Emerging powers in Africa
Regional and national economic linkages in Eastern and Southern Africa

Thursday 17 – Friday 18 March 2022
Lusaka, Zambia
(All timings in CAT)

The integration of African economies into global trade and investment systems means that African leaders and governments have an expanding menu of foreign policy choices to support the pursuit of their domestic developmental ambitions. Emerging economies from around the world are developing their political and economic relations with African states in pursuit of complex strategic goals, including access to natural resources and influence. The opportunities that these bilateral arrangements present for African economies are underpinned by multilateral trade and investment agreements at a regional level. Some of these are longstanding, such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and continue to operate alongside more recent agreements, including the fledgling African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). For African governments and regional bodies to effectively navigate these bilateral, multilateral, regional and international relationships to deliver developmental benefits for citizens, there must be broad public understanding of what these external interests are, and what can be positively achieved from international relationships.

This hybrid conference will support governments’ foreign policy decision making and strategic planning by looking at how regional trading blocs and national governments engage with their international partners, and how they seek to derive national benefit by leveraging both regional and international partnerships.

Thursday 17 March

8:30 – 09:00  Registration

09:00 – 09:10  Opening and welcome

09:10 – 09:30  Keynote address

09:30 – 11:00  Session 1: Balancing regional and international relations

African agency and foreign policy decision making in a multi-polar world

African economic integration and multilateral trade

China’s engagement with African countries

The evolution of Africa-Russia relations

11:00 – 11:30  Coffee

11:30 – 13:00  Session 2: The international relations of debt

African states’ debt diplomacy
International debt relief
China’s debt to African countries
International engagement with regional debt initiatives

13:00 – 14:00  Lunch

14:00 – 14:20  Keynote address: Mining for national development

14:20 – 16:00  Session 3: Strategic minerals

State and non-state sponsored international investment in African mining
The global politics of rare earth mineral demand
Environmental sustainability and mining investment
Promoting transparency in Zambia’s mining industry

16:00 – 16:30  Break

16:30 – 17:30  Session 4: Regional infrastructure

Transport corridors and the trade opportunities of landlocked states
International sponsored infrastructure: the Belt and Road Initiative
The role of development finance institutions (DFIs) in providing support for infrastructure

17:30 – 19:00  Networking reception

Friday 18 March

08:30 – 09:00  Registration

09:00 – 09:20  Keynote address: Zambia’s foreign policy priorities

09:20 – 10:30  Session 1: Partnerships for future development

Zambian foreign relations and decision making on international partnerships
Industrialization and sustainable economic growth in southern Africa

10:30 – 11:00  Break

11:00 – 12:30  Session 2: Options for sector specific international collaboration

The role of civil society in Zambia’s foreign relations
Cyber security partnerships in Africa
The role of new healthcare partners
International education and skills partnerships

12:30 – 12:45  Concluding remarks

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