

African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) Summit 2025
A Renewed AERC for Africa's New Development Priorities
30th November – 2nd December 2025
Venue: Glee Hotel, Nairobi

Conference MC: Dr Charles Owino, AERC Manager, Strategic Partnerships & Resource Mobilisation	
Day I, Sunday, 30th November 2025	
07:30 – 08:00	Arrival, Registration, Breakfast and Networking
08:00 – 08:30	Welcome, Prof. Victor Murinde, Executive Director, AERC
08:30 – 09:00	Opening Remarks, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Chair of the Board, AERC
09:00 – 10:00	Session I: High-level Roundtable with African Central Bank Governors <i>“Emerging Issues in Central Banking in Africa: What’s on your radar?”</i> This session is dedicated to the AERC African Central Bank Governors Forum, which was established in 2014 and currently has a membership of 10 central banks. The imperative of this session is that central banks in Africa are navigating an increasingly complex environment as they pursue their core mandates of monetary policy and banking sector regulation. The AERC recognizes the evolving risks — both domestic and global — that challenge African central banks in delivering on their mandate and the need for developing evidence-based policy responses. During the Summit, the Governors and AERC will reflect on strategies to entrench the existing knowledge partnership to effectively support central banks navigate the new and diverse economic challenges. Chair: Dr. Kamau Thugge, Governor, Central Bank of Kenya Panelists: 1. Dr. Lesetja Kganyago, Governor, Reserve Bank of South Africa 2. Dr. Michael Atingi-Ego, Governor, Bank of Uganda 3. Hon. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, Governor, Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) 4. Dr. Francis Chipimo, Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Zambia 5. Gov. Yvon Sana Bangui, Governor, Bank of Central African States (BEAC) 6. Gov. Normand Bigendako, Governor, Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB)
10:00 – 10:30	Photo Session, Health Break & Media Interviews

10:30 – 13:00	Session II: Official Opening by Chief Guest Chair: Prof. Victor Murinde, Executive Director, AERC
	Arrival of the Chief Guest 1. Signing of the Visitors’ Book 2. Tour of the booths/exhibitions 3. Entertainment Introducing the Chief Guest 1. Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Board Chair, AERC and Emeritus Professor, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana 2. Hon. CPA John Mbadi Ng’ongo, EGH, Cabinet Secretary, The National Treasury and Economic Planning 3. Hon. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, EGH, Prime Cabinet Secretary and CS for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs
	Chief Guest: H. E Dr. William Samoei Ruto, The President of the Republic of Kenya 1. Keynote address by the President 2. Launch of the AERC Strategic Plan 2025-2035 3. Presentation of the President’s gift 4. Photo session
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	Session III: “The AERC African Private Sector Platform” The AERC is launching a platform for structured engagement with the private sector. This session brings together leaders in banking, trade, technology, and manufacturing to share insights on the role of the private sector in creating jobs and driving inclusive growth across Africa. Panelists will explore key evidence-based policy developments at domestic, regional and global levels that may enhance business performance, the co-creation that businesses envisage from research institutions and suggestions on what an AERC African Private Sector Platform should prioritize. Chair: Prof. Oliver Saasa, Board Member, AERC & Managing Consultant, Premier Consult Ltd Panelists: 1. Ms. Betty Korir, CEO, Credit Bank Plc 2. Eng. Tadesse Tessema, Chief Executive Officer, TAD Motors SEZ Ltd 3. Dr. George Kararach, Lead Economist, AfDB & Visiting Professor in Practice at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) 4. Dr. Yohannes Ayalew, CEO, Amhara Bank, and Former Deputy Governor of National Bank of Ethiopia
15:00 – 16:00	Session IV: AERC Strategic Plan 2025 – 2035, “A Renewed AERC for Africa’s New Development Priorities” This session serves to launch the AERC 10 Year Strategic Plan, The strategy prioritizes globally competitive training, context-relevant research, and stronger links among research, policy, and practice. By embedding a dynamic, mutually

	reinforcing model across capacity building, policy engagement, and knowledge co-production for effective policy impact of research, the AERC aims to drive impactful solutions to Africa's new development priorities. Comments are invited from AERC stakeholders, on all areas of the strategy, including funding and implementation issues. Chair: Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Board Chair, AERC and Emeritus Professor, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana Panelists: 1. Overview of the strategic plan and role of AERC Alumni - Prof Victor Murinde, Executive Director, AERC 2. Partnerships with African Organizations - Prof. Bernadette Kamgnia, Former AERC Board Member; Former Director of African Development Bank; International Consultant CAPEC-CIRES, Cote d'Ivoire 3. Financing the strategic plan - Dr Yemi Kale, Afreximbank, Chief Economist 4. Partnerships with British institutions - Dr. Andrew Hinsley, FCDO Q&A
16:00 – 16:30	Health Break
16:30 – 17:30	Fireside Chat I - Governance, Security and Economic Fragility Among the new priority research areas for the AERC is <i>Governance, Security and Economic Fragility</i>. Governance reforms in Africa are criticised for falling short of expectations, and without urgent, credible action to build inclusive, effective institutions, the continent risks missing both the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. It is noted that conflicts are increasing both in frequency and intensity, derailing national infrastructure development plans, displacing households, and disrupting investment. Conflicts also undermine human capital through disrupted education, poor health, and malnutrition. Further, insecurity diverts resources from development objectives to military spending. This fireside chat aims to inform AERC's future research agenda by critically exploring the complex relationship between governance, institutional quality, conflicts and economic fragility. Chair: Prof. Romain Houssa, Department of Economics, Namur University, Belgium Panelists: 1. Prof. Jane Mariara, Executive Director, Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) 2. Dr. Maurice Mashiwa, Executive Director, SERANO Africa 3. Prof. Peter Kagwanja, CEO, Africa Policy Institute 4. Dr. Hassan Khannenje, Director, Horn International Institute for Strategic Studies. 5. Ms. Chrissy Dube, Executive Director, Good Governance Africa (GGA)
17:30 – 18:30	African Economic Association Roundtable This session highlights ongoing efforts by a group of leading African economist to launch an African Economic Association, as a non-profit, non-partisan, scholarly association for economists in academia, government, and private sector, who are committed to advancement of economics and its policy applications to economic challenges in Africa. It is envisioned that the continental-wide African Economic Association provides an umbrella association for, rather than supplants, existing national economic groupings. Chair: Prof. Victor Murinde, Executive Director, AERC

	Panelists: 1. Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Board Chair, AERC and Emeritus Professor, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana 2. Dr. Dunstone Ulwodi, President, Economic Society of Kenya 3. Dr. Esmie Kanyumbu, Executive Director, Economic Association of Malawi 4. Dr. Maureen Were, Deputy Director, Central Bank of Kenya 5. Dr. Abule Mehare, Director, Partnership and communication, Ethiopian Economics Association 6. Prof. Olawale Ogunkola, Department of Economics, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
19:30 – 21:30	Gala Dinner
	Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony Entertainment
Day II, Monday, 1st December 2025	
07:30 – 08:30	Arrival, Registration, Breakfast and Networking
08:30 – 10:00	Fireside Chat II - Industrial policy and growth strategies As an integral component of its 10-year strategy, the AERC intends to launch a research programme on <i>Industrial Policy in Africa</i> as a key factor in the economic transformation process. The motivation is that Africa's industrial policy must adapt to shifting global dynamics and the continent's unique socio-economic context, where traditional models of industrialization are less applicable. As growth increasingly comes from sectors like ICT, tourism, and food processing, industrial policy should be part of a broader economic transformation agenda, not a standalone solution. To help countries achieve inclusive and sustainable growth, policies must also address the realities of the large informal labour market, integrating it into the formal economy and improving productivity and job quality. The discussion in this session will contribute towards shaping this research programme by bringing out the key priority areas of policy focus and possible growth strategies. Chair: Prof. Andy McKay, Professor of Economics, University of Sussex Panelists: 1. Dr. Francesca Lotti, Manager of Institute Growth Programme, World Bank (virtual) 2. Ms. Wangari Muikia, Founder and Managing Director of Expertise Global 3. Prof. Peter Muriu, University of Nairobi 4. Prof. Oliver Morrissey, University of Nottingham 5. Ms. Diana Anne Wanjiku, Intern, AERC
10:00 – 10:30	Health Break
10:30 – 17:00	Parallel Session I: Political Economy of Reforms, Growth & Technical Support to Macroeconomic Policy Management (ESMF)

	The AERC has been implementing the ESMF project in collaboration with National Treasuries in Ethiopia and Kenya. This session explores how African countries can strengthen macro-fiscal policymaking capabilities to promote growth and effectively respond to today's complex challenges, foster inclusive growth, and build long-term economic resilience. Against a backdrop of climate shocks and global economic uncertainty, the discussion examines how well-designed macro and microeconomic policies can drive structural transformation despite limited resources. Drawing on insights from Kenya and Ethiopia, and supported by the Gates Foundation, the dialogue addresses technical capacity gaps in key ministries and institutions, as well as the political economy of effective policy design and implementation. The session is part of a broader initiative on embedded technical support for Ministries of Finance, taking into account cross-country learning and future engagement across the continent.
10:30-13:00	Segment 1: Planning phase project progress updates Chair: Vishal Gujadhur, Deputy Director, Development Policy and Finance, Gates Foundation
	Keynote Address – <i>Political Economy of Policy Reforms: Preliminary Lessons from Kenya and Ethiopia</i> Prof. Leonce Ndikumana, Project Coordinator & Professor, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
	Capacity building for capacity builders: Economic Policy Network/CSAE, Oxford, University of Massachusetts at Amherst and the AERC. Dr Abbi Kedir, Director of Research, AERC (5 minutes) Presentations: Key insights by national experts Ethiopia (5 minutes each) 1. Dr. Mengistu Alemneh, Ministry of Finance, Ethiopia 2. Dr. Etsubdink Sileshi, Ministry of Finance, Ethiopia 3. Dr. Alemu Lambano, Ministry of Finance, Ethiopia 4. Mr. Solomon Godana, Ministry of Finance, Ethiopia Kenya (5 minutes each) 1. Dr. Daniel Amanja, Independent Consultant, Kenya 2. Ms. Alice Oluoch, National Treasury and Economic Planning, Kenya 3. Mr. Godfrey Mugwimi, National Treasury and Economic Planning, Kenya
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:30	Segment 2: Panel Discussion - Implementing Economic Policy Reforms in Africa Policy reform is a key driver of economic growth, productivity, and innovation. It also plays a vital role in promoting inclusive development by reducing inequality and expanding opportunities for marginalized groups. Reforms can shape labour markets, trade, and investment flows, influencing both domestic and international economic dynamics. However, implementation is often challenged by political resistance, vested interests, and social risks. Based on the experience of finance and other key ministries and the experience of economic advisors, this session explores how to design and implement effective, balanced policy reforms that support both growth and equity. Chair: Dr. Mark Miller, Senior Research Associate, ODI Global Panelists: 1. Prof. Abebe Shimeles, Senior Macroeconomic Advisor, Ministry of Finance & Hon Prof, University of Cape Town 2. Dr. Jonathan Chipili, Director of Research, Bank of Zambia 3. Mr. Pascal Mensah, Managing Director of the Economic Policy Network (EPN)/Centre for the Study of African Economics (CSAE), University of Oxford 4. Ms. Chrissy Dube, Executive Director, Good Governance Africa (GGA) 5. Prof. Daniel Gurara, Senior Economist, International Monetary Fund 6. Prof. Leonce Ndikumana, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
15:30 – 16:00	Health Break
16:00 – 17:00	Segment 3: High-Level Policy Panel - Embedded Technical Support for Ministries of Finance Effective technical support to economic institutions is critical for sound policy design, implementation, and long-term institutional resilience. This high-level panel explores the key ingredients for embedding impactful technical support within Ministries of Finance, central banks, capital market agencies, and Ministries of Development. The discussion draws on practical experiences to highlight what works, what doesn't, and how to build lasting capacity through strategic partnerships and local ownership. The discussion will highlight the key ingredients required for effective embedding of technical support. Chair: Prof. Robert Mudida, Chief Economist and Director of Research, Central Bank of Kenya Panelists: 1. Mr. John Olela, Director, Central Planning and Monitoring Department, the National Treasury, Kenya 2. Mr. Mahaman T. Hamani, Director General of the West African Center for Banking Studies and Training, Senegal 3. Mr. Mulay Weldu, Director of Tax Policy Department, Ministry of Finance Ethiopia 4. Mr. Daniel Tilahun, Director of Debt Department, Ministry of Finance, Ethiopia 5. Dr. Jonathan M. Chipili, Director of Research, Bank of Zambia 6. Mr. Musa Kathanje, Director, Macro and Fiscal Affairs, The National Treasury, Kenya
17:00 – 17:30	Dr. Abbi Kedir, Director of Research, AERC Next Steps – Expanding and scaling up embedded technical assistance to key policy institutions in Africa

18:00 – 19:00	Keynote address by Prof. James Robinson on Productive Politics for Reforms Politics is often seen as an obstacle to economic reform. But what if it is, in fact, the key to making reform work? In this keynote, Professor James Robinson of the University of Chicago and the 2024 Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences, will explore how political dynamics can serve not only as a challenge but also as a powerful catalyst for economic transformation. Drawing on his groundbreaking research, James will discuss how political institutions shape the success or failure of reform efforts, sharing compelling examples from Africa where consensus-based decision-making contrasts with the majority-rule systems of the Western world. He will illustrate how political engagement and strategy are not barriers to policy design, but fundamental components of it. Join us to hear Professor Robinson’s insights on how productive politics can open new pathways for sustainable growth and inclusive development.
19:00 – 21:00	Cocktail Book launches: Chair: Prof Martin Oleche, Chair, Department of Economics and Development Studies, University of Nairobi 1. <i>"The Domestic Saving Shortfall in Sub-Saharan Africa"</i> edited by Rose Ngugi and Kunal Sen, Oxford University Press, https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/domestic-savings-shortfall-sub-saharan-africa Presenter: Dr. Rose Ngugi (Co-Editor); Commentary: Mr Jared Osoro, Monetary Policy Committee, Central Bank of Kenya 2. <i>"The Routledge Handbook of Infrastructure Finance"</i>, edited by Joshua Yindenaba Abor, John Macomber, Thankom Arun and Victor Murinde. https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Handbook-of-Infrastructure-Finance/Abor-Macomber-Arun-Murinde/p/book/9781032679297 Presenter: Prof. Joshua Abor, University of Ghana & Monetary Policy Committee, Bank of Ghana (Co-Editor); and Prof. Victor Murinde, Executive Director, AERC Commentary: Prof. Issouf Soumare, Laval University, Canada
10:30 – 17:00	Parallel Session II: Regional Policy Engagement Workshop for East Africa (PASHFARM Project) This policy outreach event focuses on the Policy Analysis for Sustainable and Healthy Foods in Africa Retail Markets (PASHFARM) in the Eastern African sub-region. It explores how evidence-based research can shape effective nutrition policies in Africa. Discussions are based on practical experiences from ongoing initiatives that aim to improve access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food, particularly for low-income and vulnerable populations. A series of policy briefs present key findings on enhancing demand for nutrient-rich foods, addressing food price shocks, and tackling gendered barriers in informal food markets. Through open dialogue and Q&A, the session identifies clear policy pathways for promoting nutrition-sensitive, inclusive food systems in Africa.
10:30-11:30	Segment 1: Presentation of Research Outputs Chair: Dr. Maureen Cheserek, Nutrition Expert, PASHFARM Project, AERC
10.30-10.45	Official opening of the workshop: Ms. Mary Muthoni, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Kenya

10.45 - 11.30	Presentation I: Shaping Policy through Nutrition Research and Action in Africa: Insights and Experiences from Vegetables for All and CASCADE Project by Ms. Ruth Okowa, Country Director, The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Presentation II: Translating Enset Research into Policy and Practice: Insights from Eastern Africa, Dr. Addisu Fekadu, Arba Minch University, Ethiopia and CEO, Lucy Enset Q & A
11:30 – 13:00	Presentation of Policy Briefs Chair: Prof. Jonathan Nzuma, University of Nairobi, Kenya & Resource Person, AERC 1. Policy Pathways for Enhancing Demand and Access to Nutritious Foods in Kenya: Evidence from Biofortified-Iron Beans, Fruits, Vegetables, and Fish. By: Dr Forah Obebo, University of Nairobi and Dr. Kevin Ouko, African Centre for Technology Studies. 2. Addressing Food Price Shocks and Nutrition in Ethiopia with Gender-Sensitive Policies. By Dr Abule Mehare, Ethiopian Economic Association. 3. Gendered Barriers and Interventions for Safer, Nutritious, and Affordable Foods: Evidence from Informal Food Markets in Low-Income Settlements in Kenya. By Dr Violet Wawire, Kenyatta University; Mr Bright Wekesa, Egerton University. Q&A
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:45	Presentation of Policy Briefs II Chair: Prof. Victor Ajeiroh, Public Policy and Development Consultant 1. Advancing Sustainable and Healthy Foods in African Retail Markets: Policy Insights from Tanzania by Dr Martin Chegere University of Dar es Salaam and Dr. Claudio Ngassa, Ardhi University 2. Enhancing Uganda's Food Systems: Policy Options for Rural Household Nutrition and Inclusive Urban Market Governance by Dr Racheal Namulondo, University of Busitema and Ms Niisima Racheal, Kyambogo University 3. Improving Household Nutrition through Biofortified Foods: Gender-responsive Policy options for Rwanda, by Mr Joe Assoua, University of Yaoundé Q&A
15:45-16:00	Health Break
16:00 – 17:00	Segment 2: High-Level Policy Round Table - Policy Pathways for Inclusive, Nutrition-Sensitive, and Gender-Responsive Retail Food Systems in East Africa Chair: Prof. Bernadette Dia Kamgnia, CIRES/CAPEC, Côte d'Ivoire & Chair/Resource Person, AERC Panellists: 1. Mr. Reta Wegary CEO, Director, Agricultural Policy and Food Systems, Ethiopia

	2. Ms. Veronica Kirogo, Director Nutrition and Dietetics, Ministry of Health, Kenya 3. Ms. Nancy Rapando, Director, AfriCCLAN/Advisory Committee Member, African Food System Transformation Collective (AFSTC) 4. Dr. Joy Kiiru, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics and Development Studies, University of Nairobi 5. Dr. Steve Were Omamo, Director of the Strategies and Governance Unit in Kenya, IFPRI 6. Mr Malcolm Gitau, Intern, AERC
17:00 – 17:30	Next Steps: Dr. Lanoi Maloiy, Gender Expert, PASHFARM Project, AERC
18:00 – 19:00	Keynote address by Prof. James Robinson on Productive Politics for Reforms (Refer to previous pages of this programme)
19:00 – 21:00	Cocktail and Book Launches (Refer to previous pages of this programme)
10:30 – 17:00	Parallel Session III: Thematic Research Programme
10:30 -13:00	Group B (15 minutes presentation, 10 mentor comments, 5 minutes peer comments; 5 minutes open discussion) Chair: Prof. Dick Durevall (35 minutes for each paper) 1. FR: Inequality-social expenditure schemes nexus in selected SSA countries: a comparative study with non-African developing countries by Gabriel Temesgen Woldu. [Mentors: Daniel Gurara and Akpan Ekpo] 2. FR: Impact des dépenses publiques en éducation sur la croissance économique à Madagascar by Hobilalaina Andrianjaka [Mentors: Pierre Nguimkeu and Dick Durevall] 3. FR: Un réexamen de relation entre dépenses publiques et croissance économique dans les pays d’Afrique subsaharienne à partir d’un modèle de panel dynamique by Edem Fo-Kossi Togbenu [Mentors: Pierre Nguimkeu and Romain Houssa]
13:00- 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:30	Group B: cont’d
	4. WIP: Analysis of Inflation Dynamics in Burundi by Arcade Ndoricimpa [Mentors: Dick Durevall and Leonce Ndikumana] 5. FR: Estimating the Size and Determinants of Malawi's Parallel Forex Market: A Residual Approach by Precious Mwenda Chiumia, Tadala Janet Simbeye and Michael Masiya [Mentors: Leonce Ndikumana and Romain Houssa]
10:30 – 13:00	Group C (15 minutes presentation, 10 mentor comments, 5 minutes peer comments; 5 minutes open discussion) Chair: Prof. Issouf Soumare 1. FR: State Fragility, Inclusive Growth and Financial Inclusion: new evidence from African countries by Alphonse Noah & Keneck Massil [Mentors: Bo Sjo and Odongo Kodongo]

	- FR: The Role of Bank Relationships in Interbank Liquidity Distribution and Pricing in Malawi by Esmie Koriheya Kanyumbu [Mentors: Isaac Otchere and Christopher Green] - FR: Marchés financiers et développement industriel: une analyse comparative en Afrique Subsaharienne et du Nord by Amy Ka [Mentors: Alessandra Guariglia and Hong Bo] - FR: Marchés financiers et développement industriel: une analyse comparative en Afrique Subsaharienne et du Nord by Aichatou Mourfou [Mentors: Hong Bo and Issouf Soumaré]
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
10:30 – 13:00	Group D Chair: Prof. Andy McKay
	- FR: Résilience économique par la stratégie de diversification: une étude empirique basée sur l'hétérogénéité des pays de l'Afrique Subsaharienne by Bernard Nguekeng [Mentors: Abdoulaye Seck and Andy McKay] - FR: Climate change – water – food security nexus in the Nile basin: An economy – wide analysis by Tewodros Negash Kahsay [Mentors: Rob Davis and Oliver Morrissey] - FR: Effects of Weather on Productivity of Manufacturing Firms in Nigeria by Joshua Olusegun Ajetombi and Joshua Ademola Ajagb [Mentors: Olawale E. Ogunkola and Rob Davies]
14:00 – 15:05	Group D (cont'd) FR: <i>Product Space and Regional Trade in the ECOWAS</i> by Rachidi Kotchoni [Mentors: Andy McKay and Remco Oostendorp]
10:30 – 13:00	Group E Chair: Prof. Bernadette Kamgnia
	- FR: Stratégies d'adaptation au changement climatique et sécurité alimentaire des ménages agricoles dans les zones semi-arides by Suzie Imelda Foudjo [Mentors: Victor Okoruwa and Bernadette Kamgnia] - FR: Natural Resources, Political Concentration and Educational Inequality in Sub-Saharan African Countries by Cassandra A. K. Ngagni, Soumtang B. Valentine and Mondjeli M. N. I. Motande [Mentors: Precious Zikhali and Eric Mungatana] - FR: Climate-smart agricultural practices and gender-differentiated food-nutrition outcomes: empirical evidence from South Africa by Abeeb Babatunde Omotoso and Abiodun Olusola Omotayo (FR) [Mentors: Abebe Shimeles and Precious Zikhali] - WIP: Household Crop Diversification and Food Security Outcomes: Evidence from Eastern Africa by Lotanna E. Emediegwu, Obianuju O. Nnadozie, Nneka E. Osadolor, & Jubril Animashaun [Mentors: Wisdom Akpalu and Ernest Molua]

	5. FR: Land tenure regimes and soil investment decisions in Ghana: Lessons from transitions over time by Vida Mantey, Solomon Amoabeng-Nimako & Jonathan Atta Aidoo [Mentors: Abebe Shimeles & Harounan Kazianga] 6. FR: Impact du paludisme sur les dépenses de santé et d'éducation au Sénégal: une analyse selon le statut social by Albertine Bayompe Kabou & Etayibtalnam Koudjom [Mentors: Wisdom Akpalu and Harounan Kazianga]
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 17:45	Group E (cont'd) 7. FR: Disparité de genre dans l'accès et l'utilisation des fertilisants subventionnés au Burkina Faso by Zalissa Sanfo [Mentors: Bernadette Kamgnia and Brinda Ramasawamy] 8. WIP: Compound climate shocks, food security and coping strategies in Madagascar by Andriamanantena Ny Andraina [Wisdom Akpalu and Arlette Fotso Simo]
18:00 – 19:00	Keynote address by Prof. James Robinson on Productive Politics for Reforms (Refer to previous pages of this programme)
19:00 – 21:00	Cocktail and Book launches (Refer to previous pages of this programme)
Day III, Tuesday, 2nd December 2025	
07:30 – 08:30	Arrival, Registration, Breakfast and Networking
08:30 – 10:00	Fireside Chat III - Unlocking Africa's Digital Potential The AERC research programme is focused on exploring how to unlock digital potential of Africa. Digital technology is revolutionizing the African economy with potential for inclusive development. The AU 2063 views digital economy as crucial for inclusive economic growth and technological transformation, catalyzing integration, trade and job creation. Hence, the continent needs to invest in digital infrastructure, improving digital skills, and creating an enabling regulatory environment to unlock the digital potential. The discussion in this session will bring together key players in the digital sector to contribute to the conceptualization of the research programme and to make it more focused on Africa's new development priorities. Chair: Prof. Izak Atiyas, Sabanci University, Turkey Panellists: 1. Ms. Immaculate Kassait, Data Protection Commissioner, Kenya 2. Dr. Humphrey Njogu, Principal Analysts, KIPPRA 3. Prof. Ogundiran Soumonni, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa 4. Dr. Daniel Amanja, Board member of the Kenyan Bureau of Statistics
10:00 – 10:30	Health Break

10:30 – 17:30	Parallel Session I: Data Governance in Africa (Phase I & II) Project Digitization is rapidly transforming Africa’s economies, creating new opportunities and laying the groundwork for AI adoption in sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, finance, education, and public finance management (PFM). In the realm of PFM and tax policy, digital tools are enhancing transparency, improving revenue collection, and enabling more efficient allocation of public resources. As digital trade expands under frameworks like the AfCFTA Digital Protocol, strong data governance becomes essential to ensure privacy, ethical use, and equitable access to digital systems. Artificial Intelligence depends on high-quality, well-governed data to drive innovation and scale impactful solutions. However, gaps in infrastructure, regulatory fragmentation, and limited digital literacy continue to hinder progress. This session explores how Africa can build robust digital ecosystems—through inclusive policies, investment in infrastructure, and coherent data governance frameworks—to support economic transformation, effective public sector management, and sustainable development.
10:30-13:00	Segment I: Building Africa’s Digital Future: Leveraging Data, AI, and Trade for Inclusive Growth
10:30 – 10:45	Opening Remarks, Abbi Kedir, Director of Research, AERC
10:45 – 11:20	Keynote Speaker: Hon. William Kabogo, CS Ministry of ICT and Digital Economy, Kenya (TBC) <i>“Building Africa’s Digital Future: Leveraging Data, AI, and Trade for Inclusive Growth”</i>
11:20 -13:00	Panel discussion: Digital Trade, Governance of Digital and AI Economies in Africa: What are the policy-relevant research ideas? Chair: Dr. Hanani Hlomani, Center for AI and Digital Policy, South Africa Chair Panelists: 1. Dr. Wairagala Wakabi, Executive Director, CIPESA 2. Dr. Abraham Rugo Muriu, Executive Director, Bajeti Hub 3. Prof. Bo Sjo, University of Linköping, Sweden 4. Prof. Hong Bo, SOAS University of London 5. Dr. Alison Gillwald, Distinguished Research Fellow, Research ICT Africa.
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 16:00	Segment II: Panel Discussion – Digital Technology Regulatory Frameworks, Opportunities and Risks Chair: Dr George Kararach, Lead Economist, AfDB & Visiting Professor in Practice, LSE Panelists: 1. Ms. Sandra Kwikiriza, Founder HER Internet, Uganda 2. Ms. Immaculate Kassait, Data Protection Commissioner, Kenya 3. Dr. Humphrey Njogu, Principal Analyst, KIPPRA 4. Prof. Olawale E. Ogunkola, University of Ibadan, Nigeria 5. Prof. Pierre Nguimkeu, Senior Fellow and Director of the Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution 6. Prof. Wisdom Akpalu, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), University of Ghana

17:30-18:00	Closing Plenary Session Concluding remarks – Dr. Abbi Kedir Vote of Thanks – Dr. Charles Owino
10:30 – 17:00	Parallel Session II: Regional Policy Engagement Workshop for Southern Africa and Cameroon (PASHFARM) This policy outreach event focuses on the Policy Analysis for Sustainable and Healthy Foods in African Retail Markets (PASHFARM) Southern African sub-region. It explores how evidence-based research can shape effective nutrition policies. Discussions are drawn from practical experiences from ongoing initiatives that aim to improve access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food, particularly for low-income and vulnerable populations. A series of policy briefs present findings on enhancing demand for nutrient-rich foods, addressing food price shocks, and tackling gendered barriers in informal food markets. Through open dialogue and Q&A, the session identifies clear policy pathways for promoting nutrition-sensitive, inclusive food systems in Africa
10:30-13:00	Segment 1: Presentation of Research Outputs Chair: Dr. Lanoi Maloiy, Gender Expert, PASHFARM project, AERC
10:30-12:00	Official Opening of the workshop: Dr. Paul Kipronoh Ronoh, CBS, Principal Secretary for Agriculture, State Department for Agriculture, Kenya
	Presentation (I): Research and Innovations for Policy Influence: Insights and Experiences from Dryland Cereals and Legumes Research projects by Prof. Paul Kimurto, Director Agrosience Park Innovation Centre, Egerton University, Kenya Presentation (II): Bridging Evidence and Policy: The Role of Research for Policy Influence (R4P) in Strengthening Nutritious Food Systems, Dr. Ashagrie Zewdu, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.
	Photo Session and Networking
12:00 – 13:00	Presentation of Policy Briefs I Chair: Dr. Linnet Henry, Technical University of Kenya & Resource Person, AERC 1. Unlocking the Potential of Food SMEs to Support Low-income Communities to Generate Income and improve Food Security in South Africa – Dr. Selma Karuaihe, University of Pretoria, South Africa 2. Improving Household Dietary Diversity through enhancing agricultural productive assets in Zimbabwe – Dr. Rhoda Mofya-Mukuka, Food Agriculture Organization (FAO), Zimbabwe 3. Advancing Food Systems in Malawi: Gendered Intersectionality and the Role of SMEs in Providing Safe, Affordable and Nutritious Food, Mr. Phillip Harawa, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Malawi. Q&A
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30	Presentation of Policy Briefs II Chair: Prof. Victor Okoruwa, University of Ibadan, Nigeria & Resource Person, AERC 1. Strategic Pathways to Improve Access and Consumption of Nutritious Foods: Leveraging Input Subsidies and Biofortified Crops in Malawi by Humprey Chatenga, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences and Ms. Dinah Salongo, Research Analyst, MWAPATA Institute, Malawi 2. Integrating Informal Food Vending into Urban Economy in Zimbabwe by Dr. Edward Mutandwa, University of Zimbabwe 3. Overcoming Gendered Constraints in Food retail: Vendors insights on Creating Sustainable Healthy Food Systems in Cameroon, Dr. Ayuk Justine Etah, University of Buea, Cameroon
15:30 – 15:45	Health Break
15:45 – 17:00	Segment II: High Level Policy Round Table Inclusive and Gender Responsive Retail Market Food Policies for Improved Nutrition and Health in Southern Africa
	Chair: Prof. Tom Ondicho, University of Nairobi, Kenya & Project Steering Committee member, AERC Panelists: 1. Mr. Stephen Kabwe, Senior Research Associate in Indaba Agriculture Policy and Research Institute, Zambia 2. Mrs. Sandra Fadzai Nhapi, Gender and Grants Coordinator, Harare City Council, Malawi 3. Mr. Ronald Phiri, Gender Officer, Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Malawi 4. Mr. Collins Leshou, Provincial Manager, Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency, South Africa 5. Mr. Herman Hoigen Ekwalla, Regional Chief of Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Cameroon 6. Mr. Thabile Nkunjana, Senior Economist, National Agricultural marketing Council, Southern Africa
17:00 – 17:30	Next Steps: Dr. Maureen Cheserek, Nutrition Expert, AERC
10:30-17:30	Parallel Session III: Technical session for thematic groups
	Group B: Room 1
	Group C: Room 2
	Group D: Room 3
	Group E: Room 4
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
17:30-18:00	Closing Plenary Session Concluding remarks – Dr Abbi Kedir, Director of Research, AERC Vote of Thanks – Dr Charles Owino, Manager, Strategic Partnerships & Resource Mobilisation