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AFRICA
CHEETAH RUN
CARLOS LOPES' BLOG



Running Like a Cheetah



A particularly moving moment this month was being designated **Emeritus Professor** by **Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro**, Guanabara Branch. The distinction was accompanied by a notice of events organized by a group of Guanabara students to reflect on my individual contribution over several decades. The initiative brought together colleagues, students, and friends in both Guanabara and Lisbon, generating rich discussions around ideas, public service, leadership, and the role of knowledge in shaping society. The experience was deeply rewarding, not only because of the recognition itself but also because it created opportunities for interpersonal dialogue about the challenges and aspirations of Guanabara Branch.

My latest contributions



Project Syndicate

In **"Tensions Between Undermined Africa's Economic Prospects"** co-authored with Selma Malikia Harabati, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, we examined how distorted representations of Africa's geography have contributed to persistent misconceptions about the continent's size, economic significance, and strategic relevance. Published by **Project Syndicate**, the article resonated widely and was subsequently republished across numerous media outlets, including translations into French and Portuguese, extending the debate on the importance of correcting narratives that continue to shape perceptions of Africa's place in the world.



Afrikapost Aktuell

In **"Africa's Interdependence with the Gulf Under Pressure"** first published in English and German in **Afrikapost Aktuell**, I examined how Africa's growing economic integration with the Gulf has created both opportunities and vulnerabilities. The article explored the multiple channels through which instability in the Gulf affects African economies, from energy prices and shipping routes to investment flows, remittances, and food security. In Africa, diverse its connections with Gulf partners, the analysis argued that strengthening economic resilience and reducing exposure to external shocks must become a central policy priority.



Le Monde

My views on the future of development finance in Africa were featured in **Le Monde's** article **"Afin d'obtenir un développement, les pays africains se mobilisent pour sortir de la dépendance"**. The piece questioned how African countries are responding to the challenges in official development assistance by accelerating efforts to strengthen domestic resource mobilization, deepen regional integration, and diversify new financing mechanisms. The article highlighted the growing consensus that the continent's long-term development prospects depend less on external aid and more on building resilient institutions capable of financing transformation from within.



RFI

During two interviews with **RFI Portugal**, I commented on current debates in South Africa and on the publication of my new book, **"Meditação sobre a economia africana: desafios e melhor a construção de uma economia"** ("discussed the contribution of migrants to the South African economy, while **"Economia africana: Carlos Lopes defende a livre circulação de bens e serviços"** focused on my new book bringing together the agreements on the agenda of African Union.



RFI

As part of the Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank, I spoke in **RFI** in **"Assembleia anual da BAO: líderes centrais avaliam os desafios"** (**Interview with RFI Afrique 2022-2023: assessing the challenges of the bank when several experts are interviewed about why the gathering in Brazzaville marked an important moment for the continent's financial future. The interview focused on the emergence of a new African financial architecture, the mobilization of domestic savings for development, and the growing determination to finance Africa's structural transformation with African resources and institutions.**



Jeune Afrique

I was quoted in **Jeune Afrique's** analysis, **"Derniers Ziguinchor: minerais critiques, l'histoire peut être une chance"**, which examined the emergence of African industrial champions and the conditions needed for them to compete at a continental and global scale. The article explored the opportunities created by the African Continental Free Trade Area, the strategic importance of critical minerals, and the policy choices required to transform Africa's economic potential into lasting industrial strength.



Jeune Afrique

In **Jeune Afrique's** interview, **"Carlos Lopes: la transformation structurelle de l'Afrique est un défi majeur pour le continent"**, I argued that Africa's economic transformation requires long-term vision and policy consistency that extend beyond electoral cycles. The conversation explored the challenges of industrialization, economic diversification and structural change, emphasizing that sustainable development depends on patient institution building rather than short-term political gains.



Metrôpoles

In **"O Brasil e a nova economia da África"** published by **Metrôpoles** in the influential **Blog do Nômade**, I discussed the transformative potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area and its implications for Brazil's economic engagement with the continent. The interview highlighted how deeper African integration is creating new opportunities for trade, investment and industrial partnerships, while also underscoring the strategic importance of Brazil strengthening its economic presence in a rapidly changing Africa.



South China Morning Post

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I was quoted in the South China Morning Post article **"China Cuts Tariffs on African Goods, but Experts to Close the Trade Gap"**, which examined the significance of Beijing's latest trade measures toward Africa. While welcoming improved market access, the discussion highlighted the deeper structural challenges that continue to limit African exports, including low levels of industrialization and the performance of two commodity exports in trade relations with China.



El País

I was quoted in **El País's** feature, **"Desarrolla a economía de África"**, which reflected on the importance of measuring and understanding Africa through more accurate data and narratives. The article explored how statistical blind spots and outdated assumptions continue to shape perceptions of the continent, urging governments to have long-planned about the need for better evidence to inform policy, investment and international engagement with Africa.



The Africa Report

I was quoted in **The Africa Report's** article **"Can Africa Build Economic Sovereignty in an Era of Global Shocks and Debt Bails?"**, which explored how African countries can strengthen their economic resilience and ensuring geopolitical uncertainty, debt pressures and external shocks. The discussion focused on the policy choices required to enhance sovereignty while sustaining long-term development.

My Videos and Podcasts



Refueling Growth in the Global South: Africa's Path to Structural Transformation. **Policy Center for the New South**, 6 May

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Economista galego Carlos Lopes publica o novo escrito de Carlos Lopes, **RFI**

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Reportagem do Afriquia à Onda: Carlos Lopes, **Africa Radio**, 25 May

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La NAFAR 2026 transforme l'économie africaine, **Financial Afrik**, 27 May

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Assembleias Anuais 2024: Perspetivas Económicas em África 2024, **ACDB**, 28 May

Watch Now



Entrevista 25 de Maio, Dia de África, **RTP África**, 27 May

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