



# AFRICA CHEETAH RUN CARLOS LOPES' BLOG



## Running Like a Cheetah

My work continues to receive recognition, and I am honored to have been invited by the Government of Spain to join a distinguished group of 12 experts tasked with contributing to the [4th UN Financing for Development Forum](#), which will be held in Seville in July 2025. The group will be chaired by José Antonio Ocampo and will include prominent figures such as Joseph Stiglitz and Jayati Ghosh. As a member of this [International Commission of Experts on Financing for Development](#), I plan to focus on the critical issue of how development finance and climate finance are increasingly converging. It's becoming evident that we are essentially discussing the same challenges under different labels.



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

If we aim to transform Africa's approach to public policy, we must gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics between the public and private sectors. The Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL), established by the University of Cambridge, was created with this objective in mind. Now that a dedicated branch focusing on Africa has been launched in Cape Town, I am delighted to have [joined its Advisory Board](#).

## My latest contributions



### Development Policy Review

I contributed a section on ["The End of Concessional Lending and ODA centrality: A Paradigm shift in climate finance"](#), for a joint publication commissioned by Development Policy Review. I have been defending the idea that economists specialized in developing economies have been slow to recognize the importance of assistance and concessionality for African countries in particular is in the decline. The article explains why.



International  
Science Council

### International Science Council

The Summit of the Future provided a platform for the International Science Council to present a groundbreaking [chart on the role of the scientific community in driving the transformation towards sustainability](#). As a Foundational Fellow of the ISC, I had the privilege of co-signing the letter addressed to the United Nations Member States, advocating for science to be at the forefront of this crucial global agenda.



Voice of America®

### Voice of America

Voice of America featured a special program based on an interview where I explained the growing trend of African central banks turning to gold instead of hard currency. Beyond the global rush to safe assets during times of crisis, African central banks are also reacting to the alarming depreciation of their currencies. In the piece titled ["African Nations Boost Gold Reserves Amid Economic Uncertainty"](#), I delve into the nuanced shifts driving this strategy. The article gained significant traction, being reproduced by five different media outlets and translated into Portuguese by VOA.



### RFI

I had a busy month engaging with RFI on several occasions. First, they interviewed me for a feature on the African Development Bank's 60th anniversary (["En 60 ans, la BAD s'est imposée comme un outil de développement incontournable pour l'Afrique"](#)). Next, I was invited to discuss the significance of the 100th anniversary of the Pan-African leader Amílcar Cabral (["Centenário do nascimento de Amílcar Cabral sem comemorações oficiais na Guiné-Bissau"](#)). Finally, I spoke on the ongoing crisis in my home country of Guinea-Bissau (["Guinée-Bissau: «L'instabilité» vient de «l'influence des militaires sur le politique selon leurs intérêts»](#)), as part of RFI's Special Guests series led by Africa Director Christopher Boisbouvier. The latter interview was widely picked up and republished by six different media outlets.

CHINA DAILY

### China Daily

China Daily's editorial on the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), titled ["Xi's Speech at FOCAC Summit Wins Wide Acclaim"](#), features a quote from me. This editorial was translated into multiple languages by China Daily and published in five additional outlets. It's clear that the Chinese publication highlighted my positive remarks regarding the relationship between China and Africa.

The  
Economist

### The Economist

Continuing on the theme of the FOCAC, The Economist published an article titled ["China's Relationship with Africa is Growing Murkier"](#). In this piece, my perspectives were quoted, but, unsurprisingly, the focus was on some of the more critical remarks I made regarding the relationship. This reflects a broader narrative about the complexities and challenges facing China-Africa ties, illustrating that while there are positive aspects, there are also significant concerns that need to be addressed. A [French translation](#) was published by Challenges.



### Teledifusão de Macau

Teledifusão de Macau published two in-depth articles in Portuguese, showcasing an extended version of my remarks on the FOCAC. The first article, titled ["FOCAC representa uma viragem para maior industrialização de África"](#), highlights my perspective on how FOCAC marks a significant shift from previous attempts at industrialisation. The second piece, ["Carlos Lopes elogia apoio chinês para a construção do metro de superfície de Luanda"](#), focuses on my commendation of Chinese support for the development of Luanda's light rail system. Together, these articles provide a comprehensive view of my insights regarding the evolving dynamics of Sino-African relations and their implications for Africa's development.

## My Videos and Podcasts



Guinée-Bissau: «L'instabilité» vient de «l'influence des militaires sur le politique selon leurs intérêts», RFI, 11 September

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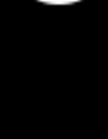
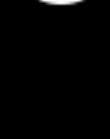
The African Debt Dilemma, We Talk Africa's Development, 21 September

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FOCAC representa uma viragem para maior industrialização de África, TDM, 14 September

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