



Royal African Society

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **“Africa’s Growth Story is Not Over” African Development Bank President, Akinwunmi Adesina to say at Royal African Society Annual Lecture 2016**

**Akinwunmi Adesina**, President of the African Development Bank, will give the Royal African Society’s Annual Lecture on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

**President Adesina**, who is the 8th elected President and first Nigerian to lead the bank, will assess how African countries have weathered recent economic downturns, and economic shocks. **He will stress that:**

- Africa is not one country - economically, there is a lot of heterogeneity across markets and regions
- More importantly, most African countries have laid down a strong basis for sustaining the recent growth trajectory despite headwinds from global economic turbulence
- Growth trends, conditions and economic policies are in place to allow Africa to leverage and retain their recent growth momentum
- Non resource rich countries are doing well, and commodity driven economies will prove resilient to external shocks over the long term

Speaking ahead of the lecture, **President Adesina** says “We want to deliver a corrective to anyone that thinks Africa’s growth story is over – and the Royal African Society offers a perfect platform to deliver such a message to investors, the African diaspora and the British public that Africa remains a vibrant, dynamic and resilient place to do business.”

**Richard Dowden**, Director, Royal African Society, says "We are delighted to host Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank, for the RAS Annual Lecture this year. As someone who has been in the forefront of African development for over 25 years, he brings a much needed focus to Africa's economic and financial development at a time of global uncertainty. We look forward to hearing about his plans for the Bank and his vision of how Britain and British business can work with the Bank and others to bring greater prosperity to Africa."

President Adesina's lecture will be followed by a conversation chaired by Zeinab Badawi, RAS Chairperson.

Tickets are available [here](#)

### Notes to Editors

- 1. The Royal African Society Annual lecture 2016** takes place at 1 Wimpole Street, London on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016. A reception will take place from 6pm. President Adesina will deliver his lecture at 7pm.
- 2. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina** is a distinguished development economist and agricultural development expert with 25 years of international experience. Adesina has held a number of high-level roles including at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and in the Food Security division of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York. He has received international recognition for his leadership and work in agriculture, and in 2010 was appointed by the UN as one of 17 global leaders to spearhead the Millennium Development Goals. During his service as Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (2010-2015), he implemented bold policy reforms in the fertilizer sector and pursued innovative agricultural investment programs to expand opportunities for the private sector. Now at the AfDB, the priority areas for his five-year term as president include growing the private sector for industrialization and wealth creation, jobs for youth and women, rural economies for inclusive growth and regional integration.
- 3. Zeinab Badawi, a distinguished broadcaster and the Chairperson of the Royal African Society**, was born in the Sudan but moved to London at the age of two. Zeinab studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University and a Masters Degree (awarded with distinction) on Middle East History and Anthropology at London University. Zeinab is one of the best known broadcast journalists working in the field today. In 2009 she was awarded international TV Personality of the Year by the Association of International Broadcasters, and in 2011 was named in Powerlist 2012 (published by Powerful Media) as one of Britain's top 100 most influential members of the black community. Her current work includes interviewing on Hard Talk for BBC, which features some of the best known personalities in the world.
- 4. The Royal African Society** is a membership organisation that fosters a better understanding of Africa in the UK and throughout the world. Our goal is to promote Africa globally in the spheres of business, politics, academia, arts and culture. We disseminate knowledge and insight to make a positive difference to Africa's development and celebrate the diversity and depth of African cultures. [www.royalafricansociety.org.uk](http://www.royalafricansociety.org.uk)

### Press Contact:

Dele Meiji Fatunla,  
Head of Communications,  
[df13@soas.ac.uk](mailto:df13@soas.ac.uk)  
0203 073 8318