

Chief Economists of Government (CEoG) Network

A NETWORK STRENGTHENING
ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING IN
AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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THE NETWORK



Established in 2018, the CEoG is a network of chief economic advisors to Presidents and Prime Ministers across Sub-Saharan Africa. The network is **the first and only initiative in Africa** bringing together economic advisors to strengthen their **skills, knowledge, and capabilities** to collect and analyze relevant data for **improved, cutting-edge and impactful economic advice**.

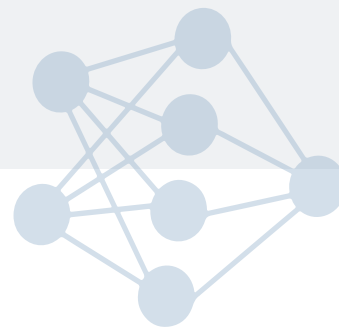
Economic advisors and units play a critical role in economic **planning and providing policy options** to heads of government. Their expertise and advice can determine the most important policy decisions, and therefore **improve the economic lives of citizens**.

To support this role, the CEoG Network has become an indispensable peer-learning platform for chief economic advisors coming from **over 40 Sub-Saharan African countries**. The Network facilitates **exchanges** and provides **on-demand support** to individual economic advisory units. Through this platform and the knowledge offered, CEoG promotes the **transformative development** of African economies, improving **decision-making** and **strategic, long-term** thinking.

CEoG also facilitates knowledge-sharing among government chief economic advisors, including the sharing of successful policy choices and development models. This is further supported by allowing cross-border cooperation and

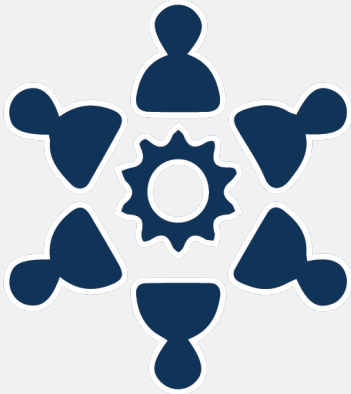
coordination among chief economic advisors and their units. At the heart of this initiative is the importance of a strong, concerted and legitimate economic policy making in Africa.

In fact, the network serves as a central pillar between the [Think Africa Partnership \(TAP\)](#) and its mission to connect knowledge to policymakers across the African continent. CEoG plays a multifaceted role by offering a platform for **mutual support** and **knowledge exchange** among its members, facilitating policy benchmarking activities, and extending crucial assistance to economic policy units within central government bodies.



PILLAR 1

Connecting chief economic advisors to a network of peers



The program has established a regional network of Chief economic advisors to Presidents and Prime Ministers. Network activities are demand driven and include initiatives to convene the network both physically and virtually. Each country is represented by its chief economic advisor at the head of the executive. The chief economic advisor attends the Annual Forum and various network events and webinars spread throughout the year, building trust and familiarity. Several former chief economic advisors are also members of the CEoG network, providing support and perspective to current advisors.

The network facilitates thematic workshops and peer exchanges for cross-country knowledge and experience sharing. The network also provides the advisors access to technical support: the CEoG Data Helpdesk connects advisors with on-demand expertise to source, analyze and synthesize data and evidence. The CEoG Toolbox makes practical analysis tools and training available to advisors and their staff such as access to statistical software and macro-economic modelling. This draws upon the knowledge and training capacity spread across the global practices of the World Bank, and from development partners, academia, think tanks, and other experts and practitioners.

PILLAR 2

Support to chief economist units



PILLAR 3

Skills development and capacity building



The network works with advisors to identify areas where they can be supported to be most effective. Upon request, the CCoG secretariat works with advisors and the World Bank country offices to support the institutionalization or the establishment of dedicated chief economic advisory units. The general support package is varied and may include assisting advisors with their staffing needs (via the CCoG Presidential Fellowship), identifying and sharing models of best-practices across countries, or – on a demand driven basis—helping with the design and establishment of dedicated chief economic advisory units.



Photo: 2020 CCoG Workshop in Ghana

CEoG ACTIVITIES

1.

Connecting chief economic advisors to a network of peers



- Facilitation of interactions to exchange policy information and best practices on effective strategies in different countries
- Organization of an annual forum, webinars, roundtables, and bilateral engagements

Roundtable/ Webinars

The virtual peer-learning activities conducted within the CEoG network include webinars and virtual roundtable discussions. These initiatives serve as crucial forums for knowledge sharing and collaboration among Advisors, fostering a deeper understanding of pressing policy issues. Amongst the topics covered in recent discussions include:

- The cost-of-living crisis in Africa
- Debt sustainability in Africa
- Industrial policy in Africa: how can African countries get it right this time?
- Delivering growth to people through better jobs
- Citizens' shifting policy priorities and evaluation of government performance

A Glimpse at CEoG Annual Forums

- **Oxford, United Kingdom - 2019** Inaugural CEoG Annual Forum
- **Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire - 2022** CEoG Annual Forum: "Financing African Economies from Within"
- **Pretoria, South Africa- 2023** CEoG Annual Forum: "Building Resilient Economies in an Uncertain World"
- **Lusaka, Zambia - 2024** CEoG Annual Forum: "Job Creation in Africa: Constraints and Policy Options"



Photo: CEoG 2023 Annual Forum in Pretoria

2.

Support to chief economist units



- Institutionalization/ establishment of chief economic advisory units in government
- Staff support via CEEG Presidential Fellowship program
- Connecting advisors with experts via demand driven approach

CEEG Presidential Fellows

CEEG offers staff support to Advisors via the CEEG Presidential Fellows program. Since 2021, the CEEG initiative has organized and supported a fellowship program, placing 11 fellows to work with advisors in the Gambia, Lesotho, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa and Zambia. This program has been implemented with the support of the **Africa Center for Economic Transformation (ACET)**.



11 African professionals (CEEG Presidential Fellows) working with senior economic advisors in Africa since CEEG's conception.



3. Skills development and capacity building

CEoG data and analysis help desk is a crucial asset providing ongoing access to a wide range of policy briefs, tools, and data to provide timely, relevant, and impactful technical inputs to advisors' work.



- (On-demand) Technical advisory services
- Training for advisory units' staff (statistical and data analysis)

Thematic 3 Workshops

CEoG organized a thematic workshop in Accra, Ghana on February 2020 with the objective to convene members of the CEoG network for a peer learning meeting on issues of digitization, domestic revenue mobilization, and data skills such as macro-modelling. The workshop was co-hosted with the Government of Ghana and the economic advisor to the Vice-President, Professor Joe Amoako-Tuffour, who is a member of the CEoG network.

Advisors and technical staff from 12 other countries attended (Angola, CAR, Chad, DRC, eSwatini, Guinea, Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Zambia). Most sessions were organized around structured group discussions with inputs from expert resource persons coming from tax administrations in Mauritius and Rwanda, a Ghanaian technology start-up, a legal scholar on land and taxation, and the Africa Tax Administration Forum. A full program, slides and other material can be found at the following link: <https://www.africaceog.org/background-papers>

Flagship Activity

CEoG Book project: *Financing African Economies from Within*

The upcoming CEoG book on “Financing African Economies from Within” aims to gather lessons and experiences on domestic financing that will be critical for the future of the continent and the future Chief Economic Advisors. The book is organized around key economic events and the roles that Economic Advisors play in navigating their countries through these events. The chapters document successes and failures, elaborating on the practical challenges associated with bridging economic evidence to effective policymaking.

VISITING EXPERTS

VISITING EXPERTS



ANDREW DABALEN

Dr. Andrew Dabalen has been the World Bank's Africa Chief Economist since July 2022 and the Chair of the Chief Economists of Government (CEoG) Network. He was previously Lead Economist and Practice Manager for Poverty and Equity in Africa and Practice Manager for Poverty and Equity in the South Asia Region. His research focuses on poverty and social impact analysis, inequality of opportunity and labor markets. A Kenyan national, Dabalen holds a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of California.



TRUDI MAKHAYA

Trudi Makhaya is the former economic advisor to President Cyril Ramaphosa from 2018 to 2023. From 2003 to 2010 she worked at Deloitte, Genesis Analytics and AngloGold Ashanti in South Africa. Between 2010 to 2014, Trudi was an economist and a member of the executive committee at the Competition Commission of South Africa. In 2015, she founded an advisory firm focused on competition policy and entrepreneurship. She holds an MBA and an MSc in Development Economics from Oxford University.



STEFAN DERCON

Prof. Stefan Dercon is the Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies and Professor of Economic Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government and the Economics Department at the University of Oxford. Between 2011 and 2017, Stefan Dercon served for six years as Chief Economist at the Department for International Development (DFID), the UK government department in charge of international development efforts. His research interests concern the failures of and ways to improve markets, governments and politics mainly in Africa.

MOHAMED DOUMBOUYA

Dr. Mohamed Doumbouya is the former chief economic advisor to the former President of Guinea. He has been leading the CEOG book project on Financing African Economies from Within, since the start of this effort. He is an economist and expert in economic development, banking and monetary policy. As former Minister Counsellor to the former President of Guinea, Dr. Doumbouya oversaw establishing clear financial reform expectations in public financial management and the monitoring progress in these areas. Prior to joining the Guinean administration, Dr. Doumbouya taught Economics at the University of Ottawa, Canada.



ALBERT G. ZEUFACK

Dr. Albert G. Zeufack, a Cameroonian national, is currently the World Bank's country director for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Burundi and Sao Tome and Principe. He is the former World Bank's Chief Economist for Africa. Prior to these appointments, he was Practice Manager in the Macroeconomics and Fiscal Management Global Practice and leader of the World Bank-wide Community of Practice for the Management of Natural Resources Rents.



VISITING EXPERTS



TAN SRI NOR MOHAMED YAKCOP

Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop served as Special Economic Adviser to the Government of Malaysia from 2000 to 2003. He became Malaysia's Minister of Finance in 2004 and was subsequently appointed Minister of Economic Planning from 2009 to 2013. Tan Sri Nor served as Deputy Chairman of the Khazanah Nasional Berhad, the Government of Malaysia's strategic investment arm.

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