



Building Bridges: Policymakers' Roundtable

Driving African Economic Integration: Penetrating the Political Economy Obstacles 15-16 May 2015

Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice

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On 15 – 16th May the Building Bridges programme at the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice (GSDPP) hosted a Policymakers' Roundtable at Erinvale Estate on "Driving African Economic Integration: Penetrating the Political Economy Obstacles." The main objective of the Building Bridges programme is to connect political leaders and policy experts to deepen dialogue and engage with so-called "wicked" problems.

The roundtable forms part of a series of meetings hosted by the GSDPP on the annual theme of African economic integration: In November 2014 an [Expert Workshop](#) was hosted which brought together leading researchers on regional integration, in March 2015 the [Leading in Public Life](#) leadership development programme hosted 23 young professionals from around the continent, and later this year several regional workshops are planned with multiple stakeholders from government, academia, business, civil society and the media, to further the discussion around regional integration.



SITTING: Alan Hirsch (GSDPP); Trevor Manuel (GSDPP); Marianne Camerer (GSDPP); Carlos Lopes (UNECA); Thandika Mkandawire (GSDPP)
STANDING: Moe Shaik (DBSA); Faizel Ismail (DTI); Jonathan Leape (IGC); Taffere Tesfachew (UNCTAD); Ibrahim Assane Mayaki (NEPAD); Steve Kayizzi-Mugerwa (AfDB); Neil Cole (CABRI); Admassu Tadesse (PTA BANK); Ali A. Mufuruki (Infotech); Said Adejumobi (UNECA)

Chaired by GSDPP Senior Fellows, Visiting Prof Thandika Mkandawire and Honorary Prof Trevor Manuel, and held under Chatham House Rules, the two day roundtable was attended by senior policymakers and business leaders from around Africa including Dr Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Other participants included Dr Steve Kayizzi-Mugerwa, vice-president of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Dr Taffere Tesfachew, Director Africa and Least

Developed Countries and Special Programmes at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), President and Chief Executive of the PTA Bank, Admassu Tadesse, and Chairman and CEO of Infotech Investment Group of Tanzania and Chair of TradeMark East Africa, Ali Mufuruki. See PDF for brief bios of all participants.

The roundtable agenda covered several themes including:

- Setting the context for African economic integration by identifying obstacles and opportunities;
- Aligning agendas, with a focus on leadership and accountability and the specific role of regional hegemony;
- Investing in infrastructure development for African integration; and
- Deepening a common vision, identity and building trust across Africa.

A report highlighting the main threads of the discussion will be forthcoming in June.