

SAVE THE DATE

18^{ÈME} *FORUM ÉCONOMIQUE INTERNATIONALE SUR L'AFRIQUE*
18TH INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM ON AFRICA

 PARIS, 31 OCTOBER 2018 – OECD Conference Centre

www.oecd.org/development/africa-forum

 #AfricaForum @OECD_Centre



AFRICA'S SHIFTING BOUNDARIES

THE AFRICA FORUM 2018 WILL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TOPICS OF GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT, MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT, THROUGH THE LENS OF AFRICA'S LATEST MILESTONE: THE SIGNATURE OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA) BY 44 AFRICAN COUNTRIES ON 21ST MARCH 2018 IN KIGALI, RWANDA

///

DRAFT BACKGROUND NOTE



9.00-9.15 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

9.15-10.00 OPENING SESSION

10.00-10.30 INTRODUCING *AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT DYNAMICS*

The new Africa's Development Dynamics (AfDD) report presents a forward-looking Africa that is resolutely open to the world and towards the future. Drawing on the most recent statistics, the AfDD assesses recent economic, social and institutional developments and identifies the megatrends that are influencing Africa and its integration into the global economy. As such, AfDD's first edition provides prospective analysis to foster more inclusive growth, create employment and reduce inequality. For each of the five African regions and for the whole continent, the report develops recommendations and shares good practices to help achieve the aspirations of African Union's Agenda 2063 for economic integration and sustainable development. This volume aims at contributing to the policy dialogue on the continent's state of affairs between nations, citizens, entrepreneurs and researchers. AfDD is the result of a partnership between the African Union Commission and the OECD Development Centre, with engagement of leading African scholars.

10.30-12.00 THE PROMISE OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The African continent has experienced strong growth at 5% between 2000 and 2014 thanks to high commodity prices, improved macro-economic management, and economic diversification strategies. This strong performance has led to the "Africa rising" narrative. However, this growth has not sufficiently reduced poverty nor improved social inclusion and well-being. Recent growth has not translated into enough quality jobs. Between 2015 and 2030, every year 29 million new people will become 15 years old, potentially entering the labour force on the continent. To accommodate these incoming workers now and in the future, Africa must revisit the span of productive activities it has to offer; from agriculture, manufacturing, and services to large, small and micro-enterprises. Africa is now facing a slower growth regime (projected at about 4% annually between 2018 and 2022) that will need to have much stronger development outcomes. Reducing inequalities is crucial to make growth more inclusive. To that end, deploying redistributive policies effectively is key.

On 21st of March 2018, during the 10th Extraordinary Summit of the African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government, African countries created history by signing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement in Kigali, Rwanda. At the last AU Summit, five (5) more countries, including South Africa, announced they have joined the AfCFTA; making it to forty-nine (49) signatories. After internal consultations, Nigeria Chief Trade Negotiator has just indicated the continent's economic powerhouse is now ready to sign. Today, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Niger, Chad and eSwatini have ratified the AfCFTA legal instruments. Twenty-two (22) ratifications are needed for implementing the agreement that aims at creating a single market of 1.2 billion people with a combined gross domestic product of more than \$2 trillion. In this new economic context, can the envisioned continental integration foster more inclusive growth, purveying millions of decent jobs? What policies will be necessary to accelerate integration and deliver more and better quality employment?



12.00-14.00 LUNCH AND COFFEE

14.00-15.30 AFRICA AND MIGRATION: DECONSTRUCTING BIASES

Both policy and public debate on migration often rely more on perception than evidence. Analysis teaches us that the number of migrants relative to the population of developing countries increases as their per capita income rises. Fifty-three (53) percent of African migrants live in another African country. In that context, if emigration from the continent is rising fast, emigration has the particularity of being mostly interregional. Recent studies show that, notwithstanding some detrimental aspects particularly from the social side, intra-African migration contributes positively to the continent's socio-economic transformation (OECD, 2016, 2017, 2018; UNCTAD, 2018).

Simultaneously with the AfCFTA treaty and the Kigali Declaration, a protocol on the free movement of people was adopted this spring by 30 African countries. The protocol aims at facilitating the establishment of the African Economic Community by supporting the implementation of free movement of persons, right of residence and right of establishment in Africa. Recently, several African countries have opened up their borders and set up visa-free provisions. After Seychelles (visa-free), Ghana and Rwanda (visa-on-arrival), Ethiopia is about to allow all Africans to travel to the country without visas. The African Union has launched its continental passport to "realise the dream of visa-free travel for African citizens within their own continent by 2020". As Africa undergoes these major transformations, can the continent seize the potential of its intra-regional migration flows to benefit its developmental needs?

15.30-16.00 AFRICAN HUMANITIES

16.00-17.00 ENGINEERING UNITY

The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of Africa are the interface between the national and the continental levels for enhanced regional cooperation towards a more integrated continent and a better integration of Africa to the world economy. Africa has long made regional integration a core strategy: the continent is now accelerating efforts to realise the African Economic Community outlined in the 1991 African Union Abuja Treaty. The RECs, by promoting policy harmonization and enabling economies of scale, are *de facto* the "building blocks" of continental economic development. After the advent of the Tripartite Free Trade Area, the "Cape to Cairo free trade area", assembling three (3) RECs together into a single new zone in 2015, the Continental Free Trade Area was launched last March during an Extraordinary Summit of the African Union. In that context of accelerated integration, what will be the future operational linkages between the RECs and the continental area? How can RECs maximise their contribution to Africa's integration?

17.00-19.00 COCKTAIL AND NETWORKING