

Dr. Vijaya Ramachandran

Director for Energy and Development | [@vijramachandran](#)



About

Dr. Vijaya Ramachandran is an economist whose research focuses on economic growth, private sector development, food security, and energy infrastructure, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa. She has three decades of experience in public policy and academia. She is a member of the FCDO-CDC Learning and Evaluation Committee (UK) and a non-resident fellow at the Energy for Growth Hub and the Center for Global Development. Her work has been cited over 1K times by academic sources since 2016 and by over fifty media outlets, including *The Economist*, National Public Radio, and Quartz Africa.

Background

- Ph.D., Business Economics, Harvard University
- Senior Fellow, Center for Global Development
- Senior Economist, World Bank
- Assistant Professor, Georgetown University
- Assistant Professor, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University

Recent Publications

Why the Climate Panic About Africa is Wrong | *Foreign Policy Magazine*

Dr. Ramachandran and Energy for Growth Hub's Executive Director, Todd Moss, push back on the "climate panic" hampering energy development in Africa. Wealthy Western nations often frame the projected economic and infrastructure growth of developing countries as a scenario that will worsen climate change while minimizing their more significant role. To read the full article, [click here](#).

Blanket Bans on Fossil-Fuel Funds Will Entrench Poverty | *Nature*

Dr. Ramachandran wrote a response to seven European countries joining the US and other European countries in pledging to stop funding for coal, gas and oil projects in poor countries. This blanket ban has the potential to entrench poverty in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa, but does little to reduce the world's carbon emissions. To read the full article, [click here](#).

Rich Countries' Climate Policies Are Colonialism in Green | *Foreign Policy Magazine*

In Dr. Ramachandran's *Foreign Policy* essay she explains why rich nations' demands for green energy from developing countries are hypocritical — stifling energy development while furthering their own reliance on external energy providers like Norway — the second-largest natural gas supplier to Europe. To read the full article, [click here](#).

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Recent Publications Cont.

COP26: Instead of Lectures to India, West Needs to Pay Up | *The Times of India*

Joined by Sandeep Pai, Senior Associate at Center for Strategic and International Studies, Dr. Ramachandran authored a critical piece ahead of COP26 telling urging financial rich Western nations they need to pay up if they hope to transition India's energy system. The Times of India is the nation's largest newspaper, with more than 27 million readers. To read the full article, [click here](#).

Economic Growth in Africa Will Not be Achieved by a Blanket Ban on Fossil Fuels | *The Hill*

Dr. Ramachandran writes about the need for investment in some types of fossil fuel projects in Africa, in order to make them more energy and food secure and lift their populations out of poverty. To read the full article, [click here](#).

Breakthrough Portfolio

Analysis | The Rich World – Not Sub-Saharan Africa – Needs to Lead on Decarbonization

Dr. Ramachandran wrote a response to seven European countries joining the US and other European countries in pledging to stop funding for coal, gas and oil projects in poor countries. This blanket ban has the potential to entrench poverty in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa, but does little to reduce the world's carbon emissions. To read the full analysis, [click here](#).

Analysis | Convergence, Development, and Energy-Intensive Infrastructure: Getting Africa to High-Income Status

While the US, Europe, and Asia have seen decreases in farming production with the rise of agriculture productivity, Africa is still experiencing low agricultural growth. For Africa to become more food secure, it will need to invest in agriculture technologies such as fertilizer and irrigation. To read the full analysis, [click here](#).

Statement | Response to Biden Administration's New Guidance on Fossil Fuel Energy Investment in Developing Economies

Dr. Ramachandran issued a statement on the Biden Administration's guidance on fossil fuel energy projects undertaken by the multilateral development banks, which provide financing for economic development projects in low and middle-income countries. To read the statement, [click here](#).