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 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.
Treasure Maphanga, Director, African Electronic Trade Group (AeTrade Group)

Professor Stephen Chan OBE, Professor of World Politics, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London

Professor Tang Xiaoyang, Chair, Department of International Relations, Tsinghua University

Aanu Adeoye, Mo Ibrahim Academy Fellow, Russia-Eurasia Programme, Chatham House

Chair: Tighisti Amare, Deputy Director, Africa Programme, Chatham House

11:00 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:30 Session 2: Regional infrastructure

• What are the main areas of progress and remaining challenges on developing regional transport corridors?
• What lessons can be drawn from regional economic communities such as SADC and COMESA on efficient and effective border management?
• How do development finance institutions (DFIs) support regional infrastructure and how are projects selected for support?

Barbara Mommen, CEO, Coalescence Consulting

Dr Primrose Bimha, Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa (IDCPPA), University of Cape Town

Richard Malinga, Principal Transport Engineer, African Development Bank (AfDB)

Chair: Dr Greg Mills, Director, The Brenthurst Foundation

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 14:00 Keynote address: Mining for national development

To be announced

14:00 – 15:30 Session 3: Strategic minerals

• What are the key trends in the African mining sector? How should strategic minerals be defined and what impact can they have on national development? What is the impact of the rise of rare earth mineral demand?
• What are the optimum policies, regulations, and legislation frameworks to attract investment that generates benefits for investors, national treasury, and communities? How important is transparency for investment?
• What is being done to improve environmental sustainability in the mining sector, and how are companies working with communities on this issue?

Sheila Khama, Non-Executive Director, Tullow Oil; Non-Executive Director, The Metals Company

Peter Leon, Partner and Global Chair of Africa Group, Herbert Smith Freehills

Farai Nyabereka, Partner, Manokore Attorneys, Zimbabwe

Ian Mwiinga, Head, Zambia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Secretariat

Anthony Mukutuma, General Manager, Kansanshi Mine, First Quantum Minerals

This conference is supported by the United Kingdom’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.
Chair: **Christopher Vandome**, Research Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

**15:30 – 16:00**  
**Break**

**16:00 – 17:30**  
**Session 4: The international relations of debt**

- What role does debt play in African states’ international relations and economic diplomacy? How do states exercise their agency with regards to debt management?
- How have different African states historically and currently engaged with international and regional debt relief initiatives? What lessons have been learned? What are the key policy implications for undertaking international debt relief?
- How have African countries benefited from Chinese loans? How have new players shifted the debt landscape? How do African states benefit from an increasing number of lenders and financial options?

**Trevor Simunba**, Senior Key Expert – African Union DTI, AETS

**Dr Deborah Brautigam**, Director, China and Africa Research Institute (CARI), Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

**Dr Gregory Smith**, Author, *Where Credit is Due*

**Claudia Pollen**, Director, Consumer Unit and Trust Society (CUTS)

Chair: **Lowani Chibesakunda**, CEO, Citi Zambia

**17:30 – 19:30**  
**Reception**
Friday 18 March

08:30 – 09:00  Registration

09:00 – 09:30  Keynote address: Zambia’s Regional Trade and Commerce Priorities

To be announced

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

• How have Zambian foreign relations and decision-making on international partnerships evolved over time?
• What partnerships are required for governments to support industrialization and sustainable economic growth in southern Africa?
• What are the key regional and international legal frameworks and partnerships that Zambia exerts influence in?
• How does faith underpin foreign policy and what impact do faith groups and churches have on international relations?

Dr Sishuwa Sishuwa, Lecturer, Department of History, University of Zambia

Brenda Mutale Chanda, Co-Managing Partner, Moira Mukuka Legal Practitioners

Dr Hangwei Li, Advisor, African Views Organisation

Chair: Dr Alex Vines OBE, Director, Africa Programme, Chatham House

10:30 – 11:00  Break

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

• What are the key emerging trends in the foreign relations of Zambia’s civil society?
• How do healthcare providers engage with new international partners?
• How do international partnerships support education and skills transfer, and how do these impact wider economic growth and development?
• What international partnerships are African actors developing in order to protect cybersecurity and promote digital rights?

McDonald Chipenzi, Executive Director, Governance, Elections, Advocacy, Research Services (GEARS) Initiative; Chairperson, Council of NGOs in Zambia

Dr Wairagala Wakabi, Executive Director, Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)

Dr Pippa Morgan, Lecturer, Political Science, Duke Kunshan University

Dr Lubinda Haabazoka, President, Economics Association of Zambia

Chair: Tighisti Amare, Deputy Director, Africa Programme, Chatham House

12:30 – 12:45  Concluding remarks

Dr Alex Vines OBE, Director, Africa Programme, Chatham House