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Newsletter 45 | August 2026



Running Like a Cheetah

Much of this month was devoted to supporting three of Africa's leading multilateral development banks in advancing the agenda of the New African Financial Architecture (NAFAD). I joined the inaugural Board of the AFC Foundation, delivered the keynote address at the Afreximbank Executive Retreat in Addis Ababa, and participated in the African Development Bank's management reform retreat, where I accompanied President Sidi Ould Tah in reviewing the presentations of the six reform workstreams. Together, these engagements reflected the growing momentum behind efforts to strengthen Africa's financial institutions and accelerate the continent's structural transformation.

My latest contributions

Project Syndicate

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In "[Development Economics for an Age of Upheaval](#)", published in **Project Syndicate**, I argued that development economics must move beyond sector-based approaches towards ecosystem thinking that can address today's interconnected challenges. The article was written in response to Dani Rodrik's recent reflections on the discipline—he later remarked that he liked the framework very much—and has already been republished around 20 times in English, [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#), [German](#), [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [Dutch](#), and [Russian](#), reflecting the broad international resonance of the debate.



Strategy International

In "[Africa Search for Strategic Autonomy](#)", published by **Strategy International**, I argued that Africa's pursuit of strategic autonomy should not be understood as geopolitical equidistance, but as the capacity to make sovereign choices in an increasingly fragmented world. The article examined how stronger regional integration, economic transformation and institutional resilience are becoming the foundations of the continent's growing agency in global affairs.



ECOWAS

Alongside 26 other African personalities, I signed an appeal calling for the immediate release of PAIGC leader Domingos Simões Pereira, as reported in "[Guiné-Bissau: 27 personalidades africanas exigem libertação de líder do PAIGC](#)". The initiative called on **ECOWAS** to uphold democratic principles and constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau. The appeal was heard: at their Summit, ECOWAS Heads of State adopted a resolution demanding his immediate and unconditional release, and he was freed two days later, illustrating the importance of principled African voices acting collectively in defence of democracy.

African Business

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I was quoted in "[Does AGOA's Third Country Rule Damage African Textile Production?](#)" by **African Business**, on the limitations of trade preference schemes that create export opportunities without fostering deeper industrial transformation. I argued that preferential market access, while valuable, cannot substitute for policies that build integrated regional value chains and strengthen Africa's manufacturing base.



University of Cape Town

The launch of my book "To Defend the Earth Is to Defend the Human: Amílcar Cabral on Soil, Society and Freedom", co-edited with Anselmo Matusse and Lesley Green, was featured in the **University of Cape Town** article "[Africa's Future Lies in Agriculture](#)". The book brings together Cabral's agronomic writings in English translation, presenting him as a pioneering thinker on the relationship among soil, society, and freedom, and highlighting the enduring relevance of his ideas to African environmentalism and sustainable development.

My Videos and Podcasts



Qatar and Africa: **Al Jazeera**, 26 July

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