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Draft Session Note: Panel 9: The Role of International Collaboration in Capacity Development to Safeguard Debt Sustainability in Africa

African Union Conference on Debt

“Africa’s Public Debt Management Agenda in Restoring and Safeguarding Debt Sustainability”

Lome, Togo, 12 to 14 May 2025

Panel 9: The Role of International Collaboration in Capacity Development to Safeguard Debt Sustainability in Africa - 14th May 2025, 10:45am – 12:05pm

Background

International collaboration plays a crucial role in strengthening the capacity of Debt Management Offices, particularly in handling the emerging issues in public debt management. This requires consolidated efforts from all stakeholders (multilateral organizations, supranational institutions, civil society organizations, and other development finance institutions) in making available technical assistance on debt management in all member states. The session aims to discuss how the partnerships and collaborative efforts in debt management capacity development by cooperating partners, donors, and regional institutions can strengthen debt management capacity in developing countries, which is a critical component to debt sustainability on the continent.

Moderator

Mr. Jason Rosario Braganza, Executive Director, the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)

- Moderator provides background information about the session; objectives and flow of the session and introduces the Panellists of the session

Panelists and Questions

Dr. Eric Ogunleye, Director, African Development Institute, African Development Bank Group

- Where do you see the most critical capacity gaps in African debt management offices today, and how should international partners prioritize their technical assistance to address these gaps effectively?
- Given the African Development Bank's initiative to support transition states through the Public Finance Management Academy for Africa, what additional measures can be implemented to ensure these countries build institutional capacity for sustainable debt management?

Mr. Jacob Mkandawire, Director, Debt Division, MEFMI

- How can African institutions like MEFMI better facilitate South-South collaboration and peer learning to complement traditional North-South capacity-building programs?

- In light of the Sustainable Debt Coalition's efforts to reform the global sovereign debt architecture, how can African nations collaborate with international creditors to align debt relief initiatives with climate and development goals?

Ms. Delia Cox, Advisor, Public Debt, Commonwealth Secretariat

- What role do South–South cooperation initiatives play in enhancing Africa's debt management capacity, and how can these collaborations be strengthened to provide more tailored solutions?
- With new debt challenges like climate-linked borrowing and complex creditor landscapes, what specialized training areas should international collaborators focus on developing for African debt managers?

Professor Douglass Omotor, WAIFEM

- What concrete metrics should be used to evaluate the effectiveness of international capacity development programs in improving debt sustainability outcomes?
- Many technical assistance programs create temporary expertise without lasting institutional capacity. What models of engagement ensure that debt management skills become permanently embedded in African institutions?

Q & A from the audience

- The moderator will facilitate questions from the audience directed towards any of the panelists. Panelists are encouraged to contribute to providing comprehensive responses to these inquiries, while adhering to the allocated time constraints.

Key takeaways/summary of the discussion and way forward

- Moderator summarises the key insights and issues raised, as well as the action points to take forward for consideration, action and advocacy.