

The 52nd AERC Plenary Session

The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) hosted its 52nd Plenary Session on “Business Environment, Competitiveness and Economic Growth in Africa” on the 29th of June 2020. The sessions were held virtually for researchers, academics, policy makers, non-state actors and economists to discuss the link between business environment, competitiveness, and economic growth in African economies.

The objective of the plenary was to unpack why Africa continues to be less competitive despite progress in the areas of doing business, investment climate, and infrastructure. The focus was on how mis-alignments in economic policy management create distortions that impede the performance of firms, thereby reducing the growth of decent jobs.

A range of diverse papers were presented by the following presenters:

- Dr Shantayanan Devarajan – *African Competitiveness: What do Natural Resources have to do with it?*
- Prof Ernest Aryeetey – *The Changing Context for African Competitiveness: What will happen to Manufacturing?*
- Prof Pramila Krishan – *Exchange Rate Regimes and Firm Competitiveness*
- Prof Louise Fox – *Employment Transformation in sub-Saharan Africa – What does Competitiveness have to do with it?*