

# COVID-19

## MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICY RESPONSES IN AFRICA



## ***Speaker Biographies: Policy Responses from South Africa and Nigeria***

**11 August 2021, 15:00 – 16:30 GMT+2, Zoom**

- **Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)**

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos has been SAIIA's Chief Executive since 2005. With more than 26 years of experience in the field of politics and international relations, Elizabeth's expertise lies in South Africa's foreign policy, South-South Cooperation and the role of emerging powers in Africa. She is a regular commentator in South African and foreign media. She has published on various aspects of South Africa's foreign policy including on its peace-making model as a key dimension of its soft power, its development diplomacy and edited a volume on SA's foreign policy in the first decade of democracy – Apartheid Past, Renaissance Future (SAIIA, 2004). She has also co-edited two books exploring the rise of the new development cooperation providers: Development cooperation and emerging powers: New Partners or Old Patterns (Zed Books, 2012) and Institutional Architecture and Development: Responses from Emerging Powers (Jacana, 2015). She is the editor-in-chief of the DHET accredited South African Journal of International Affairs. She is the co-chair of the Think 20 Africa Standing Group, one of the task forces of the Think 20, which is one of the engagement groups of the G20. Most recently she co-edited a volume titled 'Values, Interests and Power: South African foreign policy in uncertain times', which was published in October 2020.



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- **Dr Arjan de Haan, Senior Program Specialist: Sustainable Inclusive Economies, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**

Arjan de Haan is a development expert who focuses on public policy and poverty in Asia. He leads the IDRC program Supporting Inclusive Growth, managing a team of 10 specialists in Ottawa and regional offices.



Before joining IDRC, de Haan worked at the Institute of Social Studies (Erasmus University Rotterdam) in The Hague, where he was convenor of the master's program in social policy and led the development of a database called Indices of Social Development. Before that, he worked for 10 years with the UK Department for International Development in London, India, and China. He also managed the Poverty Research Unit at the University of Sussex (UK). He has published widely and is co-editor of the Canadian Journal of Development Studies.

De Haan holds a PhD in social history from Erasmus University Rotterdam (Netherlands).

- **Mma Amara Ekeruche, Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)**

Ms Mma Amara Ekeruche is a Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA). In addition, she runs a column 'Your Nigerian Economist' on Stears Business, Africa's leading business publication. She holds a Master's in Economic Policy from University College London (UCL), United Kingdom and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana. Her research interests are development economics, macroeconomics, and fiscal policy. Consequently, her research experience cuts across key issues in development including government debt and public financial management, South-South Cooperation and the impact of Chinese investment in Africa. You can find her work on Brookings, the United Nations Office on South-South Cooperation, Southern Voice, Africa Portal, and On Think Tanks.



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- **Conrad Vangass, Research Associate, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)**

Conrad van Gass is a development economist with a background in fiscal and financial policy. He has consecutively worked for or consulted to the eThekweni Metropolitan Council, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Financial and Fiscal Commission and the Government Technical Advisory Centre in South Africa. He holds Masters degrees in Applied Development Economics from the University of Cape Town and Town and Regional Planning from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Before joining SAIIA, his analytic experience outside South Africa covered Botswana, Zambia, Uganda, Ethiopia and Nigeria.



- **Dr Paul Okwira Okwi, Senior Programme Specialist, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**

Dr Paul Okwira Okwi is a Senior Program Officer for the Think Tank Initiative based at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)'s Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (Nairobi). Prior to joining IDRC, Paul worked for the World Bank in Kampala, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi and was a lecturer at Makerere University. Paul has published extensively on welfare and income inequality, poverty mappings, geographic determinants of poverty, and natural resource economics.



- **Dr Miguel Jaramillo Baanante, Senior Researcher, Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE)**

Senior Researcher at GRADE. He holds a PhD in History from the University of California. He has conducted research projects and consultancies for international organizations as the International Labor Office, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the Andean Development Corporation, among others. He has served as Advisor to Vice Ministers and Ministers in the fields of labor, social promotion and industry, having been Vice Minister of Social Promotion. He is currently a member of the National Labor Council.



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## MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICY RESPONSES IN AFRICA



- **Dr Adedeji Adeniran, Director of Research, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)**

Dr Adeniran is the Director of Research at CSEA. He holds a PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He also holds a Masters' and Bachelor's degree in Economics and Educational Management/Economics from the University of Ibadan. He previously worked as a seasonal Lecturer in the Department of Witwatersrand, as a Data Analyst at the Analyst Data Services and Resources (ADSR) and as a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Economics University of Ibadan. His research interests cuts across macroeconomics, development finance, public economics and policy analysis and experimental economics.



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