

Africa's Agency in an Era of Geopolitical Change

Trade, Investment and Economic Transformation in an Era of Geopolitical Change

30th September 2026 | Makerere University

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Time	Programme Activity	Responsible Person / Programme Lead
8:30–9:00 am	Registration and Arrival of Participants	Secretariat
9:00–9:10 am	Arrival of the Guest of Honour	Protocol
9:10–9:15 am	National Anthem	All
9:15–9:20 am	Opening Prayer	
9:20–9:25 am	Welcome Remarks - Makerere University, Host	Designated Makerere Representative
9:25–9:30 am	Welcome Remarks - Yobel Biashara, Convenor	Designated Yobel Biashara Representative
9:30–9:35 am	Welcome Remarks - Centre for Advanced Strategic Leadership (CASTLE), Co-Convenor	Designated CASTLE Representative
9:35–9:40 am	Remarks from the Conference Chairman	Conference Chairman
9:40–10:20 am	Keynote Address: Africa's Agency in an Era of Geopolitical Change: Trade, Investment and Economic Transformation	Dr. James Magara
10:20–10:30 am	Discussant I: Africa's Strategic Position in a Multipolar World	Discussant I
10:30–10:40 am	Discussant II: Trade, Regional Integration and the AfCFTA as Catalysts for Economic Transformation	Discussant II
10:40–10:50 am	Discussant III: Mobilising Investment, Innovation and Industrialisation for Africa's Sustainable Development	Discussant III
10:50–11:05 am	Response by the Keynote Speaker	Dr. James Magara
11:05–11:20 am	Health Break	Secretariat
11:20 am – 12:30 pm	Moderated Plenary Discussion	Moderator
12:30–12:50 pm	Presentation and Adoption of Key Recommendations and Conference Resolutions	Facilitator
12:50–1:00 pm	Presentation of the CASTLE Engagement Communiqué	Rapporteur
1:00–1:20 pm	Closing Address and Official Closing of the Think Tank	Guest of Honour
1:20–1:25 pm	Vote of Thanks	Designated Representative
1:25–1:30 pm	Closing Prayer	
1:30–1:35 pm	Anthems	All
1:35–1:45 pm	Photo Moment & Networking	All Participants
1:45 pm onwards	Networking Lunch	Secretariat / All Participants