



**The Meles Zenawi
Symposium on Development**

**AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC
DEVELOPMENTAL STATE**

21 August 2015. Kigali, Rwanda  #MZFSymposium

Concept Note & Program

**2015 THEME: "AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC
DEVELOPMENTAL STATE"**

SERENA HOTEL, KIGALI, RWANDA

21ST AUGUST, 2015



GRUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE
DE DEVELOPPEMENT
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



1. Background and Context

Over the past decade or so, the model of a developmental state, which envisions the state as both committed to development and as playing a leading role in charting its course, has gained currency among development practitioners and policy makers in Africa. It is considered as a viable alternative to the neoliberal model of the 1980s to 1990s.

This emerging consensus is reflected in a wide range of recommendations adopted by the Fourth Annual Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development convened in Addis Ababa, 24th to 29th, March 2011. Under the theme ‘The Role of the State in Economic Transformation’, participants urged governments “to promote developmental states that would transform Africa’s political systems from rent-seeking into a developmental one.”

Yet, for all the currency that the model enjoys, its understanding awaits further public discussion on a number of important fronts, a point well noted by former Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in his opening address to the said conference:

“The debate on a new developmental paradigm centered on a developmental state that you have

started today is a welcome and long overdue debate. We need to pursue the debate further in our academic institutions, political parties and the society at large.”

It is with this in mind that the annual Meles Zenawi Symposium on development was conceived by the African Development Bank and the Meles Zenawi Foundation as a platform for rigorous intellectual deliberation and in depth analysis of issues related to development. Inspired by the late Prime Minister’s commitment to the state’s singular and prominent role in building robust accountable institutions and facilitating rapid sustainable development, the inaugural symposium proposes to tackle these issues under the theme **“The African Democratic Developmental State”**.

Discussions will be informed by the opinions of key policy makers from countries with experience in developmental state as well as notable scholars whose work relates to the thematic area. The inaugural symposium hopes to address issues and encourage unorthodox but pragmatic thinking in a manner that traditional intergovernmental fora may not easily accommodate.



2. Objectives

In a speech delivered by the former Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, he articulated an objective that this symposium shares:

“In spite of the monstrous homogeneity in policy stance that we have allowed ourselves to be shackled with, there is some space for policy experimentation and diversity commensurate with our diverse circumstances. For all these diverse circumstances suggest that while we all

have the same goals, and while there are bound to be some commonalities in our policies, what we really need to do is come up with a set of different options that will take us to where we want to go.”

It is the expectation of this symposium and of the MZF in general, to contribute to the continental conversation in search of the different options that will take us where we want to go.



3. Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the Symposium are three fold:

- i. The launching of an annual series under the organization of the Meles Zenawi Foundation and its collaborators on Democracy and the Developmental State, as an on-going conversation on Africa's future.
- ii. A synthesis of thoughts and opinions pertaining to the relationship of state-led development and democratic governance with a view to meeting 21st century African

challenges. These will include reinforcing on the following schematic and guiding questions: How can the people of this continent create a mutually supportive relationship between fundamental goals of development and democracy? How can countries address the inevitable tensions and trade-offs between the two goals, and how can external actors help – or hinder?

- iii. The outcomes of the deliberations from the Symposium will be submitted to the African Union, with the expectation that these will feed into the Agenda 2063.



4. Organization of the Symposium

The Symposium will be a high level forum dedicated to the delivery of a key note and two panel discussions.

Panels:

1. Keynote Panel: The Concept of the Democratic Developmental State

Guiding Questions for the Session

- What are the challenges and tensions inherent in the concept of a democratic developmental state?
- What is the relationship, if any, between successful state-driven development and the level of democratization in terms of popular participation, multiparty competition, civil liberties, and/or civil society activity?
- How is policy-making in a democratic developmental state insulated from special interest groups and from popular pressures for short term results? What does it take to ensure broad and long-term continuity of policy beyond electoral cycles and short-term campaigns?
- How can bureaucratic institutions be strengthened in the context of nascent

democracies without undermining transparency, accountability and democratically deliberative institutions? How can a centrally-led process of priority setting and resource allocation afford space for local decision making?

2. Panel One: The Developmental State in a Globalized World

Guiding Questions for the Session

- What is the impact of globalization on the ability of developmental states to achieve rapid economic growth and economic transformation?
- What role can/ do international partnerships play in advancing or hindering the agenda of developmental states? What recent shifts, if any, can be identified in donor thinking on the role of the state in development? What disagreements persist?
- What, if any, new opportunities and challenges does Africa face given the particularities of the global economic climate? How can African economies best position themselves to overcome challenges and take advantage of opportunities?



3. Panel Two: Development, Participation and Institutional Design

Guiding Questions for the Session

- What specific policies and institutional arrangements are central to development states?
- How can African countries learn from the experience of developmental states in East Asia and elsewhere? What worked, and why? Would it work in African contexts?
- What are the appropriate respective roles of the state and markets in fostering genuine economic and social transformation?
- What are the roles of education and the development of human capital? What factors foster technological development? How important is infrastructure in determining outcomes, and what should be the basis for prioritization?
- How can an interventionist state seek to use state resources to address the problem of poverty democratically, effectively and transparently in countries where the bulk of the

population is agrarian? To what extent does this require active engagement of local communities and their citizens so as to invest the developmental state with a populist dimension?

- What specific policy issues are likely to be most critical to the development of Africa in the 21st century?

The Symposium expects to gather about 200 participants. These will include:

Heads of State

H. E. Paul Kagame, President, Republic of Rwanda
H.E Ismail Omar Guelleh, President, Republic of Djibouti
H.E Yoweri Museveni, President, Republic of Uganda
H.E John Dramani Mahama, President, Republic of Ghana
H.E Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Former Heads of State/ Panel Participants

H.E Luiz Lula da Silva, former President, Federative Republic of Brazil
H.E Thabo Mbeki, former President, Republic of South Africa
H.E Lee Myung-bak, former President, Republic of South Korea



Key Panel Speakers



Dr. Donald Kaberuka

He is President of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB). During his service at the AfDB, Mr. Kaberuka has presided over a major redirection in the Bank's strategy for development and poverty reduction in Africa. To that end, the AfDB has placed increased emphasis on the private sector and on the importance of major infrastructure developments in areas such as road, railways, power plants and communications, especially given their role in promoting regional integration in Africa.



Prof. Andreas Eshete

He is Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. He studied philosophy at Williams College and Yale University. He has taught philosophy in a number of American universities, and has written extensively on Ethiopia.



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Dr. Frannie Léautier

She is currently a Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Mkoba Private Equity Fund in Tanzania. She is formerly the Executive Secretary of African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF). Dr Frannie also served as the Vice-President of the World Bank, where she held various positions including Infrastructure Director; Vice-President and Head, World Bank Institute; and Chief of Staff to the President.



Professor Paschal Mihyo

He is the Director of Research at the African Institute for Development Initiatives. A Professor of Politics and Administrative Studies, he was a former Executive Director of the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) between 2008 to 2014. Prof Mihyo has published six books and 43 journal articles on law, human rights and politics in Africa.



Professor Anastase Shyaka

is currently the Executive Secretary of the Rwanda Governance Board, a national institution mandated to promote and monitor good governance in public, civic and corporate sectors. He has been Chairman of the National Consultative Committee on Fast Tracking the East African Political Federation. He has also served as Director of the Centre for Conflict Management at the National University of Rwanda.

Other participants

- African Union Commission
- United Nation Economic Commission for Africa
- United Nations Development Programme, Regional Office
- East African Community
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern African States
- Southern African Development Community
- Economic Community of West African States
- Central African Economic and Monetary Community
- Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
- World Bank
- Government of the Republic of Rwanda officials and other representatives
- Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia officials and other representatives
- African Finance/Economic Development ministers: Algeria; Uganda; Kenya; Djibouti; Sudan
- Governors of Central Banks: Algeria; Uganda; Kenya; Djibouti; Sudan
- Diplomatic Corps in Rwanda
- Civil Society organisations
- Opinion Makers
- Academicians
- Students
- Researchers



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Program

Time	Event	Person (s) Responsible
Thursday, 20th August, 2015		
All Day	Arrival and Registration	Government of Rwanda/Meles Zenawi Foundation/African Development Bank
19:30 - 21:00	Welcome Dinner	Government of Rwanda
Friday, 21st August, 2015		
09:15 - 10:00	Arrival	Government of Rwanda/Meles Zenawi Foundation/African Development Bank
10h00	Arrival of Dignitaries	
10:00 - 10:05	Introduction by the Master of Ceremony	Ms. Lerato Mbele, Conductor of Ceremony/Moderator
10:05 - 10:10	Welcome Remarks	Madame Azeb Mesfin
10:10 - 10:15	Remarks by	Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank
10:15 - 10:30	Opening Statement by	H.E President Paul Kagame, Republic of Rwanda
10:30 - 11:30	High Level Panel The State and Africa's transformation Moderator Honorable Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	High Level Panelist Speakers (i) H.E President Paul Kagame, Republic of Rwanda (ii) H.E. Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (iii) H. E. Vice-President Kwesi Amissah-Arthur, Republic of Ghana; and (iv) H. E. Prime Minister, Lionel Zinsou, Republic of Benin
11:30-12:30	Interactive Session:	Honorable Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia



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12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Policy and Practice Panel One :</p> <p>The Developmental State in a Globalized World</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Lerato Mbele</p>	<p>Panelist Speakers</p> <p>His Excellencies (i) Mrs Geraldin Joslyn Moleketi, Special Envoy on Gender African Development Bank; ii) Ms. Jendayi Frazer, Carnegie Mellon University, former United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs iii) Dr. Steve Kayizzi-Mugerwa, Acting Vice-President and Chief Economist, AfDB</p>
15:00-15:30	Interactive Session:	Ms. Lerato Mbele
15:30-16:30	<p>Policy and Practice - Panel Two:</p> <p>Development, Participation and Institutional Design</p> <p>Moderator Dr. Steve Kayizzi-Mugerwa, Acting Vice-President and Chief Economist, AfDB</p>	<p>Panelist Speakers</p> <p>(i) Professor Andreas Eshete, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister; (ii) Professor Shyaka Anastase, Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda Governance Board and (iii) Professor Paschal Mihyo, former Executive Director, Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa iv) Dr. Aisha Laraba Abdullahi, Commissioner, Political Affairs, African Union Commission</p>
16:30 – 17:00	Interactive Session:	Ms. Lerato Mbele
17:00 – 17:30	Closing Ceremony	Conductor of Ceremony/Moderator
	Vote of thanks	Zenawi Foundation represented by Madame Azeb Mesfin
17:30 – 19:30	Cocktail	



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