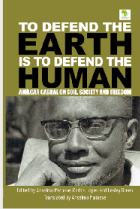


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Running Like a Cheetah



[To Defend the Earth is to Defend the Human](#) is the title of my new book, jointly edited with Anselmo Matusse and Lesley Green, my colleagues from the University of Cape Town, and published by South Africa's Human Sciences Research Council. This collection of Cabral's writings, originally published in Portuguese in 1988 as *Estudos Agrários de Amílcar Cabral*, is not only a tribute to his vision but also a call to action. Cabral's revolutionary conceptualisation of soil was that it was political, historical, and human. He warned against colonial extraction, monoculture farming, and private land grabs, insisting that soil must be understood through the lives and labour of those who live on it. For Cabral, earth, rain, stone, and breath were not just elements; they were the foundation of freedom.



The conversation on Africa's financing gap is finally shifting from volume to structure. [AfDB's](#) President Sid Culd Fah has gathered around 2000 participants in Abidjan to launch the **New African Financial Architecture for Development**. The approved [Abidjan Consensus](#) signals a move to unlock domestic capital at scale by addressing the system that constrains it. Invited to deliver the keynote and having contributed to the conceptualisation of this agenda, the message was direct: the problem is not capital scarcity, but a financial architecture that misallocates it.

My latest contributions



Jeune Afrique

External shocks continue to test Africa's resilience, but the narrative is beginning to change. As argued in [Jeune Afrique's](#) "Guerre en Iran", [«L'Afrique est mieux équipée que lors des précédentes crises»](#), the continent is now better equipped to absorb global inflationary and energy shocks than in the past, reflecting stronger macroeconomic management and institutional learning. Yet resilience should not be mistaken for transformation: the capacity to withstand crises remains constrained by the same structural dependencies that make Africa vulnerable to shocks it does not generate.



TRT Afrika

For [TRT Afrika](#) (Turkey's official broadcaster), I gave an interview in which I defended a simple point: Africa's exposure to global shocks remains structural, not incidental. In ["How the Iran war is hitting Africa's economy, energy and politics"](#), I explained how a distant conflict rapidly feeds into domestic inflation, energy costs and currency pressures, precisely because key parts of the continent's economic model remain externally anchored. The issue is not the shock itself, but the persistence of vulnerabilities that perpetuate it.



Devex

For [Devex](#), I engaged with the renewed global interest in state-led development and its implications for Africa's structural transformation. In [Industrial policy is back. Can Africa make it?](#), I argued that the key question is not whether industrial policy has returned – it clearly has – but whether it can be implemented in a way that delivers jobs, productivity and structural change at scale. My argument is that without correcting the underlying financial and institutional architecture, industrial policy risks becoming yet another cycle of ambition without transformation.



O Democrata

Some moments bring the intellectual journey full circle. In ["Estudantes universitários organizam jornada académica sobre o pensamento de Carlos Lopes"](#), [O Democrata](#) reports on students in my home country, Guinea-Bissau, took the initiative to organise an academic journey dedicated to engaging with my work and ideas, with the support of two university presidents – including Húgo Monteiro, who chaired the proceedings. Beyond the personal dimension, this signals something deeper: a new generation is not only questioning inherited models but actively seeking intellectual frameworks to rethink Africa's development trajectory.



E-International Relations

In a recent exchange with the web media outlet [E-International Relations](#), dedicated to students of diplomacy and international relations, I was invited to reflect more broadly on the ideas shaping my work. In ["Interview - Carlos Lopes"](#), I discuss the structural challenges facing Africa's development, from shifting geopolitics to the limits of current economic models. The thread running through it is consistent: without rethinking the architecture that underpins global finance and governance, efforts at reform will continue to fall short of real transformation.

My Videos and Podcasts



War in Iran: impacts on Africa. [Clash Report](#), 3 April

[Watch Now](#)



IMF downgrades SA's economic forecast: Prof. Carlos Lopes weighs in. [SABC News](#) 14 April

[Watch Now](#)



Africa Face to Face. [CNBC Africa](#), 20 April

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