



AFRICA
CHEETAH RUN
CARLOS LOPES' BLOG



Running Like a Cheetah



Afreximbank published my Distinguished Lecture, ["Industrialisation in Africa: The S-S-S-E Paradigm"](#), delivered in Cairo as part of its 2024 Founders' Day celebrations. Structured around five myths, five pillars and five challenges, the lecture makes the case for rethinking industrialisation beyond factories and manufacturing towards the wider ecosystems where value is increasingly created and captured. At a moment when the global economic system is being reorganised, Africa cannot simply imitate earlier industrialisation paths; it must design its own. Another highlight of the month was participating in the Paraty Dialogues, convened by CEBRI – the Brazilian Centre for International Relations – and Open Society in the historic city of Paraty, Rio de Janeiro. The gathering brought together a remarkable group of prominent figures, including several who have played important roles in shaping the multilateral system, for frank discussions about its future and the profound geopolitical shifts now underway. I was very pleased to contribute to such a timely and stimulating exchange.

My latest contributions



African Banker

My views on Africa's industrialisation were also featured in ["The Key to the Industrial Age"](#), published in *African Banker* and available through PressReader. The piece draws on my argument that Africa needs to rethink industrialisation for a very different global economy, moving beyond the traditional fixation on manufacturing toward the wider ecosystems where value is created, controlled, and captured.



RFI

My analysis of the race to succeed António Guterres as UN Secretary-General received unusually extensive coverage across African media following my interview with RFI. ["Secrétaire général de l'ONU: Macky Sall est candidat et est en plus grande difficulté, selon Carlos Lopes"](#) discussed the difficult positioning of the two African candidates, Macky Sall and Chaka Chuma; the significance of regional rotation; the strength of the leading Latin American and Caribbean candidates; and the political complications surrounding African support for Macky Sall. The interview generated extensive follow-up coverage across the continent, including *SenePlus*, *SeneWeb*, *Senegal Direct*, *Senegal*, *SeneNews*, *PressAfrica*, *Bevin Web TV*, *NdarInfo*, *Samuel*, *Senegatt*, *Bevini.com*, *Soma*, *Itany*, *FBI Info*, *Ugandan Statesman*, *ACL*, and several other outlets.

THE CONVERSATION

The Conversation

The Conversation featured the book I co-edited with Anaïs Matusso and Lindsey Green in ["African Central failed soil health to human freedom - the Guinea-Bissau leader's legacy matter more than ever today"](#). The article revisited Cabral's remarkable but less known work as an agronomist and the continuing relevance of his thinking about soil, sovereignty and freedom, particularly at a time when land degradation has become such a major challenge for Africa. It was also published in [French](#).



O Globo

I was quoted in O Globo's ["América da migração: a história da África espanta os olhos da Europa, mas com lotes de migrantes"](#), which examined an often overlooked dimension of African migration: mobility within the continent is becoming increasingly important, even as migration towards Europe declines and the routes used become more varied. I stressed the need to move beyond the persistent European framing of African migration as essentially an exodus towards Europe and to understand the demographic, economic and labour-market transformations driving mobility within Africa itself.

Trade, Law and Development

Trade, Law and Development

My article, ["Necessidade de abordar a África: a nova dimensão do desafio"](#), was published in *Trade, Law and Development* in August. The article examines Africa's position in an increasingly turbulent global economic order and the dilemmas confronting the continent as trade, industrial policy and geopolitics become ever more intertwined. It argues for greater African agency in navigating these shifts, with structural transformation and a more strategic approach to trade at the centre of the response.

Jornal de Angola

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I contributed to *Jornal de Angola's* tribute, ["Nacionalista Mário Pinto de Andrade foi defensor forte de um africanismo"](#), marking the 98th anniversary of Mário Pinto de Andrade. I reflected on the intellectual and political importance of one of Angola's foremost nationalist thinkers and his deep commitment to Pan-Africanism, recalling a generation for whom national liberation and Africa's broader emancipation were inseparable projects.

My Videos and Podcasts



Macky Sall en difficulté, Sendwawe, 5 August



Secrétaire général de l'ONU: Macky Sall est candidat qui est en plus grande difficulté. RFI, 5 August

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