



AFRICAN FORUM AND NETWORK  
ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

# AFRODEBT 15

2023

AFRODAD Newsletter

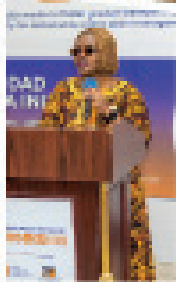


**5<sup>th</sup>** Edition of  
THE ZIMBABWE  
DEBT CONFERENCE



AFRODAD Debt and  
Development  
Academy

Social Protection /  
Social Security



## AFCoDD III

Reimagining, Rethinking,  
Reorganising, and Remobilising  
for an African World Order



## In this edition



### Page 1

Mobilising Media Champions for Sustainable Development in Africa through The AFRODAD Media Initiative



### Page 2

AFRODAD and ZIMCODD participated in the High-Level Structured Dialogue Platform Meeting Towards Zimbabwe's Arrears Clearance and Debt Resolution

AFRODAD Contributed to the Report on Debt Relief in Low Income Countries Published by the UK Parliament

Did You Know AFRODAD is a Knowledge Hub on Debt and Development in Africa?



### Page 3

People's Alternatives Mass Movement

AFRODAD's Work to Influence African Government to Borrow and Spend Responsibly Remains Very Relevant for the Continent- Ghana

We Celebrate the Launch of the Debt Observatory Launched by the African Union- AFRODAD Contributed to it!



### Page 4

WINNING!  
The High Court of Zimbabwe Ruled in Favour of AFRODAD's national Partner ZIMCODD

Debt and Development Academy Conveners Meeting

African Debt - Stop the Bleeding Campaign Inception



### Page 5

The African CSO strategy convening Contribution to the Least Developed Countries Conference

Contribution to the 7th Retreat of Friends of Monterrey

Letter to Support an urgent adoption of Senator Hoylman-Sigal and Assembly member Pat Fahy's New York

AFRODAD 2022 Annual Report

NORAD Partners meeting - Norway



### Page 6

Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act

His Excellency William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya Joins AFRODAD in Championing Africa as a Rule Maker, not Rule Taker

Video Alert!



### Page 7

The Fifth Zimbabwe Multistakeholder Debt Conference

2022 Annual Report

Upcoming events




### Page 8

Our new team

## Mobilising Media Champions for Sustainable Development in Africa through The AFRODAD Media Initiative

With one of AFRODAD's well able partners, the Africa Center for Energy Policy (ACEP), we hosted the third edition of the AFRODAD Media Initiative (AFROMEDI III) in Accra, Ghana on the 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023. This year's theme was Partnering with media to foster greater transparency and accountability for sustainable public debt management. In a nutshell, AFROMEDI III sought to: (i) contribute to journalists' existing knowledge and understanding of debt management and related financing issues in Africa; (ii) empower participants with principles of transparency, accountability and good governance, and effectively promoting them for sustainable debt management; as well as (iii) Exchange innovative and effective techniques for finding and exposing hidden information using formal and informal channels.

The event brought together journalists from 30 African countries: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Central African Republic (CAR), Cote d'Ivoire, Congo Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Following AFROMEDI III, the Media Debt Network Africa (MDNA), a network of journalists who focus on development finance, has grown to 105 members, from 81 in 2022.

[Follow this link](#) for more info on AFROMEDI III 



## AFRODAD and ZIMCODD Contributed to the High-Level Structured Dialogue Platform Meeting Towards Zimbabwe's Arrears Clearance and Debt Resolution

The government of Zimbabwe has instituted a structured Dialogue Platform between itself, its Creditors and development partners, towards Zimbabwe's arrears clearance and debt resolution. Prior to this step, both AFRODAD and [The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development \(ZIMCODD\)](#) decried the failure of the government of Zimbabwe and the international creditor community to heed to repeated warnings by African Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as captured in [the African Borrowing Charter](#) and the [Harare Declaration](#). The risks of unsustainable debt has undermined development progress in Zimbabwe for several decades, and has resulted in millions of poor and [marginalised Zimbabweans suffering](#) the impact of severe austerity measures, unemployment, poverty and extreme inequality. Therefore, ZIMCODD and AFRODAD stand ready to support and work with the government of Zimbabwe on its arrears' clearance and debt resolution.

AFRODAD and ZIMCODD contributed to the High-Level Structured Dialogue Platform Meeting, that took place at Meikles Hotel, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2023. The participation of His Excellency, Cde. Dr Emmerson D. Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the appointments of His Excellency Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group, and His Excellency Joaquim A Chissano, former President of the Republic of Mozambique, as Co-Facilitators of this process, signals a much-needed sense of urgency and priority, as is reflected in the meaningful progress made during the past High-Level Structured Dialogue Platform Meeting held in December 2022.

[Checkout the congratulatory letter](#) from AFRODAD and ZIMCODD to the President of Zimbabwe for His work to stabilise Zimbabwe's socio-economic situation.



[Read more](#)

## AFRODAD Contributed to the Report on Debt Relief in Low Income Countries Published by the UK Parliament

On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the UK Parliament published the [Debt relief in low income countries report](#) hearings; of which [AFRODAD's Executive Director](#), together with Mae Buenaventura from the Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development and Paul Steele from the Institute for Environment and Development, provided evidence on debt in low-income countries. The UK government is expected to provide a response on the report by May 2023.



## Did You Know AFRODAD is a Knowledge Hub on Debt and Development in Africa?

[Building Resilience through Fiscal Democracy](#) is a brilliant article that as many people as possible should read! *It was published in February 2023 by Leonard Wanyama, the regional coordinator of the East African Tax and Governance Network (EATGN), a network that focuses on issues of development, governance, and international relations. Mr. Wanyama acknowledges that the article is based on a presentation and comments made during the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Debt Conference, that we hosted in June 2022. It was themed "Towards strengthening accountability and transparency around public debt management and the use of IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) in Eastern and Southern Africa". If you need resources on debt and development, visit this page on AFRODAD's website.*



## People's Alternatives Mass Movement

We are part of the [People's Alternatives](#) mass movement led by the [Fight Inequality Alliance](#) (AFRODAD is a member). This is a three-year campaign towards a mass mobilisation for people powered alternatives, to fight inequality that springs from various roots including irresponsible borrowing and lending that often leads to unsustainable public debt resulting in austerity measures that do more harm than good to the people. The campaign is through a series of mass actions across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Global North. These debates and solutions will be held amongst people in their millions; in person, on social media and through main stream media. People's Caravans will move across countries holding popular education sessions and local discussions. People's Assemblies will be held at sub-national and national level. People's stories and demands will be heard at People's Tribunals, where the current system, including the role of the World Bank and the IMF, will be scrutinised, as demands are made to dismantle the global financial system.



**Sign Up**

To join thousands of people raising the voice against inequality!  
You will then be receiving updates on the movement including events in your country.



### AFRODAD's Work to Influence African Governments to Borrow and Spend Responsibly Remains Very Relevant for the Continent- Ghana

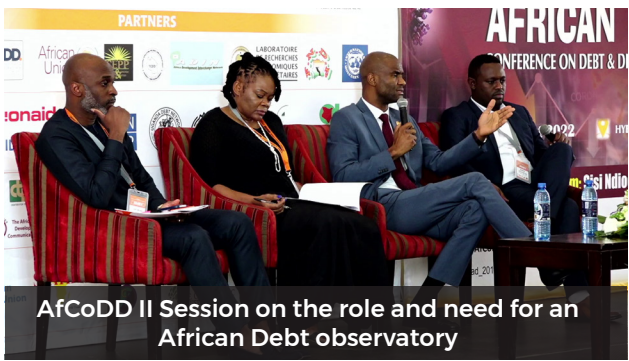
AFRODAD has been warning against financing development using Eurobonds and commercial debt routes, without appropriate policy and legal frameworks in place to safeguard countries in times of difficulty. This is well articulated in the African Borrowing Charter which advocates for improvement in the transparency of the political, institutional and administrative processes in public debt management at all levels and pushing for a fair and effective sovereign debt mechanism. Resulting from failure to hid to civil society organisations (CSOs)' including AFRODAD's policy recommendations, Ghana announced in December 2022 that it was suspending debt payments on much of its external debt, then in January 2023, it announced it had applied for the G20's Common Framework.

[Check out the statement](#) that AFRODAD and like-minded Civil Society Organisations issued in this regard.



### We Celebrate the Launch of the Debt Observatory Launched by the African Union - AFRODAD Contributed to it!

AFRODAD was part of discussions on the importance of setting up a debt status bank during the FES meeting and the AU Summit meeting in June 2022. In February 2023, [The African Union launched a debt observatory of its member states](#). The debt status data bank on African Union member states is a good step to monitor and advise on possible debt distress. The debt status bank will help member states improve their fiscal governance as the continental body pursues development programmes among members.



AfCoDD II Session on the role and need for an African Debt observatory





## Winning!

### The High Court of Zimbabwe Ruled in Favour of AFRODAD's national Partner ZIMCODD

The High Court of Zimbabwe in March 2023 ruled in favour of AFRODAD'S Zimbabwe in-country partner, the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD). A case where the Coalition sought to compel the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning and Development, to amend the Public Debt Management Act and strengthen Parliamentary oversight role in public debt management. AFRODAD's LAAD Policy Assistant was the third applicant in the case.

Debt and  
Development  
Academy  
**DaDA**



Capacity building policy makers, civil society actors, faith leaders, individuals and the academia among others, on debt and development issues.

The [Debt and Development Academy](#) (DaDA), which is the third AFRODAD's flagship programme, alongside AfroMedI and AfCoDD, is set to kick off in October 2023. So far there have been 2 conveners' meetings to discuss how and why the organisation is transitioning from [Summer School](#), a previous flagship, to DaDA.

Conveners' Meetings were held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 in Kenya. The sessions involved brainstorming exercises among participants, to ensure that DaDA will be relevant, effective and will not replicate already existing training and academies offered by AFRODAD's Partners. The academy's approach, even from its conceptualisation, is guided by AFRODAD's values of Pan-Africanism and solidarity inspired by our common struggles as Africans, that our continent continues to be faced with, and which can only be overcome by collective action.

## African Debt- Stop the Bleeding Campaign Inception

The [Stop the Bleeding \(STB\) consortium](#) is set to run a campaign dubbed "African debt - Stop the bleeding" in 2023. The consortium is composed of [African Forum and Network on Debt and Development](#) (AFRODAD), [African Women's Development and Communication Network](#) (FEMNET), [International Trade Union Confederation Africa](#) (ITUC Africa), [Pan African Lawyers Union](#) (PALU), [Tax Justice Network Africa](#) (TJNA), [Nawi - Afrifem Macroeconomics Collective](#) (Nawi Collective), and [Trust Africa](#) (TA). The African debt campaign, under the auspices of the Stop the Bleeding Campaign, comes at a time when debt servicing and unsustainable debt is adding to the bleeding of Africa, especially now that most African countries are either in debt distress, at high or moderate risk of the same. Overly high debt repayment bleeds the continent of resources that would otherwise be used for poverty eradication, adequate social protection and sustainable development that would benefit African people and nations. An inception meeting that brought together consortium members to strategise the campaign implementation, was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.



## The African CSO strategy convening

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023, AFRODAD convened a meeting for African Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to agree on a common message to deliver during Spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank through the Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF). The meeting brought together national partners and representatives of the STB consortium. The next edition will cover more on AFRODAD and partners' contribution, recommendations and demands for next steps.

### Contribution to the 7th Retreat of Friends of Monterrey

As a follow up to agreements and commitments reached during the three major international conferences on Financing for Development (FfD) – 2002 in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2008 in Doha, Qatar and in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2015, Governments of Germany, Mexico and Switzerland founded the Retreat of the Group referred to as Friends of Monterrey (FoM). It offers an informal space for dialogue to advance substantive topics without constituting a negotiating environment. AFRODAD made contributions to FoM discussions during the 2023 Retreat which was the 7<sup>th</sup> of its kind and was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> March in Mexico City.

 [Read More](#)



### Contribution to the Least Developed Countries Conference

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) including the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), World leaders and the private sector gathered for the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) Conference in Doha, Qatar from 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023. AFRODAD's attendance and contribution was very key, as many LDCs are indeed finding themselves struggling under multiple crises including a heavy burden of public debt, insufficient domestic resource mobilisation, harsh effects of climate change, chronic debt deficit, limping social protection and a painfully slow recovery from Covid 19. Generally, deliberations centred on the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) and exchanging ideas on how to implement it in favor of LDCs during the 2022 - 2031 decade.

 [Read more](#)



### Letter to Support an urge adoption of Senator Hoylman-Sigal and Assembly member Pat Fahy's New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act.



Have a look at [this letter](#) to support an urgent adoption of Senator Hoylman-Sigal and Assembly member Pat Fahy's New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act.

### Participation in the NORAD Partners meeting in Norway

AFRODAD participated in the NORAD Partners meeting and Tax for Development Seminar in Norway. The partners from Africa and Europe shared experiences and committed to collaborate on key issues. The AFRODAD team shared how we work with parliamentarians and influence policy. Norway's support of CSOs was highlighted, especially in the push for a UN Tax convention.



## His Excellency William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya Echoes AFRODAD's call in Championing Africa as a Rule Maker, not Rule Taker.

You know Africa Rule Maker, not Rule Taker has been AFRODAD's mantra for some time, right? Now, in addition to many development partners who have embraced this mantra, the Kenyan President, his Excellency, William Ruto speaking to an Al Jazeera journalist at the end of the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 19 February 2023, said that the global financial architecture is skewed against African nations. President Ruto calls for reforms on the 'unjust, unfair & unaccountable' international financial system. This is in line with deliberations during AfCoDD II held in August 2022, where one of the objectives was, a "Call for reforms of the global financial architecture that governs public debt". Discussions were centred on planning for engagement of the African continent in a reformed global economic and political architecture, with Africa as a rule maker and not a rule-taker as enunciated in the [Harare declaration](#).

### Events (Physical/ Virtual)



#### Multistakeholder Ratification Advocacy Meeting Zimbabwe Environmental Law Associations - Africa Mining Vision, African Minerals Development Centre

AFRODAD contributed to the multistakeholder ratification advocacy meeting by the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Associations (ZELA) – Africa Mining Vision (AMV), and the African Minerals Development (Centre AMDC). We led discussions on the Investment, Linkages and Diversification pillar, raising awareness on the possible opportunities and implications of Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects in mineral development and the dictates of the just energy transition in relation to the exploration of fossil fuels. This meeting took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

#### AFRODAD Contributed to the Global Dialogue on Debt and Climate in the Global South

AFRODAD participated in the global dialogue on debt and climate in the global south, organised by LATINDAD on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 and highlighted challenges and possible solutions that can be advocated for in contribution towards a fairer financial architecture.

#### We added Value to the German Africa Climate Finance Research Roundtable

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023, AFRODAD joined and contributed to the convened closed roundtable on climate finance research. We underscored the need to ensure that finance and investment risks are sensitive to the debt vulnerabilities of African countries that are direly in need of a just and fair financing.

### Video Alert!

You are going to appreciate [this video](#) that clearly shows how people get hit by Illicit Financial Flows and other forms of corruption in Africa. These vices lead many countries to over-borrowing to meet some of their needs. Unfortunately, the bigger portion of borrowed funds caters for political leaders' selfish ambitions, while people sink into deeper poverty and other struggles.

 [Watch the video](#)





# The Fifth Zimbabwe Multistakeholder Debt Conference

## The Fifth Zimbabwe Multistakeholder Debt Conference

The Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) and the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) will be hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Zimbabwe Debt Conference from 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The conference brings multi-stakeholders (government, development partners, parliament, media, civil society, academia, private sector and think tanks) together, to deliberate on debt and development. This year's conference will be remarkable given the strides that the Government of Zimbabwe has made in implementing the Arrears Clearance and Restructuring Strategy. This year's conference is themed "Strengthening Institutions of Transparency and Accountability in Public Finance for Management for Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Development".

## 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of THE ZIMBABWE DEBT CONFERENCE

Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Public Finance Management for Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Development

#ZimDebtConf23 #DebtJustice #AfricaRuleMaker



## 2022 AFRODAD Annual Report



## Upcoming Events



## Meet our New Team Members



**Lorreita Mumbengegwi**

Administration and Human Resources Officer



**Diana Mochoge**

Domestic Resource Mobilisation Policy Analyst & Advocacy Officer



**Shem Joshua**

Debt Policy Analyst & Advocacy Officer



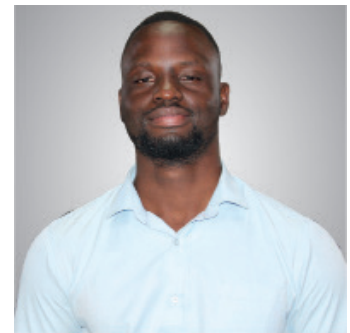
**Samantha Kanoyangwa**

Legal Policy Analyst & Advocacy Officer



**Catherine Mithia**

Policy & Partnership Assistant



**Cadence Ndhlovu**

Finance Officer



**Ignetious Banda**

Debt Intern



**Mulayi Muni**

Communications Intern



**Takaendesa Mukute**

M&E Intern



**Charles Baru**

Domestic Resource Mobilisation Intern



**John Oduk**

Policy Assistant



**Howard Mwangi**

Campaigns and Communication Officer



# Advocacy



## The Harare Declaration

[Link](#)  
Read and endorse it!

A call by AFRODAD and partners, for 'a New Debt movement' and new outlook to issues of domestic resource mobilisation and international development finance mechanisms on the African continent.



## The African Borrowing Charter

[Link](#)

Principles of prudent public debt management and mechanisms to a sustainable balance between public debt and inclusive development and service delivery



## Dismantling/Reform of the global financial and debt architecture

[Link](#)

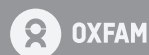
Calling for the dismantling or reform of the global financial and debt architecture that has not only left many countries perpetually dependent on borrowing and economic instability

Join the Stop the Bleeding Campaign

[Link](#)

Sign up to the Peoples' Alternatives Campaign

[Link](#)





**AFRICAN FORUM AND NETWORK  
ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT**

31 Atkinson Drive, Hillside,  
PO Box CY1517, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe.  
Tel: +263 4 778531/6, +263 2912751-4  
Email: [info@afrodad.org](mailto:info@afrodad.org)  
Website: [www.afrodad.org](http://www.afrodad.org)