Online conference

Development challenges in Africa in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic

11-12 February 2021
In Zoom, the programme in Helsinki time (UTC+2)

Time converter
Helsinki, Finland – 8:30 (UTC+2)
Nairobi, Kenya – 9:30 (UTC+3)
Accra, Ghana – 6:30 (UTC)
New York, USA – 1:30 (UTC-5)
Delhi, India – 12:00 (UTC+5:30)

Thursday 11 February

8:30 – 9:30
Session 1: Opening and Keynote Address

Chair: Kunal Sen
Opening remarks
Kunal Sen, Director, UNU-WIDER

Keynote address
Vera Songwe, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, UNECA

Q&A

9:30 – 10:00
Break

10:00 – 11:45
Session 2: Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on African economies
Panel discussion

Chair: Kunal Sen, Director, UNU-WIDER

Speakers: Mario Pezzini, Director, OECD Development Centre
Stephen Karingi, Director, Regional Integration and Trade, UNECA
Moses Ikiara, CEO, Kenya Investment Authority

Q&A
Friday 12 February

8:00 – 9:30
Session 3: Implications of COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods and welfare

Chair: Maureen Were, Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER
Speakers: Effects on employment and earnings
  Michael Danquah, Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER
  Simone Schotte, Research Associate, UNU-WIDER

The mitigating role of tax and benefit rescue packages for poverty and inequality amid the COVID-19 pandemic
  Jesse Lastunen, Research Associate, UNU-WIDER

Gender perspectives of COVID-19
  Isabella Schmidt, Statistics Specialist in East and Southern African Regional Office, UN WOMEN

Q&A

9:30 – 9:45
Break

9:45 – 11:15
Session 4: The new normal and future development of Africa
Panel discussion

Chair: Rachel Gisselquist, Senior Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER
Speakers: Role of development partners
  Satu Santala, Director General for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Resource mobilization in the wake of COVID-19
  Désiré J.M. Vencatachellum, Director of Resource Mobilization and External Finance Department, African Development Bank

Emerging opportunities
  Njuguna Ndung’u, Executive Director, African Economic Research Consortium

Q&A

11:15 – 11:30
Summary and vote of thanks
Maureen Were, Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER