

SUMMER 2016

# TIME FOR PEACE

## EUROPE'S CHALLENGE IN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

REPORT

Development Policy Forum (DPF)



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# INTRODUCTION

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In today's interdependent world, developments in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and in Sub-Saharan Africa have a direct impact on Europe, whose policies in turn also impact the people and governments in these regions.

"The strong connection between Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, is visible today in the so-called refugee crisis," noted [Shada Islam](#), Director of Europe & Geopolitics at Friends of Europe. "Extending peace to our southern neighbourhood must be a European priority."

The migration crisis facing Europe is a result of increasing instability and ineffective policies on both continents, said [Koen Vervaeke](#), Managing Director for Africa at the European External Action Service (EEAS). "We are faced with a clear opportunity for Europe and Africa to adopt an approach of shared responsibility. The migration crisis is a reflection of our shared interest in peace, stability, and growth."

"To find solutions for peace and development in Africa and the Middle East, we must understand the root causes of the problems," said [Ahmed Galal](#), Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum (ERF) and Egyptian Finance Minister (2013-2014). "Historically speaking, these regions have been plagued with bad politics, bad economics, and more than their share of violent conflicts."



**"The strong connection between Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, is visible today in the so-called refugee crisis. Extending peace to our southern neighbourhood must be a European priority."**

**Shada Islam,**  
Director of Europe & Geopolitics  
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Service (EEAS)

Tackling these issues means supporting democratic movements and reforms, with a focus on combatting political corruption and crony capitalism; encouraging entrepreneurship, innovation, and youth employment; and addressing the root causes of extremism, instead of responding to extremist violence with more of the same.

Global trends in development and cooperation over past decades have been quite positive, noted **Alexander De Croo**, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation.

Over the last 25 years, 800 million people have been lifted out of extreme poverty, child and maternal mortality have been cut in half, and 2.2 billion people have gained access to clean drinking water. While these trends are positive overall, they have not been equally applied everywhere in the world, with emerging economies such as India, China, and Brazil improving the lives of their citizens through commerce, trade, investment, and more open societies.



“While we are seeing a convergence of positive advances in the world, we cannot say that it is because of the classic definition of development cooperation,” he said. “We are not seeing the same progress in Sub-Saharan Africa as we find in the world’s emerging economies.”

Though Africans are younger and more educated than ever before, they still struggle to find work, with youth unemployment figures in Sub-Saharan Africa estimated to be around 60%. If properly managed, this youth bulge can be a force for good.

Without jobs, however, this underemployed demographic could be a threat to social cohesion and political stability and be more likely to be recruited by extremist groups. “Development and security cannot be separated,” Islam said.

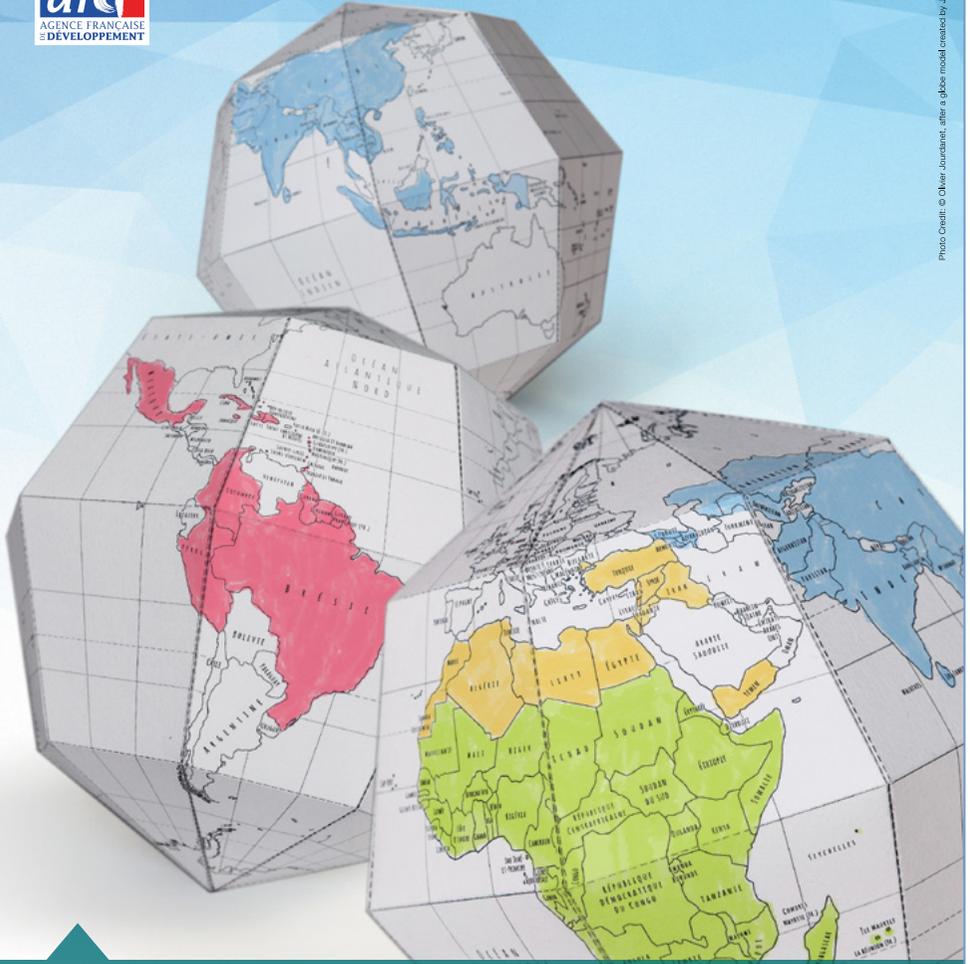
“Insecurity and a lack of opportunities make people vulnerable,” stressed De Croo. “Young people in Africa are seeking to find their place as co-builders of

**“Young people in Africa are seeking to find their place as co-builders of society.”**

Alexander De Croo,  
Belgian Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister of Development  
Cooperation

society.” Civil service and politics have always been paths to having an impact on society but in recent years, possibilities in entrepreneurship have arisen to allow young people more of a say in the makeup of their societies.

The role of governments, civil society, and business leaders in Europe, MENA, and Sub-Saharan Africa is to promote employment and entrepreneurship in Africa and the Middle East, noted [Dan Awendo](#), Founder and Chairman of Investeq Capital and Managing Director of Homa Afrika, Kenya. “As it stands, there are not enough structures in place to help young entrepreneurs. We must make our governments aware of the obstacles to entrepreneurship and create policies to support our youth.”



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# RETHINKING THE DONOR-BENEFICIARY RELATIONSHIP

## A NEW DEVELOPMENT PARADIGM FOR AFRICA

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With increasing innovation, technological creativity, and opportunities for economic growth coming out of the so-called 'developing' world, the meaning of globalisation has shifted in development circles. At the same time, the EU's perspective for supporting peace and development in the Middle East and Africa is changing.

"The north-south view of development is outdated because we are all countries in development," said De Croo. "We no longer talk about 'development aid' but 'international development'. This puts the stress on the benefits of international relationships."

"We are beginning to see a new wave of public demand, particularly among young people, for government accountability on the African continent," noted [Rotimi Olawale](#), Chairman of the African Youth Panel.

As access to education increases alongside mobile connectivity, young Africans are becoming more active in calling for democracy, employment opportunities, and inclusive governance, as seen in the 2015 student protests against rising university fees in South Africa and the 2014 Burkinabe uprising against then-President Blaise Compaoré's attempts to amend the constitution and remain in power.

Inclusive governance on the continental level is improving, Vervaeke said, adding that this inclusivity is essential to making societies more resilient and creating opportunities for people to stay in Africa and live better lives.

Looking ahead, the EU and its partners in Africa and the development community need to focus on three elements: a genuine economic diplomacy; streamlining internal and external EU policies on energy, climate change, research, trade, and commerce; and building on shared interests.

To these ends, Vervaeke stressed that the African Union (AU) should become a stronger voice for the continent and that the EU will continue to work closely with its African counterpart on peace and security issues.

“The AU is probably the best thing to happen to the African continent,” he concluded. “We would like to see its members assume more ownership of the AU and recognise that greater integration at the regional and continental level is key for the development of the continent.”



**“We are beginning to see a new wave of public demand, particularly among young people, for government accountability on the African continent.”**

**Rotimi Olawale,**  
Chairman of the  
African Youth Panel



# UNDERSTANDING AND CONFRONTING SECURITY ISSUES

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In order to find lasting solutions for peace in the MENA region, the different actors involved must understand the root causes of the region's insecurity, Galal stressed, namely bad politics, bad economics, and regional conflicts.

Historically, the bad politics of the region have been characterised by the authoritarian bargain model, whereby authoritarian leaders promise state spending and economic handouts to the population in exchange for fewer political rights and implicit support for the authoritarian regime.

However, the role of the state has been in decline in MENA countries, with average public spending plummeting from 60% of GDP in the 1960s to 30% by 2000. The resulting dissatisfaction among the shrinking middle classes in the MENA countries eventually led to the Arab Spring and the various conflicts in the region.

Furthermore, though growth rates in MENA countries over the past decades were on average 5%, bad economic management exemplified by crony capitalism and rampant corruption among both authoritarian leaders and the post-Arab Spring democratic leaders has contributed to growing inequality.

"The benefits of economic growth in our region have for too long gone to friends of the regime," Galal said.



**“We need to find employment for our young people and break them out of their routines so that they are less vulnerable to extremist rhetoric.”**

Hella Grichi,  
Young Arab Voices debater

“Those with privileged access to our leaders encourage an economic system that benefits the few above the many.”

Finally, he noted that MENA has had more than its fair share of regional conflicts, some of them ongoing and with no end in sight. As they continue, refugees will continue to pour out of conflict areas into neighbouring countries and further afield into Europe and beyond.

Creating future development plans for the MENA region means first taking steps to resolve the political, economic, and security challenges as a whole. “There is no magic solution waiting to be discovered by economists,” he concluded. “It is more about what economic advice politicians adopt. A country’s politics should serve the nation first. If not, the leaders serve only their own interests.”

Bringing peace to MENA and addressing the terrorist threats within and coming out of the region requires a multidimensional approach, noted [Ali Zeddini](#), 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Vice-President of the Tunisian League for Human Rights (LTDH), specifying 5 areas that need to be considered:

1. Fighting against marginalisation and exclusion;
2. Reforming educational systems in post-conflict countries;
3. Fostering culture and art;
4. Providing young people with employment and possibilities for leisure activities, particularly in areas without internet, and;
5. The security dimension – fighting against ISIS and other perpetrators of terrorism.

In many cases, young people in MENA are coaxed into becoming fighters simply because they do not have a

positive outlook on the opportunities available to them, stressed **Hella Grichi**, Young Arab Voices debater, a joint project of the British Council and the Anna Lindh Foundation which fosters youth-led debate to enrich the pluralistic democratic dialogue existing in the Arab world.

“Policymakers and leaders need to focus on improving our countries’ economies,” she said. “We need to find employment for our young people and break them out of their routines so that they are less vulnerable to extremist rhetoric.”

“To prevent violence, we need quality education and skills,” noted Olawale. “In recent years in MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa, opportunities for higher education and vocational training have grown but the quality of this education is still lacking.”

After having spent billions of euros through development and investments in MENA, there is a prevailing sense of disappointment in the EU about the outlook for stability in the region, noted **Sergio Piccolo**, Adviser on the Southern European Neighbourhood Policy at the European Commission Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations.

“It is important to remember when we talk about education, skills development, entrepreneurship, stability, democracy, and so on, that these measures take time,” he stressed. “One cannot create miracles overnight.”

He underlined that the EU’s single market – whose birth occurred under the stable political and economic conditions currently lacking in many MENA countries – took thirty years to implement.



**“It is important to remember when we talk about education, skills development, entrepreneurship, stability, democracy, and so on, that these measures take time.”**

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**“The EU membership process is interesting for democratisation. The EU’s offer to the Southern Mediterranean countries has never been attractive enough. There is a need for a new formula.”**

**Adem Kumcu,**  
President of UNITEE – New European Business Confederation

“The mantra in the discussion we are having with our partners in the MENA region is democratic legitimacy and human rights,” he added. “This is not simply rhetoric but a firm and integral part of the stabilisation and peace process.”

Having leaders with democratic legitimacy means a longer perspective for government intervention and greater trust between leaders and domestic and international interlocutors – civil society, investors, development agencies, and so on.

Following the 2004 enlargement, the EU’s neighbourhood policy adopted a single methodology to countries to the east and south of Europe. In recent years, however, policymakers have accepted that each country requires an individual approach based on mutual understanding and basic EU values.

“You cannot say that whatever happened in Tunisia can be copy-pasted in Yemen or elsewhere, you have to consider the specificities of each country,” Zeddini stressed.

In order to stimulate the relationship between MENA and the EU, policymakers should consider the example of EU-Turkey relations, noted **Adem Kumcu**, President of UNITEE – New European Business Confederation.

“The EU membership process is interesting for democratisation,” he said. “We see that the promise of Turkey joining the EU did wonders for the country, while the EU’s offer to the Southern Mediterranean countries has never been attractive enough. There is a need for a new formula.”



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# A STRONG CIVIL SOCIETY

## AN ESSENTIAL PARTNER FOR STABILITY AND PEACE

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**“Tunisia’s strong and resilient civil society has been crucial to our young democracy, but we have yet to fix the problems that sparked the revolution.”**

**Ali Zeddini,**  
2015 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and  
Vice-President of the Tunisian League  
for Human Rights (LTDH)

“The transition to a democratic system is a process that takes time,” Grichi said. “We need patience, hard work, and a focus on grassroots problems. In Tunisia, as elsewhere, these are unemployment, poverty, and education.”

Citing the example of Tunisia’s successful – if difficult – democratic transition, Zeddini stressed the key role played by the country’s strong civil society, which filled the power vacuum left behind by fleeing dictator Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali.

“Tunisia’s strong and resilient civil society has been crucial to our young democracy,” Zeddini said, “but we have yet to fix the problems that sparked the revolution. To achieve true peace and stability, we must address the underlying economic and social problems in our countries.”

Thanks in large part to Tunisia’s civil society, elections were held quickly following the Arab Spring and a new constitution drafted. However, the new government led by the Ennahda Islamic Movement was soon confronted with a population dissatisfied with the lack of attention given to the economic and social issues that sparked the Tunisian Revolution.

Once again, Tunisian civil society representatives, led by four organisations – The Tunisian General Labour Union, The Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade,



and Handicrafts, The Tunisian Human Rights League, and The Tunisian Order of Lawyers – stepped in to monitor the national dialogue and lead government, constitutional, and election processes, eventually being awarded the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts.

“Politics is the root of the problem,” Galal stressed. “When politicians are not held accountable for their actions, they tailor the rules to suit their ends and enrich themselves and their cronies. Citizens and civil society in Tunisia and, to a lesser degree Egypt, worked to enforce accountability in politics.”



## JICA's Initiatives

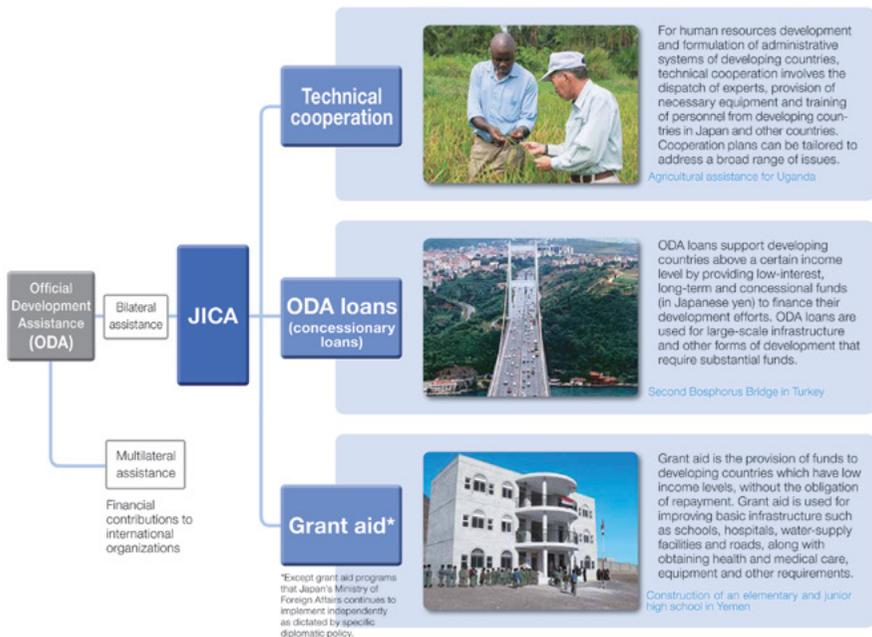
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# REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND TRADE IS THE KEY TO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

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In MENA and sub-Saharan Africa, the lack of infrastructure and continuing conflicts discourage regional trade, which accounts for 12% of total trade on the continent. “When we discuss trade in Africa, we are always limited to external trade,” said De Croo. “If you want development in Africa not dependent on resource extraction, the key is intra-African trade.”

Many African economies are based on agricultural production and resource extraction, which are then exported to manufacturing countries outside of the continent. “We have cocoa producers, but no chocolate makers,” stressed Olawale. “What we want is to create and maintain complete value chains in Africa. Our partners in Europe and elsewhere should support this.”

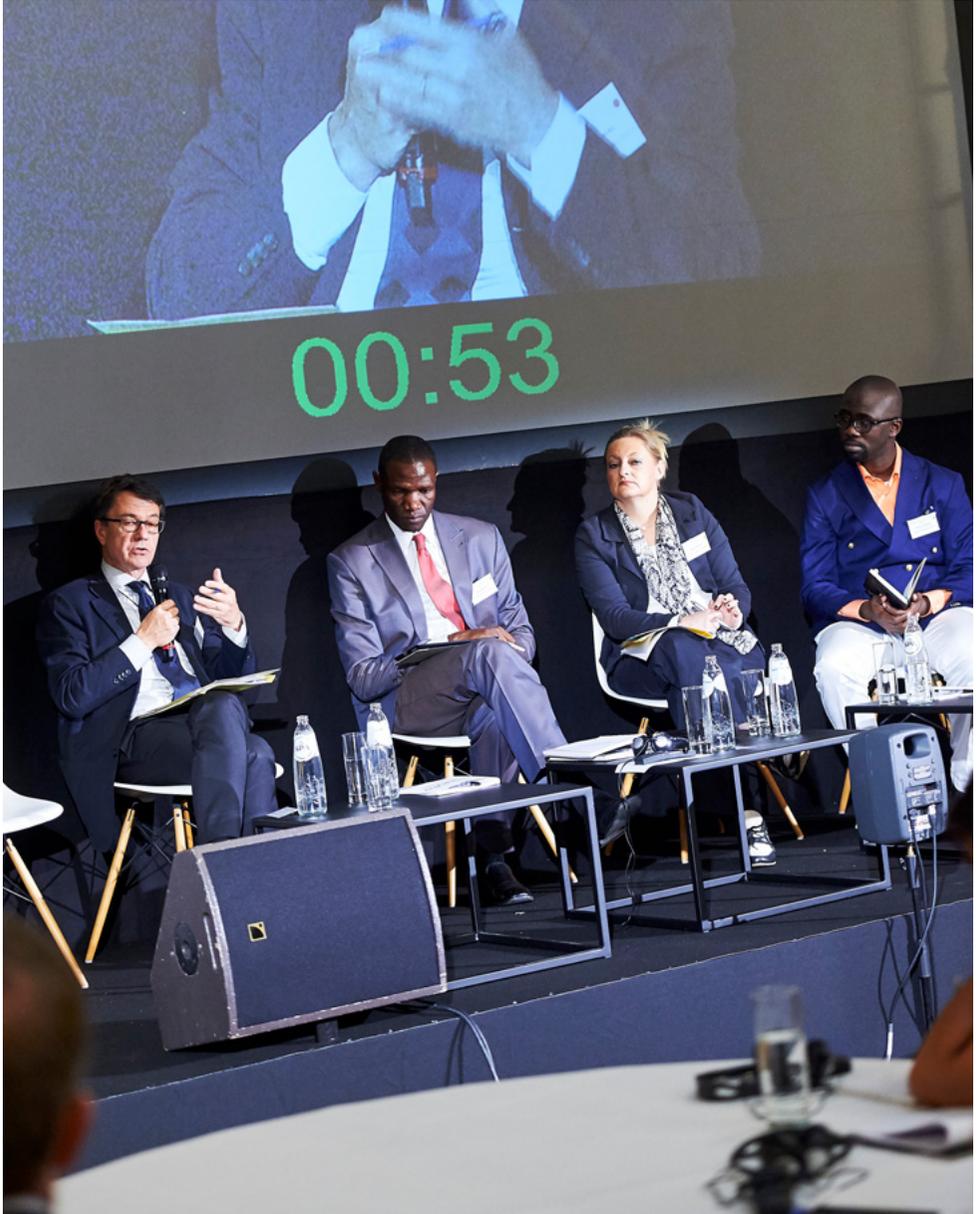
The dearth of intra-African trade is a big problem for African countries lacking roads, railways, manufacturing and processing plants, and so on, Awendo said. In addition to such investments in hard infrastructure, many African countries also suffer from a lack of soft infrastructure such as administrative services, payment facilities, and financial support for entrepreneurs.

“Free trade is not just about obstacles, it is a more fundamental process,” Galal noted. “If you want free trade agreements, you have to do something new



**“If you want free trade agreements, you have to do something new for regional integration. In MENA right now, one easy and strong step forward would be liberal mobility agreements.”**

Ahmed Galal,  
Managing Director of the  
Economic Research Forum (ERF)  
and Egyptian Finance Minister  
(2013-2014)



for regional integration. In MENA right now, one easy and strong step forward would be liberal mobility agreements.”

Africa’s heterogeneity offers opportunities for infrastructure development and regional integration and the EU, with its experiences in regional integration in Benelux and the Union as a whole, can help provide expertise and financial support.

Countries such as Rwanda that have relatively strong domestic governance remain isolated from global and continental trade in part because of its weak and conflicted regional situation. Strengthening and stabilising neighbouring countries in Central Africa such as Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo should be a priority for leaders in the region and international partners.

“If you want to trade with your neighbours, you have to trust them,” said Piccolo. The EU is currently working with its African partners to promote transparency, fight corruption, and create tools – such as electronic bank transfer systems – with a view towards improving regional trade and boosting economic growth.

# SUPPORTING AFRICAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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Africa's youth bulge offers opportunities for growth if properly managed and signs coming from the continent are positive. With initiatives such as Africa RISING, Smart Africa, and One Network Africa, there has been a surge in recent years of cross-border initiatives aimed at digital innovation, creativity, and economic growth in various sectors.

Looking at the developing world, technology is the main vector for growth, noted De Croo. "Today, globalisation is really happening," he said. "We increasingly see the creation of technology and added value coming from all over the world." The economic opportunities available to Africans in technology are also opportunities for investment coming from outside the continent.

The development and dissemination of mobile technology in Africa is a good example of sustainable development, profitable business, and opportunities for international cooperation. It is interesting to note that technological development is being led primarily by private rather than public investment, with governments being expected to create the political and legislative stability needed for growth.

"Job creation should come from a mixture of policies," Grichi said. "More jobs in the public sector are needed but governments, civil society, and private actors must come together to support entrepreneurship, particularly among young people."





**“Entrepreneurs and investors must do more to engage with governments to make them aware of obstacles to business and craft modalities and policies aimed at helping entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses.”**

Dan Awendo,  
 Founder and Chairman of Investeq  
 Capital and Managing Director of  
 Homa Afrika, Kenya

Entrepreneurship in Africa has a difficult context, noted Awendo. Investing in startups and SMEs is expensive and many investors are reticent about investments smaller than \$250,000, leaving many aspiring entrepreneurs without access to capital.

Access to bank loans is a huge problem for small-scale entrepreneurs in many African countries, leading many young entrepreneurs to have to depend on friends and family for starting capital, Olawale underlined.

Furthermore there are not enough structures in place to support young entrepreneurs, with long and complicated bureaucratic processes for licensing and payment, as well as corruption, slowing down the process and costing time, money, and effort that would be best put into developing economic activities.

“Entrepreneurs and investors must do more to engage with governments to make them aware of obstacles to business and craft modalities and policies aimed at helping entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses,” stressed Awendo.

Some countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Zambia, and South Africa, have set up funds to help launch companies and encourage business growth, but often these funds are too limited. For example, the Kenyan government’s fund for capacity building for SMEs amounts to only \$10m in a population of 44m. The EU and other international partners could help by providing matching funds, he said.

The ease of doing business is improving as well, though there remains much to be done, noted Olawale. Some countries, such as Rwanda, are starting to encourage young people to start businesses by, for example,



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Bank**

*The EU bank*

The EIB is the European Union's bank. As the largest multilateral borrower and lender, the EIB provides finance and expertise for sound and sustainable investment projects. Owned by the 28 EU Member States, the Bank has been supporting the implementation of EU policy objectives through the projects it finances since its establishment in 1958.

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### Lending Beyond Europe

The EIB is uniquely placed to transfer knowledge and experience from its European operations to developing countries. Outside the EU, the EIB supports the EU external priorities. It is mainly active in pre-accession countries and in the neighbouring countries to the South and East. The Bank also operates in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, Asia and Latin America. It provides finance and technical assistance for local private sector development, social and economic infrastructure and climate action projects.

Some key figures from last year:





**“We find that businesses and investors in Europe are interested in Africa but they need a soft landing zone to help them identify local constraints and fight them.”**

Heike Rüttgers,  
Head of Division for  
Development & Impact  
Finance at the European  
Investment Bank (EIB)

creating online business registration processes that have cut down the time needed to register a business from several weeks to 1 or 2 days.

Kumcu, whose organisation represents 15,000 entrepreneurs with immigrant backgrounds in Europe, noted that members of various diasporas are interested in returning to their home countries to start business ventures but are hesitant owing to the lack of transparency, corruption, weak legal frameworks, and lack of institutions, government support, and investors in Africa and MENA.

“In general, we see that diaspora business leaders in Europe want to remain engaged in their countries of origin but when they experience the difficult situation on the ground, they are reluctant,” he said.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is searching for new and innovative ways to support African entrepreneurs,



scale up its involvement, and increase its impact on the ground, noted [Heike Rüttgers](#), Head of Division for Development & Impact Finance at the EIB.

“If we continue with what we have been doing and simply scale up our current activities, it will not be enough,” she said. “So we are working with the European Commission and our other partners to develop new modes of financing and support for African entrepreneurs.”

In partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the EIB is set to launch Boost Africa in 2016, an initiative that aims to use blending instruments and new investment vehicles to provide catalytic financing in the entrepreneurship value chain where currently there is only a small amount of capital available.

Boost Africa aims to connect seed funds, business incubators, and other initiatives in Africa that support

innovative business models with European investors and SMEs to combine small-scale efforts with large-scale capacity building.

“The idea is also to foster relations with European SMEs,” she said. “We find that businesses and investors in Europe are interested in Africa but they need a soft landing zone to help them identify local constraints and fight them.”

“Where solutions are coming from Africa, they should be supported,” Awendo stressed. To this end, joint venture solutions are important to developing a better business climate. Initiatives such as Boost Africa that link existing startups in Africa and partners in Europe are essential not only in that they can provide financing but also through two-way knowledge-sharing that is a result of mentoring and direct contact between entrepreneurs.

“What the EIB is trying to do differently than in the past is to intervene in a space that International Financial Institutions generally avoid because of the high risk,” Rüttgers said. “Financing startups is the riskiest business in the world but we are building on our common experiences to achieve win-win partnerships between Africa and the EU.”

The success of the Boost Africa initiative can be seen in the investment conferences set up by the EIB and its partners. In a change from the many high-level conferences in this area, these investment conferences focus on connecting entrepreneurs and SMEs from each continent with each other. The next one will take place on 21 November in Abidjan.



# UNITED NATIONS IN BRUSSELS



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



International Labour Organization



IOE • OiM



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UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



United Nations DPKO/DPIDR



UN WOMEN



UN CDF



UN DIP

Empowered Lives. Resilient Nations.



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



UNFPA



UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency



UNICEF



UNICRI United Nations International Crime and Justice Research Centre



UNIDO



UNISDR The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



UNRIC United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe



UNOPS



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# CONCLUSION

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“We cannot say that the world’s problems come from the south and the solutions to these problems from the north,” concluded De Croo. “In the north, we have our fair share of problems and sometimes some solutions. In reality we are a whole world in development.”

As governance improves on the African continent, the EU’s role in development aid is shifting towards a more egalitarian partnership with countries in Africa and the Middle East. A common perspective on shared interests such as conflict resolution, economic growth, and technological innovation is replacing the outdated donor-beneficiary relationship.

“Before we see development, we must work together to deal with the conflicts plaguing the MENA region,” stressed Galal. “We have to remember that countries in political and economic transition need time to mature.”

Indeed, the EU’s enlargement process to Central Europe took over a decade to bring the democratic process up to the level of the Western members. With the Arab Spring only 5 years in the past, stability and peace in the region is an ongoing process.

Further regional integration in MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa can be a strong force for development and security but it is not a goal in itself, he said. “We must not lose sight of our goals – economic prosperity, liberal democracy, and social justice. We would like to use regional integration as a tool to achieve these goals.”



For the future, the EU and its partners in Africa and the Middle East must focus on two tasks: improving security in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, Nigeria, and elsewhere; and also supporting economic growth, job creation, and entrepreneurship.

“Security and growth are in the forefront of the EU’s long-term relationship with Africa,” concluded Vervaeke. “We know we need to do more and are looking forward to the next EU-Africa Summit and beyond.”

# ANNEXES

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# PROGRAMME

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WEDNESDAY, 1 JUNE

## SESSION I

### MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

FIVE YEARS ON, WHERE  
IS THE PEACE?

With the exception of Tunisia, the uprisings associated with the Arab Spring have either been thwarted by dictators and monarchs or led to civil war and anarchy. Countries in the region can learn from Europe's experience in reconciliation between adversaries, conflict management and resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. Europe must also promote the economic and political development of the Middle East and North Africa through trade, investments, job creation, education and skills-development

- What can the EU do at the cultural, political and security level to tackle the root causes of war and instability in the region?
- How important is forging a comprehensive regional strategy for peace and economic development in North Africa and the Middle East?
- What is being done to foster long-term economic development and governance reform in the two regions?

Introductory remarks

**Ali Zeddini** 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Vice-President of the Tunisian League for Human Rights (LTDH)

Speakers

**Ahmed Galal**, Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum (ERF) and Egyptian Finance Minister (2013-2014)

**Hella Grichi**, Young Arab Voices debater

**Sergio Piccolo**, Adviser on the Southern European Neighbourhood Policy at the European Commission Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

Moderation

**Shada Islam**, Director of Europe & Geopolitics at Friends of Europe

## SESSION II

## AFRICA

ENOUGH WITH THE  
TALK, WHERE ARE THE  
JOBS?

Despite considerably higher levels of education, the youth of Africa is struggling to find work. Youth unemployment in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to be over 20%. Failure to create sufficient economic and employment opportunities to support decent living conditions for young people will turn this region's "youth bulge" into a significant risk and threat to social cohesion and political stability. And jobless young people are also more likely to be recruited by extremist groups. Cross-border digital initiatives such as "Smart Africa" and the "One Network Area" and new big-data tools can play a vital role in encouraging investment and job creation.

- Would jobs and development at home help to quell the number of young immigrants seeking to leave home or being recruited by radical groups?
- Are governments doing what is needed to create employment in rural communities as well as rapidly expanding urban centres?
- What is being done to encourage innovators and entrepreneurs to develop new transformational technologies, including in growth areas such as telecommunications, mobile banking and payment systems?

## Introductory remarks

**Alexander De Croo**, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Postal Services

## Speakers

**Dan Awendo**, Founder and Chairman of Investeq Capital and Managing Director of Home Afrika, Kenya

**Rotimi Olawale**, Chairman of the African Youth Panel

**Heike Rüttgers**, Head of Division for Development & Impact Finance at the European Investment Bank (EIB)

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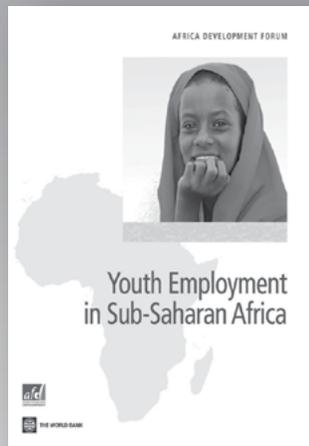
## Moderation

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

# More Productive Jobs for Africa's Youth Are Vital for the Region's Economic Progress

## Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa

High fertility and declining mortality rates have led to a very young population in most Sub-Saharan African countries. The region's labor force is expected to increase by 11 million people per year over the next 10 years. While the younger generation is better educated than their parents, they often lack the means to translate that education into productive employment. Today, most work is in nonwage jobs on farms and in household enterprises. Even if greater economic activity were to create the conditions for robust growth and economic transformation, the private modern wage sector in low- and lower-middle-income countries could not absorb all the applicants.



Africa Development Forum

**Paperback; 280 pages**

**ISBN: 978-1-4648-0107-5; US\$34.95**

**Download PDF** (English or French):

<http://bit.ly/AfricaYouth>

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***Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa*** notes that many youth employment challenges are problems of employment in general. The report:

- **brings** together original analysis of household and labor force survey
- **reviews** the experience of a number of promising interventions across the continent
- **draws** from quantitative and qualitative studies in several countries; and it surveys the most up-to-date evidence from rigorous evaluations of policies and programs
- **focuses** on how to improve the quality of all jobs and to meet the aspirations of youth
- **emphasizes** that building a strong foundation for human capital development can play an important role in boosting earnings
- **argues** that a balanced approach focused on building skills, raising productivity, and increasing the demand for labor is necessary
- **provides guidance** to policy makers on how to intervene along two dimensions—human capital and the business environment—and in three priority areas—agriculture, household enterprises, and the modern wage sector.



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