

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Princeton University Conference (In-Person and Livestream)

Catalyzing Macroeconomic Policy for Development in Sub-Saharan Africa

Thursday & Friday, February 23-24, 2023. (*All times are EST.*)

Keynote Speakers

Vera Songwe, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Liquidity & Sustainability Facility (LSF); co-Chair of the High-Level Panel on Climate Finance

Abhijit Banerjee, Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics, MIT

PRINCETON, N.J. — As many have noted, Africa's story will drive world history in the coming century. With 46 countries and close to 1.4 billion people, the continent is huge and diverse. It contains some of the world's most fragile states and is home to some of humanity's most dynamic entrepreneurs. The continent's population growth rate of 2.7% is more than double that of South Asia, and much of the population boom will happen in the sub-Saharan region. Meeting development goals for both present needs and future investment requires smart policy and coordinated action.

This two-day conference will explore the macroeconomic policies sub-Saharan African countries should pursue to support development, growth, and long-term economic resilience. The conference will bring together policymakers, academics, and industry experts to explore *four areas* that will be critical for catalyzing macroeconomic development: *industrial policy, monetary and fiscal policies, macroprudential regulations, and regional integration*.

The annual conferences hosted by Princeton's Julis-Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy & Finance convene preeminent researchers, policy experts, and market practitioners from across the globe to exchange ideas and shed new light on the most pressing economic issues of our time. The conference also gives our students exposure to diverse viewpoints and as well as opportunities to interact with leading academics and policymakers.

The first day of the conference will feature a workshop with young scholars and new research. The following two days will feature talks by industry experts and policymakers highlighting innovative new policies in several countries in the region.

The conference agenda and speaker bios are [available here](#). Keynotes' bios are attached. Please contact Pallavi Nuka (pallavi@princeton.edu) to arrange interviews with any of the speakers.

The conference will be streamed live on YouTube. Videos will be available in our YouTube Video Library. The event is **open to the public**. [Registration is required for in-person attendance](#).

Sponsors

- [Julis-Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy & Finance](#) at the [Princeton School of Public & International Affairs](#)
- [Empirical Studies of Conflict Project](#)
- [Program in African Studies](#)
- [Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies](#)
- [African School of Economics](#)
- [African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development](#)
- [Central Bank of West African States – West African Center for Banking Studies and Training \(BCEAO-COFEB\)](#)



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 | 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (EST)

3:15 - 3:30 PM | **Opening Remarks & Introduction**

- [Atif Mian](#), JRCPPF Director & John H. Laporte, Jr. Class of 1967 Professor of Economics, Public Policy and Finance

3:30 - 4:50 PM | **Session 1: Trade & Regional Flows**

- [Ibrahim Mayaki](#), Former CEO, African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) and President of OECD SWAC
- **Hippolyte Fofack**, Chief Economist and Director of Research, Africa Export-Import Bank
- [Nina Pavcnik](#), Niehaus Family Professor in International Studies, Dartmouth University
- (Moderator) [Leonard Wantchekon](#), James Madison Professor of Political Economy, Princeton University; Founder, African School of Economics

5:00 - 6:00 PM | **KEYNOTE: Vera Songwe**, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Liquidity & Sustainability Facility (LSF); Co-Chair, High-Level Expert Panel on Climate Finance

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023 | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (EST)

9:00 - 10:30 AM | **Session 2: Industrial Policy**

- [Jacob Moscona](#), Prize Fellow in Economics, History, and Politics, Harvard University
- **Cina Lawson**, Minister for Digital Economy and Digital Transformation, Govt. of Togo
- [Zainab Usman](#), Senior Fellow and Director of the Africa Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- (Moderator) [Ethan Kapstein](#), Visiting Professor and Associate Director of the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, Princeton University

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM | **Session 3: International Finance, Debt Sustainability, and Managing Capital Flows**

- [Chris Canavan](#), Managing Partner, Lions Head Global Capital
- [Jill Dauchy](#), Founder and CEO, Potomac Group
- [Victor Murinde](#), Professor of International Finance, School of Oriental and African Studies; Founding Director and Professor, The African Development Institute at the African Development Bank
- [Aart Kraay](#), Director of Development Policy in the Development Economics Vice Presidency and Deputy Chief Economist, World Bank Group
- [Layna Mosley](#), Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University

12:45 - 1:45 PM | **KEYNOTE: Abhijit Banerjee**, Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics, MIT

2:00 - 3:30 PM | **Fiscal and Monetary Policy**

- [Adnan Khan](#), Chief Economist and Director of Economics and Evaluation Directorate, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- [Abdoulaye Ndiaye](#), Assistant Professor of Economics, NYU
- **Catherine Pattillo**, Deputy Director for the Africa Region, IMF
- (Moderator) **Atif Mian**

3:30 PM | *Closing Remarks*

More Information

While free and open to the public, [registration is required to attend](#). For those unable to attend the conference in person, all the sessions will be streamed live and the videos will be available on the [JRCPPF YouTube channel](#).

- Visit <https://jrc.princeton.edu/annual-conference/2023> for more information and to register for the upcoming conference.
- Visit <http://jrc.princeton.edu> for general information about the Julis-Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy & Finance.
- Visit the [JRCPPF YouTube channel](#) to watch the live webcast of the conference.

About the Sponsors

The [Julis-Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy & Finance \(JRCPPF\)](#) at the [Princeton School of Public and International Affairs](#) promotes research and teaching at the intersection of public policy, financial markets, and the macroeconomy. Previous annual conferences have focused on development finance, radical markets, the future of globalization, China's economy and financial system, the European crisis, recovery after the Great Recession, consumption and finance, inequality and long-run growth, and financial innovation in the macroeconomy. [Programs, presentation slides, and videos from all these events are available on the JRCPPF website.](#)

Keynote speaker
Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee

Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee is the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 2003 he co-founded the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) with Esther Duflo and Sendhil Mullainathan, and he remains one of the Lab's Directors. Banerjee is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Econometric Society. He is a winner of the Infosys Prize a co-recipient of the 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for his groundbreaking work in development economics research.

Abhijit is the author of a large number of articles and five books, including *Poor Economics*, which won the Goldman Sachs Business Book of the Year, and *Good Economics for Hard Times*, both co-authored with Esther Duflo. He is the editor of three more books and has directed two documentary films. Banerjee has served on the U.N. Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. He is a trustee of Save the Children USA and the Chair of the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel and the Global Advisory Board for Covid-19 Response of the government of West Bengal.

Keynote speaker
Vera Songwe

Vera Songwe is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Liquidity & Sustainability Facility (LSF) and Co-Chair of the High-Level Expert Panel on Climate Finance nominated by the government of the UK and Egypt alongside Lord Nick Stern. From 2017-2022, she was United Nations Under-Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Songwe has led numerous efforts to bring greater prosperity to Africa. She has worked with African heads of government, Ministers of Finance and Central Bank governors, international organizations and the private sector on macroeconomic stability, monetary policy, financial innovation and inclusion growth, economic integration and trade, and private sector development. She is a leader recognized and respected globally and has contributed policy advice to many continental leaders and institutional leaders globally.

Previously, Songwe was the Regional Director of the International Finance Corporation, covering West and Central Africa. She oversaw a multi-billion-dollar portfolio of investments in energy, transportation, manufacturing and technology.

Prior to this, she held a number of roles at the World Bank, including serving as Country Director, Adviser to the Managing Director for Africa, Europe and Central and South Asia. She spent 10 years of her career working and living in Asia. She joined the World Bank as a Young Professional. Prior to joining the Bank, she was a Visiting Researcher at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota and at the University of Southern California.

Songwe was named African Icon of the year in 2022 by the African Bankers Association for her work on SDRs, Inflation, debt management and domestic resource mobilization. She was named one of the '100 Most Influential Africans' by Jeune Afrique in 2021 as well the top 50 most influential African Women by Forbes Magazine in 2019 and by the Financial Times as among 25 Africans to watch. She currently serves as a visiting senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

She holds a PhD in Mathematical Economics from the Center for Operations Research and Econometrics, a Master of Arts in Law and Economics and a Diplôme d'études approfondies in Economic Science and Politics from Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium. She also holds a B.A. in Economics and Political science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Speakers available for interviews

1. [Chris Canavan](#), Managing Partner, Lions Head Global Capital
2. [Jill Dauchy](#), Founder and CEO, Potomac Group
3. **Hippolyte Fofack**, Chief Economist and Director of Research, Africa Export-Import Bank
4. [Adnan Khan](#), Chief Economist and Director of Economics and Evaluation Directorate, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
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6. [Cina Lawson](#), Minister for Digital Economy and Digital Transformation, Govt. of Togo
7. [Ibrahim Mayaki](#), Former CEO, New Economic Partnership for African Development (AUDA-NEPAD)
8. [Jacob Moscona](#), Prize Fellow in Economics, History, and Politics, Harvard University
9. [Victor Murinde](#), Professor of International Finance, School of Oriental and African Studies; Founding Director and Professor, The African Development Institute at the African Development Bank
10. [Abdoulaye Ndiaye](#), Assistant Professor of Economics, NYU
11. [Catherine Pattillo](#), Deputy Director for the Africa Region, IMF
12. [Nina Pavcnik](#), Niehaus Family Professor in International Studies, Dartmouth University
13. [Zainab Usman](#), Senior Fellow and Director of the Africa Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Princeton faculty

- [Ethan Kapstein](#), Visiting Professor and Associate Director of the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, Princeton University
- [Atif Mian](#), JRCPPF Director & John H. Laporte, Jr. Class of 1967 Professor of Economics, Public Policy and Finance
- [Layna Mosley](#), Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University
- [Leonard Wantchekon](#), James Madison Professor of Political Economy, Princeton University; Founder, African School of Economics

Contact Persons AUDA-NEPAD

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