



TheNewYorkForumInstitute

# RESILIENT WORLD: AN AFRICAN CALL FOR A NEW WORLD ORDER

A High-Level Virtual Roundtable by the New York Forum Institute

The New York Forum Institute (NYF-Institute) is a not-for-profit foundation based in New York City founded by Richard and Cecilia Attias. Richard Attias is also the Founder and Executive Chairman of Richard Attias & Associates.

The focus of the NYF-Institute is on **concrete and innovative solutions** for economic growth, creating alliances and fostering relationships, and encouraging young talent and entrepreneurs in challenging times. Since 2010, the NYF-Institute has acted as a **catalyst to implement these solutions** in emerging markets, such as the “Train My Generation” initiative in Africa.

The one certainty for leaders in this century will be change, and the **NYF-Institute will be a fundamental platform to help leaders navigate that change.**

## ABOUT THE EVENT

- A series of high-level virtual roundtable discussions between African leaders and international experts
- An insightful presentation on the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa
- An opportunity to explore new frameworks for international cooperation to overcome today’s crisis and a call to action for our future

## ENGAGE WITH THE NYF-INSTITUTE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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[The New York Forum Institute](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



## CONTEXT

Half of humanity is on lockdown. Johannesburg, New York, Lagos, Paris, Tokyo, and Dubai stand still, deserted and quiet. Within the span of two months, our global economies and societies have shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The most vulnerable are trapped in an even harsher dilemma, between saving their lives and protecting their livelihoods. Amid this crisis, Africa offers reasons for both hope and fear.

## THE AFRICAN ANSWER TO A GLOBAL CRISIS

Africa drew lessons from its recent past and has demonstrated leadership in its answer to the COVID-19 crisis. As a result of the Ebola epidemic, the continent has transformed its health governance under the leadership of the African Union and its Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. This has facilitated preparedness and early warnings in most affected countries. Heads of state and government leaders have acted promptly to contain the contagion and encourage the use of technologies to limit human contact. As Africa is the world's youngest continent, with a median age of 20 years old, optimistic voices forecast that it will experience a less tragic fate than its European, American, and Asian counterparts'.

## PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

Whilst continental and national leadership examples abound, one shouldn't ignore the broader context: regional and national leadership alone cannot defeat COVID-19 and address its human cost. Indeed, one in three Africans live below the poverty line, representing 70% of the world's poorest. In addition, Africa has access to only 3% of the world's healthcare workers, and less than 1% of its financial resources. This, coupled with Africa's accumulated debts and food insecurity, place African countries at risk.

## PREPARING FOR WHAT'S NEXT

Leaders from Africa, Europe, and several international organizations are voicing the importance of deploying joint efforts to support the world's most vulnerable economies. International institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group, the African Development Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank have stepped up their efforts. Yet, this is not enough.

This virtual event by the NYF-Institute will be an opportunity to accelerate and expand these international efforts. As the defining decade of our century begins, and in the lead up to the G20 Leaders' Summit, our conversation will help define the post-crisis world – hopefully, the world we want.

## PROGRAM

### THE IMPERATIVE FOR AN AFRICAN CALL TO ACTION

**NYC** 08:00 - 08:05  
**ABIDJAN, DAKAR,  
FREETOWN** 12:00 - 12:05  
**NIAMEY** 13:00 - 13:05  
**PARIS** 14:00 - 14:05  
**NAIROBI** 15:00 - 15:05  
**DUBAI** 16:00 - 16:05  
**BEIJING** 20:00 - 20:05

The world reached a state of pandemic when all continents became affected by COVID-19. To date, the highest rates of contagion are in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Yet, it is in Africa where the impact of COVID-19 remains the most uncertain.

On the continent, the question goes beyond preventing the spread of the virus: COVID-19's impact on Africa and how the world chooses to respond will shape this decade, arguably the most important decade of our century.

#### SPEAKER:

- **Richard Attias**, Founder, New York Forum Institute and Executive Chairman, Richard Attias & Associates, Morocco

### REINVENTING ECONOMIC COLLABORATION: TACKLING AFRICA'S FINANCING NEEDS

**NYC** 08:05 - 08:20  
**ABIDJAN, DAKAR,  
FREETOWN** 12:05 - 12:20  
**NIAMEY** 13:05 - 13:20  
**PARIS** 14:05 - 14:20  
**NAIROBI** 15:05 - 15:20  
**DUBAI** 16:05 - 16:20  
**BEIJING** 20:05 - 20:20

The economic stress resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa is too high for the continent to act on its own. Finance Ministers and the UN Economic Commission for Africa have estimated the continent will need between USD 100 and 200 billion to cope with the pandemic crisis and its aftermath, as both African governments and the African private sector need comprehensive debt relief and stimulus packages. For the first time in 25 years, Sub-Saharan Africa's GDP is to decrease, between -2.1 percent and -5.1 percent. As a result, a combination of reduced economic activity, higher unemployment, and the need for stimulus packages will widen fiscal deficits.

Across the continent, dedicated financial policies and vehicles have been created to speed up recovery. However, their impact will remain limited if governments are dragged down by debt servicing – accounting for up to 20% of GDP. Multilateral lending organizations, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, have called for debt relief efforts to be stepped up. Bilateral donors must act too. This session will explore what instruments international and regional institutions can set in place to facilitate a prompt recovery. This could provide a framework to reinvent global cooperation and update outdated mechanisms for collaboration.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **Mr. Tony O. Elumelu CON**, Group Chairman, United Bank for Africa (UBA Group) and Founder, The Tony Elumelu Foundation, Nigeria
- **Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, Special Envoy of the African Union on COVID-19; Board Chair, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, Nigeria
- **Mr. Tidjane Thiam**, African Union Special Envoy on COVID-19, Former Minister, and Former CEO of Prudential and Crédit Suisse, Ivory Coast

#### IN CONVERSATION WITH:

- **Dr. Vera Songwe**, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Cameroon

## PROGRAM

### PREPARING THE RECOVERY: HOW GOVERNMENTS SHOULD ACT

**NYC** 08:20 - 08:40  
**ABIDJAN, DAKAR,  
FREETOWN** 12:20 - 12:40  
**NIAMEY** 13:20 - 13:40  
**PARIS** 14:20 - 14:40  
**NAIROBI** 15:20 - 15:40  
**DUBAI** 16:20 - 16:40  
**BEIJING** 20:20 - 20:40

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of policy, business, technology, and society around the world. It has also highlighted the importance of national and regional governments in managing this crisis. Globally, governments are facing issues related to continuity of operations and citizen protection. In Africa, this means continuing to address existing challenges, such as economic diversification and social inclusion, whilst implementing extraordinary measures to address current circumstances.

To be effective, African leaders cannot copy and paste the lockdown policies that have sprung up around the globe without considering their national circumstances. To do so, they must create the right conditions for dialogue with key stakeholders and reorganize their socio-economic policy agenda to ensure the most vulnerable – children, low-income workers, women – do not suffer the double burden of the pandemic risks and its dire consequences. Some countries, such as Egypt, Senegal, and Morocco, are leading the way by reorganizing key industries and taking measures to support the private sector to drive economic growth.

This session will explore the role of African governments in handling this crisis and will feature the best practices that have enabled some countries to become exemplary leaders in managing pandemic-associated risks.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **H.E. Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat**, Minister of International Cooperation, Arab Republic of Egypt
- **H.E. Amadou Hott**, Minister of the Economy, Planning and Cooperation, Republic of Senegal

#### IN CONVERSATION WITH:

- **Dr. Acha Leke**, Senior Partner and Chairman, McKinsey Africa, Cameroon

## PROGRAM

### RESILIENT AFRICA: LESSONS ON GOVERNANCE

**NYC** 08:40- 09:20  
**ABIDJAN, DAKAR,**  
**FREETOWN** 12:40 - 13:20  
**NIAMEY** 13:40 - 14:20  
**PARIS** 14:40 - 15:20  
**NAIROBI** 15:40 - 16:20  
**DUBAI** 16:40 - 17:20  
**BEIJING** 20:40 - 21:20

Africa is home to 1.3 billion people and includes some of the world's fastest-growing cities. In these locations, with overstretched healthcare systems and large population densities, social distancing is often nearly impossible. Combine this with a looming global economic crisis limiting the ability of multilateral institutions and partners to offer stimulus support, and Africa faces a unique set of challenges. Thankfully, Africa's response to the crisis has been nothing less than innovative, unique, and pragmatic.

Africa offers hope and opportunities for the international community to learn from its many success stories in the face of adversity. As stated by African and European leaders in a recent op-ed, "Only victory in Africa can end the pandemic everywhere." Featuring heads of state and government, this session will highlight cutting-edge socioeconomic policies and practices African leaders are implementing to foster a resilient Africa. It will serve as a call to action to the global community. It is time to re-think and re-invent the global response to maximize impact in the coming wake of the crisis.

#### SPEAKERS:

- **H.E. Dr. Julius Maada Bio**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- **H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou**, President of the Republic of Niger
- **H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta**, C.G.H. President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces
- **H.E. Alassane Ouattara**, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- **H.E. Macky Sall**, President of the Republic of Senegal

#### INCONVERSATION WITH:

- **Richard Attias**, Founder, New York Forum Institute and Executive Chairman, Richard Attias & Associates, Morocco

## CLOSING