



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