Africa at a Fork in the Road:

Visions of Africa and its future, between Afro-pessimism and Afro-optimism: What are the main opportunities and challenges facing Africa today? Are high growth-rates sufficient to secure and sustain Africa’s development? Is Africa taking off or on a course toward disappointment once again?

9:00–10:45 AM
• What drove the dramatic increases in growth over the last 15 years?
• What is new under the African sun? Are high growth rates reflecting a new developmental phase or precarious advances?

• Is there an African specificity? Is Africa experiencing specific growth and development patterns, specific problems?

• What policies have most effectively improved economic and human development?

Moderator: Ernesto Zedillo, Director, Yale Center for the Study of Globalization
Ernest Aryeetey, Vice Chancellor, University of Ghana
Shanta Devarajan, Chief Economist of the Middle East and North Africa Region, The World Bank
Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa

A Changing Africa in a Changing World?

The 2008 crisis has accelerated and made more obvious some latent changes to the world economy. With great powers come great responsibilities: world production and consumption is shifting to the South, global value chains are the new business paradigm. Is Africa just a witness to or an actor in this new global economy? What are the opportunities and risks? What will be the main factors and who will be the main actors of change?

TOPIC 1
11:00 am–1:00 pm
Factors of change: How globalized is Africa?

• Is Africa truly globalized or still at the margin of global trade and financial flows? Can Africa move up value chains or is it confined to the supply of natural resources?

• Regional integration and South-South trade: soft and hard networks; the end of unilateral preferences and dependence upon rich countries?

• The shift in power from the North to the South and the emergence of China: what happens when demand shifts to the South? What is the role of China in Africa today? Is it an opportunity or a threat?

Moderator: Stephen Roach, Senior Fellow, Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, Yale University
Adam Elhiraika, Director, Macroeconomic Policy Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa
Richard Sezibera, Secretary General, East African Community
Deborah Brautigam, Professor and Director, International Development Program and Director, China Africa Research Initiative (SAIS-CARI), Johns Hopkins University/SAIS
Olivier Cattaneo, Adjunct Professor, Sciences Po
TOPIC 2
Actors of change: Of men, aid and business
2:30–5:00 pm

• Aid: what role for Africa’s development? How to progress toward greater aid effectiveness? What development goals post-2015?

• Human capital: Africa’s wealth and weak link? The youth bulge: what actions can be taken to include younger individuals in Africa’s growth? Education, jobs and skills: are they matching the needs of the global economy? Migration and brain drain.

• Private sector: A thriving private sector is essential to long-term development. What is the role of the private sector in Africa’s development? How might Africa improve its business climate? How to better link local businesses to global value chains and opportunities?

**Moderator:** Ellen Lust, Associate Professor of Political Science, Yale University

**Dambisa Moyo**, Economist and Author

**Stefan Dercon**, Chief Economist, Director, Department for International Development (DFID)

**Dean Karlan**, Professor of Economics, Yale University

**John Page**, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

**Yaw Nyarko**, Professor of Economics, New York University; Director, Center for Technology and Economic Development; Co-Director, Development Research Institute

**Vijaya Ramachandran**, Senior Fellow, Center for Global Development

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**Understanding Growth and Development in Africa: Lessons from Successes and Failures**

In a changing world, how do we understand Africa’s growth and development? What lessons can we draw from success and failure to translate growth into development? Beyond divergence in growth and political stability, are there common challenges facing Africa? Is better governance a key to success in Africa?

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TOPIC 1: PART ONE
5:00–6:30 pm

Disparities in African growth and development: A multi-faceted continent

• The challenge of diversity: What major regional and country-specific disparities exist in Africa? Why do they persist?

• What can be learned from the experiences of both successful and unsuccessful countries?

• Post-conflict and fragile states: Have we failed to address their specific needs?

• The challenge of inclusiveness: how to make economic growth more inclusive in Africa? The role of the informal sector; the emergence of a middle-class; the repartition of wealth
TOPIC 1: PART TWO
8:30–10:00 AM
Disparities in African growth and development: A multi-faceted continent

Moderator: James Levinsohn, Charles W. Goodyear Professor in Global Affairs; Director, Jackson Institute, Yale University

Mthuli Ncube, Chief Economist and Vice President, African Development Bank

Erik Thorbecke, H.E. Babcock Professor of Economics, Emeritus, Cornell University

John McArthur, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, UN Foundation, and Fung Global Institute

TOPIC 2
10:15 AM–12:40 PM
Better governance for a stronger Africa

• Addressing corruption and promoting good governance: old issues, new approaches? What works, what does not work?

• Is there a link between good governance, sustained growth and development? Is serious institutional reform necessary before further progress can be made?

• The multiple dimensions of governance

Moderator: Susan Rose-Ackerman, Henry R. Luce Professor of Law and Political Science, Yale University

Leonard Wantchekon, Professor of Politics, Princeton University
Leonce Ndikumana, Director of Africa Policy Program, Andrew Glyn Professor of Economics; University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Jacob Oduor, Principal Research Economist, Research Department, African Development Bank

Ian Shapiro, Henry R. Luce Director, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Sterling Professor of Political Science, Yale University

Robert Bates, Eaton Professor of Government, Harvard University

Steven Block, Professor of International Economics, Fletcher School, Tufts University

Building Tomorrow’s Africa

After identifying the new global economic context, actors and factors of change, as well as the remaining challenges facing Africa, what are the prospects for the continent? In particular, what are the resources into which Africa could tap to achieve its ambition? Human and natural resources are at the same time the strength of Africa and its main challenge. How to ensure that growth in Africa translate into development and remains sustainable for future generations?

Topic 1
1:45–3:35 pm

Are natural resources an opportunity or a curse for Africa?

• Is Africa relying too much on natural resources? (oil, gas, timber, mining products)
  Should African countries focus on fostering specific sectors or take broader approaches to development?

• How to maximize the development spillovers of FDI in oil and mining industries? How to address corruption and make best use of the natural resources’ output?

• The issues of land grab and sustainability

  Moderator: Ernest Aryeetey, Vice Chancellor, University of Ghana

  Paul Acquah, Economist; former Governor, Bank of Ghana

  Elizabeth Asiedu, Professor of Economics, University of Kansas

  Christopher Adam, Professor of Development Economics, Oxford University

  Daniel Kaufmann, President, Revenue Watch Institute
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