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CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL
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FEDN

Free Enterprise & Democracy Network

July 2020



FEDN mourns the loss of founding member **Aurelio Concheso**. Aurelio was dedicated to defending freedom in Venezuela and was an active part of the FEDN Steering Committee. CIPE has posted this [memorial tribute](#). Aurelio was multi-talented, courageous, and always charming. We will miss him dearly!

CIPE Call to Defend Democracy

COVID-19 poses a threat to more than public health – the pandemic is providing openings to authoritarians and undermining liberal democracy. In light of these challenges, CIPE released [A Call to Defend Democracy](#), offering a different vision. In CIPE’s call to action, the answer to COVID-19 is not less democracy, but more democracy. Democracy allows for course corrections, citizen input, and public accountability. To read the full statement, click [here](#).

FEDN Member News

Jehan Ara — In late June, Jehan Ara served as a panelist for a [webinar](#) from the Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) titled "Covid-19 and Innovation in Retail." The panelists provided clarity on diverse matters on Pakistan's retail issues amid the current economic climate. One such solution is to harness technological innovation to find new ways to grow the economy.

Kwame Owino — Kwame Owino, Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), contributed to an [article](#) discussing the impact of COVID-19 in Kenya. An IEA analysis revealed that Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru and Kiambu – Kenya’s busiest counties – are at the highest risk for COVID-19. Kwame explains that the risks include movement, density, and activity in the towns.

Soji Apampa – Soji Apampa, Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Convention on Business Integrity, and CIPE’s Kim Bettcher virtually discussed the concept of “Democratizing Globalization.” Democratizing Globalization raises questions on economic development and democracy. Soji provided many examples of Nigeria’s experience with COVID-19, especially as it pertains to democracy and a free market, both of which provide innovative answers to problems new and old. Click [here](#) to view the full discussion.

Haroune Sidatt – Haroune Sidatt published a [blog post](#) on CIPE’s website entitled “Finding Resilience in the Sahel during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The blog elevates the voice of the private sector during a time of severe security, social, economic, and public health stress. While governments are tasked with solving many of these problems, the private sector provides unique and innovative solutions, and the public

sector must tap into this valuable resource in order to comprehensively solve these problems.

CIPE News

On July 7th, CIPE Global released the [*How-To Guide for Economic Think Tanks: Lessons in Policy Influence and Organizational Vitality*](#). The guidebook provides practical lessons, features an interview with Dr. James McGann, and captures insights on navigating challenging political and economic environments from CIPE's think tank partners. Each section of the guidebook focuses on core themes: role of think tanks; strategic positioning; stakeholder relations and communications; and influencing the policy process. The Think Tank Guidebook features substantial input from members of FEDN: **Ali Salman, Robin Sitoula, Kwame Owino, Ruslan Stefanov, and Julia Pomares.**

CIPE Africa welcomed Jim Wright, an anti-money laundering specialist, to discuss risk assessment practices for money laundering in civil society organizations. Jim Wright presented the webinar in the context of COVID-19 in order to explain how funds designated for pandemic relief and response can best reach their targets without delay or corruption. You can view the full webinar [here](#).

Announcements

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) will acknowledge Sudanese civil society with its [Democracy Award](#), which recognizes innovative and brave individuals, organizations, and networks that advance democracy and human rights. NED is also offering two fellowships: The [Reagan-Fascell](#) Democracy Fellows program for democracy activists, scholars, and journalists and [the Penn Kemble Fellowship](#) for young bipartisan leaders in the foreign policy community. Lastly, NED released [A Call To Defend Democracy](#). COVID-19 is not just a health crisis, but also a political crisis for liberal democracies as authoritarians look for new opportunities to consolidate power.

CIPE's Anti-Corruption and Governance Center team hosted an event with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund on [Facebook Live](#). The event focused on COVID-19's economic impact on the private-sector. Although the World Bank and International Monetary Fund has received attention for its work in the recovery space, much of it has focused on the public sector. There has been little attention on its work with the private-sector's recovery, and this event highlights the importance and significance of private-sector recovery efforts.

Good Reads & Resources

- CIPE and the Diplomatic Courier collaborated on volume two of its recent E-Book: [*After the Pandemic, A Global Economic Recovery Roadmap*](#). In this volume, CIPE lays out a recovery roadmap through six essays on various topics. The essays “Restarting Economies,” “Great Reshoring,” “Corruption Is Like a Coronavirus,” “Protecting Democracy Amid the COVID-19 Crisis,” “COVID-19 Brings New Economic Challenges for Women,” “The Informal Sector: Facing Crisis on the Outside of the System,” “Inclusive Participation in the Digital Economy,” and “Associations and Chambers” all explore different but crucial facets of the post-pandemic recovery.
- Francis Fukuyama explores the relationship between political systems, politics, and the pandemic in his new piece for *Foreign Affairs*: [“The Pandemic and Political Order.”](#) In his article, Fukuyama highlights the acute challenges many market-democracies face, and concludes that they must innovate so they may “pull a rabbit out of the hat” to come out of the crisis as strong as before.
- Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) released a new [tool](#) assessing the pandemic’s impact on democracy. V-Dem researchers created the Pandemic Democratic Violations Index (Pandem) which identifies democratic backsliding as a result of the pandemic in 146 countries. The tool considers government misinformation, anti-democratic processes in pandemic response, and the extent to which these violations undermine liberal democracy. Users can compare Pandem to V-Dem’s previous indexes to monitor trends and compare changes across time.
- *The Economist* published an article titled [“The lessons of the 1930s and 1980s for Latin America”](#) which explores the connection between economic slumps and political change. Although the pandemic has yet to peak in Latin America, it continues to substantially impact the region’s economy. The article finds that as economies become weaker, the chance for authoritarian resurgence grows.

Free Enterprise and Democracy Network news informs network members about events, opportunities, and resources related to free enterprise and democracy. Please send suggestions for the newsletter, announcements, and requests to the secretariat (kbettcher@cipe.org; agoldstein@cipe.org)

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