AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (G-COP)
FOR
ENHANCING RESILIENCE IN AFRICAN ECONOMIES IN A POST-COVID-19 WORLD:
HOSTED BY AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (ADI),
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP
REGISTRATION AS ANCHOR INSTITUTION OR INDIVIDUAL EXPERT

I. CONTEXT

The unprecedented immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on global, regional and national health systems, economies, trade, cultures, and societies have attracted significant interest globally and across countries. Both the public and private sectors, individuals and communities are struggling to respond to the impact of the pandemic.

Different countries have adopted extraordinary but unequal measures to contain the virus, each according to its capacity. Countries have rightly focused on immediate response strategies to flatten the disease curve through non-pharmaceutical prevention and containment measures – notably personal hygiene, social distancing and lockdown of economic activity to various scales. Several countries have closed their borders, eased monetary and fiscal policies in unprecedented proportions to help citizens, businesses and public institutions cope with the crisis. The developing countries are, once again, exposed to unprecedented need to seek external aid (in grants and loans) to respond to the crisis. In effect, while the COVID-19 pandemic is a supra-national challenge, individuals, firms and countries are retreating (and competing for resources) to protect themselves.

Emerging evidence suggests that the non-pharmaceutical measures have high potential for slowing down the contagion, reducing mortality rates and minimizing pressures on existing national health systems. However, their immediate impact on individual livelihoods, community life, national economies, social systems and global cooperation have become a subject of varied policy discussion. The pandemic has reignited debates regarding adequacy of, asymmetries and contradictions in, the contemporary global order. Many draw parallels with what happened during the post-World War II which gave birth to the Bretton Woods Institutions. Everything is up for debate: the relative virtues of centralized or regionalized health systems; the trade-offs between the economy and public health, the adequacy of globalization, glocalization, or nationalism; the pros and cons of Authoritarianism, Confucianism, Democracy, and Populism; the value of a globalized, regionalized, or nationalized value chains, etc.

As countries continue to rightly focus on flattening the disease curve and finding the vaccine and therapeutic cure, there is need to consider what the COVID-19 pandemic and the response strategies may bequeath to economies and human societies. While the current policy discourse appears to focus
on re-starting the neo-liberal order - “re-opening the economy” – as it were, the rapid halt in the “globalization” and “free market economy” in the face of COVID-19 begs many questions regarding the adequacy and resilience of the contemporary economic order. Beyond the numbers that are being generated by several modelers and analysts on the impacts of COVID-19 on national, regional and global economies, there is need for a coordinated synthesis of the lessons learned and implications of all ongoing efforts for the post-COVID-19 policies on sustaining our common future. Indeed, the short-, medium-, and long-term economic, political and social consequences of the pandemic are yet to be well understood. At the global, continental, and national levels, there is need to consider key coordinated policy response strategies to flatten the curve, and address the social, economic and environmental externalities of the pandemic in the short, medium and long-term. There is need to consider ways to strengthen and/or completely re-think the underlying architecture of the global cooperation, continental integration, and national planning to build more resilient health, economic, and social systems in the post COVID-19 era.

In response, the African Development Institute (ADI) of the African Development Bank Group has established a Global Community of Practice (G-CoP) to facilitate knowledge synthesis and policy dialogue to inform policy responses of the African Regional Member Countries (RMCs) to the short, medium and long-term policy questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The G-CoP is hosted through a virtual interactive collaborative environment (VICE) under the auspices of the ADI Virtual Capacity Development Academy (VCDA), featuring:

1. A certified virtual community of experts and practitioners from the African Development Bank Group, governments, think tanks, universities and development practitioners in Africa and globally;
2. A virtual repository of relevant publications and opinion pieces on COVID-19 response policies and practices in Africa and around the world;
3. Regular webinars / e-seminars to brainstorm on emerging case studies of good and bad practices and lessons learned;
4. Targeted country specific case studies on short, medium and long-term strategies to build a more resilient economy that can withstand future exogenous shocks such as COVID-19 pandemic; and
5. An interactive virtual marketplace with an “ask the experts” function to enable policy makers access rapid technical advisory services in real time.

The VCDA is a virtual interactive collaborative environment (VICE) that enables a consortium of certified global experts and anchor institutions to engage in facilitated policy dialogue and to provide evidence-based policy advice, technical assistance and training to the Bank’s Regional Member Countries (RMCs) on specialized subject areas (see Figure 1).

The G-CoP on COVID-19 policy responses in Africa is coordinated by the African Development Institute (ADI) of the African Development Bank Group. However, the G-CoP member institutions and government agencies are welcome to participate, convene and host webinars, seminars, and policy dialogues on subjects of interest to help African member states to respond to the COVID-19 in the short, medium to long term. All convenings will be moderated in consultation with the ADI dedicated staff members who will manage the G-CoP platform and help produce the knowledge products and policy briefs as appropriate.
To submit expression of interest to be considered as a certified anchor institutional partner or individual expert, please complete and submit the form provided in the links below by email: ADIGCOP@AFDB.ORG

Certified Institutional Partners

Certified Individual Expert

Figure 1: The Virtual Capacity Development Academy of the African Development Institute (ADI)