

14TH INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM ON AFRICA

SUMMARY RECORD

By Africa, for Africa? Industrialisation and Integration for Inclusive Growth



6 OCTOBER 2014

Organised by the
OECD Development Centre



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8:00-9:00 Registration

9:15-10:00 Introductory remarks

Introductory words by: **Ángel Gurría**, Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Opening keynote speech:

Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson, African Union Commission

10:00-12:00 Opening Session - Africa's economic transformation: Achievements and challenges

Panellists: **Mo Ibrahim**, Founder and President, Mo Ibrahim Foundation
Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Mario Pezzini, Director, OECD Development Centre
Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson, African Union Commission

Moderator: **Shada Islam**, Director of Policy, Friends of Europe

12:00-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 Session 1 - Improving Africa's access to global and regional markets

Panellists: **Amadou Bâ**, Minister of Economy and Finance, Senegal
Moustapha Ben Barka, Minister attached to the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, responsible for Investment Promotion and Private Sector, Mali
Mohamed El-Kettani, President, Attijariwafa Bank
Nialé Kaba, Minister Delegate for Economy and Finance, Côte d'Ivoire
Kako Nubukpo, Minister to the President for Long-term Strategy and Public Policy Evaluation, Togo
Ayodele Odusola, Chief of Strategy and Analysis, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Moderator: **Lanre Akinola**, Editor, "This Is Africa", Financial Times

Questions and answers

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-17:00 Session 2 - Bridging the urban-rural divide: The territorial policy challenge

Panellists: **Kordjé Bedoumra**, Minister of Finance and Budget, Chad
Noël Akossi Bendjo, Mayor, City of Abidjan-Plateau, Côte d'Ivoire
Bruno Losch, Research Director, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD, *Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement*)
Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union Commission
Abdoulaye Sène, President, Global Local Forum

Moderator: **Serge Michel**, Senior reporter, Le Monde

Questions and answers

17:00-17:30 Closing

Moussa Mara, Prime Minister, Mali
Romano Prodi, Former UN Special Envoy for the Sahel

Moderator: **Mario Pezzini**, Director, OECD Development Centre



“By Africa, for Africa?” *Industrialisation and Integration for Inclusive Growth*

OPENING SPEECHES

The 14th International Economic Forum on Africa was inaugurated by OECD Secretary-General, Angel Gurría. It was the first time that the OECD joined forces with the African Union as co-organiser of the event, through the OECD Development Centre and Gurría emphasised the OECD’s commitment to engaging with the region and strengthening partnerships.



In his speech, Angel Gurría addressed salient issues such as the **sweeping changes the African Continent is enduring**, characterised by the youngest population in the world, a rapid urbanisation process, new categories of consumers and the spread of mobile technologies. The region is opening up to development opportunities, citizens’ demand for quality jobs are rising, public services are improving and governments are becoming more accountable. These changes are transforming African economies and societies for good. **Against this backdrop however, severe**

risks and uncertainties persist, as many African countries remain vulnerable to volatile commodity markets, climate change, conflict, and the risk of epidemics.

A wider range of reforms can and should bring about economic transformation in Africa, enabling the continent to fully benefit from global value chains. Trade facilitation¹ and skills development should also be prioritised and the specific innovative policies required to promote this objective remain a key question. The OECD’s work on Global Value Chains emphasises the changing nature of trade and investment. The division of production of goods and services across countries offers opportunities for firms to specialise in specific tasks rather than creating the whole product from scratch.

Global value chains however exhibit high regional concentration and Africa does not play a significant role yet. We speak of “factory Asia”, but not yet of “factory Africa”. Around 85% of trade in value added takes place within the regional blocks of East Asia, Europe and North America and Africa’s share remains marginal, increasing from 1.4% in 1995 to only 2.2% in 2011.

Tapping into expanding African markets would be a beneficial way of ameliorating the situation as intra-African exports exhibit higher levels of value-added than exports to the rest of the world and intra-regional trade in Africa is only 12% in contrast to over 50% in developing Asia.² Markedly African exporters have stronger economic links with the rest of the world than with their neighbours.

In conclusion, Secretary-General Angel Gurría reiterated the OECD’s continued determination to help policy-makers improve the well-being of African people. His key message was that African development strategies will

¹ AEO 2014. 75. Our estimates suggest that a comprehensive trade facilitation reform would lower trade costs by as much as 17% in Sub-Saharan Africa http://www.oecd.org/tad/facilitation/Sub-Saharan-Africa_OECD-Trade-Facilitation-Indicators.pdf

² AEO 2014. 75 and UNCTAD http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/aldcafrica2013_en.pdf



need to be inclusive and multi-sectorial, and be tailored to Africa's geography, paying particular attention to the fast-changing, dynamic links between cities and rural areas. Gurría discussed the numerous instances of the OECD's renewed engagement with African countries and institutions. Last year, Prime Minister Duncan of Côte d'Ivoire requested that the OECD help design his country's national strategy to become an emerging economy by 2020. President Macky Sall of Senegal asked for support to implement the *Plan Sénégal émergent*, while the Prime Minister of Togo requested the OECD's assistance in designing a more effective education and training system. The Development Centre has embarked on the Multi-Dimensional Review of Côte d'Ivoire, the first in Africa, and the other projects are on schedule. The Centre is also partnering with the Economic Commission for Africa and its sister organisation in Latin America, ECLAC, to review and compare experiences in structural transformation strategies in both regions.

In her address, **Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mrs. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma outlined the historic milestones that have laid the foundations for Africa's development since the turn of the new millennium.** The 21st century has seen the establishment of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and the creation of the African Union (AU). More recently, the Agenda 2063 set out a fifty-year vision to achieve an integrated, peaceful and prosperous continent.



Central to the Agenda 2063 is the need to transform agriculture, step up industrialisation and improve physical and technological infrastructure while at the same time ensuring good governance and inclusive well-being and growth. Chairperson Zuma spelled out specific sectorial production targets that would fulfil the "Pan African aspirations" –*inter alia*. These included increasing intra-regional manufactured goods trade by 50%; adding value and mineral beneficiation of 30-40% of African raw materials through targeted sectoral and commodities strategies and raising the share of manufacturing to 20-30% of the continent's GDP.



Remaining focused on practical issues will be crucial to making substantial strides. Chairperson Zuma suggested that boosting productivity and adding value to food products can be achieved through more aggressive interventions in agro-processing. She argued that the continent requires assistance in addressing areas such as scaling up institutional capacity, expanding best practices and improving linkages between the mining sector and the rest of African economies (as advanced by the African Mining Vision).

The two leaders expressed their confidence that the signature of the OECD-AU Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will advance work on many of the underlying issues to African development that they discussed, particularly through the OECD Development Centre policy dialogue clusters and products.

OPENING SESSION - AFRICA'S ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Industrialisation is a central pillar of the structural transformation agenda for many African countries. The promotion of new, more productive activities – including manufacturing and the processing of natural resources – aims to accelerate the creation of jobs and lead to improved living standards. On the back of steady economic performance, African economies seem in a better position now than in previous decades to realise that vision. What have we learned from the industrial policies of the past? How much progress has been achieved over the last decade? Where are new industrial strategies implemented? And what are the next essential moves to succeed in implementing them?

Africa has the potential to develop at an accelerated path, but questions on economic transformation arise: in particular, how to accelerate and deepen transformation, which policies to put in place and how to tackle inequality and provide decent jobs to the youth in the context of this transformation?

A first key aspect concerns governance. Africa is moving forward in terms of governance in recent years, but more slowly in the last five years than during the previous five-year period.



The Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF) provides an annual assessment of the quality of governance in African countries. The MIF combines over 100 variables which were aggregated into 95 indicators encompassing four key aspects related to the delivery of public services: security and rule of law; economic peace; human development, and human rights.

Until recently, economic growth was thought to be the main driver of the relatively rapid improvements in governance in Africa. Conversely, in recent years governance is motivated by greater civic participation and human rights. We must welcome the fact that 13 out of the 54 African countries show wide-reaching gains, having improved in overall governance and in the political, social and economic dimensions over the past five years. The recent period has been marked by the end of some conflicts that can explain this trend. Some of the best performing countries in terms of progress in governance include post-conflicts countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Niger. Nevertheless, current advances in Africa's governance are relatively sluggish compared to those associated with higher economic growth in the region in the past.

In general, this year's top five governance performers (Mauritius, South Africa, Cabo Verde, Botswana and Seychelles) continue to do better than other African countries, without making great strides over the last five years. In addition, the past decade has seen a changing nature of conflict: wars across borders are on the decline since the 1990s, while intra-state conflicts are more frequent due to the marginalisation of certain groups of people, religion and ethnic tensions, as well as inequality. These could constitute challenges for further improvements in governance in the concerned countries.





Modern economic growth without quality job creation raises the question of which industrial policies can truly help Africa consolidate economic transformation.

The issues of economic transformation and industrialisation are widely mentioned in global fora, as underlined by Carlos Lopes. This notion is increasingly “accepted” within international organisations, which use to focus on diversification as the preferred engine of growth.

As a matter of fact, Africa has witnessed deindustrialisation, losing 2% of its total manufacturing share in the last decade, which has raised the issue of how the continent can benefit better from natural resources. For instance, a major percentage of some of the vital components of smartphones and tablets such as coltan come from Africa, but the region gets very little in return in terms of benefits. Africa cannot continue exporting jobs.



To support economic transformation and industrialisation, development policies across Africa should be country-specific and oriented to the internal market. Therefore, green economy and “smart protectionism” (especially in natural resources-related activities) can help Africa to develop.

Africa is home to 60% of the world cocoa but does not produce chocolate. Successful integration into value chains allows a country to seize a bigger share of the benefits of production. The OECD Development Centre can provide useful insights and advice, as it analyses experiences from different countries. According to Mario Pezzini there is a need to learn from experiences in other African countries, and other regions, for example by providing financial services and resources to small and medium firms. The OECD Development Centre can be useful in this process allowing for more equal dialogue between actors.

Africa is very fragmented and shows little coherence across entities or cooperation platforms. This raises the question on what strategy to adopt: a regional strategy, a continental strategy?

The African single market needs to be deepened. This could be a beneficial and achievable way to develop rather than fostering other kinds of complex integration processes, which may lead to uneven development processes across countries. Mo Ibrahim underlined that the lack of progress in this domain is partly an issue of accountability of governments, which often sign agreements that do not necessarily translate into concrete results. Integration is currently higher in certain sub-regions than in others: East Africa is “more integrated” than North Africa, even if the latter’s trade share is larger. There is an emerging trend toward a single African market, mainly owed to the lack of national regulation (e.g. financial and telecom sectors). But the overall level of integration remains far from the desired goal. Therefore, a mix of political will and of market forces may be needed.

SESSION 1: IMPROVING AFRICA'S ACCESS TO GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS AND REGIONAL MARKETS

African economies are increasingly integrated into global value chains, but they remain at the periphery of the three main trade hubs: the Americas, Asia and Europe. Which policies can increase Africa's capacity to compete? Are regional and emerging markets more accessible to African producers? Can African consumers drive innovation, creativity, skills and the emergence of new regional industrial policies?

Africa has experienced many positive developments such as strong GDP growth, a young demographic structure, a large resource potential and a growing consumer class. At the same time, African economies tend to remain at the periphery of global trade, structural transformation is very uneven, there is insufficient job creation and the infrastructure is underdeveloped. How could African economies leverage the global value chains more effectively?



Minister Ben Barka suggested that trade between the different African countries remained too weak, mostly because there is a prevailing tendency of exporting unprocessed primary products. This constitutes unexploited opportunities in terms of regional policies and industrialisation. Growth is solid at 5.8%, but not as visible and inclusive as it could be because the informal sector is too large, especially in the retail sector. Financing of investment is a key challenge to strengthen the productive sector, and more weight needs to be

given to national investors while reinforcing attractiveness to foreign ones.

Minister Kaba of Côte d'Ivoire agreed that her country faced the same issues. Côte d'Ivoire has a great potential in the agricultural sector, particularly when it comes to cocoa and cashews. She noted that the percentage of these goods that are processed within the country was very low –only 5% of cashews and 20% of cocoa beans. The country therefore should aim to gain a role in the intermediate steps of the value added chain as well. Companies are willing to invest in the productive capacities to achieve this goal, but are significantly constrained by access to finance, the low level of banking facilities (15% of the Ivorian population has access to the banking sector), lack of transport and energy infrastructure and qualified management. The government is taking steps to support industrialisation, with the objective to boost the sector's productivity from 23% in 2014 to 40% in 2020.

Minister Bâ of Senegal highlighted that African countries often face limited access to regional markets and Global Value Chains (GVC), due to the above-mentioned fragile banking systems and strong reliance on the export of primary goods, combined with the lack of a cohesive long-term economic strategy. Although economic objectives are often clearly identified (i.e. structural industrialisation, inclusive growth and governance) often policy incoherencies, even opposing strategies, among policy-makers in least-developed and developing countries undermine the effectiveness of the initial economic objectives. In addition to developing such a cohesive strategy, it is also necessary to work towards the acceptance of this strategy at home and abroad and to address the frequent changing of strategies, which can retard progress. On the positive side, he noted the

geographic advantages and economic complementarity that Senegal and its neighbouring countries could leverage.

Minister Nubupko of Togo referred to the goal set in 2003 to increase the percentage of cotton exports from 3% to 25% by 2010, today 3% has remained unchanged. He noted several explanations for this:

- A lack of competitiveness owed to high transport and energy costs (e.g. the cotton's quality is related to where it is stored) and the fixed exchange rate parity between the CFA franc (FCFA) and the euro, the latter factor leading to a 40% decline in productivity;
- A lack of policy coherence. Africa is one of the most open regions in the world: given the favourable exchange rates and low import taxes, many goods are being imported to the region.



Mohamed El-Kettani, General Director of the Attijariwafa Bank, defended the idea of a strong state, capable of implementing public policies and asking the private sector to be socially responsible. He said the states ideal role should be of a combination of three functions: a regulator promoting conditions for economic development; a strategist that would encourage a long-term vision to attract foreign direct investment (FDI); and a facilitator that would guarantee a clear and stable business environment. Large infrastructure investments in Morocco, such as ports, high-speed trains, touristic attractions and phosphate extraction have been able to draw investments. He pointed out the extremely high rates of return that can be achieved in African, and the need to change international perception on these returns.

Finally, Ayodele Odusola, Chief of Strategy and Analysis, UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa, discussed some of the core impediments to industrialisation, particularly emphasising the extremely high costs and unreliability of the energy network, in addition to high interest rates on loans, which can reach up to 35%. Barriers persist in international standardisation and quality controls and this impedes the region from reaping the benefits of global markets. Furthermore the incongruence between the 'outputs' of the educational system and the requirements of the labour market must be addressed. A cheap labour force and more than one billion people are two of the strongest reasons why African countries should be able to integrate into the global value chain. Mr Odusola recalled that industrialisation is not a goal in itself but a requirement for development bearing in mind that development should be inclusive.

During the questions and answers session, some of the issues raised included ways to ensure that domestic goods are more competitive than international imports, enhanced collaboration between the academia and industry, and the regional strategy *vis-à-vis* China.

Minister Bâ explained that there is not a specific Senegalese approach with regard to Chinese investment, nor there is a national strategy toward U.S. or Japanese investments. Instead, all of these fall under a general investment strategy, and Chinese companies largely propose infrastructure contracts from which Senegal may benefit from.



Minister Nubupko highlighted that countries should set clear priorities for development policy and strive for policy coherence. For instance, industrialising can prove difficult with a very strong currency and perhaps more focus should be put on developing the service sector. While it is important to have currency reserves, this should not come at the expense of investments that could boost competitiveness. Rigorous analysis and audacious processes are crucial, which are likely to stimulate the confidence between the government and the governed.

Mr Odusola cited a UNDP initiative, *African Facility for Inclusive Markets*, which focuses on adding value to agricultural products –namely soya, dairy products, mangos, onions, among others– to illustrate how agricultural policies needed to be harmonised across African countries.

Mr El-Kettani referred to the importance of human capital, and called for companies to partner with universities in order to prepare young people and ensure that they are well equipped to enter the workforce and respond to the requirements of the labour market.

Finally, Minister Kaba reiterated that Chinese investments are an important source of funding to develop the physical infrastructure Africa needs to develop, namely roads, ports, energy.



SESSION 2 – BRIDGING THE URBAN-RURAL DIVIDE: THE TERRITORIAL POLICY CHALLENGE

By 2050, Africa will be home to 2.1 billion people. In most countries, both urban and rural populations will continue to grow well after that date. The challenge of providing future generations with adequate economic and social opportunities is daunting. National policy makers, city planners, infrastructure builders, local governments, investors, farmers' associations, environmentalists and other stakeholders need to invent new ways of working together to meet this challenge. How can new territorial policies transcend traditional divides (e.g. urban versus rural, agricultural versus other sectors) to make the most of the demographic dividend in a sustainable manner?

Africa's population is expanding quickly, yet it will remain predominantly rural; this territorial challenge demands appropriate policy attention.



Today, twenty million people enter labour markets every year, which places a large amount of pressure on countries with unemployment issues. This pressure will continue to grow with 30 million new workers expected every year in the 2030s. By 2050, Africa's population is expected to more than double to 2.4 billion, and African's will represent 25% of the world's population. In Sub-Saharan Africa, rural population will increase by

310 million people by 2050 (+57%) and rural areas will continue to be the home to the majority of them until the mid-2030s. Rural areas therefore will remain an important focus for governments.

These expected demographic phenomena represent an opportunity for economic growth as the changing age structure fosters an improvement in the active/inactive ratio. This unique moment in the evolution of a population, where the number of possible workers is at its highest, can result in the well-known "demographic dividend" if the economy creates sufficient jobs. Job creation entails adequate public policies to promote productive activities. Otherwise, the boom can potentially turn into a curse and give rise to social and political tensions.

Mass rural-to-urban migration creates a congestion cost on leading regions.

The mayor of the city of Abidjan-Plateau shed light on the 13 districts in 3 neighbourhoods surrounding the city, considered as transition zones between urban and rural areas. Residents in this periphery are mostly rural workers who have migrated to the cities and face difficulties finding proper housing. They lack access to basic services, and their living conditions are vulnerable to seasonal floods, particularly during the monsoon rains. The relocation of these households out of hazard zones has proven difficult; and concerns were raised about the local authority's



ability to effectively handle these relocations. One of the authorities' main difficulties is that the residents often rent out the new accommodations where they have been relocated and return to "squat" their original households.

Reaping the demographic dividends requires inclusive strategies.



Beyond the issues of urban poverty and rural migration to the cities, territorial policies need to focus on developing other regions. Inclusive growth, which creates decent jobs and provides ample public service in lagging regions, will reduce the "push" factor of internal migration and alleviate the congestion costs of migration. To expand economic development to other regions, infrastructure has an important role to play. For example, the majority of Northern Mali and Senegal's rural hinterland has very limited access to urban centres, mainly due to

poor transport networks. Addressing this infrastructure gap will enable agriculture and other products to reach new and more developed markets, and facilitate labour mobility as well as return migration. Expanding access to energy, health, education and ICT will also be crucial in increasing productivity. Positive examples, such as the extensive use of mobile communication, show that farmers can obtain market information more easily today than in the past.

Panellists emphasised the importance of involving multiple levels of government in tackling these challenges. In Chad, there has been systematic effort to decentralise functions to lower levels of government. Local governments can then choose the best combinations of public services and the appropriate delivery for their regions. In practice, however, decentralisation demands higher capacity of the local government, which require additional training and implies heavier costs for the central government. It was suggested that, while governments in Africa have been trying to decentralise, they have achieved limited results as result of half-hearted efforts. Often the central government assigns new responsibilities to the local government without giving them sufficient financing, capacity and authority to carry out the function. This mismatch in functions and resources hinders the success of decentralisation.

Africa needs more timely and accurate data for policy making

The panel called for timely and accurate statistics for policy making. Due to lack of data, the city planning of Abidjan did not factor in the population boom. The city now needs about 10-20,000 additional housing units per year to meet the actual demand. New initiatives on improving statistics in Africa are already taking place, such as the *Open Data for Africa* platform led by the African Development Bank (AfDB). Information technologies are also transforming the data collection process through the use of ICT in census collection in Abidjan's region.

Speakers concurred that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions to tackle territorial problems. Answers must stem from situation specific policies, involving diverse stakeholders, articulating different governance levels (e.g. local governments, national states, regional institutions), with shared diagnoses and common objectives. The transformative agenda, which is the common goal of the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Development Bank, will only be achieved if a regional or "territorial" approach that reconnects issues on the ground and escapes the sectorial bias characterising public action is launched.

KEY NOTE CLOSING SPEECHES



Without speaking of "African renaissance", it is easy to be hopeful in relation to recent developments in Africa, according to the former UN Special Envoy for the Sahel, Romano Prodi. Industrial development in Africa can finally be envisaged in light of the decade-long positive growth rate, and thanks to the emergence of a local middle class which is fostering the creation of continental and domestic markets, a prerequisite for development.

In his analysis, Prodi emphasised the role of China in the evolution of Africa's economies as Chinese demand for raw materials, energy, land and agricultural products have favoured the remarkable increase in its trade relations with Africa. Due to the increase in Chinese wages, some of Chinese industrial production is being relocated to other parts of the world, primarily Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Vietnam, Philippines), but also to Africa.

A domestic market is essential in attracting foreign investment, not just Chinese. Despite aid still flowing to low-income countries, foreign investment and remittances from migrants are now nearly three times higher than the official development assistance (ODA) figures, and middle-income countries have a greater variety of available resources. This is an additional reason to be optimistic about the future of Africa.

Romano Prodi's reflections on the industrial sector also apply to agriculture. The extremely low productivity of agriculture is one of the major economic problems in Africa, especially given that the population is projected to double. Agricultural production must increase threefold in order to satisfy local needs as food demand will accelerate with the growth of living standards and wealth.



Additional cited challenges included youth employment, population explosion, peace, terrorism, business environment. In conclusion, Romano Prodi regretted the lack of a European continental strategy for Africa.



The Prime Minister of Mali, Moussa Mara, agreed with Mr Prodi on the challenges facing Africa and the importance of the region's economic and political cooperation with Europe.

During his intervention, the Prime Minister Mara tackled some of the most pressing challenges in West Africa, *inter alia* the process of stabilisation of Mali and the country's partnership with the OECD, and in particular with the Development Centre, which in his view, would help ease the country out of the economic crisis.



West Africa is at this time organised in an economic development zone, so the first challenge appears to be working together, first on the security challenges but also on the regional integration process. A key institutional arrangement in West Africa is the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), whose prerogatives are primarily on political and security issues, and secondarily on economic ones. Much remains to be done when it comes to regional integration. For instance, trade amongst ECOWAS member countries does not exceed 15% of their trade, while in Western countries it ranges from 70 to 75%. Encouraging trade, industrial and scientific integration appear to be major concerns, even after 50 years of independence (with the exception of East and South Africa regions). He argued that in order to achieve real development, it is necessary to promote trade between Mali and Burkina Faso; Cote d'Ivoire and Togo; Mauritania and Senegal. These people share, in addition to geographical links, often the same culture.

Looking at the issue of peace and security, it is important to bear in mind that Mali is a country in the heart of West Africa, forming the transition between the mostly desert North, which comes close to the Maghreb, and the more Sudanese South, which ensures connections with Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Nigeria and others. In Mali, one can confirm that the country has been going through a difficult period over the past 3 years. This began as a security-related issue and developed into an institutional crisis; peace and security must now be secured across the Malian territory but also in the Sahel region as a whole. A partnership with Algeria exists to discuss regional development policies and incorporate the issue of the conversion of armed groups. Efforts need to be made to resolve the issue of the Sahel, a region crossing Africa from the Atlantic all the way to Sudan, where multiple forms of drugs and human trafficking, coexist with a number of terrorist organisations.

A comprehensive response must be provided at the international level to address the threat represented by networks such as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and Boko Haram. However, a military response cannot alone solve the problem. Terrorism flourishes where the state is weak, but also where there are no job opportunities. The fight against terrorism must involve state-building activities.

Mali will face problems of infrastructure, energy, youth education, etc., but five major transitions should be conducted in the next fifteen years:

1. Demographic transition: to better manage the full potential of human resources.
2. Productive transition: agriculture is still extensive and fairly productive and must evolve into agribusiness, through familial and entrepreneurial agriculture.
3. Energy Transition: to move gradually toward (hydro-electric and solar) renewable energy.
4. Digital transition: to allow the country to overcome the digital divide.
5. Democratic transition: in addition to the organisation of elections African democracies must create an environment that supports a strong civil society, as well as a free and reliable press, etc.

Prime Minister Mara concluded in asserting that Mali must have a vision that goes beyond politics in order to devise its own strategy and deliver a roadmap for peace and development. He acknowledged that there are disabilities, difficulties and weaknesses. Nevertheless Africa's water and sun resources and human capital could be crucial the future of the world.



Media outreach



The Forum was very well attended and covered by the media, including news agencies, TV, print, radio and online media, with over 100 media representatives registered for the event and more than 60 interviews realised on the day. Please consult the complete media review of the event, [available on our website](#).

The Development Centre had the pleasure to collaborate with eight media partners for the Forum, namely Devex; France Médias Monde group, including RFI, France 24 and Radio Doualiya Monte Carlo; the Financial Times, This is Africa; Jeune Afrique; Le Monde and the Xinhua News Agency.

Some selected headlines following the Forum are:

- [7 things we learned at the Africa forum](#) (devex)
- [UPDATE 1-I.Coast says to raise at least \\$750 mln on bond market in 2015](#) (Reuters)
- [It is time to rethink our protection imperative](#) (FT This is Africa)
- [OECD highlights ways to promote development, growth in Africa](#) (Xinhua)
- [Africa: AU Commission Chairperson in Paris for International Economic Forum On Africa](#) (All Africa)
- [Africa is of top priority for Europe -officials](#) (World Bulletin)
- [Ouverture à Paris du 14e Forum économique international sur l'Afrique](#) (Xinhua)
- [Rapport OCDE-BAD-PNUD 2014: l'Afrique, un pôle de résilience et de croissance](#) (Afrique Inside)
- [L'Union africaine réclame du personnel pour lutter contre Ébola](#) (Tribune de Genève)
- [La Côte d'Ivoire va lever au moins \\$750 mlns en 2015](#) (Les Échos)
- [L'Afrique, une priorité européenne](#) (Le Monde)
- [Mo Ibrahim : « Il faut éviter la stigmatisation de toute l'Afrique »](#) (le Monde)
- [La France face au décollage économique de l'Afrique](#) (Le Monde)
- [Développement du secteur bancaire](#) (Le Matin)
- [Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma: contre Ébola, «à l'UA, nous faisons ce qu'il faut»](#) (RFI)
- [L'Afrique – marché de l'avenir?](#) (Swissinfo)
- [La Russie met un pied en Afrique](#) (France Inter)



Web visibility

The *Wisemply* social media tool installed on the forum website made this year's forum very interactive. Throughout the day, Ministers, panel members and the audience could send tweets and comments that were projected on the screen so as to initiate discussions. 708 tweets were sent using the hash tag #AF14 on the 6th of October, and in the days before and after the Forum, reaching approximately 185 293 accounts and generating 269 753 impressions.

The official website of the Forum (www.oecd.org/africa-forum/) registered 11 793 visitors in the lead-up to and on the day itself.

The [official photos](#) of the event are available on the OECD Development Centre Flickr account. Feel free to use these images, including the OECD copyright and the photographer's credit.





About the 14th International Economic Forum on Africa

With an average growth rate of about 4% in 2013, compared with 3% for the global economy, Africa continues to show strong dynamism in the face of regional and international turbulence. The continent's average growth is projected to accelerate to close to 5% in 2014 and 5-6% in 2015. Governments therefore enjoy new leeway to implement their economic and social transformation agendas. However, success will require making this growth more inclusive and more sustainable; for example (instance), by helping African firms harness regional and global value chains to create new jobs, or by implementing innovative territorial policies to make the most of emerging rural/urban dynamics.

The Africa Forum is a space for dialogue hosted every year at the OECD, and open to African governments and institutions and their partners. Private sector representatives, academics and civil society leaders meet to debate the performance of African economies and the challenges they are confronted with. Organised by the OECD Development Centre in partnership with the African Union, the 2014 edition will focus on the pan-African agenda of economic and social transformation. It will assess its progress in light of changing global trade patterns and the demographic challenges ahead, while reviewing the implications of the Ebola crisis.

The debates will benefit from the conclusions of the *African Economic Outlook 2014* report, jointly produced by the [OECD Development Centre](#), [African Development Bank \(AfDB\)](#) and the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#). The publication is available at www.africaneconomicoutlook.org.

About the organiser



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Media partners:



OECD Development Centre

2, rue André-Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16, France

dev.africaforum@oecd.org

www.oecd.org/africa-forum/

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