

## AGENDA

### Future Africa- Europe: Youth Championing New Paths to Financing Progress

**Wednesday, 19 March 2025, 09.00-16.30 EAT (doors open 08.30 EAT)  
Hyatt Regency Addis (Meskel Square, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)**

#### CONTEXT /

Youth-led protests witnessed across several African countries including Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda, revolved around issues of debt, taxation, economic hardship, and governance. Demonstrations, largely organized through social media, reflected growing frustration among young Africans with high unemployment, rising living costs, high debt and perceived government corruption. The protests highlighted a significant generational shift in African politics, with tech-savvy youth emerging as a powerful force challenging established power structures and pushing for changes in economic policies and more responsive and transparent governance across the continent.

Compared to older generations, African youth are not only more affected by the lack of jobs, but also distrust state institutions and political leaders, as Afrobarometer data show. They are less engaged in classical forms of political participation like voting or joining a party, as they do not feel that their voices will be heard. At the same time, youth in Europe are concerned that public money is not invested into the areas most important for their future.

In response to these trends, the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH are co-organizing a pivotal event focused on financing the future and engaging the untapped potential of youth within the Africa-Europe partnership on this topic. Building on existing financial governance initiatives, the event will focus on aspects where collaboration between Africa and Europe are key to transform fiscal challenges into opportunities for youth, from combatting Illicit Financial Flows, leveraging remittances and investments, to the redesign of the International Financial Architecture. The objective is to bring in and include youth and young professionals into discussions on financing for development as they are the ones whose lives are going to be most impacted by the decisions made today and who will be able to bring fresh perspectives and ideas to the table in line with Agenda 2063.

The outcomes of the discussion will feed into the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), scheduled for June 30 to July 3, 2025, in Spain, through participants, AEF and GIZ representation at the Conference.

#### FORMAT /

The #FutureAfricaEurope **Youth Championing New Paths to Financing Progress** will consist of animated and interactive panels and roundtable discussions. The onsite meeting will run from 9.00am to 4.30pm (Addis Ababa-time), with doors opening at 8.30am for registration.

- The language of the public debate is English
- Held in person at Hyatt Regency Addis (Meskel Square, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
- Coffee and pastries will be provided upon registration (8:30-9:00 EAT), as well as during the coffee breaks (10:30-11:00 EAT and 15:00-15:30 EAT).
- Lunch will be provided at 12:30-13:30 EAT.

- A photographer will be present throughout the meeting.

## PROGRAM /

08:30-09:00	<p><b><u>ARRIVAL &amp; RECEPTION</u></b></p> <p>Invited speakers and guests arrive at Hyatt Regency Addis (Meskel Square, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). Coffee and pastries will be provided.</p>
09:00-09:30	<p><b><u>Opening Remarks</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Master of Ceremony, Manal Benani</b>, Youth and Culture Manager at the <b>Africa-Europe Foundation</b>.</li> <li>- <b>Keynote Address</b> by <b>Tobias Thiel</b>, Director of <b>GIZ AU</b>.</li> <li>- <b>Keynote Presentation</b> by <b>Holy Ranaivozanany</b>, Deputy Executive Director of the <b>Africa-Europe Foundation</b>.</li> </ul>
9:30-10:30	<p><b><u>Ted Talk / Experts insights:</u></b></p> <p><i>What are the most pressing challenges facing Africa and Europe in Finance?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Joshua Otieno Shem</b>, Advisor at GIZ Ethiopia. (Debt)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Bezawit Eshetu Gizaw</b>, Chapter lead, Ethiopia at African Circular Economy Network (Remittances)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Giuseppe Tesoriere</b>, Economic Affairs Officer at United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (Resource mobilization)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Peter Wiesel</b>, Technical Advisor to AU for GIZ (IFFs)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Luladay Berhanu Mengistie</b>, Advisor- WTO/AfCFTA Unit at the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration Ethiopia (Trade and regional policies)</li> </ul>
10:30-11:00	<p><b>Networking Break</b></p>
11:00-12:30	<p><b><u>Intergenerational Roundtables: Africa Europe Partnership in Action</u></b></p> <p>An intergenerational conversation on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reform of the Global Financial Architecture</i>: How can Africa and Europe set up a global financial architecture fit for the 21st century; What are new, joint strategies for sustainable debt solutions.</li> <li>• <i>Illicit Financial Flows</i>: Partnership between Africa and Europe to combat IFFs.</li> <li>• <i>Investment Opportunities</i>: What can AU and EU provide to promote more investment flows.</li> <li>• <i>Remittances</i>: How can remittance costs between Europe and Africa be further reduced and their potential for development be further leveraged</li> </ul> <p>Primary discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Stephen Z. Chundama</b>, Economic Affairs Officer at the Office of the Executive Secretary UNECA.</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Thierry Watrin</b>, Lead of the Sustainable Debt Coalition at UNECA.</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Habtamu Alamayo</b>, European Union (EU) cooperation Expert at the Ministry of Finance of Ethiopia.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Nebiyu Gessese</b>, Programs Director at Pan Africa Education Solutions (PAES)</li> <li>• <b>Moukaila M. Takpara</b>, Economist at the African Trade Policy Centre/UNECA</li> </ul>
12:30-13:30	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
13:30-15:00	<p><b><u>Peer-to-Peer Learning Session:</u></b></p> <p>Roundtable discussions exploring key aspects of <b>Good Financial Governance</b>, focusing on transparency, accountability, and integrity in financial systems:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <b>Financial Management at Government level.</b></li> <li>II. <b>ODA as lever for private sector engagement.</b></li> <li>III. <b>Multilateralism towards sustainable finance.</b></li> <li>IV. <b>Africa Europe partnership around finance (Opportunities and EU-AU).</b></li> </ol> <p>Perspective from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nahom Teklewold</b>, National Project Coordinator for ILO.</li> <li>• <b>Bezawit Eshetu Gizaw</b>, Chapter lead, Ethiopia at African Circular Economy Network</li> <li>• <b>Raquel Leandro</b>, UNDP Youth Empowerment lead</li> <li>• <b>Misrak Makonnen</b>, Country Director at AMREF Health Africa</li> <li>• <b>Chalachew Tiruneh</b>, Chief of Party - Integrated Youth Activity at Amref Health Africa.</li> <li>• <b>Dawit Tibebe</b>, Director at Ethiopian Clean Cooking Alliance (ECCA).</li> <li>• <b>G Medhin, Abel</b>, Senior Investment Advisor at British Embassy Addis Ababa - Department for Business and Trade.</li> <li>• <b>Rabeal Tadesse Awoke</b>, Digital Health Governance Director at JSI</li> <li>• <b>Filipa Barreiros</b>, Political Officer at the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union.</li> <li>• <b>Amel Ouchenane</b>, Youth Peace and Security Officer, UNDP RSCA</li> </ul>
15:00-15:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
15:30-16:30	<b>Closing Remarks &amp; Next Steps</b>