

WEBINAR SERIES 01

The Impact of President Trump's Recent Executive Orders on Africa

Google meet link:
<https://meet.google.com/gva-aiug-row>

Friday 11th April, 2025

Time: 2:00PM - 3:30PM EAT

Language: English



Mr. Henri Kouam
Cameroon Economic Policy Institute-CEPI

Dr. Ben Ssembajjwe
(PhD Economics, Lecturer, Makerere University College of Education & External Studies, Researcher at Gateway Research Centre, Uganda)

Mr. Ssempala Richard
Lecturer, Makerere University School of Economics (PhD Cand. Economics, Osaka Metropolitan University, Japan)

Mr. Nyangulu John
Executive Director, Manson Institute of Leadership Education, Malawi

Ms. Anna Suberu
Associate-Students for Liberty, Nigeria

Moderator:
Mr. Kibira Vicent
Director of Finance & Administration, Gateway Research Centre, Uganda

The Impact of President Trump's Recent Executive Orders on Africa

In his second term set to run from 2025 to 2028, President Donald Trump has enacted several policies since assuming the Oval Office, with significant implications on global trade and international relations. Notably, the Executive Order on the USAID funding freeze has led to the immediate suspension of numerous aid programs across Africa, affecting critical health initiatives focused on combating AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis as well as inclusive development programs designed to support vulnerable populations. Another key executive order to consider is the suspension of foreign development assistance towards the World Health Organisation (WHO)¹ for 90 days. These orders have far-reaching effects across Africa. For example, the freezing of USAID funding threatens to exacerbate existing challenges in health, education and other sectors. As a think tank that analyses policies that have socio-economic impact and develops pragmatic policy recommendations, Gateway Research Centre aims to analyse these recent policies, their direct and indirect effects on Africa. Economists, business experts, and policy analysts will discuss the probable magnitude of the new challenges and/or opportunities for the continent and explore strategies for African nations to navigate this evolving geopolitical environment.

¹ Withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organisation. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/withdrawing-the-united-states-from-the-worldhealth-organization/>. Executive Order- January 20, 2025.

Moderator: Mr.Kibira Vicent, Director of Finance & Administration, Gateway Research Centre, Uganda)

Introduction: Dr. Ben Ssembajjwe (PhD Economics, Lecturer Makerere University College of Education and External Studies, Researcher at Gateway Research Centre, Uganda) - **5 Minutes (2:00-2:05PM)**

Guiding Questions:

1. How do President Trump's recent tariffs and executive orders align with or disrupt Africa's economic integration efforts, particularly in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)? (Ms. Anna Suberu, Associate- Students For Liberty, Nigeria)- **15 Minutes (2:05-2:20PM)**
2. Could the U.S Trump Administration policies accelerate Africa's economic pivot towards alternative partners (such as China, EU, or intra-African trade), and what are the potential risks and opportunities in such a shift? (Mr. Nyangulu John, Executive Director, Manson Institute for Leadership Education, Malawi)-**15 Minutes (2:20-2:35PM)**
3. What role can African regional organizations, private sector and local NGOs play in filling the gaps left by the suspension of foreign aid programs, and how can they effectively mobilize resources to sustain key initiatives? (Henri Kouam, Cameroon Economic Policy Institute-CEPI)-**15 Minutes (2:35-2:50PM)**
4. What strategies should African policymakers adopt to strengthen economic resilience and reduce dependency on foreign aid considering these developments? : Mr. Ssempala Richard, Lecturer Makerere University School of Economics (PhD Cand. Economics, Osaka Metropolitan University, Japan)-**15 Minutes (2:50-3:05PM)**

Q&A session (Moderator & Attendees) -**20 Minutes (3:05-3:25PM)**

Closing remarks (Mr. Kiberu, Gateway Research Centre)-**5 Minutes (3:25-3:30PM)**

For inquiries or clarifications contact:

jkiberu@gatewayresearchcentre.org or jonahkiberus@gmail.com

Cc: vicentkibira@gmail.com

COMMUNIQUÉ



WEBINAR ON THE IMPACT OF PRESIDENT TRUMP'S RECENT EXECUTIVE ORDERS ON AFRICA

The webinar was organized by Gateway research Centre on 11th April, 2025, attracting participants from Uganda, Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad, Burundi, Ghana, Rwanda, Tanzania, Liberia, Malawi, Kenya and many other countries. It explored the impact of the executive orders by U.S, particularly, the 90 days freeze of USAID funds, a dogma that critically affected health initiatives focused on combating AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis as well as inclusive development programs designed to support vulnerable populations in Africa. Economists, business experts, and policy analysts discussed the probable magnitude of the new challenges and opportunities for the continent and explored strategies for African nations to navigate this evolving geopolitical environment. The webinar was moderated by Mr. Kibira Vicent, Director of Finance & Administration of Gateway Research Centre, Uganda, who gave each of the four panelists and other discussants ample time to share their ideas. The webinar was attended by 48 participants and lasted for two hours, that is, 2:00-4:00PM EAT.

The introduction was handled by Dr. Ben Ssembajjwe who has a PhD in Economics, Lecturer Makerere University College of Education and External Studies, and Researcher at Gateway Research Centre, Uganda. He thanked the participants for honoring the invitation to attend the webinar and applauded them for turning up in large numbers.

The webinar was guided by the following questions, each addressed by a panelist.

1. How do President Trump's recent tariffs and executive orders align with or disrupt Africa's economic integration efforts, particularly in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)? (Ms. Anna Suberu, Associate- Students For Liberty, Nigeria).

African countries should diversify partnerships among themselves, as the African market can ably consume locally made products. They should prioritize improving inter-country relationships to facilitate cross-border trade and enhance continental self-reliance. African countries should shift from exporting raw materials to exporting value-added products. Policies among AfCFTA member States must be reformed to accommodate economic integration.

2. Could the U.S Trump Administration policies accelerate Africa's economic pivot towards alternative partners (such as China, EU, or intra-African trade), and what are the potential risks and opportunities in such a shift? (Mr. Nyangulu John, Executive Director, Manson Institute for Leadership Education, Malawi).

Yes, U.S Trump Administration policies accelerate Africa's economic pivot towards alternative partners such as China and EU. However the greatest risk is that China and EU prioritize their interests, which may result in African interests being overlooked or downplayed.

3. What role can African regional organizations, private sector and local NGOs play in filling the gaps left by the suspension of foreign aid programs, and how can they effectively mobilize resources to sustain key initiatives? (Henri Kouam, Cameroon Economic Policy Institute-CEPI).

African countries should attract foreign investment because the continent has the resources like minerals and the climate is favorable for many businesses. In parallel, reducing the internet costs in Africa is imperative to accelerate innovation and digitization of economies.

4. What strategies should African policymakers adopt to strengthen economic resilience and reduce dependency on foreign aid considering these developments? : Mr. Ssempala Richard, Lecturer Makerere University School of Economics (PhD Cand. Economics, Osaka Metropolitan University, Japan)

Many African countries, such as Kenya and Uganda, produce similar commodities, including maize and eggs. This lack of diversification often leads to market saturation and unhealthy competition among nations. To foster sustainable economic growth and regional stability, African countries should prioritize diversifying their economies. With a population exceeding 1.54 billion people, the continent offers a substantial and ready market for a wide range of goods and services.

Conclusion

The Managing Director of Gateway Research Centre, Mr. Kiberu Jonah, expressed his sincere appreciation to all participants for sharing their invaluable insights during the session. He emphasized the importance of continued collaboration and partnership in advancing the Centre's objectives. It's from such discussions and engagements that policy proposals are developed which policy makers leverage on.

Note: A detailed webinar report will be shared on various platforms including Gateway Research Centre's website.

The next webinar is scheduled to take place next month, and we will be contacted with further details. Your continued participation and contributions are highly valued and greatly appreciated.