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Newsletter #31 | December 2025



Running Like a Cheetah



This year's engagement at the highest level of global governance includes active involvement in both **COP30** and the **G20**, supporting respectively the Brazilian and South African Presidencies at a moment when climate, development, finance, and geopolitical fragmentation are colliding rather than converging. In the case of the G20, the work has taken a concrete form through the co-authorship of a report led by Trevor Manuel under the auspices of the [Africa Summit Panel](#), aimed at strengthening AfCFTA perspectives and policy coherence within the G20 process. Together, these roles reflect an effort to move beyond declaratory resolutions and contribute, from inside the process, to shaping agendas that better align global commitments with structural realities in the Global South.



I contributed to the [Joint Statement on Climate Mobility in Africa at COP30](#) issued on 12 November by the [African Union](#) and the [International Organization for Migration](#). The statement frames climate mobility not as a peripheral humanitarian issue but as a central development and governance challenge for Africa, calling for anticipatory policies, regional coordination, and climate finance investments that recognize mobility as both a risk to be managed and a potential source of resilience if properly integrated into adaptation strategies.

My latest contributions



Project Syndicate

My recent contribution, [Africa's Financial Sovereignty Is Under Attack](#), first published by [Project Syndicate](#), has been translated into 7 languages and reproduced 13 times across different media outlets. Its wide circulation reflects the salience of the argument that challenges to Africa's financial sovereignty are not only technical threats but a direct threat to Africa's financial sovereignty at a moment when external pressures and risk imperceptions are tightening constraints on development finance.



New African Magazine

I co-authored, with Aurora Almeida e Santos and Pedro Vaz Gonsalves, [Letters to Leaders in Botswana on the COP27 transition from the Global South to the Global North](#), published in [New African Magazine](#) and a number of publications around the world. The letter is a collective call to action for COP27 to strengthen regional realities, urging the President to move beyond procedural climate diplomacy and address the political economy of climate action, particularly the alignment between mitigation, adaptation, and development pathways in the Global South.



Cadernos de Estudos Africanos

I co-authored, with Aurora Almeida e Santos and Pedro Vaz Gonsalves, [Cartas aos Líderes da Botswana em conexão com o COP27](#), published in [Cadernos de Estudos Africanos](#) from 01 July–December 2024. The article invites Botswana's revolutionary thought not as a closed historical canon, but as a living intellectual framework whose reflections on culture, agency, and political organization continue to speak directly to contemporary debates on African sovereignty, governance, and the unfinished project of emancipation.



UNESCO

My contribution to [UNESCO's](#) Thought Leaders Series, [The Future of African Economies](#), [Enfances da Realidade Global](#), reflects on how demographics, climate pressures, and technological change are reshaping Africa's economic prospects. The piece argues that resilience will not come from incremental policy adjustments, but from deliberate structural choices that reorient growth strategies with productive transformations, institutional capacity, and African agency as an increasingly fragmented global economy.



A Expansão

In [Expansão](#), I contributed to the article [Africa at the center of capital mob flows](#), published in the Angolan weekly [A Expansão](#), argues that Africa's energy and climate transition at COP30 cannot be credited without significantly lowering the cost of capital. The piece underscores that without affordable finance and decarbonizing mechanisms, Africa's energy and climate transition, commitments on mitigation and adaptation will remain aspirational rather than actionable, reinforcing the centrality of financial architecture reform in global climate talks.



Deutsche Welle

I co-authored, with Aurora Almeida e Santos and Pedro Vaz Gonsalves, [Cartas aos Líderes da Botsuana em conexão com o COP27](#), published in [Deutsche Welle](#), a piece that interrogates the global and domestic realities of Botswana's transition, offering a clear institutional critique rather than a perfunctory adjustment. The intervention situates the crisis within a broader pattern of democratic erosion, warning that remaining structural disruption weakens constitutional order and further undermines already fragile state legitimacy.



Folha de São Paulo

In an interview published by [Folha de São Paulo](#) titled [África: desafios e oportunidades](#), I contributed to the discussion about Africa's role in the global economy. The piece highlights how accumulated governance deficits, social pressures, and unmet expectations are converging to test the resilience of the ruling systems, underscoring the urgency of political renewal and institutional credibility at a critical historical juncture.



China Daily

Global [Opinion](#) and [Opinion](#) published as an editorial for [China Daily](#). Comment on the mounting pressures shaping the global economic and geopolitical landscape. The article situates these concerns within a broader analysis of strategic uncertainty and systemic risk, highlighting how rising geopolitical tensions and escalating conflicts are amplifying uncertainties, particularly the emerging and developing economies navigating an increasingly fragmented international order.



Le Point

My analysis [Le G20 sans les États-Unis, quel avenir pour l'Afrique? Les États-Unis sont-ils indispensables?](#), published by [Le Point](#), examines the strategic consequences of a G20 process weakened by U.S. disengagement. The piece argues that without active American leadership, the forum risks losing both coherence and convening power at a time when global economic coordination, debt management, and geopolitical stabilization demand precisely the opposite.



Al Jazeera

Questions around the resilience of multilateral governance are taken up in [Cartas aos Líderes da Botswana em conexão com o COP27](#), published by [Al Jazeera](#). The article examines the legal and politics of limits of U.S. power within the G20, showing that while a host country cannot reject a member, it can still reshape the process of control, warning how fragile consensus-based global forums become when domestic politics in major powers spill into multilateral spaces.

My Videos and Podcasts



Global Perspectives: The path to power. CNN, 6 November

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Carta a Eritreia: A Campanha Correr pelo Map. RTP África, 3 November

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Governor sem Ponto: Beakama, 11 November

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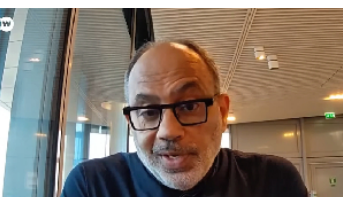
Negócios sem fronteiras: Os 480s do colégio Europe-Africa, 5 November

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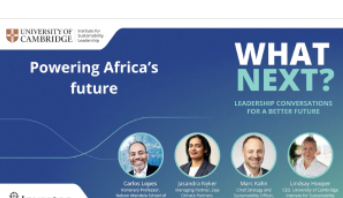
G20 Debate Forum, CGTN, 23 November

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A democracia representativa está em crise global. Deutsche Welle, 28 November

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Reshaping Africa's Future with Carlos Lopes in Jacobus Heyer, Cambridge University /Innovator, 29 November

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