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Newsletter 36 | October 2025



Running Like a Cheetah



The [Africa Climate Summit](#) in Addis Ababa this September offered a crucial platform to position Africa's voice ahead of COP30, and my week there was packed with 27 engagements, including 14 speaking roles on adaptation, critical minerals, green industrialization, finance and debt, and 13 bilateral meetings with senior figures such as the [AU Commission Chair](#) and the former Ethiopian Prime Minister. As Special Envoy I worked to bridge Africa with the COP30 Presidency, whether by underscoring ethics and equity in the [Global Ethical Stocktake](#), advancing forest finance in the [Tropical Forest Forever Facility](#) or raising Loss and Damage priorities with the new Fund's leadership. Media interventions further amplified Africa's narrative, while my dual representation for ACF and the COP30 Presidency created opportunities for both influence and exposure. These efforts, beyond the symbolism of access and visibility, now lay the groundwork for sustained engagement as Africa heads to Belém determined to act as a driver of global climate outcomes rather than an afterthought.



In September I had the privilege of being inducted into the Hall of Fame of the [Geneva Graduate Institute](#), where I completed my studies up to the Master's level and later served for a decade on its [Conseil de Fondation](#). The ceremony was attended by alumni and current students, and it was deeply moving to be recognized in such a way by one's alma mater. Institutions shape us not only through learning but also through the networks, values, and opportunities they open, and to have that same institution honour my journey felt profoundly special. It is a reminder of the lasting ties between education, service, and recognition, and I remain grateful for the role the Institute continues to play in advancing global thought and dialogue.



Last month I joined President William Ruto to officiate the launch of the Vipingo Special Economic Zone in Kenya, marking ARISE's expansion to a 13th country. [The 2,000-acre zone is projected to attract \\$3.39 billion in investment position Kilifi as a manufacturing hub](#) and is supported by strong financing including a joint Afreximbank-KCB deal. It was a proud moment for me as Board member of ARISE IPP and the ARISE Foundation to see this model of African-led industrialization take root.

My latest contributions



Lusa
In mid-September I gave an interview to **Lusa** marking the 50th anniversary of the PALOP independencies, where I underlined that Cabo Verde stands out as having achieved the most consistent [growth trajectory among the former Portuguese colonies](#) over the past five decades. I also reflected on the particular character of [Portugal's relationship with its former colonies](#), which has followed a different path than that of other European powers.

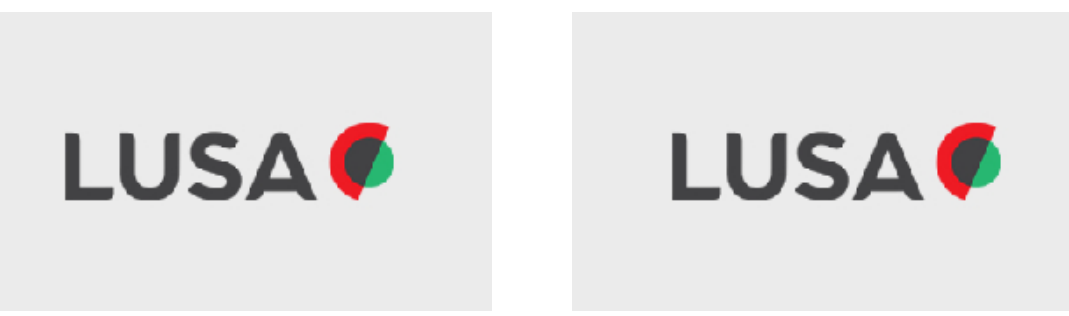


African Development Bank
September also marked the start of a new chapter for the **African Development Bank** with the inauguration of its new President, Sidi Ould Tah, in Abidjan. I gave interviews to **RFI** in [Portuguese](#) and [English](#) to help read his intentions. In his first interventions he emphasized the need to strengthen Africa's internal forces, mobilizing domestic resources and deepening continental integration as the foundation for the Bank's future direction. His agenda sets a tone of renewal and self-reliance at a time when Africa must redefine its development finance architecture under mounting global pressures.



Jeune Afrique
At the start of September, **Jeune Afrique** highlighted [ten key bets for Africa's economic transformation over the next decade](#), ranging from the African Continental Free Trade Area and digital innovation to agricultural modernization, through the eyes of key economists. I was one of them. The article reflects the breadth of opportunities that can reshape the continent's trajectory if matched with the right policies, investment, and governance, underscoring how integration, technology, and food security remain at the core of Africa's growth prospects.

My Videos and Podcasts



Portugal: Relation with former colonies different from other powers, Lusa 15 September

Watch Now



Cabo Verde: Most consistent growth of former colonies over 50 years, Lusa, 14 September

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G20 Focus | Global Economic Reform: What it means and why it matters?, SABC, 15 September

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Novo presidente do BAD quer valorizar as forças internas do continente, RFI, 4 September

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Heróis de África Episódio 153, RDP África, 4 September

Watch Now



Celebração da independência da Guiné-Bissau, RTP África, 24 September

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