AFRICA IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH:

ADVANCING AGENCY, AMPLIFYING VOICES



EDITED BY
BOB WEKESA

ESI

AFRICA IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH:
ADVANCING AGENCY, AMPLIFYING VOICES



ESI Press
University of Pretoria, Lynnwood Road, Hatfield, South Africa
https://www.esipress.up.ac.za

Publication © ESI Press 2026
Text © The authors 2026

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of ESI Press or indicate that ESI Press endorses the views of the authors.

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including photocopying and recording, or by any other information storage or retrieval system, without written permission from the publisher.

Cover design: Stephen Symons
Typography and design: Stephen Symons

First published by ESI Press 2026

ISBN: 978-1-0671824-8-9 (Print)
ISBN: 978-1-0671824-9-6 (E-book / digital)



AFRICA IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH:
ADVANCING AGENCY, AMPLIFYING VOICES

EDITED BY
BOB WEKESA



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This edited volume is part of the African Agency Towards Global Powers Project, supported by the Open Society Foundations, for whom we express gratitude. Specifically, we thank Jeggan Grey-Johnson, Advocacy Advisor, Open Society- Africa, for serving not only as the manager for our relations, but also as a resource person on the topic. We also note, for avoidance of doubt, that the Open Society Foundations did not in any way influence the work that went into the production of this volume.

CONTENTS

Foreword ix
Africa in the Global South:
Depth as a Prerequisite for Action
Jeggan Grey Johnson

Chapter 1 1
Introduction: Africa, the Global South,
Agency and Voices
Bob Wekesa

Chapter 2 27
African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA):
Advancing African Agency or Amplifying
Neo-imperial Interests?
Julius Niringiyimana

Chapter 3 53
Addressing Ethnic Diversity: Pragmatic Approaches
for Fostering Inclusive Dialogue and Voice
Amplification within the African Union
Japheth Musau Kasimbu

Chapter 4 83
Strategically Leveraging the Non-Aligned
Movement (NAM) and G77 to Build an
Afro-Sino Coalition to Advance the
Development of a Multipolar World Order
Mandira Bagwandeen

Chapter 5 115
Theorising African Agency from the Perspective of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77
Mawia William Sila

Chapter 6 143
Africa and India in the Global South: Leveraging Technological Innovations
Peter Mbuva Kathukya

Chapter 7 179
African Agency in a Fragmented Geopolitical Landscape and Amid Struggling Multilateralism: Navigating Pathways for Development
Mikatekiso Kubayi

Chapter 8 209
Boosting Health: Leveraging Africa–China Relations to Achieve SDG 3
Kabaso Kabwe
Job Allan Wefwafwa

Chapter 9 235
The Impact of African Cultural Diplomacy in Shaping Socio-political Relations within the Global South
Rabecca Kavithe Ndeto

Chapter 10 261
Digital Capitalism, Technological Determinism and the Emergence of Multipolar Powers
Job Allan Wefwafwa
Kabaso Kabwe

Chapter 11 283
Gender Equality and the Non-Aligned Movement: Looking Backward to Predict the Future
David Mugambe Mpiima

Chapter 12 317
Conclusion: Going Forward: The Problems of African Agency and the Proposition of the Critical Theory of the Introspection of African Agency
Edward Kaweesi

List of contributors 363

Index 367