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THE WORLD BANK

CALL FOR PAPERS

3rd biennial “*Africa in the Global Economy*“ conference

📅 2 – 4 December 2026

📍 German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Bonn / Germany

Conference theme

Africa's role in the global economy is being reshaped by regional ambitions and external pressures. While the AfCFTA has generated momentum, intra-African trade remains fragile, exposing gaps in infrastructure and readiness. Meanwhile, external powers continue to influence Africa's trajectory. The expiry of AGOA preferences and the introduction of reciprocal tariffs under recent U.S. policy have limited trade options and affected industrial production. China's duty-free access offer and infrastructure investments gain appeal, while the EU conditions preferential access on sustainability and political requirements. These dynamics intersect with intensified global competition for Africa's critical raw material, raising questions about their potential economic and political impacts.

This conference provides a forum to discuss the implications of Africa's evolving regional and global economic relationships, with a focus on policy-relevant empirical research.

Topics of interest include international trade, finance, and development, but contributions exploring other areas with **clear links to Africa's regional or global economic integration** are also welcome. Early-career researchers and contributors from the Global South are strongly encouraged to submit.

Keynote speaker

Antoine Bouët (CEPII)

Organization and submission guidelines

The conference will take place in person, beginning on Wednesday, 2 December in the afternoon and ending in the early afternoon of Friday, 4 December.

Authors should submit extended abstracts (up to 500 words) outlining the contribution to the literature, methodology, and main results.

Submissions are accepted exclusively via the [conference submission form](#).

For questions, contact socioeconomic@idos-research.de with “AfrEcon 2026” in the subject line.

Funding and logistics

There are no conference fees. Limited travel and accommodation support is available for participants from the Global South. Please indicate in your submission if you wish to apply for funding.

Participants are responsible for organizing their travelling. Please consider that you may need to apply for a visa in case of non-EU citizenship. If you require a visa to travel to Germany, please contact the relevant German consulate as soon as possible. IDOS can provide support letters for visa applications.

Conference deadlines

30 April 2026	Deadline for abstract submission
June 2026	Acceptance/rejection notification
1 September 2026	Deadline for final registration
2 – 4 December 2026	Conference