguished gathering of African policymakers, leading think tanks, academics, and international experts to engage in critical and forward-looking conversations on the continent's evolving role in global governance. In the context of South Africa's G20 presidency and the African Union's newly acquired permanent membership in the G20, this convening offers a timely and strategic platform to reflect on Africa's priorities and articulate a shared vision for the future.

The dialogue aims to amplify African voices, stimulate robust policy discussions, and develop well-informed, Africa-centric recommendations that contribute meaningfully to the global policy agenda. At the heart of our conversations are pressing issues such as inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, and reforms in global governance, all of which are essential to achieving the African futures we collectively envision.

This gathering is not just a meeting of minds but a participatory space for exploring strategic planning, decision-making, and multiple future pathways for the continent. It invites fresh thinking, creative solutions, and bold ideas—rooted in African agency and ownership.

We are honoured by your presence and contributions to this important platform and trust that the dialogue will be both intellectually enriching and action-oriented. We look forward to the insights you will share, the partnerships that will be forged, and the collective momentum we will build in advancing Africa's place in global decision-making.

Welcome once again, and thank you for being part of this journey.

**Africa Shall Rise Again!**

Warm regards,

**H.E. Ms. Nardos Bekele- Thomas**  
CEO,  
The African Union Development Agency -NEPAD,  
AUDA-NEPAD.

**Dr. Philani Mthembu**  
Executive Director,  
The Institute for Global Dialogue,,  
IGD.

**Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos**  
CEO,  
The South African Institute of International Affairs,  
(SAIIA).

**Prof. Siphamandla Zondi**  
Director,  
The Institute for Pan African Thought and Conversation,  
and co-Director, The Institute for Global African Affairs,  
University of Johannesburg.

# DAY 1

29 April 2025

**08:00 – 09:00 : Arrival and Registration**

## DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMME

- **Mr. Mohamed El Karaksy** - Special Advisor of the AUDA-NEPAD CEO on Strategic Initiatives.
  - **Ms. Pamla Gopaul** - Head of the Policy Bridge Tank Programme, AUDA-NEPAD, Economic Analysis and Foresight Unit.
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**09:00 – 09:30**

## OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS

- **Mr. Amine Idriss Adoum** - Director of Economy, Infrastructure, Trade and Industrialisation  
**On behalf of H.E. Ms Nardos Bekele-Thomas** - Chief Executive Officer, African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD).
    - *“Driving Sustainable Development in Africa: Insights for the High-Level Dialogue”*.
  - **Dr. Philani Mthembu** - Director, Institute for Global Dialogue, Pretoria, South Africa.
    - *“Africa's Strategic Priorities in Global Governance”*.
  - **Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos** - Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs, Johannesburg, South Africa.
    - *“Enhancing Africa's Role in Global Economic Policy”*.
  - **Prof. Siphamandla Zondi** - Director, Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation, and co-Director, Institute for Global African Affairs, University Johannesburg, South Africa.
    - *“South Africa's Vision for the G20: A Pan-African Perspective”*.
  - **H.E. Thandi Moraka** - Deputy Minister, The Department of International Relations and Cooperation. (Introduce the Deputy President)
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**09:30 – 09:50**

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**H.E. Deputy President Paul Mashatile**  
Government of the Republic of South Africa.



## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL 1: Africa's Role in the Global Order

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**09:50 – 11:00**

Africa is navigating an increasingly turbulent, complex and uncertain geopolitical environment. It is now more than ever imperative for Africa to leverage its strengths and global influence to achieve its strategic development ambitions encapsulated in Agenda 2063. This panel explores how Africa can strategically shape the emerging global order.

### MODERATORS

- **Dr. Kennedy Mbeva** - Research Associate, Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, University of Cambridge.
- **Dr. Reuben Makomere** - University Associate, Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania.

### PANEL

- **H.E. Mrs Sophia Nyamudeza** - Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Ethiopia, AU AND UNECA/ Dean of East African Diplomatic Corps.
- **Prof. Eghosa Osaghae** - Director-General, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Nigeria.
- **Dr. Joanes Atela** - Executive Director of the Africa Research and Impact Network.
- **Mr. Yusuf Daya** - Director AU Relations and International Cooperation, Afreximbank.
- **Prof. Victor Murinde** - Executive Director of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC).
- **Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi** - President and CEO of the African Center for Economic Transformation

### Q and A/Discussion

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**11:00 – 11:30: Coffee and Photography Break**



## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL 2: Multilateralism, International Trade and Investment

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**11:30 - 12:30**

Africa's engagement with reforming the international financial institutions, and seeking relief from an onerous debt burden are crucial to drive the continental growth and development. Given the restructuring of globalisation and the emerging geo-economic order, this panel explores how Africa can shape the reform of global governance institutions and advocate for trade and investment policies that support its development goals.

### MODERATOR

- **Prof. Adeoye O. Akinola** - Head of African Union Studies Programme, Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation, University of Johannesburg.
- **Mr. Kossi Toulassi** - Head of Industrialisation, AUDA-NEPAD.

### PANEL

- **Mr. Chiza Charles Chiumye** - Senior Policy Officer, African Union Commission.
- **Prof. Said Abass Ahamed** - Special Adviser, The President of Comoros.
- **Amb Mohammed El Nokaly** - Former Ambassador, Egypt.
- **Dr. Rose Ngugi** - Former Executive Director, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) and serves as the Secretary to the Board.
- **Prof. Garth le Pere** - Former Executive Director, Institute for Global Dialogue and Senior Associate, MISTRA.
- **Dr. Eyole Nganje Monono** - Chair, Political Affairs - African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council.

### Q and A/Discussion

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**12:30 – 13:30: Lunch Break**

## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL 3: Debt and External Development Finance

13:30 - 14:30

Africa continues to face economic decline and an increasing debt burden. The continent remains heavily dependent on primary commodities for exports, leaving it susceptible to market fluctuations, price volatility, and decreasing global demand. Therefore, it is essential to examine how developing countries manage external debt and secure growth financing, tackling challenges related to sustainability, financial aid, investment, and the broader global economic landscape. This panel will discuss how current shifts in geopolitics is leading to a de-prioritisation of development goals and the opportunities that AfCFTA present against the backdrop of Africa's heavy reliant on commodities and prevailing debt burden.

### MODERATOR

- **Dr. Siphumelele Duma** - Senior Researcher, The Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC), University of Johannesburg.

### PANEL

- **Dr. Jean-Bertrand Azapmo** - Principal Adviser, The African Union Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals.
- **Prof. Samuel Oloruntoba** - Institute of African Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.
- **Amb Dr. Lumumba Stanislaus-Kaw** - Former Ambassador of South Sudan to the United Nations and Former Chairman of the G77+China.
- **Ms. Hannah Ryder** - Chief Executive Officer, Development Reimagined.
- **Prof. Vusi Gumede** - Dean, Faculty of Economics, Development and Business Sciences, University of Mpumalanga and Former Director, The Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute, UNISA.

### Q and A/Discussion

## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL 4: Climate Change Responses and Sustainability

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**14:30 - 15:30**

Climate induced challenges including food security, mitigation and finance, compounds the continents' ability to achieve the SDG's, drive economic growth and maintain peace and security. This panel explores effective and innovative climate financing and sustainable solutions critical to Africa's climate action, particularly in the existing environment where multilateral responses to climate are under strain.

### MODERATOR

- **Mr. Alex Benkenstein** - Head, Climate and Natural Resources Programme, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).

### PANEL

- **Mr. Gilbert Mosupye** - Control Officer, Africa and Bilateral Relations, The South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment.
- **Dr. Olufunso Somorin** - Regional Principal Officer, The African Development Bank.
- **Dr. Anthony Costa** - Head of Secretariat for B20 South Africa, based at Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), responsible for the hosting of the B20 Summit in 2025.
- **Ms. Catherine Koffman** - Director Africa Region, Green Climate Fund.
- **Mr Samson Ogallah** - Directorate of Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union.
- **Mr. Gaylor Montmasson-Clair** - Founder Director, Southern Transitions, South Africa.

### Q and A/Discussion

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**15:30 – 16:00: Coffee Break**



## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL 5: Peace and Security

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**16:00 - 17:00**

Since gaining independence in the 1960s, Africa has faced ongoing violent conflicts that have hindered its pursuit of socio-political stability and economic development. Despite the African Union's peace and security frameworks and other regional security mechanism for security, the continent's struggle for lasting peace and stability persists.

### MODERATOR

- **Ms. Othilia Maunganidze** - Head, Special Projects at the Institute of Institute for Security Studies.
- **Mr. Erastus Etheke SA** - Advisor on Peace and Security, AUDA-NEPAD.

### PANEL

- **Dr. Jonathan Sandy** - Chairperson, Regional Centre for Governance and Security Policy Initiatives (RCGSPI), Sierra Leone and Former Chair, African Union ECOSOCC, Peace and Security Cluster.
- **Prof. Dorcas Ettang** - Acting Director, International Centre of Nonviolence, Durban University of Technology.
- **Prof. Cyril Obi** - Program Director, The African Peacebuilding Network (APN) and the Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Program.
- **Mpule Kgetsi** - Youth Ambassador for Peace (AYAP) for Southern Africa and Founder, Women Lead Africa.
- **Dr. Fonteh Akum** - Executive Director, Institute for Security Studies (ISS), South Africa.
- **Prof Sam Ewusi** - Director, UPEACE Africa (Regional) Programme, Ethiopia.

### Q and A/Discussion

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**17:00 - 17:15**

### CLOSING

- **Dr. Philani Mthembu** - Executive Director, The Institute for Global Dialogue.

**17:15 -**

### NETWORKING RECEPTION

# DAY 2

30 April 2025

**8:00 – 9:00 : Arrival and Registration**

## DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMME

- **Luanda Mpungose** - Outreach and Partnership Manager, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).
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**09:00 – 09:30**

## OPENING

### MODERATOR

**Barbara Masengu Kalima-Phiri** - Chairperson, AFRODAD's Board of Trustees.

### PANEL

- **H.E. Amb. Marie Antoinette Rose Quatre** - Chief Executive Officer, The African Peer Review Mechanism.
  - **Dr Ebrima Sall** - Executive Director, TrustAfrica, Dakar, Senegal and Former Executive Secretary of CODESRIA, Dakar, Senegal.
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**09:30 - 09:40**

## RECAP OF DAY ONE

- **Prof Adeoye O. Akinola** - Head African Union Studies Programme, The Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation (IPATC), University of Johannesburg (UJ).
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## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL 6: Rethinking Africa's Agency

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**09:40 - 11:00**

The exponential change in the pace of and increased level of complexity in multilateral cooperation pose distinct policy questions for shaping the continent's future and realising its developmental aspirations. This panel will explore innovative strategies that Africa can develop and adopt to strengthen its endogenous capabilities to better navigate these dynamics

### MODERATOR

- **Dr Jacob Kamau** - Researcher, Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, University of Cambridge.
- **Mr Keriako Tobiko** - Advisor on Climate Change, AUDA-NEPAD

### PANEL

- **Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki** - Former Prime Minister of Niger.
- **H.E Mohamed Beavogui** - Former Prime Minister of Guinea.
- **Mr. Rodolphe Bance** - Head, Economic and Social Governance Programs, African Capacity Building Foundation.
- **Ms. Elizabeth Sidiropoulos** - Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA).
- **Dr. Scott Timcke** - Senior Research Associate, Research ICT Africa.

### Q and A/Discussion

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**11:00 – 11:30: Coffee and Photography Break**



## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL 7: Social Cohesion, Inclusive Development and Employment

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**11:30 - 12:30**

Pronounced wealth inequalities and persistent exclusion of women and youth continue to undermine inclusive and sustainable societies and economies in Africa. This panel explores the ways in which African can promote solidarity and sustainable practices to ensure equitable growth and social stability across Africa.

### MODERATORS

- **Prof. Olayinka Ajala** - Leeds Beckett University, UK, and Climate Security Expert - AU.
- **Dr. Gloria Somolekae** - Acting Executive Director and Senior Research Fellow, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis and Former Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Development.

### PANEL

- **Ms. Prudence Ngwenya** - Director of the Women, Gender and Youth Directorate, African Union Commission.
- **Dr. Sylvester Odhiambo Obong'o** - Deputy Commission Secretary Public Service Commission, Kenya.
- **Dr. Bartholomew Kingsly Armah** - Senior Economist, AUDA-NEPAD.
- **Dr. Agnes Binagwaho** - Vice Chancellor, The University of Global Health Equity and former Minister of Health of Rwanda.
- **Prof. Femi Mimiko** - Obafemi Awolowo University and Former VC of AAU.
- **Dr. Hesphina Rukato** - Africa Director, Crisis Action and Former Deputy CEO of NEPAD.

### Q and A/Discussion

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**12:30 – 13:30: Lunch Break**

## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL 8: Digital Transformation

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**13:30 - 14:30**

Harnessing digital technologies including data-driven green technologies will be essential for Africa's industrialisation and development. This panel explores how the realisation of the WTO-World Bank Digital Trade for Africa initiative and strengthening the AU's Digital Transformation Strategy (2020–2030) that will be key to attracting investment and accelerating Africa's transition into a digital economy.

### MODERATOR

- **Dr. Odilile Ayodele** - Senior Research Specialist, Human Sciences and Research Council (HSRC), South Africa.

### PANEL

- **Ms. Allison Gilwald** - Executive Director of Research ICT Africa.
- **Dr. Raigan Maharajh** - Chief Director, Institute for Economic Research on Innovation TUT.
- **H.E. Emma Theofelus** - Minister, Information, Communication and Technology , The Republic of Namibia.
- **Dr. Arhin Acheampong** - Deputy Director, Afro-Sino Centre of International Relations
- **Mr. Lukovi Seke** - Principal Programme Officer: African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII)

### Q and A/Discussion

## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL 9: Democracy, Governance and Economic Development

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**14:30 - 15:30**

African countries continue to experience governance deficits and democratic reversals, manifesting in resource mismanagement, poor economic performances and military coups. The panel will critically explore the complex interplay between democracy, governance, and economic development in Africa, with a particular focus on the continent's persistent governance deficits, democratic backsliding, and the accompanying economic crises.

### MODERATOR

- **Janah Ncube** - Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Crisis Action.

### PANEL

- **Mr. David Omozuafoh** - Regional Governance and Rule of Law Advisor, Regional Service Centre for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ethiopia.
- **Prof. Antonia Simbine** - Director-General of the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research.
- **Prof. Adewale Aderemi** - Director, Democratic Studies, National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, Abuja, Nigeria.
- **Dr Jakkie Cilliers** - Former Executive Director of The Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Chairman of the ISS Board of Trustees, Head of the African Futures and Innovation Programme and Technical Advisor, AUDA-NEPAD Policy Bridge Tank Programme.
- **Ms. Ejigayhu Tefera** - Economic Researcher, Country Reviews and Assessment Directorate, African Peer Review Mechanism.

### Q and A/Discussion

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**15:30 – 16:00: Coffee Break**



## Future Dialogue Exercise

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**16:00 - 17:30**

Following the one-and-a-half-day panel discussions, the Futures Literacy Panel will utilise futurethinking and foresight methodologies to envisage multiple potential pathways for African futures, informing present-day decision-making and strategic actions. This session will explore innovative strategies and actionable recommendations to advance Africa's development goals.

This exercise will allow all participants to serve as the driving force for actionable policy uptake, providing insights and reflections on emerging opportunities, challenges, and inspiring fresh thinking and new ideas for achieving sustainable growth, economic diversification, and strengthened resilience.

The experts leading the session will translate discussions into actionable insights, forming a strong voice for Africa's contribution to the G20 policy discussions and recommendations to the South African Presidency. Participants will be encouraged to stay engaged throughout the session, actively contributing to dynamic discussions and benefiting from the collective expertise and innovative ideas presented.

## Closing and Way Forward

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**17:30 - 17:35**

### WRAP UP AND THE WAY FORWARD

**Prof. Siphamandla Zondi** - Director, Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation, and co-Director, Institute for Global African Affairs (IGAA), University of Johannesburg (UJ).

### OFFICIAL CLOSING ADDRESS

**Ms Josephilda Nhlapo-Hlope** - Acting Deputy Director-General (DDG): Sector Monitoring Services at the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) and Chair of the G20 Development Working Group.



# Notes

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