



**Business and Economic Development Committee**

**Virtual Forum on the Regional Economic Outlook for  
Sub-Saharan Africa**

**Thursday, November 30, 2023  
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM (EST)**

**PROGRAM AGENDA**

<b>Virtual doors open</b>	<b>11:50 – 12:00</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>12:05 – 12:10</b>
<b>Alexandria Maloney, President Board of Directors of BPIA</b>	
<b>Introduction of Panelists (Please see attached Bio Sheet)</b>	<b>12:10 – 12:15</b>
<b>Kholofelo Kugler, Moderator Vice President for Business and Economic Development, BPIA</b>	
<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<b>12:15 – 1:10</b>
<b>Dr. Andrew J. Tiffin, Senior Economist, African Department International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington D.C.</b>	
<b>Dr. Andrew Mold, Chief, Regional Integration and AfCFTA Cluster, Regional Office for Eastern Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Rwanda</b>	
<b>Nzinga Qunta, Business news anchor, Business journalist and International high- level events Moderator, South Africa</b>	
<b>Moderated Discussion among the IMF Representative and Panelists</b>	
<b>Audience Question &amp; Answer and Discussion Period</b>	<b>1:10 – 1:25</b>
<b>Closing and Adjournment</b>	<b>1:25 – 1:30</b>

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## Speaker bios

**DR. ANDREW TIFFIN** is a senior economist at the International Monetary Fund. Currently, he is responsible for preparing the Fund's Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa. He is also keenly involved in the Fund's digital-economy agenda, leading the effort to incorporate artificial intelligence/machine-learning techniques into the Fund's standard analytical toolkit. In his previous position, he was the senior desk economist for the Jordan and Lebanon teams, with a particular interest in refugee issues. Prior to that, he coordinated the Fund's risk-assessment process, helped review the program strategies for Greece, Portugal, and Spain, and was on the Italy team during the debt crisis of 2012. Also at the Fund, Andrew has worked on a number of Eastern European economies, including Russia. Raised in Sydney, Andrew is an Australian national. He received his post-graduate training at Princeton University, where he obtained degrees in both economics and international relations. In addition to his work with the Fund, Andrew has held positions at the United Nations (UN), the Reserve Bank of Australia, and with the Australian Government.

**DR. ANDREW MOLD** is Chief, Regional Integration and AfCFTA Cluster at the office for East Africa of the Economic Commission for Africa in Kigali. He has a Masters in Economics and Politics of Development from Cambridge University, and a Ph.D. in Economics from the Complutense University of Madrid. His Ph.D. thesis was on the role of American multinationals in processes of regional integration. He has previously worked for the UN Secretariat in Chile and in Addis Ababa, and also for UNICEF in Costa Rica. He worked from 2008-2011 at the OECD Development Centre in Paris, where he was a Senior Economist and in charge of their flagship publication 'Perspectives on Global Development: Shifting Wealth'. From 2004-2009 he was editor of the European Journal of Development Research. Author of two books - 'EU Development Policy in a Changing World: Challenges for the 21st Century' (Amsterdam/Chicago University Press), and 'Policy Ownership and Aid Conditionality in the Light of the Financial Crisis: A Critical Review' (OECD, Paris) - Andrew has published in a wide number of journals, including the Journal of African Trade, Journal of International Development, the CEPAL Review, the African Development Review, Development, the Journal of Common Market Studies, and the Journal of Agricultural Economics. He is co-author (with Francis Mangeni) of a forthcoming book 'Borderless Africa - A Sceptic's Guide to the Continental Free Trade Area' (Hurst & Company, London).

**MS. NZINGA QUNTA** is a business news anchor with over a decade of experience in radio and television. She is currently anchoring SABC (South African Broadcasting Corporation) News' flagship business news bulletin, OnPoint, and is the host of Hot Business with Nzinga Qunta on Hot1027 radio. Qunta is a seasoned moderator who facilitates high-level conferences, events, and seminars with a focus on business, entrepreneurship, innovation, education, and technology internationally. She is the program director of choice for high level events with heads of state, multinational CEOs, entrepreneurs, and innovators with a focus on business, innovation, and technology. Recently Nzinga hosted discussions for the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2022 and 2023, Gitex Africa 2023, the largest tech and start up conference in Morocco, the 2023 Gavi High Level Meeting in Spain, The Future Investment Institute in Saudi Arabia and events for ILO and UN Women amongst others. Her work includes facilitating dialogues with Alibaba founder Jack Ma, Nobel Peace Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, the Presidents of Switzerland, South Africa, Namibia as well as the Prime Ministers of Tunisia and Ivory Coast. In August 2023 Nzinga hosted the South African State Banquet and BRICS Cultural Showcase with heads of state from BRICS nations and beyond in attendance.

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