Detailed Conference Program

DAY 0 – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018

13:00-16:00 – Early registration *(Foyer outside Glenn Bar)*

17:30 – 19:30 Cocktail reception *(Glenn Bar)*

Welcome remarks by Andrew Hurst, Programme Leader, TTI – IDRC
DAY 1 – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2018:
Set the scene: reflect on the past and focus on the future

8:00-9:00 – Registration Cont. *(Foyer outside Infinity Ballroom)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>09h00 – 10h15: Opening plenary <em>(Infinity Ballroom)</em></th>
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Welcome addresses:
- Valerie Traore, TTIX Facilitator, Executive Director, Niyel
- Nipon Poapongsakorn, Distinguished Fellow, Thailand Development Research Institute
- Donica Pottie, Ambassador to Thailand, Embassy of Canada
- Simon Keogh, Evidence Broker, DFID on behalf TTI Executive Committee
- Peter Taylor, Director, Strategic Development, IDRC on behalf of TTI

10h15 – 10h45: Coffee/tea break *(Foyer outside Infinity Ballroom)*

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<tr>
<th>10:45 – 12:30: Plenary <em>(Infinity Ballroom)</em></th>
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Panel discussion: *Think tanks in a changing world*

Objectives:
- To highlight the key challenges facing countries in TTI regions over the next ten years.
- To reflect on how the future will differ from the past ten years.
- To share ideas and perspectives on how think tanks will use the support and experiences of TTI to address these challenges.

Moderator: Nick Ishmaël Perkins, TTIX Facilitator, Technical Advisor, CABI
- Bitrina Diyamett, Executive Director, STIPRO
- Subrat Das, Executive Director, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, India
- Ana Patricia Muñoz, Executive Director, Grupo Faro
- Somkiat Tangkitvanich, President, Thailand Development Research Institute Foundation

*For more details, please consult the session outline*

12:30 – 14:00: Lunch *(Cuisine Unplugged)*
### 14:00 – 15:45: Collaborative “plenary” (Infinity Ballroom/Delta)

**Co-create: Designing for the future based on past lessons**

**Objectives:**
- Share, validate and debate emerging findings from the TTI evaluation, emphasizing implications for future support to think tanks
- Further develop our understanding of the lessons learned by the TTI community over the past 8 years
- Identify opportunities, challenges and ideas for future support to enhancing the use of evidence in policy and practice, including the role of think tanks

**Moderator:** Nick Ishmaël Perkins, TTX Facilitator, Technical Advisor, CABI
- Tricia Wind, Senior Program Specialist, Policy and Evaluation Division (POEV), IDRC
- Ian Christopoulos, Team Lead, NIRAS
- Dan Peters, Senior Program Officer, Development Policy and Finance, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

*For more details, please consult the [session outline](#) along with the [preliminary conclusions from the TTI evaluation](#)*

### 15:45 – 16:15: Coffee/tea break (Foyer outside Infinity Ballroom)
16:15 – 17:45: Plenary (Infinity Ballroom)

Ask any questions: Funders in a changing world

Objectives:
- Enable and advance the articulation of a renewed case why think tanks are important actors in the SDG era and how they can best engage to maximize their potential within broader knowledge-to-policy systems.
- Provide an open, constructive forum for the exchange of perspectives on how think tanks and funders should work together in the coming decade.
- To provide helpful, real-time context on funding priorities and directions for forward-looking discussions in Days 2 & 3.

Moderator: Valerie Traore, TTIX Facilitator, Executive Director, Niyel

Panellists:
- Peter Taylor, Director - Strategic Development, IDRC
- Sarah Lucas, Senior Program Officer, Hewlett Foundation
- Yamini Aiyar, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Research
- Arthur Bainomugisha, Executive Director, ACODE

For more details, please consult the session outline
## DAY 2 – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018: Explore and engage

### 8:30 – 9:30: Plenary (Infinity Ballroom)

*Recap: Reflections from Day 1 and overview of Day 2*

**Moderators:**
- Valerie Traore, TTIX Facilitator, Executive Director, Niyel
- Nick Ishmaïl Perkins, TTIX Facilitator, Technical Advisor, CABI

**Keynote Address (09:00 – 09:20): How May Think Tanks Continue to Make a Difference?**
- Alex Awiti, Director, East Africa Institute, Aga Khan University

### 09:30 – 11:00: Marketplace (Eternity Ballroom)

*Think tanks making a difference: A marketplace*

**Objectives:**
- Enable think tanks to showcase their research, policy engagement, outreach and advocacy, including their greatest achievements and lessons in the nearly decade long period of TTI’s support
- Enable conference participants to learn from a range of experiences on think tank engagement on policy issues from across the three regions.
- Enable all conference participants to find common ground in existing and emerging areas of policy and practice and build local, national, regional and global coalitions and collaborations for research based action post-March 2019.

**Moderators:**
- Valerie Traore, TTIX Facilitator, Executive Director, Niyel
- Nick Ishmaïl Perkins, TTIX Facilitator, Technical Advisor, CABI

*For more details, please consult the session outline*

*Coffee/tea (served inside Eternity Ballroom)*
### 11:00 – 12:30: Parallel sessions – *Taking on the future*

#### Session 1 (Omega)
**Environment, agriculture & climate change**

**Objectives:**
- Showcase think tanks’ research effecting change – such as by setting/redefining the policy agenda, provision of key technical research inputs that have changed policies or action research that provides innovative solutions to tackle issues at scale.
- Share lessons on successful strategies to engage different audiences (policy and public) through evidence-based advocacy and campaigns to effect change.
- Produce a regionally/globally relevant output (e.g. campaign, joint research or a series of op-eds etc.)

**Moderator/Chair:** Abid Suleri, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad, Pakistan

**Panelists/Facilitators:**
- **Dushni Weerakoon**, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Sri Lanka
- **Ajaya Dixit**, Executive Director, Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-Népal, (ISET-Nepal)
- **Aminita Diop Kane**, Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management Officer, Initiative prospective agricole et rurale (IPAR-Senegal)
- **Susan Kavuma**, Research Fellow, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Uganda
- **Beatriz Muriel Hernández/Lykke Anderson**, Executive Director/Researcher, Instituto de Estudios Avanzados en Desarrollo (INESAD), Bolivia

*For more details, please consult the session outline*

#### Session 2 (Delta)
**Access to energy, water and resources**

**Objectives:**
- Showcase think tanks’ research effecting change – such as by setting/redefining the policy agenda and/or provision of key technical research inputs that have changed policies,
- Share lessons on successful strategies to engage different audiences (policy and public) through evidence-based advocacy and campaigns to effect change.
- Produce a regionally/globally relevant output (e.g. campaign, joint research or a series of op-eds)

**Moderator/Chair:** Debbie Menezes, Independent Consultant

**Panelists/Presenters:**
- **Pratima Singh**, Research Scientist, Centre for Study of Technology and Policy (CSTEP), Bangalore, India
- **Nipon Poapongsakorn**, Distinguished Fellow, Thailand Development Research Institute Foundation (TDRI)
- **Ufo Okeke Uzodike**, Executive Director, African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage), Enugu, Nigeria

*For more details, please consult the session outline*
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<th>Session 3 (Kappa)</th>
<th>Session 4 (Beta)</th>
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<td><strong>Promoting gender equality in research</strong></td>
<td><strong>Urbanization and sustainable cities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Showcase think tank research on gender equality</td>
<td>• Showcase the contributions that some think tanks are already making in this space.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Foster dynamic interactive discussions about approaches to gender in research</td>
<td>• Draft up to 10 guiding principles for a proactive engagement on issues of urbanization and sustainability.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Create opportunities for learning between presenters and participants engaged in similar work</td>
<td>• Lay the foundations of a grand coalition of change actors.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Moderator/Chair:</strong> Tania Principe, Gender at Work</td>
<td><strong>Moderator/Chair:</strong> Ibrahima Hathie, Director of research, IPAR Senegal</td>
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<td><strong>Panelists/Facilitators:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Job Eronmhonsele, Senior Programme Officer/Head of Policy Engagement and Communications Division, CPED</td>
<td>• Abdoulaye Diagne, Executive Director, CRES</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ana Lucia Blas, Director of Communications ASIES</td>
<td>• Ricardo Fort, Director of Projects and co-lead Opportunity Fund Project on Urban Planning, GRADE</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Khalida Ghaus, Managing Director, SPDC</td>
<td>• Fortunata Songora Makene, Head, Strategic Research and Publications Department and Partner on the Opportunity Fund Project on Urban Planning, ESRF</td>
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</tbody>
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*For more details, please consult the session outline*
11:00 – 12:30: Parallel sessions – Taking on the future (Cont.)

**Session 5 (Sigma)**  
**Governance, peace, justice and strong institutions**

**Objectives:**
- To collectively explore global, regional and local perspectives and challenges in the entire spectrum of research-to-policy in this policy area.
- To identify and share key lessons that could be used to capture effective strategies in this area, using both stories of success and of failures.
- To agree to a common task as way forward - either a manifesto, general principles/guidelines, ideas for an oped / opinion piece etc., with clear responsibilities and workplan.

**Moderator/Chair:** Victor Vazquez Aranda, Executive Director, Investigación para el Desarrollo (ID), Paraguay

**Panelists/Facilitators:***
- Gurucharan Gollerkeri, Director, Public Affairs Centre, Bangalore
- Salai Ngun Lian Sang, Executive Director, Centre for Development and Ethnic Studies (CDES), Myanmar
- Queeneth Anyanwu, Researcher, African Heritage Institution (AfriHeritage), Nigeria
- María Elena Rivera, Research Program Coordinator, FUNDAUNGO, El Salvador

*For more details, please consult the session outline*

**Session 6 (Gamma)**  
**Economic growth and decent jobs**

**Objectives:**
- Examine the programmes, policies and strategies that are currently being utilized to respond to the challenges of finding decent work among youths in developing countries;
- Share experiences and reflect on examples of strategies used by policy makers to enhance economic growth while supporting decent job creation;
- Illustrate the role of Think tanks in supporting decent job creation and economic growth.

**Moderator/Chair:** Paul O. Okwi, Senior Program Specialist, TTI-IDRC

**Panelists/Facilitators:**
- Jorge Henriquez, Project Manager, FOSDEH
- Kwame Owino, Chief Executive Officer IEA-Kenya
- Girum Abebe Tefera, Centre Coordinator, EDRI, Ethiopia
- Sarah Ssewanyana, Executive Director, EPRC, Uganda

*For more details, please consult the session outline*
### Session 7 (Deja vu)

**Good health and well-being; and quality education**

**Objectives:**
- Illustrate the roles played by some think tanks in the pre- and post-2015 development episodes, with emphasis on health and education
- Share experiences and demonstrate potential areas for cross-institutional collaboration in advancing health, well-being and education for promoting sustainable development

**Moderator/Chair:** Assefa Admassie, Director, Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA/EEPRI)

**Panelists/Facilitators:**
- Ibrahim Kasirye, Principal Research Fellow, EPRC, Uganda
- Anwesha Pandey, Special Assistant to the Director-General, NCAER, India
- Ricardo Cuenca, Director General IEP, Peru

*For more details, please consult the session outline*

### Session 8 (Theta)

**The think tank-based researcher of tomorrow**

**Objectives:**
- Share and reflect on examples of think tanks balancing research activities with other duties (e.g. administrative), and the trade-offs involved in such arrangements.
- Come up with up to 10 tips on using researchers’ time, expertise and skills optimally.

**Moderator/Chair:** Ajoy Datta, Fellowship Coordinator, On Think Tanks

**Presenter:**
- Felix Asante, Executive Director, ISSER
- Blandina Kilama, Senior Researcher & Resource Mobilization Support, REPOA
- Fatou Cissé Ndiaye, Researcher CRES, Senior Researcher & Head of the department of research on poverty and equity, CRES

*For more details, please consult the session outline*

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12:30 –14:30: Lunch *(Cuisine Unplugged)*
## 14:30 – 16:00: Parallel sessions – *How to take on the future*

### Session 9 (*Beta*)

**Future business models for think tanks**

**Objectives:**
- Share experience about the strategic roles core grants have played in organizational development and research-to-policy outreach,
- Highlight the key challenges facing think tanks and the consequential impacts on research-to-policy linkages for purposes of evidence-informed policy processes,
- Brainstorm, share and discuss strategic responses to the dwindling core funding terrain

**Moderator/Chair:** Anthony Boateng, Consultant – Strategy, Governance and Financial Management

**Panelists/Facilitators:**
- Donald Mmari, Executive Director, REPOA, Tanzania
- Pablo Hurtado, Executive Director, ASIES, Guatemala
- Sulamba Shaban, Finance Manager, STIPRO, Tanzania
- Aminata Diop Kane, Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management Officer, IPAR-Senegal

*For more details, please consult the session outline*

### Session 10 (*Sigma*)

**Forward looking research**

**Objectives:**
- Share experience about the contributions of forward-looking research in development processes
- Highlight the key challenges in incorporating adequate share of forward-looking research in think tanks’ research programs
- Provide collective opportunity for think tanks and policymakers to convince donors to build flexibility in their research funding programs, including opening up to consider unsolicited research grant applications

**Moderator/Chair:** John A. Okidi, Senior Program Specialist, TTI-IDRC

**Panelists/Facilitators:**
- Rose Ngugi, Executive Director, KIPPRA, Kenya
- Anshu Bharadwaj, Executive Director, CSTEP, India
- Fernando Masi, Director, CADEP, Paraguay

*For more details, please consult the session outline*
### 14:30 – 16:00: Parallel sessions – *How to take on the future (Cont.)*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 11 <em>(Deja Vu)</em></th>
<th>Session 12 <em>(Kappa)</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender in think tanks</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research excellence</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Showcase and highlight organisational policies that promote gender equality within organisational policies and procedures</td>
<td>- To explore the opportunities and challenges in managing the trade-offs between ‘academic glory’ and ‘making a difference’.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Generate a discussion on inherent challenges, trade-offs and risks involved</td>
<td>- To explore ways of planning and evaluating research in think tanks that balance methodological rigour with making a difference throughout organizational processes.</td>
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<td>- Work towards developing a manifesto/guiding principles/charter of action for think tanks to adopt in the quest for gender equal, inclusive organisational structures</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Moderator/Chair:</strong> Rosemary Viswanath, Gender@Work</td>
<td><strong>Moderator/Chair:</strong> Tricia Wind, Senior Program Specialist, Policy and Evaluation Division (POEV), IDRC</td>
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<td><strong>Panelists/Facilitators:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Seema Bhatia-Panthaki, Senior Program Officer, TTI-IDRC</td>
<td>- Claudia Garcia, Coordinator, Economic Development, ASIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Andrew Onokerhoraye, Executive Director, CPED</td>
<td>- Ana Patricia Muñoz, Executive Director, Grupo FARO</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Maheen Sultan, Visiting Fellow &amp; Head (a.i.), Gender Studies Cluster, BIGD</td>
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<td>- Margarita Beneke de Sanfeliu, Director, Department of Research and Statistics, FUSADES, El Salvador</td>
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<td>- Lorena Alcazar, Senior Researcher GRADE, Peru</td>
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*For more details, please consult the session outline*
### 14:30 – 16:00: Parallel sessions – *How to take on the future (Cont.)*

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<tr>
<th>Session 13 <em>(Delta)</em></th>
<th>Session 14 <em>(Gamma)</em></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New approaches to policy engagement</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ideology and independence</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Showcase new ways of engaging with policymakers and citizens</td>
<td>• To reflect on the ideological nature of think tanks and its implication on their work</td>
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<td>• Explore innovative approaches to outreach</td>
<td>• To encourage a reflection on the effects that a more ideologically identifiable brand may have on think tanks prospects for influence and funding.</td>
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<td>• Allow participants to reflect on and collaborate around approaches they can adopt in their own work</td>
<td>• To consider the practices that think tanks need to institutionalise to uphold their intellectual autonomy and credibility.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Moderator/Chair:</strong> Julie Lafrance, Senior Program Specialist, TTI-IDRC</td>
<td><strong>Session conveners:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Panelists/Facilitators:</strong></td>
<td>• Enrique Mendizabal, Director, On Think Tanks (OTT)</td>
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<td>• Founty Alassane Fall, Research Assistant, CRES</td>
<td>• Orazio Belletini, former Executive Director, Grupo Faro</td>
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<td>• Marjorie Trigueros, Senior Researcher, FUSADES</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ajaya Dixit, Executive Director, ISET-Nepal</td>
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*For more details, please consult the session outline*
### Session 15 (Omega)

**Think tank strategies in policy windows**

**Objectives:**
- Foster interactive discussions to share innovative approaches and lessons for interested think tanks to act strategically in front of highly political policy windows
- To identify the risks of being involved in highly political debates as well as strategies to protect think tanks’ reputation
- To identify ideas for collaboration to support think tanks that want to learn from their peers (i.e.: how to maximize opportunities for Think Tank impact through electoral processes)

**Session conveners:**
- Leandro Echt, Research Associate, On Think Tanks
- Estefanía Terán, Democracy Program Coordinator, Grupo Faro

**Topics’ conveners:**
- Daniel García, Espacio Público
- Ana Lucía Blas, ASIES
- John Mutua, IEA-Kenya
- Chukwuka Onyekwena, CSEA Nigeria

*For more details, please consult the session outline*

### Session 16 (Theta)

**Global versus local**

**Objectives:**
- Explore the main challenges and experiences across regions and different contexts of how think tanks approach the issue of remaining competitive at the local level.
- Outline what factors determine how think tanks position themselves locally and/or globally, and reflect on what strategies work best in different contexts?
- Draw out lessons for more effective engagement of, and collaboration between Southern think tanks that can bring about effective change locally and globally.

**Moderator/Chair:** Debbie Menezes, Independent Consultant

**Panelists/Facilitators:**
- Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD, Dhaka
- Miguel Jaramillo, Senior Researcher, GRADE
- Tausi Kida, Executive Director, ESRF, Tanzania
- Mercedes Méndez Ribas, Director of Institutional Development, CIPPEC, Argentina

*For more details, please consult the session outline*

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16:00 – 16:15: Coffee/tea break *(Foyer outside Infinity Ballroom)*
# 16:15 – 17:00: Book Launch *(Infinity Ballroom)*

**Book launch (16:20-17:00) – Research for change: Role of TTI in strengthening think tanks**

**Objectives:**
- To launch the book that captures the experience of 14 TTI supported think tanks in South Asia, written by heads of individual think tanks.
- To celebrate together the vision of TTI funders in taking the ‘leap of trust’ through TTI program.
- To motivate think tanks from other regions to document the TTI program contributions to strengthening think tanks.

**Session moderator:** Ajaya Dixit, Executive Director, ISET-N, Nepal (co-editor of South Asia TTI Book)

**Presenter:**
- Sukhadeo Thorat, Chief Editor, South Asia TTI Book titled ‘Strengthening Policy Research, Role of Think Tank Initiative in South Asia’, published by Sage, New Delhi (Forthcoming).

**Commentators:**
- Kari Moe Jacobsen, Adviser, Section for Research, Innovation and Higher Education, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
- Bitrina Diyamett, Executive Director, Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organisation (STIPRO), Tanzania
- Pradeep Nair, Regional Director, Ford Foundation (India & Nepal)

*For more details, please consult the session outline*

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# 18h30 – 20h00: Dinner *(Infinity Ballroom)*
DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018: Collaborate and learn together

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<td>• Nick Ishmaël Perkins, TTIX Facilitator, Technical Advisor, CABI</td>
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<td>Keynote: Collaboration for the future</td>
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<td>• Andrea Ordoñez, Director, Southern Voice</td>
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<tr>
<th>09:30 – 11:00: Marketplace (Infinity &amp; Eternity Ballrooms)</th>
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<td>Think tanks making a difference: A marketplace (cont.)</td>
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<td>For more details, please consult the session outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee/tea served inside the Eternity Ballroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 17 <em>(Delta)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exploring collaborative opportunities with China and Chinese think tanks</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• To learn from Chinese participants on how they are thinking about international collaborations.</td>
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<td>• To help think tanks consider ways that they may wish to explore collaborations with Chinese think tanks in the future.</td>
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<td><strong>Moderator/Chair:</strong> Jenny Lah, Independent Consultant</td>
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<td><strong>Panelists/Facilitators:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Dr. Xufeng Zhu, Executive Director, Institute of Sustainable Development Goals, Tsinghua University</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Dr. Yong Jun ZHANG, Deputy Chief Economist, China Centre for International Economic Exchange</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Dr. Dong Liu, Representative, Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation, China Office</td>
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### Session 19 (Gamma)
The global migration crisis

**Objectives:**
- Identify the nature of the problem, and the importance of difference dimensions of the problem to different countries / regions, and structure the problem to facilitate policy interventions.
- Explore how southern think tanks can inform national, regional and global policy solutions for addressing the global migration crisis.
- Identify effective strategies for think tanks in the global South to engage in dialogue and debate on global frameworks such as the UN Global Compact on Refugees.
- Identify collaborative opportunities for think tanks to collectively engage in national and regional responses to migration crises (where? On what issues?).

**Moderator/Chair:**
Miguel Jaramillo, Executive Director, GRADE

**Panelists/Facilitators:**
- Fatou Cissé Ndiaye, Researcher, CRES, Senegal
- Nisha Arunatilake, Director of Research, IPS, Sri Lanka
- Daniel García Fernández, Executive Director, Fundación Espacio Público, Chile
- Pablo Hurtado, Executive Secretary, ASIES, Guatemala

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### Session 20 (Beta 2)
Evidence-informed policymaking

**Objectives:**
- To identify the external factors that systematically hinder think tanks’ ability to influence policy decisions with research, and what participants are already doing to overcome them.
- To provide feedback on existing ideas to systematically advance evidence-informed policymaking across countries, and generate new ideas to do so.
- To identify potential future action, and individuals and organizations interested in participating in it.

**Moderator/Chair:**
- Sarah Lucas, Program Officer, Hewlett Foundation
- Peter Taylor, Director Strategic Development, IDRC

**Panelists/Presenters:**
- Ibrahima Hathie, Director of Research, IPAR, Senegal
- Yamini Aiyar, President and Chief Executive, CPR, India
- Lorena Alcazar, Research Director, GRADE, Peru

For more details, please consult the session outline alongside this document
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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</table>
| 11:00 – 13:00| **Parallel sessions** – *Discussions to explore opportunities to collaborate (cont.)*  
  Session 21 *(Omega)*  
  *Dialogue with funders in Asia* |
| 13:00-15:00  | **Lunch and closing plenary** *(Infinity Ballroom)*  
  *Closing remarks and discussions*  
  **Speaker:**  
  Peter Taylor, Director – Strategic Development, IDRC  
  **15:00-17:00: Networking** |