



COMMONWEALTH WOMEN'S NETWORK

Strengthening the Commonwealth. Building Businesses and Civil Society Organisation's. Advancing Women and Men. 56 Countries. One Platform. The oldest organisation accredited by Commonwealth Governments Focused on Women's, Gender, and Developments Douala, Cameroon

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About

This is the documents to prepare the Commonwealth Diasporas Conference 2025.

That the Commonwealth Diasporas Meeting will have forums as:

The Commonwealth Diasporas economic cooperation and investments conference

The Commonwealth Diasporas youth forum

The Commonwealth Women's Diasporas Organisation's forum

The general assembly of the Commonwealth Diasporas Organisation's Network.

The theme of this year's conference is **Financing the Sustainable Development Goals with Diaspora Investment**



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CONTEXT

Executive Summary

The substantive financing gap associated with implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is compelling countries to look for alternative sources of finance to achieve their international commitments. International diasporas have emerged as an important community to assist countries to advance their development agenda and new forms of diaspora investment may go some way to close the SDG financing gap.

Migration has been one of the key pillars upon which the association of Commonwealth members has been built. It has resulted in a large Commonwealth diaspora across Commonwealth countries, with the significance of intra-Commonwealth migration still visible to this day. In 2015, 44 per cent of migration from Commonwealth countries was to other Commonwealth countries, equivalent to approximately 22 million migrants per annum.¹

At the same time, remittance flows now dwarf all other external financial flows to Commonwealth emerging and developing countries, and were equivalent to approximately 42 per cent of these flows in 2015.



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Even though the volume of these flows varies greatly across countries, as does the significance of remittances as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP), they remain a key source of external finance for most Commonwealth countries. 'Diaspora investment', as defined here, is distinguishable from remittances, and is a financial transfer that is: (i) sent by members of a diaspora to their country of origin; ii) received by business enterprises, government organisations or non-government organisations; and (iii) provides a financial return (or an item of corresponding value) to the sender. Scaling up diaspora investment offers multiple economic and social benefits for recipient as well as remitter countries.

1 This number is based on formally recorded migration flows.

2 Excluding Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Malta, New Zealand, the UK and Singapore.

Rather than attempting to estimate the total size of current Commonwealth diaspora investment

– which is a challenging albeit valuable task – this paper presents an estimate of the 'diaspora investment potential' for Commonwealth countries.

It is a measure of the maximum additional finance that could be leveraged from a country's diaspora for investment purposes, and is equal to the proportion of income that is allocated to savings from migrants and their children.



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- **For many countries, the diaspora investment potential is relatively aligned to global trends for remittances. Yet, some countries that do not currently record large remittance inflows recorded large diaspora investment potential, such as Canada, South Africa and Trinidad and Tobago.**

- **Migrant investment potential – which accounts for the investment potential from migrants only – appears to be greater for small states than other Commonwealth countries when measured by its percentage of a country's GNI. On average, small states could raise approximately 4.52 per cent of GNI**

per annum from their migrants as compared to 1.18 per cent of GNI for Commonwealth non-small states.

- **Migrant investment potential appears to be most significant for middle-income Commonwealth countries, particularly upper-middle income, as expressed as a proportion of GNI.**

- **Migrant investment potential for one year is equivalent to more than 10 per cent of annual total government expenditure for 15 Commonwealth countries.**

Furthermore, it could close over 25 per cent of annual government deficit in 10 Commonwealth countries.

The simplifying assumptions used in this analysis should, collectively, provide a balanced perspective of the potential size of diaspora, investment potential. For



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instance, the behavioural assumptions used in the baseline migrant and first-generation diaspora models tend to be conservative, thereby acting to reduce the magnitude of the results presented in this paper.

Furthermore, this analysis only accounts for finance that could be raised directly from migrants and diasporas, rather than the investment that could be facilitated by these groups. Yet, on the other hand, this analysis implicitly assumes that the total current level of migrant and diaspora savings could be reallocated to finance investment opportunities in Commonwealth countries and it assumes there are no displacement effects between remittances and investment; assumptions that act to inflate the potential capital countries could raise from their diasporas. Acknowledging the important role of diaspora communities in facilitating state development, national governments are increasingly encouraging their diasporas to scale up their engagement.

Analysis of the experiences of nine Commonwealth countries in encouraging diaspora finance and investment, illustrates that these governments have given this agenda more attention in recent years. Country action can be separated into five main institutional and policy areas (Commonwealth Secretariat 2017). The five core areas of action are: 1) institutional engagement with diasporas;

2) extending rights and recognising diasporas' contributions; 3) ensuring an economic enabling environment and financial incentives; 4) promotion of investment initiatives; and 5) initiatives to leverage resources.



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Across the five core institutional and policy areas, countries have focused most strongly on enhancing ties to their international diaspora communities by extending political rights and residency status to their diasporas abroad, while also establishing institutional frameworks to facilitate diaspora engagement. Set against this, governments have given least attention to establishing a wide range of financial products and initiatives targeted at diaspora communities to leverage diaspora investments and donations/philanthropic support.

Given the large diaspora investment potential that can be raised by Commonwealth countries, this suggests much more could be done by governments to establish innovative financial products and programmes to attract investment and donations/philanthropic finance from diaspora communities.

Concept Note

1. Introduction

1.1 At the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, the international community agreed on a demanding set of goals to advance sustainable development globally. These Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) are wide-ranging and ambitious, and their implementation will require a significant upscaling of economic, social and environmental activities across the world. Most effort, however, will need to be applied to low- and



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middle-income countries, which generally have the furthest distance to travel if they are to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

These countries face the largest financing gaps to deliver these improvements. Few studies have attempted to quantify the comprehensive cost of delivering the SDGs. This mammoth task requires analysing advancements across 17 sectoral areas and 169 targets. Nonetheless, those that have undertaken such analysis suggest eye-watering figures. For instance, a paper by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network suggests the achievement of the SDGs requires additional incremental spending in low- and lower middle-income countries amounting to at least US\$1.4 trillion per year (Schmidt-Traub 2015).

This is compelling countries to look for alternative approaches to increase external and domestic resources to fill this financing gap. The aim of this paper is to illustrate that attracting additional finance from a country's diaspora, in the form of diaspora investment, may be one mechanism to close part of this financing gap.

One of the main historical pillars of the Commonwealth has been its role in facilitating migration within the Commonwealth. This has resulted in a large Commonwealth diaspora across Commonwealth countries, with the significance of intra-Commonwealth migration still visible to this day. These diasporas have significantly increased the volume of international financial transfers to their country of origin in the last 15 years in the form of remittances, and interviews with diaspora communities suggest that many are willing to provide much more (Benson et al. 2016; Developing Markets Associate 2012; USAID 2014; USAID 2015; World Bank 2010; World Bank 2013). This provides an exciting opportunity for the Commonwealth to play a part in facilitating greater levels of diaspora finance to support the achievement of the SDGs. This paper will attempt to quantify the volume of diaspora investment Commonwealth countries can



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potentially leverage from their diaspora, in addition to what is currently being provided in the form of remittances. The first section of the paper examines the historical importance of migration flows and diaspora in the Commonwealth, followed by a section illustrating the substantive increase of remittances in the Commonwealth as a form of external financial flows to Commonwealth countries over the last two decades. Section 4 defines the concept of diaspora investment and outlines the model used to estimate the financial quantum of diaspora investment that could be leveraged by Commonwealth countries.

Following this section, the results, disaggregated by Commonwealth country, are discussed. The final section summarises actions taken by several Commonwealth countries aiming to attract this type of investment and points to potential ways forward for countries keen to embark on strategies to encourage greater levels of diaspora investment.

1.2 The Meeting theme highlights opportunities and prospect for Commonwealth and Africa amidst an increasingly unpredictable global landscape.

The conference will explore four key pillars:

- Global, regional and national uncertainty impacts on Africa's development prospects;
- Practical African strategies to build resilience to emerging shocks;
- Innovative development financing in an era of growing uncertainty;
- The role of technology in fostering predictability, creativity and resilience.

1.3 While global factors such as economic volatility, climate change, and trade dynamics



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contribute to uncertainty, internal efforts to strengthen governance, diversify economies, and foster regional cooperation can help promote economic sovereignty and sustainable development.

1.4 The AEC 2024 will provide an opportunity for the participants to review the continent's experience with shocks (Covid-19 pandemic, wars, political instability) and identify opportunities and strategies for building resilient development pathways.

1.5 The conference will also provide a platform for established academics and young researchers to present their solution-oriented research on how to strengthen Africa's and commonwealth resilience to shocks to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa Union's Agenda 2063 aspirations.

2. Context and background

2.1 The Importance of Migration in the Commonwealth Since the establishment of the Commonwealth in 1931, considerable action has been taken by Commonwealth countries to facilitate intra-Commonwealth migration. The British Nationality Act of 1948 granted subjects of the British Empire the right to live and work in the UK. Commonwealth citizens, not subject to immigration control, moved in vast numbers to the UK and over a seven-year period from 1955 to 1962, approximately half a million citizens from Commonwealth countries entered the UK. Even though legislation was passed to restrict Commonwealth migration to the UK in 1962, during the 1960s and 1970s, approximately 72,000–75,000 people were admitted to the UK each year (Migration Watch UK 2014). In the second half of the twentieth century, preferential rules for



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migrants from Commonwealth countries were also employed by other Commonwealth countries, such as in Australia with the Assisted Passage Scheme and fast-tracked citizenship rules.

Migration prior to 1931, at the time of the British Empire, also left a strong footprint on the global Commonwealth diaspora. Coerced migration during this period led to large flows of people from West Africa to the Caribbean, India to East Africa, and Britain to Australia, among other movements. Furthermore, policies to embed similarities in public administration, legal and education systems have long facilitated strong linkages among these countries.

This legacy of substantial population movements among Commonwealth countries is notable even to this day. In 2015, 44 per cent of migration from Commonwealth countries was to other Commonwealth countries (Table 1). This is equivalent to approximately 22 million migrants per annum and represents a small rise in the absolute value of intra-Commonwealth migration since 1990 from around 19 million (Figure 1). Therefore, one would expect to see large Commonwealth diaspora communities in Commonwealth countries reflecting both the large historical and recent migration



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trends. Even though the importance on intra-Commonwealth migration has reduced over recent

decades, as the share fell from 63 per cent in 1990

to 44 per cent in 2015, the enduring prominence of Commonwealth migration remains to this day,

as it continues to be the most significant recipient-country grouping for Commonwealth migration.

These migration estimates are based on official statistics of foreign-born or foreign populations by the UN Population Division. Although the number of refugees as reported by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) was added to country estimates where possible, most of these figures did not account for the large levels of informal or unrecorded migration seen in many countries.

Presenting an accurate picture of the overall size of intra-Commonwealth migration and Commonwealth diaspora communities is important, in so much that it illustrates the size of the resource pool that can be leveraged for additional diaspora capital. Commonwealth



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migration trends illustrate the historical bias for migration within the Commonwealth, suggesting large Commonwealth diasporas have formed in Commonwealth countries. This implies a potentially large Commonwealth resource pool, and points to an important role for the Commonwealth to facilitate the advancement of diaspora investment. Even though there is relatively robust data on formal international migration, very limited data exists on the size of international diaspora communities, so it is almost impossible to accurately estimate the size of the global Commonwealth diaspora. Some international organisations, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), have worked with individual countries to estimate the size of their diaspora in a particular locality. Other countries have also initiated independent efforts to understand, monitor and calculate the size of their diaspora abroad, through mapping exercises (assessing both the extent of their global diasporas and their skillsets); listening exercises;⁴

and databases

on the activities of diaspora organisations. For instance, in Nigeria, the state-affiliated Nigerian National Volunteer Service (NNVS) was tasked with



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establishing and maintaining an internet database In recent years, global uncertainties have significantly impacted Africa's development trajectory. These uncertainties stem from various factors, including geopolitical tensions, economic volatility, and health crises, each contributing to a complex landscape for commonwealth and African economies.

2.2 Ongoing conflicts, such as the war in Gaza and Russia-Ukraine shifting geostrategic posture of global powers, continue to disrupt global trade and energy markets, causing price volatility and supply chain disruptions. This has led to inflationary pressures as well as food and energy insecurity in many African countries.

2.3 Increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather events, including hurricanes, floods, droughts, and wildfires, are affecting agricultural production, displacing populations, and damaging infrastructure. These events pose significant risks to economies and contribute to food insecurity.

2.4 Geopolitical tensions and regional wars have caused ongoing disruptions to global supply chains, particularly in sectors reliant on international trade. Shortages of key components, such as semiconductors and raw materials, have hindered manufacturing, impacting economies reliant on industrial production and commodities exports. The emergence of health threats, such as the spread of new viral variants or other diseases, can strain healthcare systems, disrupt economies, and reduce tourism and consumer spending.

2.5 Conflict and climate change exacerbate the challenges faced by populations in the Sahel region, worsening poverty, increasing displacement, food insecurity, disrupting governance institutions, discouraging governments and businesses from investing in vulnerable regions,



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fomenting emergence of armed groups and competition among them and between them

and governments to control populations, territories and resources, creating a dangerous

self-enforcing cycle with adverse impacts on development prospects.

2.6 High levels of sovereign debt in many countries have led to growing concerns about

debt sustainability. Rising interest rates and currency fluctuations increase the burden on

countries servicing debt, which can lead to austerity measures or economic instability.

2.7 Rapid technological advancements, including AI and automation, are transforming

economies, shifting job markets, and challenging businesses to adapt quickly. This technological disruption can lead to both opportunities and uncertainties for countries and

industries.

2.8 Political systems play a pivotal role in mediating the impacts of crises on people, for

better or worse, and these systems themselves often feel the tremors of crises, especially

those stemming from mismanaged global interdependence. The destabilizing effects of

shocks, coupled with perceived institutional failures, can fuel populism or unconstitutional

change of power. As noted by



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UNDP's 2024 Human Development Report

, these shifts,

triggered by shocks or other causes, can disrupt democratic norms and practices, leading

to significant economic costs. Moreover, recent literature indicates that certain shocks

result in permanent economic losses, causing growth or poverty reduction trajectories to downshift irreversibly.

2.9 Climate change is another significant factor contributing to global uncertainty, with

severe droughts and floods increasingly affecting food production and security.

The

United

Nations Development Programme

estimates that climate change could reduce agricultural

yields in some African countries by up to 30% by 2050. This decline threatens food security

and livelihoods, especially in nations where agriculture is a primary source of income.

Extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and cyclones further disrupt agricultural

production, infrastructure, and economies, creating a cycle of poverty and vulnerability.

2.10 Geopolitical tensions, including ongoing conflicts and trade disputes, have caused



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economic fluctuations worldwide.

The African Development Bank

notes that Africa's

economic growth fell to 3.2% in 2023 from 4.1% in 2022, primarily due to these global

uncertainties. Trade disruptions and fluctuating commodity prices have been key contributors

to this slowdown, particularly affecting nations heavily reliant on exports like oil, minerals,

and agricultural products.

2.11 The COVID-19 pandemic has further complicated the situation, disrupting supply chains,

reducing tourism revenues, and straining healthcare systems. According to a report by the

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

, Africa's economies experienced a loss

of up to 3% of GDP in 2020 due to the pandemic's impact on global trade and investment.

The tourism sector, which supports many African economies, suffered significantly due to

travel restrictions and lockdowns. Furthermore, healthcare systems have been strained

by both pandemic-related demands and pre-existing challenges, diverting resources from

development initiatives. This loss has been compounded by subsequent variants and



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ongoing pandemic-related disruptions.

2.12 In response to these challenges, African nations are adopting a range of strategies to

build resilience and promote sustainable growth. For example, the African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to boost intra-African trade, reducing dependence on global

markets and enhancing regional economic integration. Initiatives such as blended finance,

public-private partnerships, and diaspora bonds can help to bridge the development

finance gap. Policies designed to attract investment in sectors like agribusiness and green

growth are also gaining traction, encouraging private sector engagement along agrifood

value chains.

2.13 Navigating global, regional and national uncertainties requires a multifaceted approach

that addresses geopolitical, economic, and environmental challenges. By focusing on

regional cooperation, innovative financing mechanisms, and sustainable development

initiatives, African nations can better position themselves to navigate and thrive amidst the

changing global landscape

3. Objectives of the Conference



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3.1 Remittances in the Commonwealth

Despite challenges in compiling a reliable estimate of international diaspora communities in

Commonwealth countries, these individuals have emerged as a significant source of funding for Commonwealth countries in recent years.

Remittance flows now dwarf all other external financial flows to Commonwealth emerging and developing countries, and were equivalent

to approximately 42 per cent of these flows in 2015. As such, they have become a key source of finance for economic and social development in these countries as Objectives of the Conference. The absolute size of remittances has grown tremendously over the Excluding Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Malta, New Zealand, the UK and Singapore.

Last 15 years, rising from US\$22 billion per annum in 2000 to US\$147 billion per annum in 2015 among Commonwealth emerging and developing countries.

Remittances are now the largest external finance flow to this group of countries, exceeding foreign direct investment, portfolio equity, external debt and official development assistance (ODA).

Nevertheless, the volume of these flows varies greatly across countries, as does the significance of remittances as a proportion of GDP, which is most pronounced for small states. Several Commonwealth countries are some of the biggest receivers of remittances worldwide. For instance, India received the largest quantum of remittances globally in 2015, and Nigeria, Pakistan



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3.2 meeting will serve as a prominent platform to address Commonwealth's, Africa's and the world diasporas urgent issues. The specific objectives of the conference include:

- Offering a comprehensive overview of current research on African economic and policy issues.
- Proposing actionable strategies to address Commonwealth's, Africa's unique development challenges.
- Presenting pathways to strengthen Commonwealth's, Africa's ability to withstand and adapt to economic, social, and environmental shocks.
- Forging collaboration among researchers to create a supportive network for continued study and analysis.
- Promoting conversations among researchers, development practitioners, and policymakers to align goals and initiatives.
- Enhancing research on Commonwealth's, African economic and policy issues to inform and guide decision-making processes.
- Offering a platform where evidence based research from academics and researchers is shared with policy makers to discuss emerging issues affecting the world.

4. Format of AEC 2024

4.1 The First edition of the conference will be convened in-person, with an option for virtual participation.

4.2 The conference will be organized around four pillars that are
PILLARS



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- a. Global, regional and national uncertainty impacts on Africa's development prospects:

Global, regional and national **financing the Sustainable Development Goals** uncertainties can disrupt trade, investment

- b. Practical Commonwealth and African strategies to build resilience to global shocks:

Financing the Sustainable Development Goals

- c. Innovative development financing in an era of growing uncertainty: Challenges with **Diaspora Investment, Commonwealth Financial network**

Governments Financial and Foreign Investors Input

- d. The role of technology and digital finance in fostering predictability and creativity:

The discussions

Each including a fireside opening chat, a plenary session and parallel sessions during researchers will focus on creative and sustainable pathways to building, resilience to multifaceted shocks. Side events will be organized by leading institutions to highlight key publications.

The four pillars of the conference are as follows:

- a. Global, regional and national uncertainty impacts on Africa's development prospects:



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Global, regional and national **Financing the Sustainable Development Goals**

uncertainties can disrupt trade, investment flows, and economic growth.

Geopolitical tensions, such as ongoing conflicts and shifting alliances, add another layer of complexity to the continent's economic landscape. These tensions can lead to trade restrictions, sanctions, and alterations in global supply chains, affecting African economies dependent on a limited range of exports. Additionally, global financial market volatility, influenced by fluctuating interest rates and international relations, can contribute to economic instability. African economies, particularly those reliant on commodities like oil, minerals, and agricultural products, are susceptible to price shocks. This volatility can trigger inflation, destabilize national currencies, and strain economies with substantial external debt, reducing their capacity to finance their development. It can also lead to reduced tourism revenues and strained healthcare systems, exacerbating economic difficulties.

Such questions aim to foster a deep dive into the complexities and nuances of Commonwealth's, Africa's economic landscape amid global uncertainty, promoting a proactive discussion on resilience and economic policies under uncertainties.

- b. Practical African strategies to build resilience to global shocks:

This sub-theme would cover conversations centered around enhancing the stability and growth of Commonwealth, African economies; exploring strategies for economic diversification to reduce reliance on limited export commodities; examining the role of the commonwealth trade and investments and African



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Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in bolstering intra-African trade and its effectiveness as a shield against global economic turbulence; discussing the development and expansion of social safety nets to protect the vulnerable and foster societal resilience; deliberating on the importance of governance reforms and the maintenance of stable macroeconomic environments in achieving long-term economic resilience; analyzing the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices as a means to secure food production and as a response to environmental challenges; and building economic sovereignty. Africa's monetary policies and currency fluctuations contribute to economic uncertainty.

- c. c. Innovative development financing in an era of growing uncertainty:

Challenges with **Diaspora Investment, Commonwealth Financial network**

Governments Financial and Foreign Investors Input of securing development financing in an environment characterized by high risk and uncertainty. Innovative financing mechanisms and the role of international financial institutions in supporting development amidst uncertainties. Innovative financing mechanisms are essential for securing the funds needed for development in the face of uncertainty. This strategy incorporates several innovative financing mechanisms to

enhance investment in Africa's high-impact sectors. Domestic resource mobilization plays

a crucial role, ensuring sustainable financing for development projects by leveraging

internal revenue sources such as taxes, levies, and royalties. Public-private partnerships



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(PPPs) are pivotal, facilitating private sector investments in crucial infrastructure projects,

which can significantly boost economic development. The issuance of green bonds specifically targets environmental projects such as renewable energy installations and reforestation programs. This could promote sustainable development with blended finance instruments are particularly effective to combine concessional funding from donors with commercial capital from the private sector.

- d. The role of technology and digital finance in fostering predictability and creativity:

The discussions will focus on several key aspects of how technology can be a driving force for economic development and innovation. Technology plays a crucial role in reducing uncertainty and sparking creativity. Digital tools can provide better data for decision-making, enhancing predictability in sectors like agriculture through weather forecasting and market prices.

Mobile banking and fintech innovations improve financial inclusion and resilience. Furthermore, technology drives creativity and entrepreneurship, which are essential for economic diversification and job creation. The rise of tech hubs across Commonwealth and Africa is testament to how technology fosters a new creative economy. This thematic focus highlights technology's multifaceted role in shaping Africa's economic landscape, from improving sector-specific outcomes to igniting broader entrepreneurial ecosystems.

5. Paper Submission Guidelines

5.1 Interested authors must submit their papers to



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. Only full papers

Addressing the theme of the conference will be considered for presentation.

We encourage the submission of policy- and solution-oriented papers based on strong empirical work.

5.2 Participants and experts submitting papers for the Meeting must adhere to the following key format guidelines and submission deadlines:

Format Guidelines for papers:

- Read guidelines thoroughly. Papers will not be reviewed if they do not follow our submission guidelines.
- Papers should be submitted electronically to
- All manuscripts should be submitted in PDF format with 1.5 line spacing. We strongly recommend manuscripts not exceed 40 pages. The suggested length includes reference lists, figures, and tables. Excessively long submissions may be summarily rejected.
- Please use 12-point Times New Roman or similar font. Margins should be 1.5 inches on the top, bottom, and sides.
- Your paper should include a title page with each author's name, affiliation, and contact information (email address).
- Include an abstract of 100 or fewer words.
- We do not require a cover letter.

5.3 Young African researchers are especially encouraged to submit articles.

5.4 All papers will be blind peer-reviewed by the co-organizing institutions. Papers accepted for presentation shall be original quality work.

5.5 A panel will assess the papers presented and award a prize to the best paper presented by a young researcher.

Submission deadlines



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Description

Deadline

Call for papers

20 May 2024

Deadline for paper submissions

15 August 2024

Notification of final acceptance

30 September 2024

Conference dates

6. Expected outputs and outcomes

6.1 The expected outputs of the conference are:

- A conference proceeding's report, with the Commonwealth Diasporas Organization's Association Network General Assembly to also be presented during the next Commonwealth foreign Affairs Minister meeting.
 - A compilation of the proceedings of the conference, incorporating relevant comments and feedback from peer review and conference participants (may be issued after the Conference).
 - Inclusion of selected papers in special issues of the compelling commonwealth countries to look for alternative sources of finance to achieve their international commitments. International diasporas have emerged as an important community to assist countries to advance their development agenda and new forms of diaspora investment may go some way to close the SDG financing gap.
- C Review and the Journal of African Transformation.
- Policy briefs.



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1. Defining and Measuring Diaspora Investment
2. 4.1 Defining diaspora investments

This paper lays out a conceptual framework for defining and estimating diaspora investment. 'Diaspora investment' is defined as financial transfers that:

- i. are sent by members of a diaspora – that is, people living outside their, or their ancestors', country of origin – to their country of origin;
- ii. are received by business enterprises, government organisations or non-government organisations – that is, economic units other than households in the receiving country; and
- iii. provide a financial return (or an item of corresponding value) to the sender. This excludes charitable and philanthropic donations, as well as returns that are not received by the sender (such as those transferred to family members or friends).

There is no standard definition of diaspora investment used by international policy-makers. However, US Agency for International Development, (USAID) and Inter-American Development Bank, (IDB) policy documents refer to diaspora direct investment (DDI) which – according to IDB – refers to direct investments from companies connected to diasporas in productive activities in the home country (Rodriguez-Monte mayor 2012). Both institutions infer a broad definition of



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diaspora investment which incorporates the idea of transnational networks and the influence of the component parts, such as social capital, brain gain and return migration (Debass and Ardovino 2009).

Diaspora investment, as defined here, provides a more restricted definition and focuses on investment that is financed by diasporas, excluding that which is facilitated by them. This definition excludes estimates of investments that have been assisted by Diasporas using their management experience and technical know-how. For instance, to support viable business opportunities in their country of origin or to persuade companies to invest this definition is drawn from work by Gelb 2016. in their homeland. As there is growing evidence to illustrate that diasporas have played an important role in facilitating investments in their country of origin (ibid), the results presented in this paper may well provide an underestimation of the quantum of investment associated with diaspora communities.

Though diaspora investment can potentially deliver significant benefits, compiling an accurate picture of the volume of diaspora investment is challenging.

Cross-country compilations and publications of cross-border capital flows, such as foreign direct cross-border capital flows, such as foreign direct **Global, regional, and national uncertainty impacts on Africa's development prospects:** Global, regional, and national uncertainties can disrupt trade, investment flows, and economic growth. Geopolitical tensions, such as ongoing conflicts and shifting of alliances, add another layer of complexity to the continent's economic landscape. These tensions can lead to trade restrictions, sanctions, and alterations in global



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supply chains, affecting African economies dependent on a limited range of exports. Additionally, global financial market volatility, influenced by fluctuating interest rates and international relations, can contribute to economic instability. African economies, particularly those reliant on commodities like oil, minerals, and agricultural products, are susceptible to commodity price shocks. This volatility can trigger inflation, destabilize national currencies, and strain economies with substantial external debt, thus, reducing their capacity to finance development. The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded these challenges, disrupting global trade and investment flows. It has also reduced tourism revenues and strained healthcare systems, exacerbating economic difficulties. Such questions aim to foster a deep dive into the complexities and nuances of Africa's economic landscape amid global uncertainties, promoting a proactive discussion on resilience and economic policies under uncertainties.

3. **Practical African strategies to build resilience to emerging shocks:** This sub-theme would cover conversations centred around enhancing the stability and growth of African economies, exploring strategies for economic diversification to reduce reliance on limited export commodities, examining the role of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in bolstering intra-African trade and its effectiveness as a shield against global economic turbulence; discussing the development and expansion of social safety nets to protect the vulnerable and foster societal resilience; deliberating on the importance of governance reforms and the maintenance of stable macroeconomic environments in achieving long-term economic resilience; analyzing the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices to secure food production and as a response to environmental challenges; and



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building economic sovereignty. Africa's monetary policies and currency fluctuations contribute to economic uncertainty. Many African countries face inflationary pressures and currency devaluations, impacting purchasing power and business operations. The lack of control over exchange rates can also hinder economic sovereignty, especially when coupled with global financial market volatility.

4. **Innovative development financing in an era of growing uncertainty:**

Challenges of securing development financing in an environment characterized by high risk and uncertainty. Innovative financing mechanisms and the role of international financial institutions in supporting development amidst uncertainties. Innovative financing mechanisms are essential for securing the funds needed for development in the face of uncertainty. This strategy incorporates several innovative financing mechanisms to enhance investment in Africa's high-impact sectors. Domestic resource mobilization is crucial in ensuring sustainable financing for development projects by leveraging internal revenue sources such as taxes, levies, and royalties. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are pivotal, facilitating private sector investments in crucial infrastructure projects, which can significantly boost economic development. The issuance of green bonds, which specifically target environmental projects such as renewable energy installations and reforestation programs, promoting sustainable development with blended finance instruments are particularly effective in combining donor concessional funding with commercial capital from the private sector.

5. **The role of technology in fostering predictability, creativity, and resilience:**

The discussions will focus on several key aspects of how technology can



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drive economic development and innovation. Technology plays a crucial role in reducing uncertainty and sparking creativity. Digital tools can provide better data for decision-making, enhancing predictability in sectors like agriculture through weather forecasting and market prices. Mobile banking and fintech innovations improve financial inclusion and resilience.

Furthermore, technology drives creativity and entrepreneurship, which are essential for economic diversification and job creation. The rise of tech hubs across Africa shows how technology fosters a new creative economy. This thematic focus highlights technology's multifaceted role in shaping Africa's economic landscape, from improving sector-specific outcomes to igniting broader entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Policy-oriented papers linked to the conference's overall theme are of particular interest.

Submission guidelines:

Interested authors should submit their papers Only full papers addressing the conference theme will be considered for presentation. We encourage the submission of policy- and solution-oriented papers with strong empirical foundation.

Authors are asked to submit their papers and register according to the following schedule:

- Submission of papers: **15 August 2025**



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- Notification of acceptance: **30 September 2025**
- Last day for registration for presenters: **20 October 2025**
- Conference dates: **23-25 DECEMBER 2025**

Young African researchers are especially encouraged to submit their articles. One of the objectives of the Meeting series is to provide young African researchers the opportunity to not only share their work with a broader audience but also expand their networks.

Format Guidelines for papers

- Read the guidelines thoroughly. Papers will not be reviewed if they do not follow the submission guidelines.
- Papers should be submitted electronically to
- All manuscripts should be submitted in PDF and Word format with 1.5 line spacing. We strongly recommend manuscripts not to exceed 40 pages. The suggested length includes reference lists, figures, and tables. Excessively long submissions may be summarily rejected.
- Please use 12-point Times New Roman or a similar font. The margins should be 1.5 inches on the top, bottom, and sides.
- Your paper should include a title page with each author's name, affiliation, and contact information (email address).
- Include an abstract of 100 or fewer words.
- We do not require a cover letter.

Review process:



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All papers will be blind peer-reviewed by the co-organizing institutions. Only original, quality work will be accepted for presentation.

A distinguished panel will assess the papers presented and award a prize to a young author whose work is deemed the best conference paper. The winner will be announced at the closing ceremony.

Sponsorship:

THE PARTNERSHIP of TANZANIA GOVERNMENT AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS will received Sponsorship request documents for the over roll budget of the meeting.

Authors should indicate whether they require support to cover expenses (travel, accommodation, and daily subsistence allowance) associated with their participation at the conference. Only one author per paper accepted for presentation will be eligible for sponsorship. Support is reserved mainly for presenters and young researchers from Africa.

For further information, please read the [meeting concept note](#)

Sample of Papers

Title





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