

# Shaping an equitable post-COVID world: the role of Global South think tanks

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via  zoom

## Young Thinktankers Forum

A new generation of researchers forging a sustainable and  
just future

Online via ZOOM. Wednesday November 10, 2021  
09:00 (UTC-5 NYC), 15:00 (UTC+1 Lagos), 19:30 (UTC+5:30 Delhi)

Languages: English, Spanish, French.

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As the world responds to the urgent impacts of the current COVID-19 crisis, it is important that we continue to look towards preparing for the future and securing our place in it. This entails acknowledging that the world and its impending socio-economic development concerns will be different in the coming years. For instance, the UN estimates that more than 8 out of 10 people in the world are expected to live in Asia or Africa by the year 2100; and North, Central, and South America, and Oceania, are also projected to see a rise in population this century. In addition, climate change, immigration, rapid digitalization, and changes in governance models will no doubt result in new concerns regarding equity and inclusion.

From a survey of young thinktankers on the future of equity:

- *[In the future, it will] not only be about growth, but also about social inclusion*
- *access to clean water*
- *access to quality healthcare*
- *Violation of private lives ... The right to withhold information will not be valid no longer.*

Think tanks will also be different, led by a new generation of researchers and policy entrepreneurs, and will likely use different strategies to effect desired change. Think tanks in the Global South will probably see the greatest expansions, as the regions gather more relevance in the global economy and governance.

From a survey of young thinktankers:

- *Think tanks will need to have innovated new ways of doing research in terms of data collection and analysis so as to provide quick and timely research to inform governments*
- *[Think tanks won't] have a formal office space, organisational structure or staff. They will have freelance collaborators sharing ideas on digital platforms. Think tanks will surpass geographical boundaries. Think tanks will have to adapt to research that finishes within a couple of months. The world moves at a faster pace and findings delivered after 2-3 years of calculated research will be futile.*
- *Think tank influence will depend on their ability to communicate to laypeople and expand their study teams to conform to multidisciplinary approaches.*
- *[Think tanks will] conquer the world*

This session is led by young thinktankers across the Global South, to share ideas and discuss proposals on how present actions, such as exploring new business models, attracting and developing new skills and competencies, positioning the organisations to engage with new stakeholders and audiences, etc., can equip us to respond better to future challenges.

The session has been designed with the young thinktankers to involve as many peers as possible. Our speakers will kick start the conversation addressing some of these questions and young thinktankers in the audience will be invited to join too.  
**Come ready to join!**

During this session we will address some of the following questions:

- **What are the key issues that worry young think tankers about the future?**
- **What will think tanks look like in the future?**
- **What roles could young thinktankers play in delivering the future of think tanks?**

But other important questions may arise:

- Who will think tanks engage and communicate with? How will they need to adapt to meaningfully engage with social movements, activists, indigenous leaders, influencers and other emerging changemakers?
- What will they focus their attention on? Will they fiercely fight for very specific sectoral territories or will they give up depth in favour of breadth?
- Where will think tanks be located? Will there still be offices - conveniently located near the centre of government- or will think tanks embrace distance working to “embed” their teams in local universities, NGOs, rural communities, neighborhood libraries, etc. across the country - or globally?
- Who will work there? How inclusive and diverse will their staff be? What will be thinktankers most prized skills and competencies?
- Can think tanks respond to the needs, demands and interests of young people? How can they involve them more: as young leaders, as the focus of think tanks’ agendas and as allies for young people’s efforts to bring about change?

## Moderator

**Louise Ball** is a communications specialist, with 10 years experience in the research and non-profit sector. She is the communications and research uptake lead for the four-year Global Challenges Research Fund project Drugs & (dis)order at SOAS University of London. Prior to this, she worked at the Overseas Development Institute’s Research and Policy in Development programme, working on strategic communications for policy engagement, and the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute. She co-authored a toolkit on monitoring, evaluating and learning from communications, a Research Excellence Framework impact toolkit, and 10 things to know about how to influence policy with research.

## Opening speakers

**Gabrielle Alves** works as a researcher at Plataforma CIPO, a Brazilian independent institute devoted to climate, governance, and peace research. She has developed a

strong platform for environmental justice advocacy in Brazil and Latin America through granting commentaries, interviews and writing opinion editorials.

Twitter: @gabriellealvesx      Instagram: @leiturasdagabrielle

**Regean Mugume** works as a Research Analyst at Uganda's Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC). His areas of expertise include financial inclusion, commerce, food security, monitoring and evaluation, and quantitative survey analysis. He has worked on the micro and macro analysis of national household surveys and global trade data sets.

Twitter: @RegeanMugume

**Dr Awa Diouf** is a project coordinator at IPAR-Senegal, a think tank focusing on public policies in agricultural and rural sectors in West Africa. She is an expert in developing countries' public finance, and has featured on online deliberations, virtual topical conferences, informed policy papers on oil & gas in Senegal, and featured on African news reports.

LinkedIn: [@AwaDiouf](#)

**Maryam Shabbir Abbasi** works as Project Associate on Climate Change and Gender, as well as Coordinator - Digital Media, at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan. Her work mainly focuses on incorporating gender mainstreaming into climate change policies through evidence based research. Maryam is also a social media activist, trainer, and an active member of National Youth Assembly.

Twitter: @S\_Maryam8

**Bakang Ntshingane** is a Program Officer at Southern Voice, supporting the research and policy analysis programs of the organization. Before joining Southern Voice, Bakang was a summer intern at the Green Climate Fund, working to help prepare developing countries to finance scaled up and impactful climate action through the Readiness program. He has also worked for think tanks and grassroots civil society organizations in Botswana and South Africa.

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