

The graphic features a stylized map of Africa in the center, rendered in a vibrant orange-red color. The background is a deep red with abstract, glowing green and yellow lines that suggest a global network or data flow. The text 'AES' is prominently displayed in large, bold, yellow letters on the left. To its right, the words 'Africa Economic Symposium' are written in white, stacked vertically. A small yellow box with the text '3rd Edition' is positioned above the word 'Symposium'.

AES Africa Economic Symposium

3rd Edition

BOLD MOVES AMID GLOBAL SHIFTS

14-15 July, 2025 – Rabat, Morocco

Press Release

Rabat, July 9th 2025

Africa Economic Symposium (AES) 2025 - Bold Moves Amid Global Shifts

July 14th-15th, 2025

The Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) will host the **3rd edition of the Africa Economic Symposium (AES2025)** at its headquarters in Rabat on July 14 and 15, 2025, under the theme "***Bold Moves Amid Global Shifts***." This theme reflects the urgency facing the continent today. Africa is dealing with a dual challenge: on one the one hand, profound changes in the global environment, including geoeconomic fragmentation, rising geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, inflationary pressures, and tighter financial conditions. On the other hand, the continent continues to struggle with the limitations of its growth model, which remains heavily dependent on raw materials, marked by fragile industrialization, chronic infrastructure deficits, and high youth unemployment. This is despite having a dynamic and growing young population that is still insufficiently integrated into the economic fabric. Considering these challenges, Africa is called upon to make bold and strategic decisions to build resilience and accelerate development.

Following the success of its previous editions ([AES2023](#) et [AES2024](#)), which gathered around 200 participants from 40 countries, the AES has established itself as a key platform for constructive dialogue, strategic thinking, and the development of solutions grounded in African realities. Bringing together economists, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners from across the continent and beyond, the symposium aims to create an inclusive space for rigorous analysis and shared experiences.

A Program Focused on Action and Strategic Thinking

Structured around seven thematic sessions, this edition of AES will explore two main complementary areas.

Policy Center for the New South

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The first will focus on **major macroeconomic challenges** facing the continent. Discussions will address how to strengthen monetary and fiscal policy resilience in the face of global uncertainty, persistent inflation, currency volatility, and mounting public debt pressures. The aim is to identify room for maneuver that can help maintain stability while supporting growth.

The second area will explore the **drivers of Africa's economic transformation**. It will highlight both progress and roadblocks in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the development of high-impact economic corridors, and the potential of financial innovation, particularly central bank digital currencies, to broaden financial inclusion and modernize payment systems. Speakers will also examine how to move beyond traditional aid models by promoting sustainable, hybrid, and self-reliant financing mechanisms.

Several renowned international experts, researchers, policymakers, and representatives of African and global institutions will speak throughout the sessions. Notable names include **Andrew Dabalen**, Africa Region Chief Economist at the World Bank Group; **Arkebe Oqubay**, former Senior Minister of State and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia; **Faizel Ismail**, Director of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance; **Pierre Ngumkeu**, Director of the Africa Growth Initiative within the Global Economy and Development Program at Brookings; and **Erik Berglof**, Chief Economist at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

A Flagship Publication: Launch of the Sixth Annual Report on Africa's Economy

A major highlight of the Symposium will be the **presentation of the sixth edition of the Annual Report on Africa's Economy**. This flagship publication of the Policy Center for the New South, shaped by contributions from over thirty experts, offers an in-depth and well-documented analysis of the continent's economic dynamics at multiple levels. It serves as a valuable foundation for a clear-eyed and ambitious reflection on Africa's economic future.

This year's report, presented in a dedicated session, is titled "**Aligning Integration Scales: The Transformative Role of Regional Economic Communities**." The session will analyze how Africa is responding to global fragmentation while advancing continental integration, with a particular focus on ECOWAS and SADC. It will offer a comparative reading of the trajectories, economic policies, and institutional frameworks of these two regions, in order to better understand their role in Africa's integration process, and to explore the tools and challenges involved in strengthening cooperation and resilience across the continent.

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About the Policy Center for the New South

The Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) is a Moroccan think tank whose mission is to contribute to the improvement of economic, social and international public policies concerning Morocco and Africa as integral parts of the global South. As such, the PCNS mobilizes [researchers](#), publishes [their work](#) and benefits from a network of prestigious partners from all continents. Throughout the year, the PCNS organizes a series of meetings of different formats and levels, the most important of which are the annual international conferences "[The Atlantic Dialogues](#)", «[Africa Economic Symposium \(AES\)](#)» and "[African Peace and Security Annual Conference](#)" (APSACO).

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