



ATI 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Economic Policies and Capacity Development in the Time of the Big Funding Squeeze

January 23-24, 2023 | Mauritius

DAY 1 – TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024

- 8.15 a.m. – 8.45 a.m.** **Conference Registration**
- 9.00 a.m. – 9.10 a.m.** **Welcome by Mr. Sukhwinder Singh, Director AFRITAC South and ATI**
- 9.10 a.m. – 9.25 a.m.** **Video Message by Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, IMF Managing Director**
- 9.10 a.m. – 9.25 a.m.** **Opening Remarks by Dr. The Hon. Renganaden Padayachy, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development**
- 9.35 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.** **Session 1: Economic Policy Challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)—Old and New**
- Sub-Saharan Africa's (SSA's) Big Funding Squeeze: Is this time different?
 - Slowing growth, high inflation, and elevated public debt: what are the implications for macro policy?
 - Geoeconomic fragmentation: what are the risks to growth, diversification and job creation?
 - Policy challenges from climate change and the rise of artificial intelligence (AI)
- Chair:** **Mr. Abebe Aemro Selassie**, Director IMF African Department
- Panelists:**
- 1. Mr. Michael Atingi-Ego**, Deputy Governor, Bank of Uganda
 - 2. Mr. Godefroid Misenga Milabyo**, Executive Secretary, COREF, Democratic Republic of Congo
 - 3. Prof. Christopher Adam** (University of Oxford)
- This session will be livestreamed on the IMF website.*
- 11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.** **Coffee**
- 11.30 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.** **Session 2: Capacity Development Priorities and Challenges in SSA**

- Capacity Development (CD) in the time of the big funding squeeze: How? For whom? By whom?
- How can CD help build economic resilience? Core and new areas for CD (legal and statistical capacity, climate change)
- Improving policy implementation, including in fragile states

Chair: **Mr. Dominique Desruelle**, Director IMF Institute for Capacity Development

Panelists:

1. **Hon. Dr. Olavo Correia**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Business Development and Minister of Digital Economy (Cabo Verde) (Virtual)
2. **Mr. Brian Commettant**, First Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Seychelles
3. **Prof. Robert Mudida**, Director of Research, Central Bank of Kenya
4. **Ms. Kumiko Uchida**, Deputy Director General, Japan International Cooperation Agency

12.45 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Lunch

2.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.

Session 3: Doing More with Less: Adapting to the Big Funding Squeeze

- Raising revenue and spending more efficiently: can digitalization help?
- Balancing debt with spending needs
- Is there scope for mobilizing private finance? If so, in what areas?

Chair: **Mr. Abdelhak Senhadji**, Deputy Director, IMF Fiscal Affairs Department

Panelists:

1. **Hon. Prof. Mthuli Ncube**, Minister of Finance and Economic Development (Zimbabwe)
2. **Prof. Ugo Panizza**, Geneva Graduate Institute
3. **Dr. Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary (Programme) and Chief Economist, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
4. **Ms. Kalpana Kochhar**, Gates Foundation (Virtual)

3.15 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.

Coffee

3.45 p.m. – 3.50 p.m. **Video Message by Ms. Gita Gopinath, IMF First Deputy Managing Director**

3.50 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. **Session 4: ATI: The last Ten Years and the Next Five**

Chair: **Ms. Priscilla Muthoora**, Resident Advisor, ATI

Panelists:

1. **Governor Aivo Andrianarivelo**, Central Bank of Madagascar
2. **Mr. Ali Mansoor**, Chairman, Regional Multidisciplinary Center of Excellence (RMCE) (Virtual)
3. **Mr. Sukhwinder Singh**, Director ATI

7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. **Conference Dinner**

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024

9.00 a.m. – 10.15 a.m. **Session 5: Climate Change: Issues and Challenges for SSA**

- What are the key risks and challenges from climate change facing policymakers in SSA? How do these vary across country groups?
- Climate and fragility
- How are climate risks being factored into fiscal and monetary policies?
- What are some of the obstacles in designing and implementing climate reforms?
- What should be the key areas of focus of ATI's CD in climate change?

Chair: **Vimal Thakoor**, Resident Advisor, ATI

Panelists:

1. **Hon. Agok Makur Kur Agok**, Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning, South Sudan
2. **Ms. Irene Croisée**, Executive Director, Office of the Secretary of State, Ministry of Finance (Seychelles)
3. **Mrs. Florence Van Houtte**, First Counsellor, European Union
4. **Ms. Rhoda Weeks-Brown**, General Counsel and Director of the IMF's Legal Department
5. **Dr. David Dutton**, Assistant Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Climate and Environmental Diplomacy Branch (Virtual)

6. **Mr. Tobias Adrian**, Financial Counsellor and Director of the Monetary and Capital Markets Departments ([Video recording](#))

10.15 a.m. – 10.45 a.m. **Coffee**

10.45 a.m. – 10.55 a.m. **Remarks on Digitalization by Governor Harvesh Seegolam, Bank of Mauritius**

10:55 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Session 6: Digitalization: A Game-changer for Policymakers in SSA?**

- Fintech innovations and financial inclusion
- What are the pre-requisites?
- What are the challenges?

Chair: Mr. Albert Kroese, Chief Statistician and Data Officer and Director, IMF Statistics Department

Panelists:

1. **Dr. Maxwell Opoku-Afari**, Deputy Governor, Bank of Ghana
2. **Dr. Kealaboga Masalila**, Deputy Governor, Bank of Botswana
3. **Dr. Esselina Macome**, Chief Executive Officer, Financial Sector Deepening (FSD), Mozambique

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Concluding Remarks and Key Take-aways**

Mr. Dominique Desruelle, Director IMF Institute for Capacity Development

Mr. Sukhwinder Singh, Director, ATI
