

The logo for the Africa 2018 Think Tank Summit. It features the word "AFRICA" in large white letters, "2018 Think Tank Summit" in smaller white letters below it, and a stylized map of Africa composed of blue dots to the right.

**AFRICA**  
2018 Think Tank  
Summit



**Deepening Expertise and Enhancing Sustainability: Insights into Contemporary Challenges Facing African Think Tanks**

9-11 May, 2018 | Rabat, Morocco

By registration

# Deepening Expertise and Enhancing Sustainability:

## Insights into Contemporary Challenges Facing African Think Tanks

### SUMMIT REPORT

*Our many thanks to the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) who made this report possible*

May 9-11, 2018

The View Hotel

Rabat, Morocco



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## Concept Note

OCP Policy Center and the Think Tank and Civil Societies Program of the University of Pennsylvania, with the support of the Moroccan International Cooperation Agency (AMCI), the Asian Development Bank hosted the 2018 Africa Think Tank Summit under the theme “Deepening Expertise and Enhancing Sustainability: Insight into Contemporary Challenges Facing African Think Tanks.”

The summit was held May 9-11th, 2018 at The View Hotel, Rabat, Morocco. The most influential and innovative think tanks in Africa gathered to discuss contemporary issues they are facing, such as the challenges of deepening expertise, the role of the media and the press in propelling the African agendas, the role of think tanks in

driving the African diaspora, and the role of think tanks in building an inclusive policy dialogue.

The Summit was also an excellent opportunity to explore how think tanks can implement the strategies developed in previous Summits to enhance capacity, increase impact and assure the long term viability of think tanks in the region. Much work has been done lately on the issue of making think tanks “fit for purpose,” in terms of quality, vibrancy, relevance and sustainability. We believe that think tanks from across Africa benefit from learning about and finding ways to introduce innovations and adaptations identified in other think tank fora.

## Format

This Summit is conducted in a Roundtable Format with panels that are intended to frame the key issues and provide constructively provocative questions to

stimulate the discussion that follows each Session. The Summit is conducted in accordance with the Chatham House Rule



### Key Takeaways

# Why the World Needs African Think Tanks

African think tanks are vital to both the African region and to the world as a whole, especially given the turbulent times.

African think tanks can provide local expertise with a global quality and a deep African perspective. In this way, they are a valuable piece of a shared vision of peace and security. Both national governments and international organizations, would face substantial ramifications should African think tanks disappear; just consider the economic and security implications of not providing support for the critical thinking through the turbulent crisis that we are in. By having their feet on the ground and a network in place, African think tanks can

conduct thorough research that informs smart policy and smart decisions.

Increasingly, local expertise is being valued more highly than that of foreign organizations by African governments, as former President of Nigeria H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo commented, going even further to state, “We must ensure that African leaders know they will not achieve success at the regional level if they fail to do so at the domestic level... think tanks are indispensable.”

Think tanks, the African region, and the international community all stand to benefit from the increased capacity, quality and sustainability of African think tanks.



### Key Takeaways

# The Future of African Think Tanks: An Opportunity in Crisis

In 2014, Dr. Frannie Leautier, former Executive Secretary of the ACBF, reported that 30% of Africa's think tanks may close or be in serious crisis. With the departure of key donors currently accelerating and predicted to continue accelerating for the next 2-3 years, this prediction is perilously close to becoming true.

As repeatedly remarked at the Summit, the magnitude of the challenges faced by *all* African think tanks are immense. These challenges manifest in different ways across think tanks in the region but have large, thematic commonalities. Some of the most pressing and key challenges include:

- Fleeing funds (most notably the departure of donor funds following a massive increase in research

support, leaving behind inflated budgets and new, large gaps in funding)

- A lack of core funding (instead project specialized), leading to a lack of core infrastructure and long term planning
- A legacy of colonialism that manifests in distrust between Northern and Southern think tanks

Given these identified challenges,\* participants in the 2018 African Think Tank Summit undertook a series of discussions that materialized in a conglomeration of actionable recommendations.

\*For a more in-depth and expansive analysis, see section: *Enhancing the Sustainability of African Think Tanks*



## Key Takeaways

# Action Items: Beyond the Summit

The 2018 Africa Think Tank Summit paved a path forward for the future of African think tanks. With a deep understanding of the grave challenges being faced, summit participants forged a series of steps and actionable recommendations which will be acted upon by participating think tanks in conjunction with TTCSP, and in which all African think tanks are encouraged to participate:

- A Best Practices Committee will be assembled to review and tailor TTCSP's globally compiled think tank "best practices" to the African continent. These best practices will then be disseminated to the think tanks of the region.
- A Women in Think Tanks Network will be created to mentor and train women entering the workforce and to analyze African think tanks' gender policy implementation with an international standard.
- African think tanks will each produce a strategic plan to specifically lay out their organization's mission, scope, goals, timeline, etc.
- Future African think tank summits will include capacity building workshops, such as modifying templates to fit each organization's financial needs.

All African think tanks are encouraged to consider these recommendations and take part in them. Further recommendations are also included throughout this report.



## Enhancing the Sustainability of African Think Tanks

# Striving for Financial Sustainability

### *Challenges*

The worth of the African think tank is being undermined from multiple angles.

Most clearly, funding is one of the biggest challenges faced by African think tanks. Funding is often uncertain, irregular, insufficient, and unequally distributed. This funding is also over-reliant on international donors, while governments face pressed budgets or understate the importance of think tanks. This combination has created competition between governments and think tanks to secure funds from the same international organizations, continuing to undermine the work of think tanks.

However, not only do think tanks often lose credibility when they rely on international donors, but such international donors are facing donor fatigue and shifting to humanitarian crisis. The most clear illustration of this is the Think Tank Initiative,

managed by IDRC, which pumped millions of dollars into a select number of top think tanks in Africa and is set to end this year (2018). No think tank has yet been able to fully replace the departing funds, meaning that, for many think tanks, their capacity is about to be greatly oversized for the new incoming budget.

Confounding this problem is the lack of attention that has been paid to core support; donors have preferred and almost exclusively funded project-specialized programs which result in a fast, tangible result. The consequence of this the 'hollowing out' of institutions (such as the frequent departure of researchers who leave when the funds dry up), leading to the oversupply of weak and fragile specialized think tanks that are marginal and not sustainable.

Illustrated, this fragility means one cannot support other aspects of the operations because funders do not want to pay for four core areas: management, communications, technology and resource mobilization. For example, a think tank cannot move a fixed core of highly specialized skilled

researchers around to investigate topics outside of the realm of their expertise. These four core areas are critical for the survival of institutions. The neglect of these areas by donors makes the think tank ecosystem fragile and unsustainable, and it undermines development throughout Africa.

## ***Recommendations***

Procuring funds to develop strong African think tanks requires new business models. As Dr. James G. McGann, Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, stated, “the days of international donor funding for think tanks is over but with few expectations.”

This rethinking of how African think tanks are funded may include an examination in the following areas:

- How to turn African think tanks from being more academically oriented to being more policy relevant.
- Whether to look at providing services on a contract basis in a

consulting capacity for both international and government entities, and if so, what kinds of guidelines are needed.

- How to sit down with key donors to articulate the fundamental changes.

These questions will also require an analysis of the negotiation between financial stability and independence. Additionally, further recommendations surrounded the integration of Agenda 2064 into the strategic plans of think tanks and nations, and utilizing foreign ministers and think tanks to further Agenda 2064.



## Enhancing the Sustainability of African Think Tanks

# Achieving Strategic Partnerships

### **Challenges**

Strategic partnerships with policy makers and the public are integral. Currently, think tanks are underutilized and underappreciated by African policy makers, and a close relationship can lead to issues

of transparency and neutrality. When it comes to the public, the media has their own agenda, creating the need to develop very specific and strong strategies.

### **Recommendations**

Some recommendations to strengthen strategic partnerships with policy makers and the public are:

- Ensure mutual ownership with the public by working with those who are going to be affected by the results of the study.
- Improve relationship with policy makers by choosing a topic that is very important and timing the

- release of information carefully for the largest impact.
- Consult with your partners early and work collaboratively.
- Pay attention to language use and location (cultural sensitivity of the work).
- Built trust with donors through shared value and quality.
- Cultivate relationships with journalists to improve media coverage.



## Enhancing the Sustainability of African Think Tanks

# Digitization: Adaptations in Strategic Communication

### *Challenges*

Think tanks must adapt to the new mean of communication; this means changing the types of products that think tanks produce. Books, journals, and policy briefs are no longer being read. While television, radio and newspaper will continue to be important in Africa, other communication mediums such as through mobile communication and shorter form products are also necessary.

Endless advances in technology present challenges. Technology has created impact on politics through fake news, misinformation, and populism. The resulting increased velocity of information and policy flows affect think tank business models and the timeline of research. As civil society and democracy are being challenged, think tanks are the entity which stand between 'fake news' and 'real news.'

### *Recommendations*

Understanding technology, what is appropriate and what will improve the research is key. How can academic ideas be translated into practical terms and delivered in a shorter time frame while

maintaining credibility? Mobile technology may be the key. Politicians have put down their book for their phone; producing things in the mobile product form is key.



## Enhancing the Sustainability of African Think Tanks

# Women in Leadership

### **Challenges**

There is a large disparity between the amount of women clustered at the staff support level and the amount of women in leadership within African think tanks. Women also face barriers to entry, especially when it comes to participating in dialogues, and are typically a minority in closed door meetings or strategy meetings.

While the policy to protect and further women in the workforce exists, implementation is lacking. There is still the expectation of the motherhood penalty versus the fatherhood bonus in terms of how women are viewed in their workplace.

### **Recommendations**

1. Better female representation must be built through mentorship, training, and media. Training gives the tools needed to manage dialogues, raise issues and reach agreement; mentorship is critical and begins in university to help women choose their career paths; and media can make the women experts known.
2. Find out the best practices: Conduct SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) analysis within African think tanks. Use benchmarks from successful Western think tanks that have been able to address these issues effectively.

3. Need zero tolerance of infractions on the issues. Think tanks must include feminism into their mission.
4. Do not create an African standard. Progress must be benchmarked tested with the international and global standard of this issue.
5. Involve male champions. Most of the mentors of women are men. Women have to recruit more men to join this drive (this is not a fight). It is about equity and not equality. Importance of creating visibility and raising the profile for women in the media.
6. Creating symbols of aspiration that allows young kids to see themselves in these symbols
7. **Action Step is to create African Women Think Tank Network.**
8. Need funding to translate the action plans into actions. We need funding to monitor what is being done and share funding with others.



## Policy Directions

# African Diaspora

### **Challenges**

The African Diaspora poses a dilemma for nations. While many of those in the diaspora regret why they left and come back (especially Masters students with a passion for entrepreneurship), they are not always welcome. In addition, governance issues mean that citizens are either in or out of

local networks in regards to membership of a specific group.

The diaspora is not homogeneous, but those who are part of the diaspora tend to be highly motivated to bring about change, creating an opportunity.

### **Future Directions**

In order to utilize the skills and passion of those overseas, Africa must adopt the right policies so that those of the diaspora feel welcome at home. For those that choose to remain overseas, technology enables them

to contribute to Africa from abroad. By embracing those who are overseas, those of the diaspora also become advocates for Africa in their new country.



## Policy Directions

# Agriculture

### **Challenges**

Agricultural productivity has been low, as the proceeds of gains are not sustainably growing. Think tanks must focus on what

better infrastructure is needed, along with technological adaption.

### **Future Directions**

It is important to ask about the number of think tanks that specialized in the agriculture-specific sector. Think tanks need to understand weather, climate, soil, and genetics, as well as African infrastructure and ability to distribute.

focus on based on nutrition, climate, soil conditions, and infrastructure. By focusing on the 'triple helix of innovation,' focused on the private sector, research institutions, and the government, there can be a circular relationship that doesn't put burden on any one particular entity.

Research also needs to be applied to which crops different countries or regions should



## Policy Directions

# Security

### *Challenges*

The funding of state armies continues to be a challenge for many African nations, while, as one participant noted, “we spend money on peace keeping where there is no peace to keep.” Given the steep challenges that

security poses in Africa, think tanks have a critical role in developing narratives and discovering the motives and underpinning of terrorist movements and threats, such as the influences of education and poverty.

### *Future Directions*

Horizontal partnerships across research institutions need to be strengthened to take make the most of human capital. Data is a useful tool to forecast national and regional structural pressures, while ethnography can help to analyze and make sense of that data. By using an interdisciplinary approach, also integrating economics and security, a

clearer picture of the security landscape in Africa will become more clear.

In addition, financial independence of think tanks focusing on security is an area that needs improvement; currently, 80% of funds for security think tank work in Africa comes from EU partners.



# Agenda

**Wednesday, May 9, 2018**

14:30-15:30 Registration of participants

15:30-16:00 Welcome Remarks

**H.E Ambassador Mohammed Methqal**, Director General, Moroccan International Cooperation Agency (AMCI)

**Karim El Aynaoui**, Managing Director, OCP Policy Center

16:00-17:00 Keynote Address: **H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo**, Former President of Nigeria and Board Member, Africa Progress Panel: **Think tanks and Regional Integration: Bold Strategies for Long Term Impact**

17:00-18:30 Opening Session (Think Tank Presidents' Panel) **Deepening Expertise and Enhancing Sustainability and Security: Insight into Contemporary Challenges Facing African Think Tanks**

**Chair: Awad Ibrahim**, Chairman, Lybian Organization of Policies and Strategies

**Thula Sizwe Dlamini**, Executive Director, Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC)

**Idayat Hassan**, Director, Center for Democracy and Development (CDD)

**Tawfik Mouline**, Director General, Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES)

**Mohamed Heddi**, Vice President, Center for Studies in Social Sciences Research (CERSS)

**Sadou Abdoulaye Yattara**, President, Institut pour la Démocratie et l'Education aux Médias (IDEM)

18:30-19:30 Break

19:30-21:00 Dinner

## Thursday, May 10, 2018

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:30 Welcome Remarks

- **Mohammed Loulichki**, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center
- **James G. McGann**, Senior Lecturer and Director Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania

09:30-10:00 Keynote Address: **Mr. Abdou Diop**, President, African and South South Relations, Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises: **Roadmap to building bridges between think tanks and the private sector**

10:00-10:15 Coffee Break

10:15-11:30 Plenary Session: **The Think Tank Sustainability Crisis In Africa and Its Potential Impact on Think Tanks, Policy Makers and the Public**

Keynote Address: **James G. McGann**, Senior Lecturer and Director Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania in conversation with Patrick Malope, Professor, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) and Landry Signé, Fellow, Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution and Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

11:30-12:45 Break Out Sessions (A)

**Break Out Session I: Agenda for Enhancing Research on Agricultural Productivity in Africa**

**Chair: Adebisi Araba**, Africa Director at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture and member, Malabo-Montpellier panel



**Tadesse Kuma Worako**, Director of Agricultural and Rural Development Research Center, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI)  
**Patrick Malope**, Professor, Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA)

### **Break Out Session II: The Role of Think Tanks in Advocating for Green Energy in Africa**

**Chair: Aziz Mekouar**, Ambassador to Multilateral Negotiations of COP22

**Rachid El Mrabet**, Director, Projects and innovation, Research Institute for Renewable and New Energy  
**Majdoub Molka**, Energy Economist, African Development Bank

### **Break Out Session III: The Quality-Capacity Conundrum: How to Enhance Capacity and Maintain Quality and Independence with Limited or No Institutional Support**

*The purpose of this session is to bring together a group of think tank executives to share their views on how to meet the challenge of how to raise funds and produce quality research while also maintaining institutional independence. This requires a delicate balancing act that think tanks around the world must manage on a daily basis.*

**Chair: Lea Metke**, Project Officer to the Director, French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)

**Landry Signé**, Rubenstein Fellow, Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution; Chairman, Global Network for Africa's Prosperity

**Selorm Branttie**, Vice President, IMANI-Africa Center for Policy and Education

**Thula Sizwe Dlamini**, Executive Director, Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC)

### **Break Out Session IV: Why Think Tanks Matter in Africa: Forging Strategic Partnerships with Policy Makers, Donors and the Public**

*The purpose of this session is to bring together a group of think tank executives to share their views on how think tanks can more effectively engage policymakers and the public in policy issues that are key to Africa's development. Think tanks are critical in supporting the implementation of key economic, social and good governance policies and programs, but they could do a more effective job in reaching key audiences and stakeholders. This session will explore how think tanks can utilize strategic communications, strategic partnerships and new technologies to increase revenue, reach and impact.*

**Chair: Monde Muyangwa**, Director, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

**Mounsif Aderkaoui**, Director of Studies and Financial Forecasts, Ministry of Economy and Finance

**Idayat Hassan**, Director, Centre for Democracy and Development

**Richard Fonteh Akum**, Senior Researcher, Institute for Security Studies

12:45-13:30 Break Out Session A Highlights with Round Table Discussion

13:30-15:00 Networking Luncheon

15:00-15:45 **Keynote Address: Her Excellency Mrs. Mounia Boucetta**, Secretary of State in charge of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Kingdom of Morocco: **Rethinking Strategic Partnerships between the Public Sector and Policy Oriented Institutions**

16:00-17:15 Break Out Session (B)

**Break Out Session V: Women and Think Tanks: How to Provide Better Representation in Policy Making Dialogue**

**Chair: Monde Muyangwa**, Director, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

**Amal Sakr**, Deputy Director for Executive Affairs, Future for Advanced Research and Studies (FARS)

**Lettie Tembo Longwe**, Programme Management and Institutional Development Team Leader, IPSS

**Idayat Hassan**, Director, Centre for Democracy and Development

**Bouchra Benhida**, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

**Break Out Session VI: Think Tanks and the African Diaspora: Bringing Brilliant Minds Back**

**Chair: Landry Signé**, Rubenstein Fellow, Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution; Chairman, Global Network for Africa's Prosperity

**Kathya Berrada**, Research Associate, The Arab Center for Scientific Research and Humane Studies

**Siré Sy**, President, Africa WorldWide Group Think Tank

**Zoubir Benhamouche**, Economist, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

**Break Out Session VII: Rethinking Institutional Partnerships for Policy Impact, Resource Mobilization and Sustainability**

Chair: **Amira Kridagh**, Legal and Advocacy Officer, Soidar Tunisie

**Laoye Jaiyeola**, CEO, Nigerian Economic Summit Group

**Shinichi Nakabayashi**, Director, Administration, Management & Coordination, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

**Winifred Weck**, Coordinator on Development Policy and Human Rights, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

**Break Out Session VIII: Realizing Sustainable Future for Africa's Think Tanks: An Action Agenda for a Comprehensive Security Dialogue**

*This Session is meant to bring together ideas and issues discussed at the Summit and formulate some possible conclusions and concrete recommendations for action that will help alleviate the think tank sustainability crisis in Africa. The Panel is expected to help participants generate a plan of action that will focus on realizing a sustainable future for Africa's think tanks, while building expertise to assess security threats.*

Chair: **Jalal Abdel Latif**, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

**Richard Fonteh Akum**, Senior Researcher, Institute for Security Studies

**Hugo Sada**, Special Advisor, Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa

**Tigist Yesiwas**, Assistant Professor, Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS)

17:15-18:00 Break Out Session B Highlights with a Round Table Discussion

19:00-21:00 Dinner

## Friday, May 11, 2018

09:00-09:15 Welcome Remarks

09:15-10:15 Open Discussion with the press: **Think Tanks and Media Relations**

Chair: **Sabine Cessou**, Independent journalist

10:15-10:30 Coffee Break



10:30-11:30 **Closing Round Table Discussion: How to Make Africa's Think Tanks Fit for the Future: Strategies for Reform, Innovation, and Adaption**

**Tadesse Kuma Worako**, Director of Agricultural and Rural Development  
Research Center, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI)

**Jalal Abdel Latif**, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

**Clélie Nallet**, Research Fellow, French Institute of International Relations' Sub-Saharan Africa Center

11:30-12:00 Closing Remarks

**Karim El Aynaoui**, Managing Director, OCP Policy Center

**James G. McGann**, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder  
Institute, University of Pennsylvania

12:00-13:00 Farewell Lunch (departure of international participants)



## List of Participants

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African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) (Ghana)

African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) (Kenya)

African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (South Africa)

Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS) (Egypt)

Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) (Botswana)

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## Summit in the News

OCP Morocco: “This is the perfect storm, but nobody wants to talk about it”  
[http://www.ocppc.ma/blog/perfect-storm-nobody-wants-talk-about-it#.WvxIWNPwY\\_U](http://www.ocppc.ma/blog/perfect-storm-nobody-wants-talk-about-it#.WvxIWNPwY_U)

OCP Morocco: “Olusegun Obasanjo speaks at the African Think Tanks Summit 2018”  
[http://www.ocppc.ma/blog/olusegun-obasanjo-speaks-african-think-tanks-summit-2018#.WvxcTNPwY\\_U](http://www.ocppc.ma/blog/olusegun-obasanjo-speaks-african-think-tanks-summit-2018#.WvxcTNPwY_U)

Interview with Dr. James McGann  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOru9s2gc6A>

Interview with Dr. Patrick Malope  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zny8vYQzGbl>

Interview with Dr. Idayat Hassan  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4WGoSNzpR8>

Interview with Richard Fonteh Akum  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGloezxMBtk>

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Aujourd’hui le Maroc: “OCP Policy Center: Contemporary Challenges of African Think Tanks at the Heart of the Debate”  
<http://aujourd'hui.ma/economie/ocp-policy-center-les-defis-contemporains-des-think-tanks-africains-au-coeur-du-debat>

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<https://lematin.ma/journal/2018/lavenir-lindependance-think-tanks-africains-debat-rabat/292532.html>

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MapNews: “Morocco Endeavors to Develop Think Tanks as Integral Component in Promoting Sustainable Development in Africa (Nigeria’s Former Pres.)”  
<http://www.mapnews.ma/en/top-news/general/morocco-endeavors-develop-think-tanks-integral-component-promoting-sustainable-deve>

HibaPress: “M.Obasanjo Former President Of Nigeria: ‘Morocco Pays Particular Attention To The Development Of Think Tanks’”  
<https://fr.hibapress.com/news-11456.html>

Real News Magazine: “Second Edition of the African Think Tanks Summit, towards Inclusive Policy Dialogue in Africa”  
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## ***Previous Africa Think Tank Summit Reports:***

[2017 Africa Think Tank Summit Report](#): Fit for the Future: Enhancing the Capacity, Quality, and Sustainability of Africa's Think Tanks (Washington D.C., USA)

[2015 Africa Think Tank Summit Report](#): The Rise of Africa ’s Think Tanks: Practical Solutions to Practical Problems (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

[2014 Africa Think Tank Summit Report](#): Think Tanks and the Transformation of Africa: The First African Continental Think Tank Summit (Pretoria, South Africa)



## 2018 TTCSP Think Tank Summit and Fora Schedule\*

**January 30, 2018** Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Launch and “Why Think Tanks Matter” events in Washington, DC and New York, NY and 175 cities around the world.

**February 27- March 1, 2018** Spring Term Break Possible Trip to Ethiopia and Ethiopia Development Research Institute EDRI and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

**March 14-16, 2018 Europe Think Tank Summit**, Berlin Germany, TTCSP Partner and Co-organizer: Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) (Germany)

**April 11 &12, 2018 North America Think Tank Summit**, Washington, DC TTCSP Partners: Brookings Institutions

**April 26-28 European University Institute in Florence**, on 27th April 2018 for the kick off meeting of the International Board, and to brainstorm on “Exploring the New Frontiers of Democracy with Key Thinkers and Leaders”.

**May 9-11, 2018 Africa Think Thank Summit**, Rabat, Morocco TTCSP Partner: OCP Policy Center

**June 15, 2018 Think Tank Scholars and Managers Program**, Beijing Penn Wharton Center, Beijing, China

**June 16-17, 2018 China Think Tank Forum, Qingdao, China**, TTCSP Partners: Center for China and Globalization, Municipal Government of Qingdao

**17-18 July 2018 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic Central Asia Think Tank Forum “Building Knowledge Corridors along the Silk Road”**

**July 19-22 2018 Think Tank Forum Seville, Spain**

**August 27-31, 2018** Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Johns Hopkins University SAIS, Lauder Institute, TTCSP University of Pennsylvania and Asia Development Bank Institute, Book Launch **“Think Tanks the New Policy Advisers in Asia”** TTCSP University of Pennsylvania and Asia Development Bank Institute, Tokyo, Japan

**September 13 & 14, 2018 Latin America Think Tank Summit**, Montevideo, Uruguay

**September 15 & 16, 2018 T20 for G20 Argentina Advisory Board Meeting, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

**October 4-6, 2018 MENA Think Tank Summit**, Tunis, Tunisia TTCSP Partner: Centre for Mediterranean and International Studies (CEMI)

**November 7-9, 2018 Global Think Tank Summit, Brussels Belgium**, TTCSP Partners: Bruegel

**November 18-20, 2018 Asia Think Tank Summit**, Bali, Indonesia, TTCSP Partner: Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (EIRA)

**December 13 & 14, 2018 India Think Tank Forum, Delhi, India**, TTCSP Partners: Observer Research Foundation

\*\* Summits and Fora dates are subject to change but are confirmed unless otherwise indicated



## About TTCSP

### ***Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program:***

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. Over the last 25 years, the TTCSP has developed and led a series of global initiatives that have helped bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environmental issues, information and society, poverty alleviation, and healthcare and global health. These international collaborative efforts are designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that improve policy making while strengthening democratic institutions and civil societies around the world.

The TTCSP works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs, and produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index that ranks the world’s leading think tanks in a variety of categories. This is achieved with the help of a panel of over 1,900 peer institutions and experts from the print and electronic media, academia, public and private donor institutions, and governments around

the world. We have strong relationships with leading think tanks around the world, and our annual Think Tank Index is used by academics, journalists, donors and the public to locate and connect with the leading centers of public policy research around the world. Our goal is to increase the profile and performance of think tanks and raise the public awareness of the important role think tanks play in governments and civil societies around the globe.

Since its inception in 1989, the TTCSP has focused on collecting data and conducting research on think tank trends and the role think tanks play as civil society actors in the policymaking process. In 2007, the TTCSP developed and launched the global index of think tanks, which is designed to identify and recognize centers of excellence in all the major areas of public policy research and in every region of the world. To date TTCSP has provided technical assistance and capacity building programs in 81 countries. We are now working to create regional and global networks of think tanks in an effort to facilitate collaboration and the production of a modest yet achievable set of global public goods. Our goal is to create lasting institutional and state-level partnerships by engaging and mobilizing think tanks that have demonstrated their ability to produce high quality policy research and shape popular and elite opinion and actions for public good.