DEVELOPMENT POLICY FORUM

The global debate on development

AFRICA
PROGRESS AND PITFALLS

Summer 2014

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THE DEVELOPMENT POLICY FORUM

The Development Policy Forum (DPF) is a global partnership launched by the leading think-tank *Friends of Europe* in recognition of the growing need for a credible and non-partisan platform for the debate and analysis of development policy issues. The aims of the DPF are to:

- raise awareness of development issues among a wide constituency of decision-makers;
- bridge the gap between insightful knowledge and well-informed policy-making;
- combine world-class research with active and constructive engagement with the development policy community
- promote dynamic debates on future policies online and live, ensuring that different views are represented.

DPF brings together a number of crucial development actors:

The Development Policy Forum welcomes over 1000 participants per year from all around the world. Its audience includes much more than representatives from international institutions, the EU and its Member States. Several private sector organisations and NGOs have also participated in the DPF activities.

The Development Policy Forum is an important platform for stimulating and spurring global debate on key development challenges

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Policy Insight, 5 November 2014

CHALLENGE OF HEALTH IN EMERGING ECONOMIES
Policy Insight, 19 November 2014

PUBLICATIONS

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AFRICA PROGRESS AND PITFALLS
Fact sheet, Summer 2014

INVESTING IN AFRICA: THE CHALLENGE OF AGRICULTURE
Fact Sheet, Spring 2014

EUROPE SHOULD FOCUS ON 'OPPORTUNITY AFRICA'
Op-ed, Spring 2014

CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH CHANGING EDUCATION
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AFRICA
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Africa is increasingly attracting attention for its economic buoyance and success in reducing poverty and is now viewed as an opportunity rather than a challenge, panellists told a *Friends of Europe*'s Development Policy Forum Africa Summit on 24 June.

The continent's economies grew at an average of 5.2% a year between 2003 and 2011, and eight of the 10 fastest-growing economies in 2012 were African. This is slowly but surely translating in to a new Europe-Africa relationship based on eqaulity. EU aid is still important for Africa but funds are also pouring into the continent from foreign investors, remittances as well as better domestic tax collection. Europe needs to change its traditional relationship with Africa based on aid, while contributing in new ways and still helping efforts to maintain peace and security where needed.

"Today is the time to finally unleash Africa's huge and unrivalled potential," said Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development. "In recent years I have noticed strong willingness among African leaders and citizens alike to change the perception of Africa. They want Africa to become a continent of opportunity and success rather than a land of starving children and poverty."

At the same time, the continent faces ongoing challenges. Home to the world's youngest and fastest-growing population, Africa potentially has the labour force it needs to boost production and consumption. But that requires the creation of million of jobs.

There are currently 500 million Africans of working age, said Vincent Biruta, Rwanda's Minister of Education. By 2040 that figure will rise to 1.1 bn. "This is a daunting prospect," he said. "Our country needs to invest to turn our youth into a skilled workforce."

One important goal is a workforce that can operate in a knowledge-based economy rather than just agriculture. Until recently, Africa has tended to focus on university education, but it now requires greater emphasis on primary education and basic skills, Biruta said. "We need to make sure that education meets the needs of the labour market."

Generating new jobs requires moving beyond many African countries' dependence on natural resource wealth, which makes them potential victims of the so-called "resource curse". Under this, resource-rich countries sometimes fail to develop an economic infrastructure – such as skills and the rule of law – because they can, for the time being, live off the export of resources.

LOW PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS

Foreign investment in Africa rose from $5bn in 2000 to $55bn in 2010, including significant investment in manufacturing and services. But Africa still lags behind Asia and Latin America in its participation in global value chains, which allow developing countries to develop areas of expertise and specialisation.

Around 60% of global trade is based on intermediate goods, as companies produce components and product parts for use in manufacturing processes in different locations, said Mario Pezzini, Director of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Centre. "Africa is without doubt in the global value chain," he said. "The challenge is to increase its participation in the new opportunities."

RESILIENCE

Overall, said Hiroshi Kato, Vice President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Africa needs to become more inclusive and resilient. "Inclusiveness means nobody gets left behind, and no country must be left behind," he said. That could be helped by developing regional integration and infrastructure, as well as promoting numeracy and literacy, which are conditions for effective participation in society.

Resilience means being able to withstand unexpected setbacks, from economic downturns to natural disasters. "The current African economic outlook is very good," he said, "but we must be prepared for shocks."

AFRICA: PROGRESS AND PITFALLS

Africa is increasingly attracting attention for its economic buoyancy and success in reducing poverty, and is now viewed as an opportunity rather than a challenge, panellists told *Friends of Europe*'s Development Policy Forum Africa Summit on 24 June.

The continent's economies grew at an average of 5.2% a year between 2003 and 2011, and eight of the 10 fastest-growing economies in 2012 were African. Average growth in Africa is projected to be close to 5% in 2014 and 5%-6% in 2015, according to the 2014 African Economic Outlook (AEO) – a report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Centre, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme launched at the meeting.

"Today is the time to finally unleash Africa's huge and unrivalled potential."

Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development

Funds are pouring into Africa from foreign investors and remittances, providing opportunities to participate in global value chains (GVCs) and making overseas aid relatively less important. And African governments are increasingly focussing on the business environment in their countries. The transformation means the relationship between Europe and Africa needs to be set on a more equal footing.

"Today is the time to finally unleash Africa's huge and unrivalled potential," said Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development. "In recent years I have noticed strong willingness among African leaders and citizens alike to change the perception of Africa. They want Africa to become a continent of opportunity and success rather than a land of starving children and poverty. More than ever, Africa is taking its destiny in its own hands while Europe is ready to remain Africa's steadfast and reliable partner to make its vision a reality."

However Africa faces huge challenges if it is to realise its potential. Despite improved human development and economic opportunities since 2000, safety and the rule of law have declined on average, according to a widely used index. And Africa continues to suffer from conflicts such as those in the Central African Republic, Mali, South Sudan and Somalia. Famines, pandemics and climate change also present constant threats. Moreover, inequality is rife, with a steadily rising number of people living in extreme poverty.

The AEO's economic forecasts are premised on a strengthening world economy and improvements in stability in African countries currently affected by conflicts. But if the global economy remains weak, or if political and social tensions within Africa improve less than assumed, growth will be lower than projected, the AEO said.

AFRICA AND EUROPE

Structural problems include a lack of industrial competitiveness in many places, leaving the continent reliant on the exploitation of raw materials, said Andreas Proksch, Director General for Africa at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). "For sustainable growth, you need also a productive industry, and Africa is still very much lagging behind in the production of goods and services," he said. Inequality is also a problem. "We all know that inequalities lead to criminality and to an unstable society, and so this is a major point of concern," Proksch said.

"For sustainable growth, you need also a productive industry, and Africa is still very much lagging behind in the production of goods and services."

Andreas Proksch, Director General for Africa at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Europeans wanting to help Africa need to rethink the role of traditional development cooperation, as its importance is diminishing while that of remittances and direct investment is rising, Proksch said. "We have always said that development cooperation should be a temporary issue, so if it's declining that's healthy," he said. "But it means on the other hand that our role is declining as development partners. We have to accept that we need to build a new partnership with Africa, based less on a donor-recipient relationship. Each European country has to be very open and honest about its interests in Africa, its strategic position and its economic relationship. Over the next 10 or 20 years, we will see a shift in our relationship with Africa to economic cooperation, and perhaps also to military, and political relationships."

Piebalgs said development cooperation would still be important, but that it would be targeted a bit differently in the future, it could take the form of grants and investment, for example. "In my opinion, development aid actually plays an even more important role now," he said. "Before it was part of a survival strategy. Now it's part of a development strategy."

SECURITY

Europeans need to be mindful of the great variety of conditions in Africa when adapting their strategy, said Koen Vervaeke, Director for the Horn of Africa, East and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region at the European External Action Service (EEAS). "We talk a lot about Africa, but it's not a very homogeneous continent," he said. "It is important to make distinctions and adapt our relationship according to the countries. Some are moving ahead very quickly. Some still have a long way to go. Some are being drawn into conflicts."

"We talk a lot about Africa, but it's not a very homogeneous continent."

Koen Vervaeke, Director for the Horn of Africa, East and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region at the European External Action Service (EEAS)

EEAS dealings with Africa are taking on a growing variety of aspects, as the relationship shifts to one of co-responsibility, he said: development aid is declining but there are other financial flows throughout Africa. "It's the basis for a much sounder relationship, but we have to adapt our headquarters and also our delegations on the ground," Vervaeke said.

In addition, the EU is cooperating in security in countries such as Somalia, South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Mali. "These conflicts might mostly be

national now, but they all have important regional implications," he said, including the danger that they might strengthen extremist movements across national borders. "We have to work hard to avoid this, and this is exactly what we are doing now."

As African economies grow, African governments are taking greater responsibility for reducing poverty, while Europeans are increasingly interested in the business opportunities that come from the continent's fast growth, Vervaeke said. "It's clear that part of our growth will have to come from development on the African continent."

Elliot Pfebve, EU Representative of MDC Zimbabwe, asked whether the EU is reengaging with Zimbabwe. Vervaeke replied that the policy is for gradual re-engagement. The EU had interrupted its development cooperation because the Zimbabwe government did not respect the values and principles on which it was based, but the EU had continued to support the Zimbabwean people. Following the elections last year, there is now a prospect of a return to normal cooperation. "Zimbabwe needs to continue on the path of reform," he said. "Economic reform in particular, but also political reform."

JOBS AND TRADE

Home to the world's youngest and fastest-growing population, Africa potentially has the labour force it needs to boost production and consumption and fuel a sustained economic expansion. But that requires the creation of millions of jobs, without which the population boom could instead threaten social instability.

Generating new jobs requires moving beyond the natural resource wealth that many African countries still rely on, and which makes them potential victims of the so-called "resource curse". Under this, countries sometimes fail to develop an economic infrastructure – such as skills and the rule of law – because they can, for the time being, live off the export of resources.

To succeed, Africa needs in particular to expand its efforts in education and the business environment, without which its growing number of young people

will struggle to find work. Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni, Secretary General of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, cited a report saying that African economies need growth with "depth" – where D stands for diversification, E for export competitiveness, P for productivity, T for technology and H for human well-being.

> "African economies need growth with "depth" – where D stands for diversification, E for export competitiveness, P for productivity, T for technology and H for human well-being."
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> Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni, Secretary General of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Group of States

MORE GLOBAL PARTICIPATION NEEDED

Changes in international trade could help make Africa's economies stronger. Foreign investment in Africa rose from $5bn in 2000 to $55bn in 2010, including significant investment in manufacturing and services. But Africa still lags behind Asia and Latin America in its participation in global value chains.

"East Asia's economic take off has to a large extent been due to the participation in global supply and value chains. Can this be replicated in Africa?"

Shada Islam, Director of Policy at *Friends of Europe*

GVCs have emerged thanks to new communication technologies and lower transport costs. They allow developing countries to acquire fields of expertise and specialisation and have been an important driver of global growth. "East Asia's economic takeoff has to a large extent been due to the participation in global supply and value chains," said moderator Shada Islam, Director of Policy at *Friends of Europe*. "Can this be replicated in Africa? And if it can, how can it be done? What are the structural tasks ahead for African governments in order to do this?"

In a GVC, international firms optimise their sourcing strategies by trading components several times, spanning many countries. At each stage, some form of value is added, presenting opportunities for local businesses, job creation, technology diffusion and new public revenues – all of which can potentially accelerate industrialisation. Today, 80% of global trade is linked to multinational corporations and 60% of global trade in goods is in the form of intermediate products, according to the AEO.

"Africa is currently handicapped by insufficient regional integration and connectivity."

Mario Pezzini, Director of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Centre

"Global value chains offer new opportunities for structural transformation in Africa," the AEO said. "Instead of industrialising bottom up and building up all the sectors required to participate in competitive markets, developing countries can integrate into global value chains at a specific stage by catering specific skills or products to international production networks."

Many countries start growing economically by producing natural resources, but gradually reduce their dependence on them, said Mario Pezzini, Director of the OECD Development Centre. Developing countries are gaining share every year in the market for intermediate goods by stepping into the value chain, he said.

"Africa is without doubt in the global value chain – but with the production of natural resources, at the beginning of the chain," he said. "The challenge is to increase its participation in the new opportunities and participate in further phases of production."

One task is to convert the benefits of a few firms integrating globally into economy-wide gains: often activities linked to GVCs are isolated from the rest of the economy and few linkages develop. "The challenge for policy makers is to maximise economy-wide opportunities while at the same time creating the optimal environment for the value chains with the greatest potential," the AEO said.

There is, in fact, little alternative to such a model if Africa's young people are going to find work, Pezzini said. Public sector jobs can contribute, but the ability of African governments to generate the tax revenues needed to pay for these is limited. "There is a need for more state spending to provide public services, but this will never be enough to absorb the growing youth population," he said.

Investment and growth need large, multinational markets. Rwanda, for example, is a small country with a population of just 12 million people and so does not provide a big market for new businesses. "People there know that in order to build a sustainable, scalable business, they need to look into Burundi, into Uganda, into eastern DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo)," said Julienne Oyler, Founder and Managing Director of the African Entrepreneur Collective (AEC). "They are looking for much more of a regional approach than just what they are finding in their communities."

But Africa is currently handicapped by insufficient regional integration and connectivity. It is expensive to transport goods between different countries, Pezzini said – "much higher than between developed countries and higher even than between developed countries and African countries." Part of the problem is a lack of hard infrastructure, such as roads. Other issues include public administration that often requires frequent controls of goods on the way from central Africa to the coast.

"Goods in Africa are very often commodities and have a low value added per kilogram," Pezzini said. "Therefore transport matters a lot. African goods are often fresh and need to be delivered quickly. They could be sold on the biggest market in the world, the European market, but the European market increasingly requires just-in-time delivery."

Most African countries don't have the funds to improve their infrastructure, however, because governments find it hard to raise revenue through taxation. OECD governments have fiscal revenues averaging 37% of gross domestic product (GDP), and developing countries such as Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay have similar percentages. But in Africa, while some countries have 30%, the large majority of countries are at around 15% or 20%. "There is an enormous need to improve the capacity to raise taxes for any type of policy, either for social inclusion for increasing productivity," Pezzini said. "This is a prior requisite for any collective action in Africa."

THE NEED FOR AN ENTERPRISE CULTURE

Employment presents Africa with a number of different challenges, said Oyler. In middle-income countries jobs exist, but they are not being filled by the university graduates that are coming out of the education system. These countries actually have higher unemployment rates than some poorer countries, where on paper jobless rates are low. “In these countries, people can't afford not to have a job,” she said. “So they have jobs in subsistence farming. They have micro enterprises, selling phone credits for example. In these places there is a real opportunity for interventions to create better jobs – to create non-vulnerable employment.”

The challenge in such countries is to raise people’s skills so that they can create viable businesses, starting with a single entrepreneur or a team of two, and then growing into larger companies. “We need to do a better job as an international community of supporting business development,” she said. “How do we manage people? How do we hire the right staff? How do we become a company that's investment-ready on an international scale? How do we identify market opportunities?”

“Creative growth capital needs to be patient and affordable.”

Julienne Oyler, Founder and Managing Director of the African Entrepreneur Collective (AEC)

One way is through small and medium enterprise (SME) funds that provide growth capital. “Creative growth capital needs to be patient and affordable,” Oyler said. “Instead of getting working capital, at high interest rates and with high collateral expectations, we can provide capital leasing, where the asset actually becomes the collateral. That way we can reduce the barriers to accessing financing.” That can be done in combination with services that help businesses grow, such as business development firms. Social entrepreneurs can also help, finding ways to make money and improve their communities at the same time.

Dan Awendo set up Investeq Capital Limited, Kenya, 10 years ago, after he noticed that large corporations and micro enterprises had ways to access funding, but that in the middle, SMEs had insufficient funding opportunities. So he developed services that were not offered by the banking community, he said – such as solutions based on cash flow and the trade cycle, in order to finance firms that could not put up collateral. A lot of new SMEs are providing infrastructure development services to governments and government agencies, so he started pushing Kenyan government institutions to provide prompt payment to SMEs to help their cash flow.

"The banking system in Africa was primarily developed by banks that came from the West with a model that had worked in the West."

Dan Awendo, Director for the Horn of Africa, East and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region in the European External Action Service (EEAS)

"If you are focusing on collateral requirements, you will never be able to access this capacity," Awendo said. "So you have to think of ways and means of developing solutions that are around the cash flow and the trade cycles that they have."

Trading products to another country can involve burdensome financial arrangements, he said. Often, the seller will require a letter of credit from the

buyer, and will insist that this be backed by a European or American bank rather than a local one. However, the bank might insist on secured collateral to issue the letter of credit. "Now you are bringing in a third party entity that is Triple-A rated but is taking revenue from trade happening between Kenya and Uganda," he said. "That is a significant frustration for an SME that is trying to deliver product in a cost-effective manner."

Africa needs more locally managed financing to solve this kind of problem, Awendo said. "The banking system in Africa was primarily developed by banks that came from the West with a model that had worked in the West," he said. "This makes it impossible for local nuances to be taken into account when developing solutions for an SME somewhere in Kenya. So we continuously look for new funding opportunities to provide support for SMEs at the ground level."

Traditional ways of allocating finance are still a big problem, said Rapelang Rabana, Founder and CEO of Rekindle Learning, South Africa. "There is a huge gap in providing financing between $10,000 and $200,000," she said. "There is lots of stuff happening in microfinance and there is lots of stuff in the private equity sector, but in that middle stage, there is still very little."

Another challenge for African entrepreneurs is to focus more and become leaders in a particular field. "They tend to have their fingers involved in many different ventures," she said. "Being a really strong focused entrepreneur is a different mentality. Micro-entrepreneurs seek every opportunity they can, but businesspeople have to reach a higher level of sophistication."

International mentors can help. "One of the challenges for growing businesses is how to find and manage people, and that's helped by access to peer networks

"Being a really strong focused entrepreneur is a different mentality. Micro-entrepreneurs seek every opportunity they can, but businesspeople have to reach a higher level of sophistication."

Rapelang Rabana, Founder and CEO of Rekindle Learning, South Africa

and business relationships," Oyler said. "We are trying to connect local African entrepreneurs with technical and functional mentors from Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the US."

The European Union is trying to help in some of these areas with a number of new initiatives, said Françoise Moreau, Head of Unit in the European Commission Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation (DEVCO) - EuropeAid. One example is help with regional integration. "Of course, integrating into the global value chain is important," she said. "But integrating into regional value chain is also important and the EU is involved in trade facilitation and other areas in which can help."

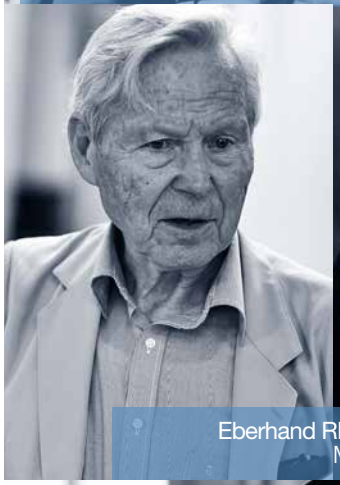
"Our central policy goal is to increase the inclusiveness of growth, in particular in job creation."

Françoise Moreau, Head of Unit in the European Commission Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation (DEVCO)-EuropeAid

In the past the EU's policy towards the private sector was to help create a business friendly environment. Now the EU is supporting CSR initiatives too. "We are going one step further, in promoting the role of the private sector in fostering inclusive and sustainable growth," she said. "Our central policy goal is to increase the inclusiveness of growth, in particular in job creation." A business programme on the margins of the EU-Africa summit in April showed the potential common ground between the aspirations of the private sectors in both Africa and Europe, she said.


Claudia Garman, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and **Marco Di Benedetto**, European External Action Service


Abiodun Afolabi, Total, **Ariane Meunier**, Ministry of Finance, Belgium **Eric Sattin**, European Commission and **Ivan Hermans**, United Nations Population Fund (UPF)



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Emiko Nishimura, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), **Elliot Pfebve**, MDC Zimbabwe and **Sally Nicholson**, WWF


Victoria Dove Dimandja, Justice and Liberty for Congolese Women and **Faustin Musare**, Mission of Rwuanda to the EU


Sara Andegiorgis, European External Action Service (EEAS) and **Aiichiro Yamamoto**, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

GETTING CONNECTED

Access to the internet and telephone networks has been a big problem in Africa, though this is another area of recent progress. In South Africa, some 40% of internet penetration is done via mobile phones, said Rabana. “But we still need a great deal more investment to ensure wider Internet access, even in rural communities,” she said. “It's critical, because as an internet entrepreneur, the reach defines the maximum size of my market and I desperately need that market to grow a great deal faster.”

“All of us sitting here today share a lot of good intentions, but they will not reach most of those people because they have no access.”

Louis Onyango Otieno, Director of Microsoft 4Africa

Connectivity could be boosted by new, low-cost technologies. “All of us sitting here today share a lot of good intentions, but they will not reach most of those people because they have no access,” said Louis Onyango Otieno, Director of Microsoft 4Africa, a unit of Microsoft set up to develop non-traditional solutions. “So we need to continue with these ideas, but also recognise the investment that we need to make in ICT access.”

To enable more people to buy smart phones, Microsoft has worked with hardware vendors to create a lower cost “Africa phone”. This will contain just one or two radios, rather than the 30 or so that typical smart phones have. That also means it will use less power, which is important for people who can’t recharge the battery whenever they want to. More sophisticated spectrum management will reduce the amount of power used by the network. “Because you need less power, you can actually use solar power,” he said. “So, suddenly you are able to provide broadband in remote locations.”

To implement such new ideas, Microsoft 4Africa focuses on three criteria. First, the scheme must be relevant: it must aim to solve an issue, such as broadband access.

Second, it must be sustainable. Microsoft takes the risk by putting up the initial funding and demonstrating the plan’s viability. It then works with local partners, who help install the infrastructure and test new technologies. Microsoft’s core business does not, for example, take in connectivity, so eventually it will get out of the venture. “So what does it look like when we get out?” Otieno said. “During that pilot phase, we are also seeking new business and government models that will sustain the plan.”

One pilot involved a dark spot in Kenya. Microsoft had been thinking initially about the benefits of connectivity for schools and a dispensary. But over nine months, 44 different entities heard about the plan by word of mouth and said they wanted it – including a wildlife conservatory, a flower farm and the local government. “They all jumped in to say: ‘This makes a difference to us,’” he said. “It's an opportunity for governments and other people to learn. And then we need to formalise policies and other things to make it sustainable.”

Third, the ideas must be scalable across Africa. “We are doing the impact assessment work, but we need you to come with all your resources so as to have a real impact in Africa,” he said.

Perhaps simpler, 2G-based communications such as SMS could be used instead of 3G or the mobile Internet, especially outside urban areas, suggested Jake Nelson from the United States Mission to the European Union.

SMS is used in financial services, for example to give transaction notifications, said Rabana. There is also an SMS-based project to raise literacy levels: "Certainly 2G technologies, SMS and basic calls have much more ubiquitous reach." However the biggest impact will likely come from 3G-based services, she said: "We will see much more value coming from that in the long term."

THE CONTRIBUTION OF RESOURCE INDUSTRIES

Even if Africa needs in future to be less dependent on natural resources, these still account for 80% of African exports, said Abiodun Afolabi, General Secretary for Africa at Total. "We believe that our role as a responsible, long-term partner in Africa is also to encourage local employment and the promotion of local content," he said.

Total has a workforce of 10,000 in Africa, and its operations create jobs for many others, he said. Though it cannot, of course, generate employment for everybody, it could help to boost industrial capacity. It is also helping develop education, by providing scholarships.

Total sees this kind of CSR (corporate social responsibility) programme as business – and not just an obligation it has to society. "It serves us to work and to be in an environment that is growing and that is vibrant," he said. "Africa today represents not only a source for a resource that we export, but also a market for our retail business."

Consumption of energy is also essential for development, Afolabi said: "For a good part of the day in Africa, the lights go out and business goes out. Access to energy is clearly going to be a factor that will take Africa to the next level."

A recent Total exercise is aiming to maximise the local content in the company's projects. Traditionally, local content kicks in at the peak time for investment in an oil or gas project. But this peak is often very short, so local industries are not prepared and miss the opportunity.

In Uganda, Total carried out an industrial survey to show the anticipated future demand for a project when it eventually goes into development. "We have done this way upstream, so that people have an idea of what's coming," he said. "Then they can prepare themselves, ensure they have the necessary skills in place and ensure that the government knows that this potential revenue is coming."

"For a good part of the day in Africa, the lights go out and business goes out. Access to energy is clearly going to be a factor that will take Africa to the next level."

Abiodun Afolabi, General Secretary for Africa at Total

The exercise was carried out so as not to have too much focus on the headline investments, which are often technologically challenging. "Through this we try to see what will bring the greatest returns over time," Afolabi said. "And sometimes this isn't the big platforms. Sometimes it's what we call the operating expenditure, which generates regular returns to the country over a long period of time."

Some of Africa's natural resources have gone relatively unnoticed, said Aiichiro Yamamoto, a research fellow at *Friends of Europe* who is also the representative to the EU of JICA, the Japan International Cooperation Agency. In addition to oil and minerals, Africa has abundant trees, plants and herbs, which can add value if they are put into the proper value chains, in products ranging from soap to honey. "I think Africa should use more of this kind of natural resource from rural provinces in order to create more jobs and opportunity," he said.

EDUCATION FOR THE WORKPLACE

Education is essential to give young Africans the tools to find work. There are currently 500 million Africans of working age, said Vincent Biruta, Rwanda's Minister of Education. By 2040 that figure will rise to 1.1 bn. "This is a daunting prospect," he said. "Our countries need sound investments in education and skills development to make sure that we turn our youth into a skilled workforce that will drive development in their respective nations."

> "Our countries need sound investments in education and skills development to make sure that we turn our youth into a skilled workforce that will drive development."

Vincent Biruta, Rwanda's Minister of Education

Rwanda is now giving greater emphasis than in the past to the development of vocational skills that will enhance competitiveness and employability, and it is involving the private sector in this project. "We are in the process of developing strategies for linkages of the private sector with our learning institutions," Biruta said. "This linkage is needed to ensure a clear match between the skills we are developing and the skills needed in the labour market."

Rabana said that instead of focussing just on getting a job, young people should be encouraged to be creative – to design their own solutions and develop attitudes of experimentation and risk taking. "I believe that both educational institutions and businesses need to evolve to meet the very different learning needs of the millennial generation," she said – "the generation that has grown up with mobile and Internet technology."

This generation expects rapider access to information; more social, collaborative learning; and more informal learning experiences. That, Rabana said, means using mobile phones in education and training, as mobile phones have reached more people than any other device known so far. They are particularly useful for ensuring knowledge retention, so that learners can store in their long-term memories the contents of a corporate training session or school classes. "Personalised, comprehensive and timely feedback is one of the simplest things we can do using mobile phones to support learning," she said.

"We need to make sure that the African development and growth is resilient in the face of unexpected shocks."

Hiroshi Kato, Vice President of JICA

Rwanda is trying various programmes to help students take the step between learning and business, Biruta said. The government is asking polytechnics and institutions of higher learning to establish business incubation centres, where students can receive help translating their ideas into businesses through business plans.

Girls' access to education was a problem in the past, but Rwanda has been achieving good results in primary and secondary education, where more girls than boys are now enrolled, Biruta said. In higher education, however, programmes such as technology, engineering and mathematics are still dominated by boys, who make up 72% of the students. So the country is trying to make it easier for girls to join such courses. "They need to be able to be admitted to those programs to see that they are meant for girls as well, and not only for boys," he said.

In business too, women face barriers that men don't, said Oyler. To obtain financing, people often need to provide collateral, and the one thing that is viewed as collateral is often land. "So in many countries, where women can't have the deeds to land, they are excluded from financial services," she said. "There are actually a lot of institutional policies that make it more difficult for women business owners to grow."

That's not the case in all countries though. In Kenya, women can have real estate in their own names and can put it up as collateral for financial institutions, said Awendo: "So we have seen a tremendous involvement of women in entrepreneurship."

Overall, said Hiroshi Kato, Vice President of JICA, Africa needs to become more inclusive and resilient. "Inclusiveness means nobody gets left behind, and no country must be left behind," he said. Like Europe, Japan too is helping promote regional integration in Africa, through projects in areas such as infrastructure development and border management. It is also promoting numeracy and literacy, which are conditions for effective participation in society.

Resilience means being able to withstand unexpected setbacks, from economic downturns to natural disasters, which Japan has more experience with more than Europe. "The current African economic outlook is very good," he said. "But we need to make sure that the African development and growth is resilient in the face of unexpected shocks."

EUROPE AND AFRICA

Current relations between the EU and much of Africa are conducted under the partnership between the EU and the ACP (the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group) – a group of countries that aim to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. However, the Cotonou Agreement between the EU and ACP will come to an end in 2020.

Mumuni said that, beyond 2020, the EU and ACP should continue their relationship, as the ACP is the largest coalition of poor and less-developed countries. But the new arrangement should be in a different form from the current one, which is based on a traditional model of north-south development cooperation. “The mandate of the ACP is still very relevant,” he said. “We share

common history and are bound together by certain core values. We should find a way to reconfigure it, reinvent it and adapt it to fit the contemporary world situation.”

Piebalgs said the time has come for Europe to leave behind the traditional donor-recipient relationship in its work with Africa, and for the two continents to develop a shared long-term vision. “Ours is a partnership of mutual interests,” he said. “When terrorist activities spread in Africa or migration flows become unmanageable, they threaten Africa and Europe alike. Likewise, when Africa’s growth increases or inter-African trade expands, the opportunities for both Africa and Europe are evident.”

ANNEX I – Programme

SESSION I DEVELOPMENT POLICY FORUM
Developing a new transformation agenda

Africa's new "tiger economies" are helping to transform international perceptions of the continent. The first decade of the 21st century saw an unprecedented growth spurt, with six African countries in the world's ten fastest-growing economies. Europe is therefore waking to a new vision of Africa, one in which its own trade and investments are slipping behind those of Asian and Latin American competitors. To stay relevant in an era of volatile geo-politics, Africa-Europe relations will have to become more strategic, political and geared to tackling 21st Century challenges, including climate change, human trafficking and pandemics.

Despite the rhetoric, how ready is the EU to embrace a new “Africa rising” narrative? Have Europe and Africa begun work on a new transformation agenda to tackle Africa’s many peace and security, as well as economic and social challenges? Can Africa and the EU thrash out a new trade relationship given disagreements over the Economic Partnership Agreements under negotiation? Can the EU do more to encourage regional integration in Africa? Are Europe and Africa working together to deal with rising inequalities in Africa? Are best practices on tax collection being shared and exchanged?

Andris Piebalgs	EU Commissioner for Development
Hiroshi Kato	Vice President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Andreas Proksch	Director General for Africa at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Alhaji Muhammad Mumuni	Secretary General of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Group of States
Koen Vervaeke	Director for the Horn of Africa, East and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean at the European External Action Service (EEAS)

Moderated by Shada Islam, Director of Policy at *Friends of Europe*

SESSION II DEVELOPMENT POLICY FORUM
Freeing Africa from the natural resources trap

With Foreign investments in Africa are on the rise, climbing up from $5bn in 2000 to $55bn in 2010 and forecast to hit $150bn by 2015. The good news is that minerals and hydrocarbons account for no more than a third of the total, with investment in manufacturing and services rising fast. Hopes for a wave of industrialisation in Africa are being fuelled by the introduction of technologies and mobile telephone while advances like 3-D printing may soon promote manufacturing operations that generate jobs.

But Africa lags far behind Asia and Latin America as regards participation in global value chains which allow developing countries to develop specific skills and products for participation in international production networks. What role could such global value chains play in Africa's economic development? What can be done to promote Africa's role in such networks? What are the key elements of a successful strategy for participating in such production chains? How can these production chains boost the modernization of African agriculture and promote agri-businesses? Are there any African success stories that can be replicated in other countries?

On the occasion of the European launch of the African Economic Outlook 2014, jointly published by the AfDB, OECD Development Centre and UNDP.

Mario Pezzini	Director of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Centre
Abiodun Afolabi	Secretary General for Africa at Total
Françoise Moreau	Head of Unit in the European Commission Directorate - General for Development and Cooperation (DEVCO)-EuropeAid

Moderated by Shada Islam, Director of Policy at *Friends of Europe*

SESSION III DEVELOPMENT POLICY FORUM
Demographic dividend or curse?

Estimated at about one billion today, Africa's population is expected to more than double by mid-century. This contrasts with the fact that the continent's economy is worth only $1.6 trillion a year is in purchasing power terms representing a small 2.5% of the world economy. Africa also has the youngest population in the world.

The key question for Africa's policymakers is whether - like many Asian governments - they can convert this runaway population growth into a true demographic dividend by providing employment and economic opportunities to young people. Failure to do so can lead to social unrest, political strife, immigration and a rise in extremism. Agriculture can provide jobs in Africa but is too-often neglected by governments and development partners. What policy agendas and educational strategies are needed to take advantage of Africa's expanding workforce? What can be done to improve job generation in Africa, especially in the agriculture, services and manufacturing? What is being done to improve the skills and talents of young Africans?

Dan Awendo	Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Investeq Capital Limited, Kenya
Julienne Oyler	Founder and Managing Director of the African Entrepreneur Collective (AEC)
Rapelang Rabana	Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Rekindle Learning, South Africa
Vincent Biruta	Rwanda Minister of Education
Louis Onyango Otieno	Director of Microsoft 4Africa

Moderated by Shada Islam, Director of Policy at *Friends of Europe*

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