



Expert discussion: Policies for sustainable investment and trade in Africa

March 1, 2018, 8.45 a.m. – 1.00 p.m., Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Ludwigkirchplatz 3-4, 10719 Berlin

African countries in this century have been among those with the largest economic growth rates globally. Therefore Africa is perceived as a region of opportunities and growing markets with a simultaneous need for large investments. Nevertheless, dynamic growth is urgently needed, since the population on the African continent is expected to double by 2050. Africa thus needs investment and job opportunities. There is, however, broad agreement that public investment alone is not enough to close the investment gaps in infrastructure - physical infrastructure like ports and roads but also related to services on energy, telecommunication and finances - let alone to create the productive capacities for long-term sustainable economic development.

These developments have increased the awareness in Africa, Germany and Europe for the need of sustainable growth. The last year has seen a range of German, European and multilateral initiatives aiming to improve investment conditions in Africa, such as the “G20 Compact with Africa” (in implementation), the “European External Investment Plan for Africa” (launched) and the German “Marshall Plan with Africa”(under discussion).

In this context, the expert discussion intends to widen the debate by inviting African ambassadors from different regions to share their perspectives on the topic of trade and investment in Africa as well as towards the existing initiatives, with the aim to include these per-

spectives in the political decision making process in Germany and Europe. The discussion therefore has a twofold aim:

1. To identify the needs of African countries for attracting **more sustainable investment** in their respective countries: What are the necessary steps in areas like infrastructure, internal savings/ tax policies, inputs in production, labour conditions and framework conditions for investments? This will provide the basis for analyzing whether the existing national, European and international policy instruments are suitable to contribute to an increase in sustainable investment in Africa and/or where possible gaps should be addressed.
2. To identify the possible role of **trade policies** to support the sustainable investment needs of African countries: How can trade policies and their respective instruments be used to stimulate growth, investment and job creation with a view to supporting sustainable development while bearing sustainability in mind? A changing geopolitical trading landscape with an increasingly important Asia – and China in particular –, the new approach under the EU-African Partnership Agreements (EPAs), the challenge of an establishment of a “Continental Free Trade Area” (CFTA), recent developments in the WTO, and the increase in bilateral/regional trade agreements – all this bears new opportunities and challenges for African trade and growth. So far only some African countries/regions have successfully integrated in regional and global value chains and a number of countries are still trying to identify how to strengthen their opportunities.

The expert exchange will be an opportunity for representatives of African embassies and experts from academia and ministries to discuss these issues from the African perspective and to identify the scope for contributions and policy options by African countries, regional organisations and at the AU level.



Agenda

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8.45– 9.00 a.m. **Arrival and registration**

9.00–9.20 a.m. **Welcome and introduction to the topic**

Andreas Wenzel, DIHK

9.20–10.50 a.m. **Panel 1: Sustainable investment and development in Africa**

Speakers:

Melanie Müller (SWP)

H.E. Igor César, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda

H.E. Joseph Magutt, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya

H.E. Phumelele Stone Sizani, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa

H.E. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, Ambassador of the Republic of Nigeria

Chair:

Ingo Badoreck, Deutsche Afrika Stiftung

10.50–11.20 a.m. **Coffee break**

11.20–12.50 a.m. **Panel 2: Framework for sustainable investment and development in Africa – the role of trade policies**

Speakers:

Evita Schmieg (SWP)

N.N.

H.E. Andreas B. D. Guibeb, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia

H.E. Dr. Abdallah Saleh Possi, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania

H.E. Ahmed Chafra, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia

Chair:

Bettina Rudloff (SWP)

12.50–1.00 p.m. **Summary and concluding remarks**

1.00 p.m. **Lunchtime snack**