



## AERC SPECIAL SESSION @CSAE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

23 MARCH 2025  
09:30 – 10:30 GMT

RIVERSIDE LECTURE THEATRE

### **Strategic Plan and Policy Challenges for Africa: A Roadmap to 2025-2035**

This session will begin with a brief presentation of the strategic plan of the AERC for the 2025-2035 period, outlining our vision and objectives for the future. We will highlight the key areas of focus, including how we aim to address current capacity and policy challenges and build on past achievements to drive sustainable economic development across Africa.

Following the strategic presentation, a policy panel will discuss the unprecedented changes Africa is facing today and the critical policy challenges that need to be addressed. The session will examine both short-term and long-term solutions to promote inclusive growth, address macroeconomic instability, manage recurring debt distress, mitigate unexpected fluctuations in development financing (e.g. current waves of cuts in humanitarian and development aid by major donors), and navigate changing geopolitical dynamics. Panellists will provide insights into how policies can be designed, implemented, and coordinated to effectively address these challenges and set Africa on a path to sustainable development.

- **Opening remarks & roadshow presentation: Prof. Victor Murinde**, Executive Director, AERC, Nairobi, Kenya
  - Overview of the strategic plan for 2025-2035 and its relevance to addressing Africa's capacity and policy challenges.
- **Policy Panel Discussion: Economic and Policy Challenges Facing Africa**
  - A discussion on the current unprecedented changes in Africa, focusing on the policy challenges related to macroeconomic instability, environmental shocks, geopolitical shifts, and inclusive development.
- **Chair & Moderator: Professor Victor Murinde**
  - **Panelists:**
    - **Dr. Vera Songwe**, Non-resident Senior Fellow – Global Economy and Development, Africa Growth Initiative, Washington D.C., USA (TBC)
    - **Professor Robert Mudida**, Chief Economist and Director of Research, Central Bank of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya
    - **Professor Ingrid Woolard**, Executive Dean, University of Sussex Business School, UK
    - **Dr. Abbi M. Kedir**, Director of Research, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Nairobi, Kenya
- **Closing Remarks**

Summing up the discussion and emphasizing the strategic priorities for addressing Africa's economic and policy challenges over the next decade.