



AFRODAD



AFRICAN FORUM AND NETWORK  
ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

# AFRODEBT 16

2023

AFRODAD Newsletter



Reimagine,  
Rethink,  
Reorganise,  
and Remobilise  
for an African World Order

3rd Edition

African Conference on  
Debt and Development

AfCoDD III



Debt & Development  
Academy



Africa Debt Monitoring  
Mechanism (ADMM)

Tax Regimes in the Age of  
RBLs & Collateralisation

TAX



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# Third edition of the AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

## AfCoDD III

#AfCoDDIII #AfricaRuleMaker

Dakar, Senegal

30<sup>th</sup> August - 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2023

Reimagine,  
Rethink,  
Reorganise,  
and Remobilise  
for an African World Order

### *Shaping Africa's Economic Future and Reshaping Global Perspectives on Debt Management*

In a momentous gathering, AFRODAD, in collaboration with Trust Africa, successfully hosted the third African Conference on Debt and Development (AfCoDD III) that was held on 30<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 in Dakar, Senegal. Themed “The 4Rs for Africa Rule-Maker: Reimagining, Rethinking, Reorganising, and Remobilising for an African World Order,” the conference provided a crucial platform for addressing Africa’s debt challenges. Participants engaged in critical discussions, under three pillars; political, Research and Ideation and Public Mobilisation #SisiNdioTuko; fostering innovative solutions and advocating for a more equitable global financial system. The outcomes of AfCoDD III are poised to have a lasting impact on reshaping Africa’s economic future and influencing international perspectives on debt management.

AfCoDD has evolved into an annual AFRODAD flagship event since its inauguration in August 2021, marked by the Harare Declaration signed by over 120 African organisations. The conference drew a diverse audience, bringing together civil society, policymakers, and parliamentary champions advocating for public debt transparency and oversight. Sixteen parliamentarians from various African parliaments participated, representing bodies such as the South African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF), African Parliamentary Network on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation (APNIFFT), East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA), Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association among others. Government officials, including Dr. Youssoupha Diagne from Senegal’s Ministry of Finance and Economy, highlighted the conference’s significance in his [opening remarks - AfCoDD III](#).



[Find out more](#)



[The videos](#)





# DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY (DaDA)

2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 Arusha, Tanzania

Parliamentarians in Debt Management  
Legal Aspects Trade Tax  
**Debt**  
Alternative Approaches Coalition Building Africa Rule Maker  
Global Processes & the Political Economy  
Influencing Institutions

## Empowering Advocacy: AFRODAD Launches Debt and Development Academy (DaDA) to Navigate Africa's Financial Landscape

Guided by AFRODAD's values of Pan-Africanism and solidarity, the academy emerged from collaborative efforts with partners such as the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) and the Stop the Bleeding campaign. The inaugural Debt and Development Academy, held in Tanzania from October 2nd to 4th, 2023, aimed to reshape the international financial architecture to better serve Africa on matters of public debt. The academy centered discussions on debt, intertwining it with tax, illicit financial flows, feminist macroeconomics, gender, climate, natural resource governance, official development assistance, and foreign direct investments.

Participants expressed enthusiasm about applying the gained knowledge to enhance advocacy, share insights with colleagues, engage policymakers, and contribute to research initiatives. The DaDA initiative stands as a testament to AFRODAD's commitment to fostering a comprehensive understanding of debt-related challenges in Africa.

 [Read more](#)

 [The videos](#)



## AFRODAD's Active Role in Addressing the Global Debt Crisis

**Group Photo:**  
Representatives of Various Global South CSOs pose for a photo during Day 2 of the Conference



In collaboration with Latindad and APMDD, AFRODAD played a pivotal role at the Southern-Led CSO Global Meeting on Debt held in Bogota, Colombia, on September 20th-21st, 2023. Bringing together over 50 Civil Society Organisations from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Global North, the meeting aimed to confront the deepening debt crisis faced by economies in the Global South. Discussions revealed the disproportionate impact of the pandemic-induced debt surge, highlighting challenges such as IMF Conditionalitys and the rise in domestic debt. The meeting concluded with the launch of the Southern Debt Platform, providing a crucial space for Global South CSOs to collectively address the extractive nature of Global North solutions.

 [The outcome document](#)

## AFRODAD's Legal Analysis and Advocacy at the African International Economic Law Network Conference

**Image:** Samantha C Kanoyangwa, the Legal Analysis and Advocacy (LAAD) Policy Assistant attended the 6th Biennial African International Economic Law Network (AfIELN) Conference which was held in Accra, Ghana.



AFRODAD Advanced Legal Advocacy at the African International Economic Law Network (AfIELN) Conference from 21-24 June 2023. The Legal Analysis and Advocacy (LAAD) Policy Assistant, Smantha Kanoyangwa, participated in the 6th Biennial African International Economic Law Network (AfIELN) Conference in Accra, Ghana. Under the theme "International Economic Law in an Era of Multiple Crises: Opportunities and Challenges for Africa," the conference addressed the role of International Economic Law in advancing Africa's interests. LAAD actively contributed to a Sovereign Debt Panel, presenting a paper titled "Fiscal Sustainability and Sovereign Risk: The Feasibility of the Bridgetown Initiative for Africa," which emphasised the significance of contractual mechanisms, including natural disaster clauses, in debt contracts.





## Advocacy for the Domestication of the SADC Model Law

Having been part of the committee that drafted the SADC Model Law on Public Finance Management, AFRODAD continues its collaboration by attending plenary assemblies. It is in this regard that AFRODAD participated and contributes to the SADC 53rd plenary assembly held in Arusha, Tanzania, from July 2 to 8, 2023. The [assembly](#) focused on modernising agriculture to address food insecurity and youth unemployment in the SADC region. The meeting provided valuable insights into the progress made on the model PFM law, emphasising the need for parliamentarians to take the lead in its domestication at the country level.

## AFRODAD Engages in Impactful Training on “Own Source Revenue” and Gender Implications

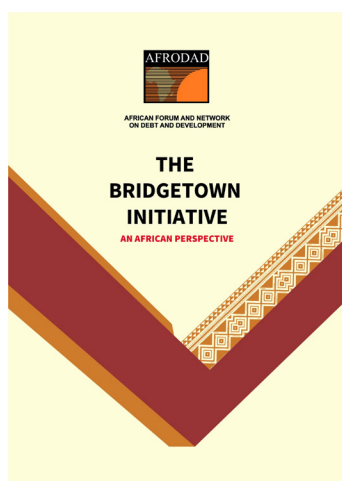
In a commitment to advancing gender-responsive budgeting and fostering economic resilience for women, AFRODAD actively participated in a training session on Own Source Revenue (OSR) and its gender implications. The workshop was organised by the National Taxpayers Association (NTA). The workshop drew participants from various Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and experts. AFRODAD’s involvement in this training aligns with its goals, particularly in the Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM) portfolio. The organisation aims to reduce over-reliance on external financing and curbing Illicit Financial Flows for economic transformation. The training boosted participants’ understanding on budget impact on women, gender-responsive budgeting, and at the end it proffered policy changes for the Finance Bill 2024.

The training aimed to inform participants about gender-responsive budgeting, economic resilience for women, and the intricacies of the Finance Act 2023. Changes were proposed for the Finance Bill 2024, addressing issues such as Income tax, Value Added Tax (VAT), Excise duty, Pay As You Earn (PAYE), and Digital Service Tax.



## AFRODAD Hosts Webinar on the African Debt Monitoring Mechanism Amid Regional Debt Crisis

To address the escalating debt crisis in Africa, AFRODAD, in collaboration with FES-AU, organised a webinar titled: the [African Debt Monitoring Mechanism \(ADMM\): Its establishment and merits to African economies in an indebted era](#). The ADMM initiative comes in response to concerns raised during the African Union Sub-Committee meeting about rising debts, worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. AFRODAD is garnering regional support for the ADMM, emphasising its potential to centralise debt-related data, fostering accountability, and transparency in debt management across African states. The webinar showcased the various tools ADMM offers for understanding and comparing countries’ debt portfolios, presenting a strategic move to enhance economic recovery amid challenging times.



## AFRODAD Offers an African Perspective to the Bridgetown Initiative during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings

In a lively side session during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in October 2023, AFRODAD brought an Afrocentric approach to [the Bridgetown Initiative](#). It scrutinised the initiative’s selective global debt focus, private sector roles, and potential dependency on private finance. Under the Civil Society Policy Forum 2023, the session not only critiqued but offered alternative pro-people strategies, emphasising just financial reforms for a green recovery in Africa. AFRODAD’s intervention aimed to provide solutions for immediate financial needs while challenging the systemic imbalances in the global financial system. The meeting buzzed with discussions that sought to align the Bridgetown Initiative with Africa’s unique economic and debt landscape.







A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey sweater over a patterned shirt, is speaking at a podium. Behind her is a banner for the 'OKOA UCHUMI CAMPAIGN' and a logo for 'OKOA! UCHUMI!'. The text on the banner includes 'mi campaign is a civil societ', 'mitted to the goal politica', and 'in public debt management.' The logo also features the text 'OKOA! UCHUMI!' and 'RESULTS OF THE CAMPAIGN'.



[Watch the video](#)

The activity aligned with portfolio objectives, including strengthening citizen roles in advocating for increased public participation, influencing governments and development partners to implement development principles, improving government transparency, and advocating for a fair tax system framework. See: [The African Borrowing Chatter](#)

From July 31st to August 3rd, 2023, the Lake Victoria Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda, played host to the EAC-SADC African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Regional Forum, organised by SEATINI Uganda, Third World Network Africa (TWN-A), and Enda Cadid. The forum, a part of the broader project on Effective African Civil Society Engagement with the AfCFTA Negotiations and Implementation, aimed to foster a shared understanding of the current state of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) play in the Eastern and Southern African regions. The meeting drew around 30 participants, including representatives from civil society organisations, trade unions, the private sector, and government ministries: It was also attended by representatives from Trade unions, private sector, Ministry of Trade Uganda, commissioner of Trade and Ministry of East Africa Community Affairs (MEACA), public finance management, women and community rights and the East Africa Civil Society Organisations Forum (EACSOFF), ensuring a gender-balanced and comprehensive discussion. The proceedings looked into critical issues surrounding regional trade and the AfCFTA protocols.



## AFRODAD's Active Participation at the Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba Focusing and Tax Justice

AFRODAD played a pivotal role in the Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI), engaging with diverse stakeholders to address critical issues in the mining sector. The participants included representatives from the Ministry of Mines, Community leaders, Directors Association of Zimbabwe, CSOs and Religious leaders.

### Key Discussion Points:

- **Push for the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) in Mining Discourse:** Stakeholders advocated for the incorporation of the ESG considerations in mining discussions to ensure sustainable and responsible practices.
- **Challenges in Revenue Distribution:** Local leaders highlighted that despite the revenues generated from critical minerals, local communities often find themselves having to “beg” for development rather than actively participating in it. Monitoring mechanisms for mining companies were identified as lacking, contributing to this disparity.
- **Call to Action:** AFRODAD and other stakeholders emphasised the need for clear redistributive mechanisms, transparency, and strong tax policies to benefit local communities and curb IFFs. The active role of civil society in education, research, and monitoring was highlighted as crucial for fostering accountability and sustainable development in the mining sector.

## AFRODAD's Contribution During the Women Economic Community of Practice Meeting prior to COP 28

AFRODAD contributed to discussions during the UN Women organised meeting titled Women Economic Community of Practice meeting on November 2nd, 2023, focusing on “African Women at the Center of Climate Adaptation: COP 28 and beyond.” Recognising that climate change drivers and impact are not gender-neutral, discussions centered on the differential impact of climate change on women and their unique contributions to climate change action. Women, constituting two-thirds of the agricultural labor force in Africa, bear the brunt of climatic impacts in sectors crucial to economies and livelihoods.

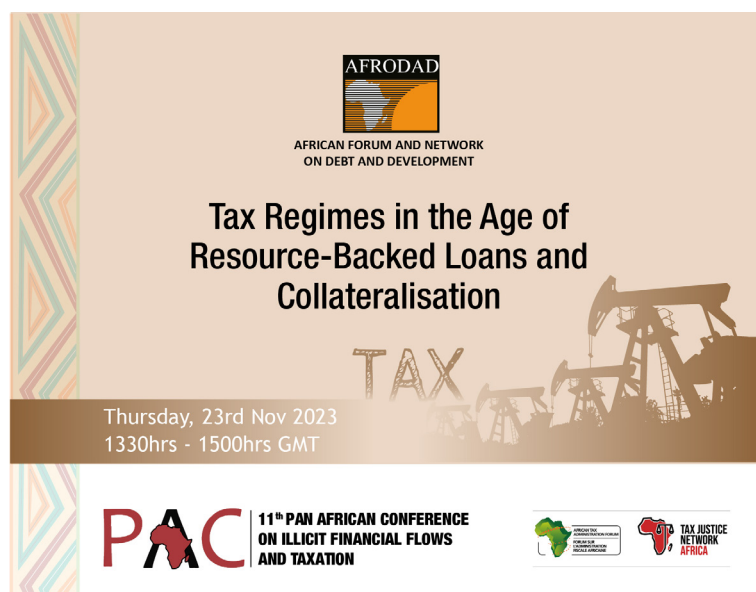
The meeting facilitated a robust conversation on gender-related issues to be raised during COP 28 negotiations. AFRODAD, alongside the Africa Group of Negotiators Expert Support (AGNES), shared valuable experiences and insights into the COP 28 process, negotiations, gender-related issues, and key entry points. Discussions also touched on the design of the loss and damage fund, and how gender dimensions are not integrated in proposed solutions.

### The engagement included:

- Increased awareness of gender-related issues for effective engagement with country delegations before and after COP 28.
- Sharing experiences, learning, and good practices related to gender equality and adaptation, with a focus on climate-smart agriculture.
- Understanding issues related to the loss and damage fund and African debt within the context of climate financing.







## AFRODAD's Impactful Session on the Sides of the Pan African Conference: Navigating Tax Regimes in the Age of Resource-Backed Loans & Collateralisation

On the 23rd of November 2023, AFRODAD hosted a side session during the Pan-African Conference (PAC) held in Accra, Ghana. The session, themed “Tax Regimes in the Age of Resource-Backed Loans and Collateralisation,” explored critical aspects of Africa’s economic landscape.

Africa richness in natural resource holds the promise of economic prosperity. However, Governments, particularly in the Global South, often face hurdles in securing substantial financing for development. Moreover, limited access to domestic markets and costly international capital markets creates significant obstacles. The rise in mineral demand and prices prompts resource-rich countries to leverage their mineral wealth for funds through Resource-Backed Loans (RBLs) and mineral resource collateralisation as potential solutions, allowing governments to unlock current resources for immediate financing while deferring payments until the resource extraction process is complete.

While RBLs offer potential benefits, their design is often investor-centric, and it contributes to the mounting debt levels in Africa. Mortgaging natural resources to secure loans, especially from China, has led to debt distress when commodity prices collapsed. Angola, DRC, Ghana, Guinea, Sudan, and South Sudan are among countries using future revenues from natural resource exports as collateral for Chinese loans, a practice that can lead to complications when commodity prices fluctuate.

The session aimed to achieve enhanced understanding of regional convergence protocols, improved insight into RBLs integration in public finance regimes, comprehensive evaluation of RBLs legal frameworks, lessons from real-world cases and proffer practical policy recommendations. AFRODAD’s session not only shed light on critical issues but also paved way for informed policy discussions and advocacy, contributing to sustainable financial management in Africa.



 [Watch the video](#)





## Meet our New Team Members



**Baye Delia**

Policy & Advocacy Intern



**Gordon Odhiambo**

Domestic Resource  
Mobilisation Intern



**Rufaro Madamombe**

Administration Intern



**Klein Sithole**

Finance intern



**Tafadzwa Mhlanga**

Monitoring, Evaluation,  
Accountability, and Learning  
Intern



**Tulani Philip Moyo**

International Public & Private  
Finance (IPPF) intern



**Loni Semgalawe**

Communications Intern

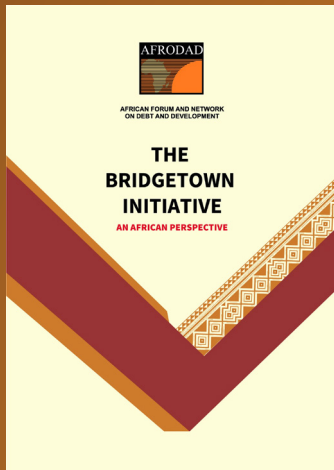


**Afshin Nazir**

Acting Policy, Advocacy and  
Research Officer, Domestic  
Resource Mobilisation



# Resources Alert!



The  
Bridgetown  
Initiative:  
An African  
Perspective



[Link](#)



Building  
a strong  
Parliament  
in West  
Africa



[Link](#)



Parliamentary  
Oversight Role  
for Prudent  
Public Debt  
Management



[Link](#)



Tracking  
Parliamentary  
Involvement,  
Approvals and  
Rejections of  
Loans (SADC  
Countries)



[Link](#)



The Harare  
Declaration

Read and  
endorse it!



[Link](#)



The African  
Borrowing  
Charter



[Link](#)





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