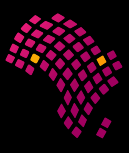


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Newsletter 39 | January 2025



AFRICA
CHEETAH RUN
CARLOS LOPES' BLOG



Running Like a Cheetah



I was honoured to be included in the [Global Edge](#), at the [Geneva Graduate Institute](#), recognising a lifelong commitment to international development and public policy. As a pioneer of the Institute's research program, my journey in shaping development strategies and strengthening institutional frameworks has taken me from leadership roles within the United Nations – including Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa – to academic and advisory positions across the globe. This recognition by the Institute not only celebrates past achievements but also reinforces the enduring value of academic excellence and global engagement in addressing the complex challenges of our time.



In January 2026, I had the honour of being awarded the [André Ceballos Prize](#) by the [Universidade de Cabo Verde \(UCV\)](#). The inaugural recipient of this distinction recognising academic and intellectual contributions to contemporary African thought and global governance. The award, conferred at the UCV Convention Centre in Praia, celebrates work that advances values such as freedom, justice, solidarity and human dignity and is inspired by the legacy of André Ceballos, a towering figure in African liberation and critical thinking. At the ceremony, I also delivered a lecture on the evolving challenges and opportunities facing the continent in an era of deep geopolitical and institutional change, reflecting on the enduring significance of critical, emancipatory scholarship for Africa's future.

My latest contributions



Standard Chartered's Blue Magazine

I contributed a short op-ed by invitation to [Standard Chartered's Blue Magazine](#) on "[Lessons for Africa's infrastructure hubs](#)", exploring how infrastructure decisions influence competitiveness, integration and long-term resilience. The piece argues for a strategic shift beyond traditional models, emphasising quality, sustainability and the smarter mobilisation of capital to turn infrastructure into a genuine driver of inclusive growth.



The Africa Report

A widely-read op-ed co-written with [Marta Forest](#) on "[How the West is losing the visa war](#)" was published in [The Africa Report](#), exploring how inconsistent and restrictive visa policies in the West are costing economic talent and hindering the initiative to other regions. The piece sparked significant discussion on global mobility, highlighting the economic and diplomatic implications of unequal visa regimes and the urgent need for fairer, more reciprocal approaches to human mobility.



Spanish Media

In December, following my keynote at the annual meeting of Spanish journalists covering Africa in Madrid, several media outlets published articles drawing on the discussion and subsequent interviews, reflecting the wide resonance of the themes addressed. Coverage included ["Estado de las intervenciones sobre África: se espera a 120.000 millones de dólares anuales"](#) by [EFE](#) and [webdelsur](#), ["África y el futuro de la economía global: el papel de las infraestructuras"](#) by [El País](#), and ["Cartelazo: el presidente de la Unión Africana, Akinwade Adesina, se reúne con los líderes de la zona"](#) by [El Comercio](#). The debate was further echoed by [Diario de Noticias](#) with ["El ministro de economía de España, Luis de Guindos, se reúne con el presidente de la Unión Africana, Akinwade Adesina"](#) and other Spanish media.



Jeune Afrique

[Jeune Afrique](#) published "[L'Afrique est devenue un acteur décisif de l'économie mondiale](#)", where I discuss how Africa's economic role has shifted to the margins of the global economy, and explain what systemic changes are needed to reposition the continent at the centre of future growth and value chains. The interview highlights structural challenges, the implications of global power shifts, and the urgency of deeper regional integration and policy coherence if Africa is to overcome perennial status and unlock its full potential.



Afrique Magazine

[Afrique Magazine](#) featured my "[L'Afrique a des cartes à jouer dans la lutte pour une Afrique transformée](#)", in which I reflect on historical and contemporary dynamics in Europe-Africa relations, arguing that Europe's comfort with a fragmented Africa has undermined the continent's collective bargaining power and strategic interests. The piece examines how this legacy affects cooperation today and calls for a more balanced and partnership-oriented approach that recognises Africa's agency and aspirations in a changing global landscape.



RTP

Portuguese public broadcaster [RTP](#) ran "[O que pode contribuir para multilateralidade efectiva na arquitectura de economia](#)", highlighting my view that Africa can play a contributive role in reshaping multilateralism amid current global upheavals. The piece explores how the continent's perspectives and priorities could contribute to more inclusive and stable global governance frameworks in a period of shifting power dynamics and systemic stress.



Observatório da Língua Portuguesa

The [Observatório da Língua Portuguesa](#) co-hosted two related pieces – "[Adaptação, coexistência ou exclusão? O papel da língua portuguesa na construção de uma nova ordem global](#)" and "[Oportunidades e desafios para a língua portuguesa na África](#)" – examining the growing role of democracy in the African Guinea-Bissau. Together, the articles reflect on how democratic building, constitutional processes and selective interpretations of constitutional order are reshaping politics.



EU Observer

[EU Observer](#) published "[EU and China are stakeholders in the new global economic order](#)", a column examining Europe's engagement with the Global South amid the Green Deal and wider geopolitical tensions, in which I am quoted. The article highlights how credibility gaps, selective norms and unresolved conflicts shape perceptions of the EU, reinforcing arguments about the need for greater coherence and consistency if Europe is to be seen seriously as a global partner.



China Daily

In mid-December, [China Daily](#) published "[China's modernization model](#)", reporting on meetings in China's new modernisation agency, in which I argue that the emphasis on high-quality growth, technological upgrading and openness represents a positive shift. I note that this approach aligns with Africa's development priorities and could support more balanced and strategic cooperation if linked to the continent's industrial and integration goals.

My Videos and Podcasts



Atlantic Dialogue 2025: shaping perceptions of
l'Afrique africaine | Medi 1 TV Afrique, 11
December

[Watch Now](#)



Unlocking the Next Stage: Rethinking Growth
Strategies, Atlantic Dialogues, 11 December

[Watch Now](#)



Powering Africa's Future, Cambridge
University Press, 11 December

[Watch Now](#)



Guiné-Bissau vive um "golpe paradoxal", RFI, 10
December

[Watch Now](#)



Unión Africana sobre África con Carlos Lopes,
RTVE, 4 December

[Watch Now](#)



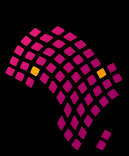
La trampa del autogolfo: visión de relaciones
UE-Africa, RTVE, 23 December 25

[Watch Now](#)



El futuro de la radio en la era digital
Catalunya Radio 3, 14 January

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