



SUSTAINABILITY & REDEFINING AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

MEETING TARGETS OR
CREATING CHANGE?



IN ON AFRICA (IOA) & BLANK CANVAS INTERNATIONAL

In On Africa (IOA) was established in South Africa in 2007 with the goal of becoming the definitive source of expert research and analysis on Africa, in Africa. Since then, IOA has grown to include over 300 expert analysts, academics, researchers, social scientists, strategists, statisticians and editors that share their tremendous passion for all things African.

Along their journey, IOA's mission has been to contribute in as many ways as possible to the continuing rise of Africa. We view Africa not as a hapless place dependent on external benefactors, but a continent brimming with opportunity for its people and as a hub for innovation and development across all sectors.

This year marked IOA's debut at the 2016 Sustainability Summit at the JSE - a two day event founded and organised by **Blank Canvas International**. Blank Canvas is a boutique consultancy agency that enables clients to activate resilient business performance in order to grow their businesses by staying relevant and competitive in an inclusive and green economy. Their services include:

- Rapid resilient business performance strategy co-creation and deployment, utilising high impact facilitative coaching, programme management and Toolkits for Step-Change™.
- Blank Canvas strategy visualisation with interactive roadmap and action framework.
- Net Positive Impact project portfolio balancing, enabling growth in a green and inclusive economy, utilising the Six Capitals Business Case framework.

IOA and Blank Canvas have collaborated to co-create the following report, providing an overview of this year's Sustainability Summit, the launch of the African Sustainable Development Association (A-SDA) and IOA experts' insider views exploring the perceptions and misconceptions surrounding African development.

As you will read in the following pages, it is insufficient to work toward 'sustainable development' that conforms to a paradigm of technocratic goals and targets. Rather, the focus must be on creating the type of real, transformative change that can unlock the incredible potential within all of Africa's profoundly diverse communities, businesses, economies and cultures.





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Delegates at the 2016 Sustainability Summit. Presentations from business leaders were delivered throughout the two days of the summit.

2016 SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

Event overview and launch of the African Sustainable Development Association

2016 SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

IOA and Blank Canvas have partnered to produce this report which is a two-part report. The first half provides insight into the 2016 Sustainability Summit and the launch of the African Sustainable Development Association, spearheaded by Blank Canvas. The second part of the report explores the development agenda of African nations against the backdrop of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 with additional commentary from IOA experts and analysis on African nations' political, social and economic environments.

Sustainability Summit Background

The Sustainability Summit has a five-year track record and was developed out of consultancy work that Blank Canvas Int have done in the mining and resources industry.

For the past three years it has been hosted in its current form – a platform for business leaders to share success stories and case studies, (focusing on solutions in our diverse economical reality and presenting their lessons learnt), offering a platform for trusted collaboration and building of relationships towards more sustainable, agile business for South Africa and Africa. While Summit 2014 focused on the

resources industry post 2015, Summit 2015 focused on the theme: How do you make resilient business transformation happen and although the resources industry was still represented in the programme and audience it was a cross-industry summit unlocking the true potential of a collaborative network.

The Summit is aimed at senior leaders, decision makers, executives and business owners and have been consistently attended by this target group cross-industry from industry, academia, government, research and civil society.

SUMMIT GOALS:

- To provide a vehicle and collaboration platform where business leaders who are passionate about business transformation in Africa and South Africa can meet in a trusted environment – only with understanding comes trust and only with trust comes collaboration that leads to solutions.
- To broaden the idea that exists about “Sustainability”- that it is not just planting trees, doing a bit of CSI and recycling your paper – but it means conscious planning, taking into consideration your direct community, the environment, the infrastructure and all other aspects that influence the existence of and have relevance to the community and country's economy. The Summit brand and ethos is mainly underpinned by the 6 Capitals Principle, taking the integrated reporting model to a next level we have demonstrated that the 6 Capitals is the most inclusive model for sustainable business.
- To be a positive force of change and a bridge between big business and small business and to foster public-private partnerships, not just a talk show, but also a meeting of minds and ideas that result in projects and change.

Summit 2016:

Theme: The Tipping Point: Gearing for it, Pushing it and Embracing it – how businesses in South Africa navigate imminent change and how we can even bring about change by pushing and activating the right tipping points.

Wisdom board: Our Summit content is informed by the Wisdom Board of around 30 collaborating companies. Included are Mercedes Benz South Africa, Henley Business School, WITS GCSRI, SANTAM, JSE, Da Vinci Institute, SABs Design Institute, City of Tshwane, In On Africa (IOA) and the CSIR. The purpose of these companies and individuals is to keep our content real and relevant and to ignite the collaboration effort.



Mr Tshepo Kgobe, Senior Executive Manager: Technical Services at the Gautrain Management Agency and Mr Raldu Nel, CEO and Founder of Blank Canvas International and Summit Chair at the official Market Open event of this year's Sustainability Summit on the 27th of September

IOA SUMMIT KEY TAKEAWAY POINTS

The quest to improve business resilience, drive innovation and implement sustainable business models are driven by the need to transform the economy to ensure inclusivity and sustainability. This is driven by the need to reduce the pressures on environmental resources and lower society's impact on the Earth ahead of exponential population growth and to ensure a better life for future generations. The 2016 Sustainability Summit was a two-day event held on 27th and 28th of September. Day 1's programme comprised of a series of inspirational and insightful presentations and round table discussions from industry leaders. Day 2 saw the running of the Green Pitch competition where entrepreneurs pitched their sustainable businesses to a panel of judges. 2016's Summit built on from 2015's sustainability-centered seminars and shifted focus to factors enabling businesses to become more resilient. Three main themes were explored through the presentations delivered this year: high performance leadership, business model innovation and Toolkits for Step Change, providing insight into practical ways in which resilience can be precipitated within organizations.

The single most important message derived from this year's Summit is that at the heart of creating a green economy and business resilience, lies the need to collaborate and co-create.

Collaboration of businesses with one another and with the communities which they impact. Collaboration across government, public and private sector to develop sustainable growth solutions and co-creation of innovative models, products or solutions enabled by a more creative mindset.

High performance leadership:

- CEOs and business leaders need to think beyond themselves in order to allow for and foster innovation and not to be constrained by policy and protocol. Action is what is needed.
- Business leaders need to be accountable for the sustainability of their business
- Innovation is key to achieving resilience. The nature of business today has changed dramatically from what it was decades ago with the explosion in technological advancements and the commencement of the 'digital revolution'. Businesses need to be able to adapt to disturbances rather than be derailed by them.
- The required attributes of future CEOs are changing from what they used to be. In the future, Creativity will be ranked much higher on the list of requirements.
- Corporate Social Investment is a necessary component to consider when developing resilience within a business. Furthermore, corporates need to be cognisant of the sustainability of CSI projects.
- The perpetuation of an entrepreneurial or 'possibility' mindset coupled with sustainable business models are vital should issues of job creation, service delivery promises, education and environmental preservation be satisfied.
- Solutions and innovation lie with the bright young minds of today's youth. Leaders need to create an enabling environment within business and society that will allow the potential of South Africa's youth to be unlocked.



Business model innovation:

- Businesses are being altered from the outside-in, particularly by digitisation and technology
- Streamlining of business efficiency through utilizing technology. In this way, employees are freed-up to perform more salient tasks vital to growing the business and improving performance.
- Tech transformation and innovation are occurring at a rate. Unless businesses tweak their models of operation and embrace as well as keep on top of digital advancements and seek ways to innovate their business, they will be overtaken by competitors who may be at the forefront in keeping abreast of the exponential growth in technology.
- Quest for change and transformation is being internalized. Businesses are increasingly realising the need to become dynamic and resilient.
- Change is a constant in business today. Efforts need to be made to assist employees in adjusting to and accepting systemic changes in an organization so as to transition across to new models more efficiently with the realisation that businesses have to be increasingly dynamic in order to respond to and keep up with competitors.
- Collaboration of different sectors/ industries and government with common goals of sustainability are necessary to create a Green Economy.
- Project planning in any business needs to give due consideration to risks and management thereof upfront to mitigate unnecessary expenditure of resources and ensure project resilience. Additionally, secondary socio-economic and environmental impacts and sustainability of a project must be addressed at the outset of any project to ensure benefit and wealth gain beyond merely shareholders.

Toolkits:

- Digital solutions and systems are available for businesses to integrate into operations and ensure seamless running of business and improved customer satisfaction. Development of resources enabling companies to adopt and implement sustainable operations has been achieved through Toolkits for Step Change
- Anticipating and managing risk is vital to a business' resilience. Tools are available that assist companies in this regard.
- Knowledge diffusion and resource mobilization are key working towards a Green Economy.

Continuing in a 'business as usual' manner is not a sustainable option for businesses hoping to excel in the future.

Resilient business is business where there is greater wealth for all stakeholders instead of just accumulated wealth for shareholders.

It is imperative that business leaders embrace innovative ways of thinking and begin adapting business models so as to align themselves with the vision of creating a low-carbon, Green Economy in South Africa and contributing to the country's achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The call to develop resilient businesses is ever more prominent in the face of the increasingly fast-paced advances in technology and digitisation of business.

GG Alcock, CEO & founder of Minanawe Marketing was a key-note speaker at the end of day 1 of the summit presenting a review of his book KasiNomics.



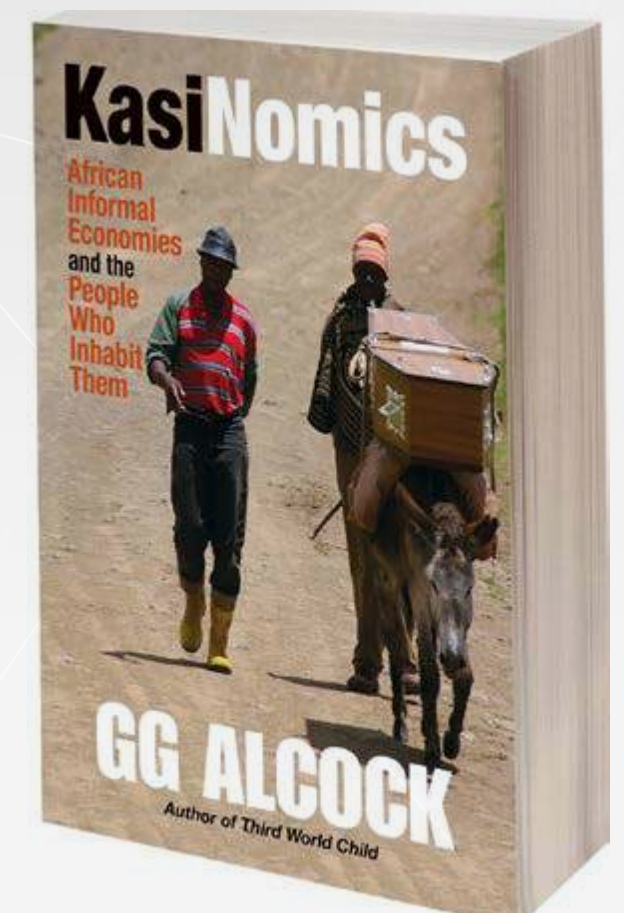
GG grew up in a rural village in Kwazulu Natal and only went to formal school in his High School years. This unique upbringing gave him the privilege of speaking fluent Zulu and more importantly intimately understanding the culture.

GG has been at times a shebeen owner, political activist, community worker and African adventurer. Fluent in Zulu and conversant in most South African ethnic languages GG is the CEO, creative & strategy guru as well as founder of Minanawe Marketing.

Minanawe Marketing develops and runs marketing campaigns built on strong consumer insights and understanding. Minanawe Marketing's portfolio of work includes the unique Soweto Beach Party, the award winning Perfect Sishebo Reality TV show, and a wide range of experiential marketing campaigns for a range of clients such as Unilever, Parmalat & Tiger Brands. GG's book Third World Child, White Born, Zulu Bred tells his story and that of many

of his people – a literary journey of a third world tribal society learning to embrace the 20th century first world.

Kasinomics, GG's second book, attempts to cast a light on the invisible matrix at the heart of South Africa's informal economies and the people who live in them. Living and doing business in African marketplaces requires an ethos uniquely suited to the informal, to the invisible, to the intangible.





This year's Sustainability Summit added an exciting addition to the event. On the 28th of September, the finalists in this year's first Green Pitch Competition presented to a panel of judges at the JSE as part of the Summit. Entries opened on the 5th of August and nine finalists were announced on the 2nd of September.

These finalists had the opportunity to go through a mentoring session with some of the top leaders of industry at the Standard Bank Incubator before their final pitching session at the Sustainability Summit.

Green Pitch nominees had to measure up to a robust "Six Capitals Score Card" to validate their Net Positive contribution towards a sustainable and inclusive economy. Raldu Nel, Chairman of the Summit says: "The purpose of the "Green Pitch" is not only to reward and recognize Africa's top entrepreneurs in the Green Economy, but to also to create broadened awareness of the Holistic 6 Capitals Integration and Interdependence Strategy, a key to drive

Resilient Business Performance across the value chain. This event will show-case creativity and design thinking to business leaders across industry and doing so bridge the gap between formal industry and entrepreneurs – the key to Africa's Emerging Economy."



Shaheen Hoosen: MD Of EMAIFC and Minara Chamber of Commerce and one of the Judges of the Green Pitch giving feedback on the entries and inviting all finalists to a free membership of the Minara and Ekurhuleni North Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The finalists in this year's competition were:

1. Willem Malherbe: 5 Star Stove (A base of pyramid residential energy service company)
2. Bandile Dlabantu : Khepri Biosciences (Insect based animal feed oils and protein for emergent markets.)
3. Warwick Leaper: LIGE (The LiGE Qube resolves the ENERGY AND WATER challenges that large and medium businesses face in the world today! Our technology: The LiGE Qube – Compressed Air Energy Storage.)
4. Hasan Darwish: Modular Innobox (Modular Innobox is a turn key social business in-a-box solution provider.)
5. Robin Kirkpatrick: Carbotect™ (Carbotect™ is a proprietary diagnostic aid for the detection of ultra-low levels of organic residues in water samples and to underwrite quality assurance programs in the high risk Food, Water and Beverage industries.)
6. Elmond Khoza: Lamocorp (Lamo Solar is a youth-led renewable energy solutions provider currently specialising in solar photovoltaic (PV) technology. The company specializes in Off-grid, On Grid and Hybrid solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for rural, residential and commercial application.)
7. Menzi Mahlobo : Systemdex (Moving Oceans; The Problem we are solving is that the Ocean is only situated at the Coastal areas and so the Fishing activities and all the opportunities associated with it are only accessed by few who are within the Coast. Designing a System that simulates the Ocean conditions so that the ocean fish can be breed anywhere other than the Coastal areas.)
8. Paul-Thomas McKinley : GROMAC Agricultural (Gromac have networked

with industry experts to re-engineered a proven farming technology for the African climate and workplace. Gromac has also incorporated water and nature conservation, skills development and employment, sustainable grazing and bio gas production, rural economy and social development into its business model.)

9. Marius van der Merwe : NewCarbon - Profit for People and the Planet (Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture, Soil Remediation and Water / Effluent Purification: NewCarbon is developing innovative solutions to produce biochar in a novel, clean and cost effective way using biomass from forestry, sawmill and municipal garden waste.)



Three of the judges on this year's panel – from left to right: Ogone Ntwae: Innovation and R&D Specialist at The Innovation Hub; Linda Swart: Incubator Manager: Standard Bank Incubator; Shaheen Hoosen: MD Of EMAIFC and Minara Chamber of Commerce

The judges' panel consisted of:
 Linda Swart: Incubator Manager: Standard Bank Incubator
 Ogone Ntwae: Innovation and R&D Specialist at The Innovation Hub
 Pamela Ramagaga: Niche Manager at Santam
 Shaheen Hoosen: MD Of EMAIFC and Minara Chamber of Commerce
 Bernadette Valentine: Key Accounts Specialist at the SABS Design Institute

THE WINNERS



The Winner for 2016: Green Pitch 2016 Winner, Willem Malherbe: 5 Star Stoves (5 Star Stoves is a base of pyramid residential energy service company) accepting his prize Willem Malherbe (5 Star Stoves)

Prizes:

- A 1 – day Design and Innovation Intervention Session at the SABS Design Institute in Pretoria.
- The Beautiful bamboo watch from Bamboo Revolution
- A programme tailored to your specific needs from the Da Vinci Institute.
- One year free membership to the Minara Chamber of Commerce and the Ekurhuleni North Chamber Of Commerce & Industry.
- Lean Bootcamp through the Standard Bank Incubator.

Second place: Marius van der Merwe (NewCarbon)

Prizes:

- A 1 – day Design and Innovation Intervention Session at the SABS Design Institute in Pretoria.
- A high impact strategy session towards resilient business performance, including a high – level roadmap with the strategy team of Blankcanvas.
- One year free membership to the Minara Chamber of Commerce and the Ekurhuleni North Chamber Of Commerce & Industry.
- Lean Bootcamp through the Standard Bank Incubator.

Third Place: Bandile Dlabantu (Khepri Biosciences) & Paul-Thomas McKinley (GROMAC Agricultural)

Prizes:

- A 1 – day Design and Innovation Intervention Session at the SABS Design Institute in Pretoria.
- 2 Tickets for the Thought Leaders Academy Programmes
- One year free membership to the Minara Chamber of Commerce and the Ekurhuleni North Chamber Of Commerce & Industry.
- Lean Bootcamp through the Standard Bank Incubator. (Linda, will be in contact)

Fourth place: Robin Kirkpatrick (Carbotech)

Prizes:

- A 1 – day Design and Innovation Intervention Session at the SABS Design Institute in Pretoria.
- One year free membership to the Minara Chamber of Commerce and the Ekurhuleni North Chamber Of Commerce & Industry.
- The Sophiatown Bizcre8 Reboot Programme, in collaboration with WIBC.

The other finalists also won prizes consisting of:

- A 1 – day Design and Innovation Intervention Session at the SABS Design Institute in Pretoria.
- One year free membership to the Minara Chamber of Commerce and the Ekurhuleni North Chamber Of Commerce & Industry.
- The opportunity to apply for the Sophiatown Bizcre8 programmes.



James Hall, Founding Editor of IOA's Africa Conflict Monitor (ACM), presenting on climate change conflicts during the 2016 Sustainability Summit.



2012 Amira International
Sustainable Mining South Africa

2013 2nd Annual Global
Sustainable Mining Summit, Toronto

2014 Resource Industry Sustainability
Post 2015 Summit, GIBS,
Johannenburg



2012 Amira Board Members
& Selected Guests

2013 International Industry
Leaders & Players

2014 Senior Leaders of Industry
stakeholders, Government,
Academia and Media



2012 BCI SD & Facilitation
Experts

2013 BCI Chaired Summit,
Contributed on Resilient
Business Transformation &
Panel Discussions

2014 BCI organized and powered event,
compiled program, topics and
speakers.



2012 Amira's P1024
Technical White Paper project:
Accelerating innovation toward SD

2013 Global sustainability & case study
discussions in the resources
industry

2014 Ongoing industry collaboration
and awareness

20

Collaborating
Organizations

31

Collaborating
Organizations

1

Day

2

Days

14

Papers

1

JSE Market
Open

1

Panel
Discussion

18

Papers

100

Attendees

3

Panel
Discussions

1

Networking
Event

10

Toolkit Pitches

2

Networking
Events

130

Media Coverage:
Sub-Saharan Africa

SABC; Classic FM

Attendees

Media Coverage:
Classic Business as Partner
Numerous Mentions
7 Interviews on content

Launch of
Sustainability Junction
Ongoing Deep-Dive Events

2015



SUSTAINABILITY

IN THE RESOURCE & ADJACENT INDUSTRY SUMMIT

Making resilient business happen through focus, engagement and co-creation.

29 & 30 September 2015 | Johannesburg Stock Exchange | Sandton, Johannesburg



SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 2016

resilient business transformation through collaboration

27 & 28 September 2016 Johannesburg Stock Exchange





SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 2016

Platform for partnerships in a sustainable and inclusive economy



PROGRAMME

27 & 28 September: The Tipping Point:
Pushing it, Gearing for it, & Embracing it!



Hosted at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange

Summit 2016 powered by



Summit 2016 Transport Partner



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DAY 1: 27 September 2016

8:00 - 8:30 REGISTRATION

8:45 - 9:15 MARKET OPEN

Welcoming and Market Open: Corli le Roux - JSE Head of Sustainability, Wisdom Board Member

African Sustainable Development Association Launch: Raldu Nel - Summit Chair, CEO & Founder: Blank Canvas Intl

9:00 - 11:00 MORNING SESSION 1:

MC Ryan Hogarth, Unique Speakers Bureau: **Change, Digital transformation, Technology and Social Business**

Corli le Roux, JSE Head of Sustainability, Wisdom Board: **International developments in sustainability reporting and responsible investment**

Dr Rethabile Melamu, General Manager: Green Economy: The Innovation Hub: **Gauteng Green Economy Strategy for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth**

Tshepo Kgobe, GAUTRAIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY, Senior Executive Manager: **Technical Services: Why taking the train has become profitable: Economic impact of the Gautrain System and future expansions**

Mr Gladstone Mtyoko, Assembly Divisional Manager, Mercedes Benz South Africa: **How to Break a Manufacturing Record - A Mercedes Benz Case-study**

James Matcher, Ernst & Young: Partner, Director, Advisory Services: **Robotics - a sustainability booster shot**

11:30 - 12:20 MORNING SESSION 2:

Terje Moen, Business Development Officer, IOT.NXT: **FUTURE TREND ALERT: The Internet of Things**

Kevin Fine, MD, Jacaranda FM: **Sustainable CSI**

Round Table Discussion: Inclusive growth through world class manufacturing & clean production

Facilitated by Manufacturing Circle & National Clean Production Centre:

Participants: Phillipa Rodseth (Executive Director: Manufacturing Circle) &

Ndivhuho Raphulu, Director of the National Cleaner Production Centre of South Africa (NCPC-SA),

Gaylor Montmasson-Clair, Researcher at Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS)

12:20 - 13:30 LUNCH & NETWORKING

Collaborators:



HIGH PERFORMANCE LEADERSHIP



BUSINESS MODEL INNOVATION



TOOLKITS FOR STEP-CHANGE

DAY 1 CONTINUED



13:30 - 15:20 AFTERNOON SESSION 1:

Pierre Bruwer, Managing Director, Ctrack: **Intelligent Vehicle Telematics: From Business Value To Sustainability**

Hayden Green, Head of Sustainability, Isometrix: **Inclusive and Integrated Stakeholder Engagement (SE)- Lessons learnt from multinational solution implementation**

Chantell van der Watt, Senior Manager, PwC & Dr Lorren Haywood, Senior Researcher: Sustainability Science and Resource Economics CSIR Natural Resources and the Environment: **Business Resilience into Business Strategy, Management and Reporting**

Gavin Mageni, Head of SABS Design Institute: **Increasing SA's competitiveness and changing the fortunes of Africa through the fusion of design and innovation**

James Hall, Editor: African Conflict Monitor – In On Africa: **African Conflict Monitor Report: Climate Change and conflict in Southern Africa**

Chris de Wet, Manager: Special Projects: CottonSA: **Agriculture and the Green Economy in SA - Enabled through Traceability, Operations Visibility & Sustainability Tech Tools - Cotton Industry Case Study**

15:50 - 17:10 AFTERNOON SESSION 2:

Puleng Makhoalibe, Henley Business School: Head of the School for Innovation & Branding: **The Alchemy of Design Thinking - Changing the way you think**

Dionne Kerr, Founder & Director: Siyaka Consulting: **ESD as Growth, Differentiation & Sustainable Development Strategy**

Round Table Discussion: Way of the Future: Social Transformation through Tech

Participants:

Maritha Erasmus (MTS); Keith Jones – CEO (SW7 – Microsoft Partner: Technology Accelerator Programme); Dr. Cornel Malan –Head: Research at Railway Safety Regulator (Transnet); Raldu Nel – CEO (Blank Canvas International); Reinhild Niebuhr – MD (Ecoline Enterprises and Young Africa Holdings); Luan van Rhyn – CEO (Calypso Accounting)

17:10 COCKTAILS:

Key-Note Speaker: GG Alcock, Author and MD of Minanawe Marketing: **KasiNomics: Unlocking the mysteries of an invisible economy**

Collaborators:



HIGH PERFORMANCE LEADERSHIP



BUSINESS MODEL INNOVATION



TOOLKITS FOR STEP-CHANGE

DAY 2: 28 September 2016

8:30 - 9:00 REGISTRATION



9:00 - 12:00 MORNING SESSION 1:

Raldu Nel, BCI / Summit Chair, Founder & CEO of Blank Canvas Intl: **Welcome, Introduction of MC**

Puleng Makhoalibe (MC), Head of Innovation & Branding, Henley School of Business

Charles Maisel, Innovation Shack Owner, Founder of Shanduka Black Umbrellas, Serial Entrepreneur and Solutions Thinker: **Seeing the Leaves!**

10:30 - 11:40 PITCHING SESSION 1: 10 minutes pitch, 5 minutes Q & A

Willem Malherbe: 5 Star Stoves>>**Vertically integrated residential service business servicing non electrified households**

Bandile Dlabantu: Khepri Biosciences>>**Insect based animal feed oils and protein for emergent markets**

Warwick Leaper: LiGE (Pty) Limited>> **Air battery innovation for energy storing**

Hasan Darwish: Modular Innobox (Pty) Ltd>>**Modular innovation that are solar powered, secured, remotely controlled, cash-less, internet connected and data collecting**

Robin Kirkpatrick: Kirkonsult (Pty) Ltd>> **Rapid, User-friendly and cost-effective cleaning and sanitation innovation for the food & beverage industry**

12:30 - 13:30 PITCHING SESSION 2: 10 minutes pitch, 5 minutes Q & A

Elmond Khoza: Lamocorp (Lamo Solar) >> **Photovoltaic innovation!**

Menzi Mahlobo: Systemdex >> **Moving Oceans, Breeding ocean fish in-land**

Paul-Thomas McKinley: GROMAC Agricultural Pty (Ltd)>>**Innovative modular agri-production solution**

Marius vd Merwe: NewCarbon (Pty) Ltd>> **Innovative solution for sustainable agriculture, soil remediation and water & effluent purification**

13:30 - 14:00 NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY (JUDGES DELIBERATION)



Linda Swart
Incubator Manager,
Standard Bank



Ogone Ntwae
Innovation & R&D Specialist,
The Innovation Hub



Pamela Ramagaga
Niche Manger,
Santam



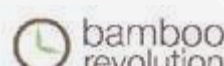
Shaheen Hoosen
MD
EMEAIFC



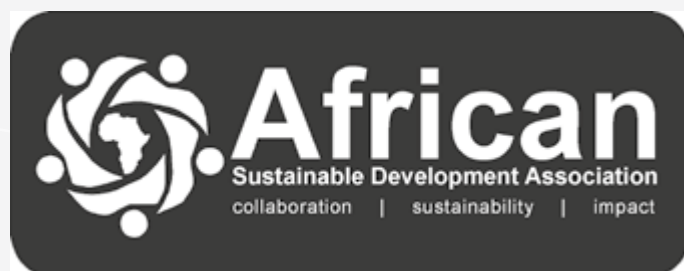
Bernadette Valentine
Key Accounts Specialist
SABS Design Institute

14:00 - 14:30 WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRIZE-GIVING, SUMMIT 2016 WRAP-UP

15:00 WRAP-UP, CASH BAR AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY



ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE GREEN AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY



The Sustainability Summit has over the past five years built a network of content providers and collaboration as the only Sustainability Summit in Africa with more than 79 programme contributors and more than 80 collaborating companies.

The need and opportunity has grown beyond the capacity of just an event and therefore the A-SDA was launched. The vision of the A-SDA is to be a center of excellence for sustainable development in Africa and South Africa. Its objectives are to drive a united, sustainable development agenda through collaboration, awareness and anchor projects that will lead to lasting results.

The purpose of the A-SDA are aimed to unlock the true potential of this network and help build the critical mass needed to make a lasting and visible difference in an environment where sustainability is often still viewed as a cost rather than an enabler and differentiator of future business. Only through a collaborative network can value chains be re-engineered that will lead to an inclusive and green economy and truly help build Africa as the continent of choice. The founders call on any organisations that would be interested to join this network to connect and take part in Deep Dive Engagements with the purpose of exploring anchor project and collaboration opportunities.

Contact details:
surisa.nel@blankcanvas.co.za | 012 844 0134

Press Release:

SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 2016 – ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

5 September 2016

The Sustainability Summit Founders, Leadership Team, Cross Industry Wisdom Board and Strategic Collaborators are excited to announce the next phase of this 5-year-old collaboration platform: On the 27th of September, the first day of this year's Summit, the African Sustainable Development Association will be launched at the JSE Market Opening event.

Mr Raldu Nel, Chairman of the Summit says: "As the only Sustainability Summit in Africa, we aim to establish an African Sustainable Development Association (ASDA), Centre of Excellence for South Africa and Africa, working towards an inclusive and sustainable economy, benefiting all stakeholders, through collaboration, networks and project implementation."

The African Sustainable Development Association (ASDA), will be a non-for-profit entity with a board of trustees that will govern the objectives and activities of the Association. The objectives of the African Sustainable Development Association (ASDA) will be:

- To offer a collaboration platform: In order to be truly effective as sustainable development champions, collaboration is key – to share knowledge and partner on projects.
- To broaden the existing idea about sustainability: Awareness is essential if change is the goal, sustainability is much more than clean tech and recycling, it means holistic thinking and planning of strategies, value chains, infrastructure and communities.

- To be a positive force of change in business: To show-case that integrity, sustainable development and inclusive economy is no longer nice-to-haves, it is a key-differentiator.

Over the past three years, the Summit has managed to call together more than seventy-nine (79) programme contributors and more than eighty (80) collaborating companies and established itself as a content provider and content engine. Together with our strategic partners and founding members we have a wealth of thought leadership and content to craft to the needs of our different stakeholder groupings with the purpose of driving the sustainable development agenda.

One of African Sustainable Development Association (ASDA)'s exciting new partners is In On Africa, a media and research company that provides expert research, analysis and competitive intelligence on Africa, in Africa.

The team of over three hundred (300) diverse and expert analysts, academics, researchers, social scientists, strategists, statisticians and editors share their tremendous passion for all things African

Together with key stakeholders, anchor

collaboration projects will be identified and co-ordinated through-out the following twelve months with the intention to show-case results at Summit 2017.

These projects will include:

- Enhancing public awareness and ownership with regards to Sustainable Development
- Identify and co-ordinate collaborative pre-competitive research projects, across the value chain
- Gear high performance leaders and workforce for the future with fit for purpose Toolkits (Including Digitization, IOT, Clean Tech etc)
- Facilitate technology transfer of specialist research in order to transform businesses into sustainable and resilient organisms.
- Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure planning and development

While there are many organisations that drive sustainable development, the collaboration between those organisations are very limited, this association aims to be the vehicle for collaboration and unlocking the potential of networks. Says Raldu Nel, Summit Chair: "One of the key drivers of the Association will be to enhance intra-continental African trade through this collaborative network."

**Join the collaborative network that drives
a united, sustainable development agenda leading to lasting result:**

For more information contact: summit@blankcanvas.co.za or +27 12 844 0136





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TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE AFRICA

Negotiating development agendas: Sustainable Development Goals & Agenda 2063

*From dusk to dawn: Power lines running through Johannesburg, South Africa.
Photo courtesy J Endres/Flickr*

The international development agenda for the next 15 years was set a year ago on 25 September 2015 when the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (referred to as the ‘Sustainable Development Goals’), aimed at eradicating poverty and ensuring quality of life for all people for generations to come. Born of the agreements of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, in 2012, the Sustainable Development Agenda was devised as a continuation and expansion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs - whose target date expired in 2015), and to address emerging global development issues.

The African Union (AU) and UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) held their annual joint Conference of Ministers from 31 March to 5 April 2016 in Addis Ababa, where they discussed the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Agenda and Agenda 2063, the AU’s continent-specific development roadmap for the next 50 years. Following this important meeting, In On Africa (IOA) explores the mixed success of the MDGs in Africa and investigates how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that accompany the new development agenda compare to their precursor.

“ The MDG programme was designed to focus government development efforts in poor countries and to help facilitate development agencies’ engagement with these countries. ”

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Conference of Ministers: Key takeaways

- The 9th Joint AU-UNECA Conference of Ministers emphasised African solidarity, the spirit of Pan Africanism and the recognition and nurturance of African people's capacity to direct the continent's development.
- The conference concluded without any resolutions being adopted. However, the AU Commission, UNECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB) were requested to develop an integrated monitoring and evaluation framework on the implementation of both agendas.
- The conclusion of the 7th UN Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa established the joint implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs among the AU, regional economic communities (RECs) and UN agencies, which includes the development of common indicators and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
- Several prerequisites for the successful implementation of the two agendas were agreed on, including:
 - *The need to address the skills deficit on the continent*
 - *The empowerment of women*
 - *Developing the private sector*
 - *Addressing the problems of migration*
 - *The need for rapid industrialisation and economic diversification that will lead to greater competitiveness and create jobs*
- Increased regional integration through Africa's existing RECs will play a vital role in the implementation of both development agendas. AUC Chairperson, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, announced that the African Union Passport, which will facilitate the free movement of people and goods within the continent, will be launched at the next AU Summit in July 2016.
- Dlamini-Zuma also announced that the first African Economic Platform (AEP), an initiative first tabled in 2014, where governments, the private sector and academia can discuss their roles in advancing priority issues in implementing the development agendas, would be held in June 2016.
- Financing the implementation of the agendas was identified as a major challenge, which necessitates innovative funding methods.
- The mobilisation of domestic resources, improving revenue collection and curbing illicit financial flows by implementing the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa were identified as key fundraising strategies.
- Heads of state and government and ministers of finance met in June of this year as per the announcement during the Conference of Ministers to further discuss the financing of both Agenda 2063 and the AU.

“ We need to believe in ourselves, in our capacities and the capacities of our people. ”

— African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma



Somali women MPs attended a workshop in Mogadishu focused on enhancing female lawmakers capacity in law and media, 13 June 2015. Even in conflict-affected Somalia the proportion of parliamentary seats held by women has doubled to 14% since 2011, reflecting Africa's excellent progress toward achieving gender parity. Photo courtesy of AMISOM Public Information/Flickr

The MDG programme was designed to focus government development efforts in poor countries and to help facilitate development agencies' engagement with these countries. The intention of the UN was that through a focus on reducing extreme poverty rates, reducing child

mortality, promoting gender equality, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and providing universal primary education by 2015, the MDG programme would address the needs of developing regions like Africa.

There is no question that progress in MDG target areas is necessary for eradicating poverty and improving millions of lives, but the African MDG experience raises the question as to whether simply meeting the targets is sufficient to achieve the desired outcomes. Critics of the MDGs have argued that the programme lacked a focus on strengthening key institutions and civil



rights and freedoms, thereby making them palatable to autocratic regimes that would otherwise shun such outside initiatives. In the absence of institutional development, material and human development has not necessarily been sufficient to foster political inclusivity in Africa – the ultimate determinant of economic sustainability.

Indeed, the ability of governments to meet minimal service delivery targets may well have provided political cover for African rulers to prolong repressive authoritarian rule.

“Critics of the MDGs have argued that the programme lacked a focus on strengthening key institutions and civil rights and freedoms, thereby making them palatable to autocratic regimes that would otherwise shun such outside initiatives.”

Eritrea is a case in point. The country has performed relatively well with respect to the MDGs when compared with many other African countries. Eritrea especially outshone others on the health related MDGs, having met all three by the end of 2015 by reducing the under-five mortality rate by two thirds; reducing the maternal mortality ratio from 1,700 to 380 per 100,000 live births; and reducing the incidence of malaria by two-thirds and maintaining very low HIV and tuberculosis prevalence rates.

Concerning the goal of achieving universal primary education, the overall literacy rate of 15-24-year-old women and men was 90% in 2015. Eritrea's population is neither embroiled in war nor affected by terrorism. Yet, 1 in 50 Eritreans have left the country since 2012 and thousands flee the country each month to escape government repression so severe that a UN report released in July 2015 said the repression could amount to a crime against humanity.

The deleterious effects of the failure to address institutional development (through the MDGs or otherwise) can be seen across Africa as inequality remains one of the biggest obstacles to achieving the inclusive economic growth and development necessary to foster poverty eradication on the continent. As the feature article in this report discusses, the poverty level in Sub-Saharan Africa has fallen from 56% in 1990 to 43% in 2012. Yet, 100 million more Africans are living in extreme poverty today than in 1990. Africa's population boom in the last few decades has a lot to do with the increase in the number of impoverished people on the continent, but inequality plays a big part in successive generations of Africans being born into, and finding it difficult to escape, poverty.

“...100 million more Africans are living in extreme poverty today than in 1990.”

In small nations with populations of less than five million, like Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia and Swaziland, for example, autocratic and corrupt political systems allow public wealth to be usurped for private gain by the governing few.

This imbalance creates the inequality that allows wealth to be amassed in the hands of very few people while the vast majority of citizens live in extreme poverty with few opportunities to be empowered – a self-perpetuating process that is difficult to overcome under the best of circumstances. The poverty that results from the economic stagnation created by inequitable political systems then leads to conflict, and conflict, in turn, impoverishes people in Africa on a massive scale.



The shortcomings of the MDGs raise the question as to whether the SDGs will better serve Africa's development needs by taking into account the factors necessary to create inclusive and sustainable growth.

African leaders have made clear their vision for the continent's collective development path in two frameworks: the Common African Position (CAP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Agenda 2063, also known as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

These two plans for Africa's development emphasise the following factors as those that will have the most significant impact on Africa's development in coming decades: regional integration, population growth and the youth bulge, rapid urbanisation, economic and social inequality, climate change, conflict and the importance of structural transformation.

Among the 1.5 million people that have been internally displaced by conflict in South Sudan are children, who could not go to school because the local schools lack capacity to take them in, 9 February 2014.

Photo courtesy Oxfam/Aimee Brown/Flickr



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Shoppers wade through crowds at a market in Africa's most populous city, Lagos, Nigeria. By 2050, more than half of all Africans will live in urban areas – creating sustainable cities will be vital to the success of Africa's post-2015 development. Photo courtesy Zouzou Wizman/Flickr

The 17 goals and 169 accompanying targets of the SDGs reflect a greater focus on inclusive and sustainable economic growth than the MDGs did and, as the infographic on **page 12** of this report illustrates, many of the goals overlap with the tenets of the CAP and Agenda 2063.

For instance, SDGs 8-11 focus on the creation of productive employment and decent work, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation, reducing inequality within and among countries and making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

SDG 16 in turn sets out to “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to

justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.” Furthermore, the process by which the SDGs were formulated was also more inclusive than the one followed for the MDGs.

The 30 seats of the Open Working Group involved civil society through door-to-door and web-based surveys in what was the UN's biggest ever consultation process.

The use of innovative methods to devise the SDGs and having the goals on paper are, of course, far from achieving them, and Africa does still have a steep hill to climb.

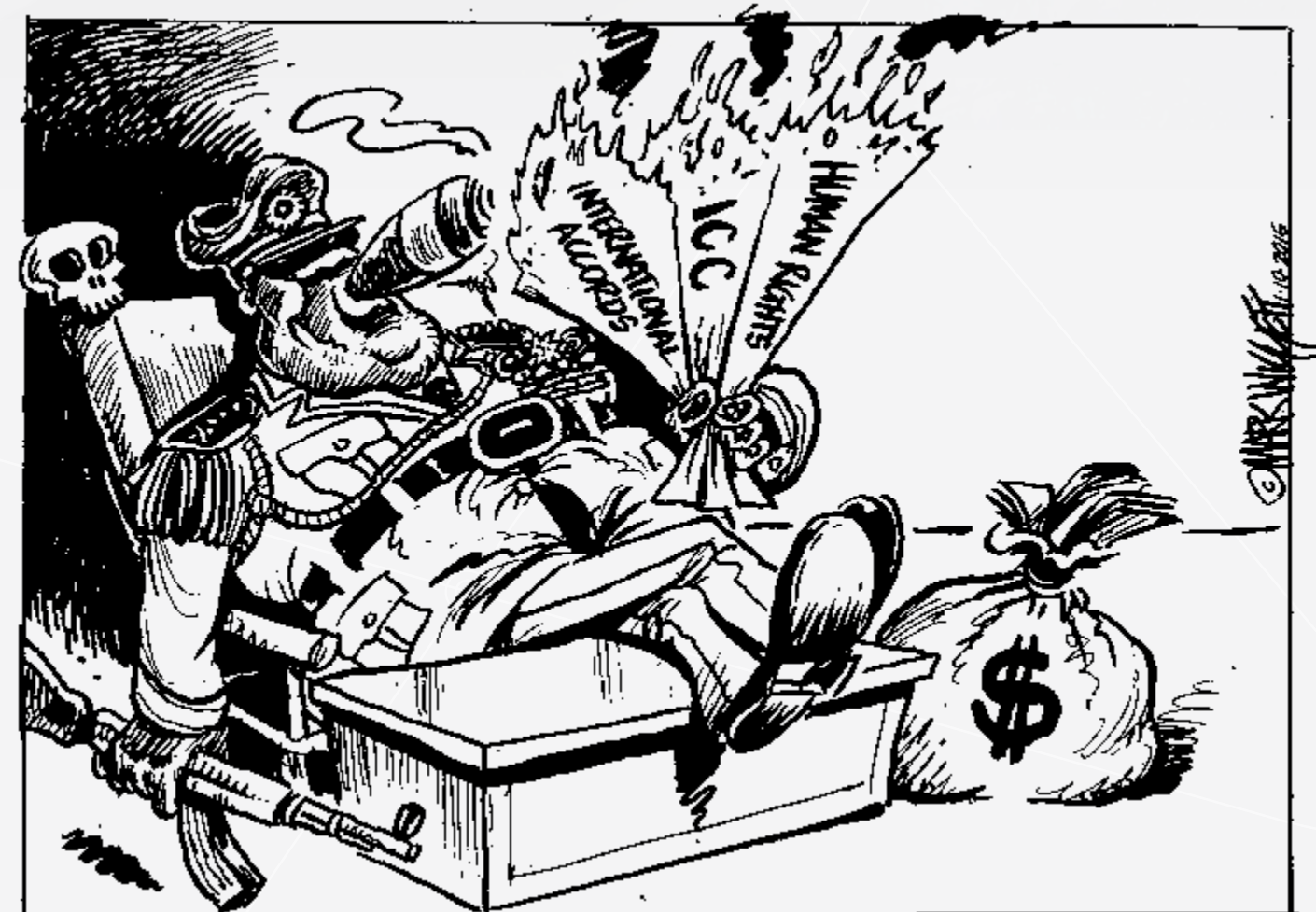
Africa has achieved progress on many of the MDG targets, particularly in increasing equal gender representation in parliaments, reducing infant mortality and HIV-related deaths and increasing school enrolment, especially for girls.

But despite some outstanding performances, African countries generally did not meet the majority of the MDG targets.

“Africa has achieved progress on many of the MDG targets, particularly in increasing equal gender representation in parliaments, reducing infant mortality and HIV-related deaths and increasing school enrolment, especially for girls. But despite some outstanding performances, African countries generally did not meet the majority of the MDG targets.”

The 14% reduction in the poverty level achieved in Sub-Saharan Africa is impressive but is still well below the MDG target of 28.25%. And, although SDG 17 aims to “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development,” a major obstacle to overcome is the trend toward diminished bilateral aid to Africa, which fell by 10% in 2012 and by a further 5% in 2013.

This raises questions around funding for development projects, a matter that is discussed, along with other challenges to implementing the SDGs in Africa, in interviews with African development experts presented on **page 14**.



Sustainable Development in Africa: Overlapping Agendas

Governments across Africa have signed up for two, concurrent development agendas: The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 - The Africa We Want. As displayed (right), there is much overlap between the two.



African Union Agenda 2063 – Distinguishing factors

- Build the Pan African Virtual University to elevate Africa's role in global research, technology development and innovation
- Implement the African Industrial Development Action Plan at country and continental level; fast-track the establishment of the Centre for African Mineral Development
- Introduce an African Passport, issued by AU member states; abolish intra-African visa requirements by 2018
- Reduce aid dependency by 50% by strengthening domestic resource mobilisation and eliminating all forms of illicit financial flows by 2025
- Double the contribution of African capital markets in development financing
- Operationalise the African Remittances Institute

UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

African Union Agenda 2063



Health, gender equality and well-being

Eliminate extreme poverty (under US\$ 1.25/day)



Eradicate poverty by 2025

End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Reduce food imports by modernising African agriculture and agribusinesses. Raise intra-African agricultural trade to 50% of continent's total food trade. Ensure 30% of agricultural financing goes to women

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages



Make Africa a leading performer in quality of life measures by 2063

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Achieve gender parity in public and private institutions by 2020. Immediately end child marriages, female genital mutilation and other harmful cultural practices against women

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Implement the Programme on Climate Action in Africa. Identify five regional technology centres and link with national climate adaptation plans

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Manage the development of water resources for socio-economic development, regional cooperation and environmental preservation

Restore and promote sustainable ecosystems, and halt land degradation and biodiversity loss



Create a sustainable forest management programme

Promote peaceful societies by providing access to justice and accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Universally apply the normative framework of the African Governance Architecture. Ensure all elections on the continent are free, fair and credible

Revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



Enhance Africa's united voice in global negotiations through development of common African positions. Obtain permanent seat on UN Security Council by 2025

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Build national and regional energy pools and grids

Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth that creates full employment for all



Create Continental Free Trade Area by 2017. Establish African Investment Bank and Pan African Stock Exchange (2016); African Monetary Fund (2018); and African Central Bank (2028-34)

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Create an African Accreditation Agency to develop and monitor educational quality standards; harmonise higher education continent-wide by 2025. Promote mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications

Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation



Connect all African capitals and commercial centres through the Africa Integrated High Speed Train Initiative. Improve efficiency and connections of the African aviation industry. Strengthen African port and shipping sectors as regional and continental assets. Increase broadband penetration by 10% and connectivity by 20% by 2018

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Support the implementation of industrial policies at all levels, with focus on SMMEs and agribusinesses

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



End all wars in Africa by 2020. Establish an African Human Security Index (AHSI) to monitor progress

Reduce inequality within and among countries



Establish commodity exchanges for strategic African products. Boost Pan-African businesses via regional manufacturing hubs and scaled up intra-Africa trade

Conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Strategise to grow the Africa's blue and green economies

Environment

Education and governance

Infrastructure, technology and trade



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IOA EXPERT INSIGHTS

Prospects and challenges of synchronising global and continental development agendas in Africa

A young boy carries containers of water through Shimelba refugee camp in northern Ethiopia. Photo courtesy John Lavall/Wikimedia Commons

African nations are currently in the process of adopting two new ambitious and often overlapping development agendas: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – the successor to the Millennium Development Goals – is an effort to confront global development challenges, while Agenda 2063 is a 50-year action plan launched by the African Union (AU) directed at addressing continent-specific issues.

The UNECA 2016 Conference of Ministers meeting focused on devising mechanisms for implementation and monitoring, identifying means to spur resource mobilisation among national governments and regional bodies, and specifying methods by which to harmonise the shared goals of the two agendas.

IOA asked some of its expert African consultants to comment on particular challenges that were discussed at the meeting in Addis Ababa from 31 March 2016 to 2 April 2016.

IOA EXPERT CONSULTANTS:

Dr Abdul-Karim Gibril Elgoni has nearly two decades of experience in the private and public sector, working in health project development, implementation and management; focusing on monitoring, evaluation and support. He has worked with various stakeholders in the SADC region and with UN agencies and NGOs, and established the Elgoni Charitable Organisation in Western Sudan in 2002.



Dr Abdul-Karim Gibril Elgoni

Dr Isaac Ogbodu is a researcher, an economics and criminology consultant and an international business strategist. He holds an MBA from Howard University and a PhD in criminology from the University of South

Florida. Isaac's clients include governments, international organisations, and private and public corporations. He specializes in UN and World Bank development initiatives, competitive market intelligence, economic and financial systems, due diligence, energy, risk management and corporate law.



Dr Isaac Ogbodu



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A money exchanger counts Somali shilling notes on the streets of the Somali capital, Mogadishu. Ineffective taxation schemes in many African countries leave governments starved of necessary revenue.

Photo courtesy AMISOM/Stuart Price/Flickr

Q: The current global economic slowdown has put a dent in external funding and development aid to African nations, meaning domestic and continental bodies will likely be required to do most of the financial heavy-lifting in the near term.

How can African governments better mobilise resources and which sectors in Africa should be prioritised as catalysts that will have the greatest multiplier effect?

ELGONI: When the Ethiopian government showed that it was serious about fighting corruption, that alone drew more interested investors. When the government lessened the bureaucratic hurdles to doing business and offered incentives, Ethiopia became a preferred investment destination. Sectors from construction to tourism are booming. It is a success story for resource mobilisation.

With China and the international community pushing for green economies, sectors such as agriculture, tourism, renewable energy and mining should be prioritised. Encouraging Africans in the diaspora to look home and invest can provide new ideas and investments.

OGBODU: The first consideration is that ‘one cap doesn’t fit all’, and that despite each African government dealing with its unique challenges in mobilising resources, there is a common reliance on taxation as the main source of public revenue.

If considered on a country-by-country basis, fundamental improvements will need to be implemented in the policies and administration of revenue collection systems and also in how these resources are used to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and accelerate development more generally. Some African governments have already committed to a set of core principles in resource mobilisation, while donor agencies have doubled technical assistance, especially in tax initiatives.

Tax legislation in most African countries is complex and the tax rules incomprehensible, even to well-educated taxpayers.

“ Tax legislation in most African countries is complex and the tax rules incomprehensible, even to well-educated taxpayers. ”

In these cases, countries have to simplify their tax legislation in accordance with the understanding of their taxpayers, while others will have to establish institutions that build capacity by training tax workers with the professional integrity to equitably implement legislation and to educate citizens

and corporations – domestic and foreign – on the necessity of paying their taxes. In addition, there are other countries that need to widen their tax base, create measures to tax the ‘informal sector’ and to combat tax evasion.

Finally, all tax revenues should be regarded as a component of government revenue which, if managed properly, will grow as the country develops, so government should eliminate exemptions and derogations, which sometimes represent a staggering loss of income.

Q: Feedback and monitoring mechanisms are essential for any development project. With Africa being such a diverse continent and considering the sheer number of proposed targets and projects, what are some necessary considerations that must be taken into account for an effective and coherent monitoring and evaluation framework evaluation framework for Africa? What kinds of technical assistance will participant states require?

ELGONI: This is the one million dollar question. All agree on monitoring and evaluation but are not happy to be evaluated. The African Peer Review Mechanism, which thought to highlight successes, disseminate best practices and facilitate resolving basic deficiencies in governance and socio-economic development processes, is yet to be fully appreciated as many countries are not taking it seriously. The mechanism could go a long way if assisted with real funding and expertise. Skills transfer in monitoring and evaluation and strengthening think tank-style institutions is needed in all African countries. There is a need for training in the art of policy implementation as there are ample useful policies that are on shelves or are only half implemented because of shortages in expertise or funding.



South Africa's President Jacob Zuma at the 14th Summit of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Monitoring and feedback on development progress can be a thorny issue for African governments that wish to avoid being evaluated. Photo courtesy GovernmentZA/Flickr

OGBODU: The success of any monitoring and evaluation campaign depends on the availability of data and the ability to collect and analyse this data. Most African countries are not equipped with national data or statistics centres that have the capacity to monitor and gather information on behalf of the UN.

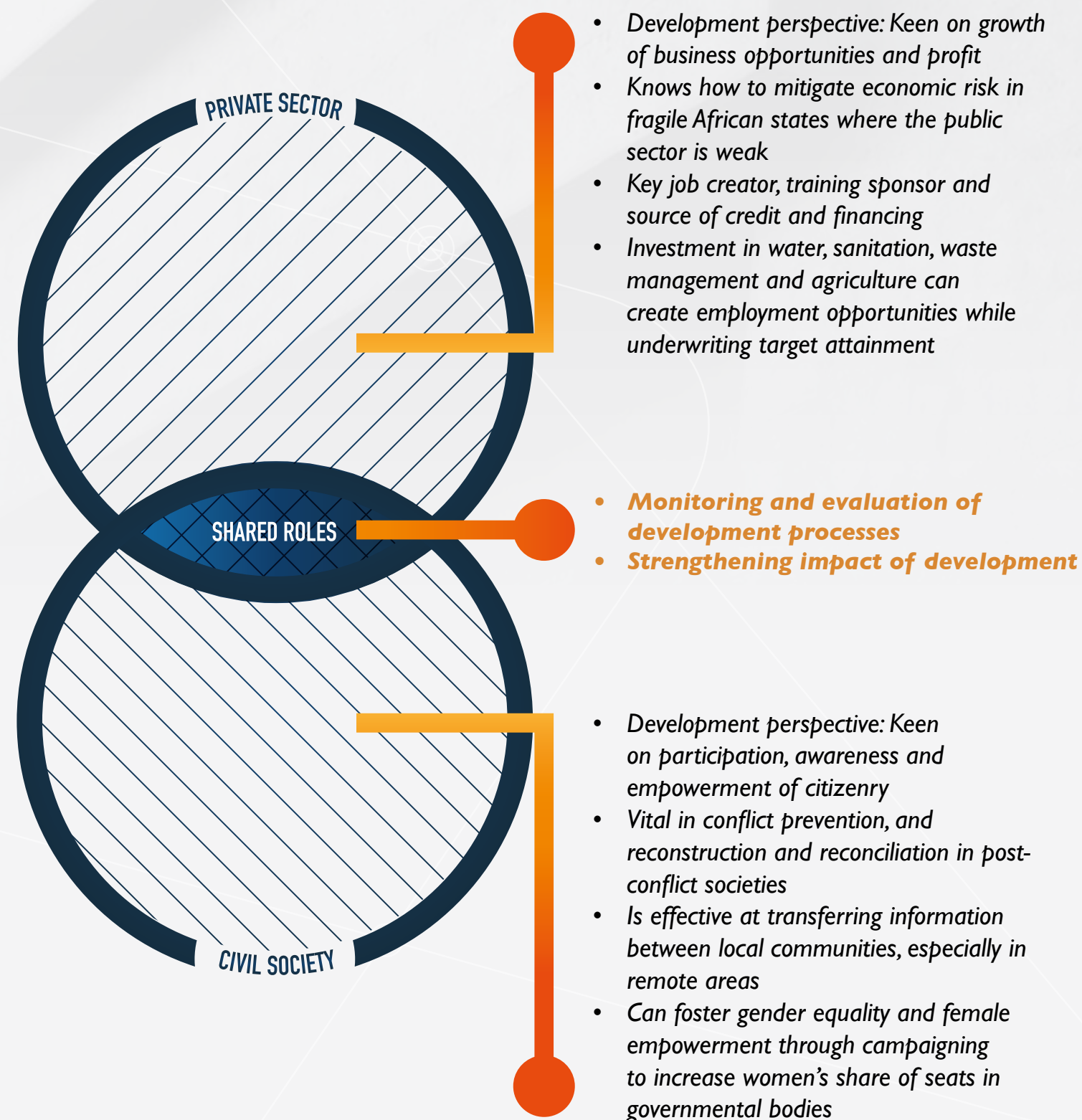
Major action has to be taken to ensure the availability of statistical information, and there must be coordination between international organisations and the home country's national statistics centres through its ministries or agencies. This coordination will address data and methodological discrepancies.

Technical assistance must be provided to all African countries to establish, improve or strengthen their national statistics services, including capacity building in collection, reporting and storage of data.

“ Skills transfer in monitoring and evaluation and strengthening ‘Think Tank’ institutions is needed in all African countries.

There is a need for training in the art of policy implementation as there are ample useful policies that are on shelves or are half implemented because of shortages in expertise or funding. ”

HOW THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY CAN MAKE UNIQUE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS



Q: Critics of the MDGs have said that apolitical development agendas that do not simultaneously improve governance and civil freedoms are incomplete at best and myopic at worst. They point to Eritrea as an example of a nation that excelled at meeting the MDGs yet remains one of the most repressive places in Africa, with thousands fleeing the country every month. What are your thoughts on the proposed shortcomings of apolitical development agendas in Africa?

ELGONI: The statement is true not only of Eritrea but also of Algeria, Libya, Uganda and others. However, the implementation of the development agenda is a challenge as America or Europe will always look after their own interests. If the status quo serves their interests, the negatives that affect the locals can wait.

Any development is actually a political statement where there are winners and losers. The urban elite have always promoted an urban development agenda that has led to poverty in rural areas and consequently, the ruralisation of the urban centres. Sometimes it looks as if it suits many countries that 'the cream' of Africa feels dissatisfied and moves to greener pastures.

OGBODU: So far, development agencies have turned a blind eye to governments' repression of civil and political rights, even though the agencies recognise these rights as central to sustainable socioeconomic development. In some cases, the repressive behaviour has to be very brazen to elicit international outcry and to justify donor response.

My thoughts on the shortcomings of apolitical development agendas in Africa are similar to the critical view expressed in the question because any sustained support

of a regime that represses its citizens undermines the coherence of any UN development programme whose explicit objectives are to improve the welfare and alleviate the suffering of any people.

“Some donors insist that support underwrites much-needed agricultural growth, food security and other non-political programmes, but giving loans to a government for development projects will not help the country if government officials embezzle all the funds.”

Some donors insist that support underwrites much-needed agricultural growth, food security and other non-political programmes, but giving loans to a government for development projects will not help the country if government officials embezzle all the funds. Providing experts to improve the legal infrastructure of the country will not help if local judges refuse to enforce the new laws because of institutionalised corruption or incompetence. Pressuring governments to combat corruption will not help if payoffs are needed to maintain social order. Europe and the United States — the usual



champions of anti-repression — have also lost their moral authority as a result of their own questionable behaviour. One should also tread lightly when criticising the UN on the apolitical nature of its development programmes. An understandable factor to be considered in international diplomacy is the possibility of repressive African governments seeking alternative forms of financing from other apolitical countries. For example, China's strict policy of non-interference in the domestic affairs of other repressive states makes it an attractive alternative to Western donors.

Q: Beyond the immediate targets of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, an underlying goal of the two development agendas appears to be to improve Africa's participation and performance in other continental/global development initiatives. How would you characterise African countries' past experiences with such processes?

ELGONI: Africa has always been a recipient, rather than an equal partner participant, in global development initiatives. One of Africa's problems is a weak national fervour. Germany and Japan became respectable economies partly because their citizens had that which fuelled them to go the extra mile. Many Africans will rejoice if they are to become European or American citizens.

We need commitment if there is to be active participation and good performance in global development agendas.

There are many Africans who have gained the qualifications, skills and prestige to take Africa to new horizons in continental development initiatives. With globalisation, these people must be given a space to play a role. Countries like South Africa, a member of BRICS, can play a bigger role.



A cyber café in Kasane, Botswana, caters to a Chinese expat community, demonstrating Africa's now well-established global ties.
Photo courtesy Stefan Magdalinsky/Flickr

“ There are many Africans who have gained the qualifications, skills and prestige to take Africa to new horizons in continental development initiatives. With globalisation, these people must be given a space to play a role. ”

OGBODU: In 2010, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) — considered to be a catalyst to Africa’s development — was officially launched by African leaders to bring together and merge various continental infrastructure initiatives, including transport, energy, trans-boundary water and ICT projects, into one coherent programme for the entire continent. The African Development Bank (AfDB) was then made responsible for implementing PIDA through its department of regional integration.

The characteristics of these economic, social and environmental development programmes varied among countries. Due to a lack of good governance, honesty and transparency in government functions, progress couldn’t be made in some countries. This lack of progress was characteristic of those countries that abused their citizens, denied them the equal protection of the law, or left them to be victims of corruption and mismanagement.

Q: Looking ahead, what kinds of shifts and changes — political, social, economic and environmental — pose the greatest risk of undermining efforts to achieve these two development agendas in Africa? What steps can be taken to manage these risks and prevent them from derailing progress?

ELGONI: The two development agendas have many other smaller agendas embedded in them and it is difficult to handle each and achieve it in isolation. Peace and security, poverty, drought and desertification, poor governance and presidents-for-life are the main challenges that will undermine Africa’s development efforts.

Institutions doing research need to be encouraged and their resources doubled to facilitate knowledge production regarding African challenges and the management thereof.

The private sector, through its business dealings, has accumulated a lot of this type of knowledge, but tends to be sceptical about the benefits of sharing proprietary data with government institutions. Increased goodwill between Africa’s private and public sectors can facilitate the sharing of knowledge and fast track collaboration on solving the continent’s challenges to mitigate a lot of risk.

At the same time, Africa needs to manage knowledge better to learn from what it does well and to avoid repeating mistakes. When this happens, countries will be able to handle the complexity of the development agenda. Gender, technology, energy, peace and security are issues that cut across all agendas.

OGBODU: There have been improvements in Africa's governance: there are more democratically elected governments than there were just a generation ago, and more sound economic policies provide for stable economies.

Despite that, there are a number of political flashpoints – including Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), Mali, Libya and South Sudan — where conflicts have taken on political, ethnic or religious dimensions with deadly impacts capable of undermining existing and future development achievements. In conflict situations, political, socio-economic and environmental costs are high, and development stalls where conflict occurs.

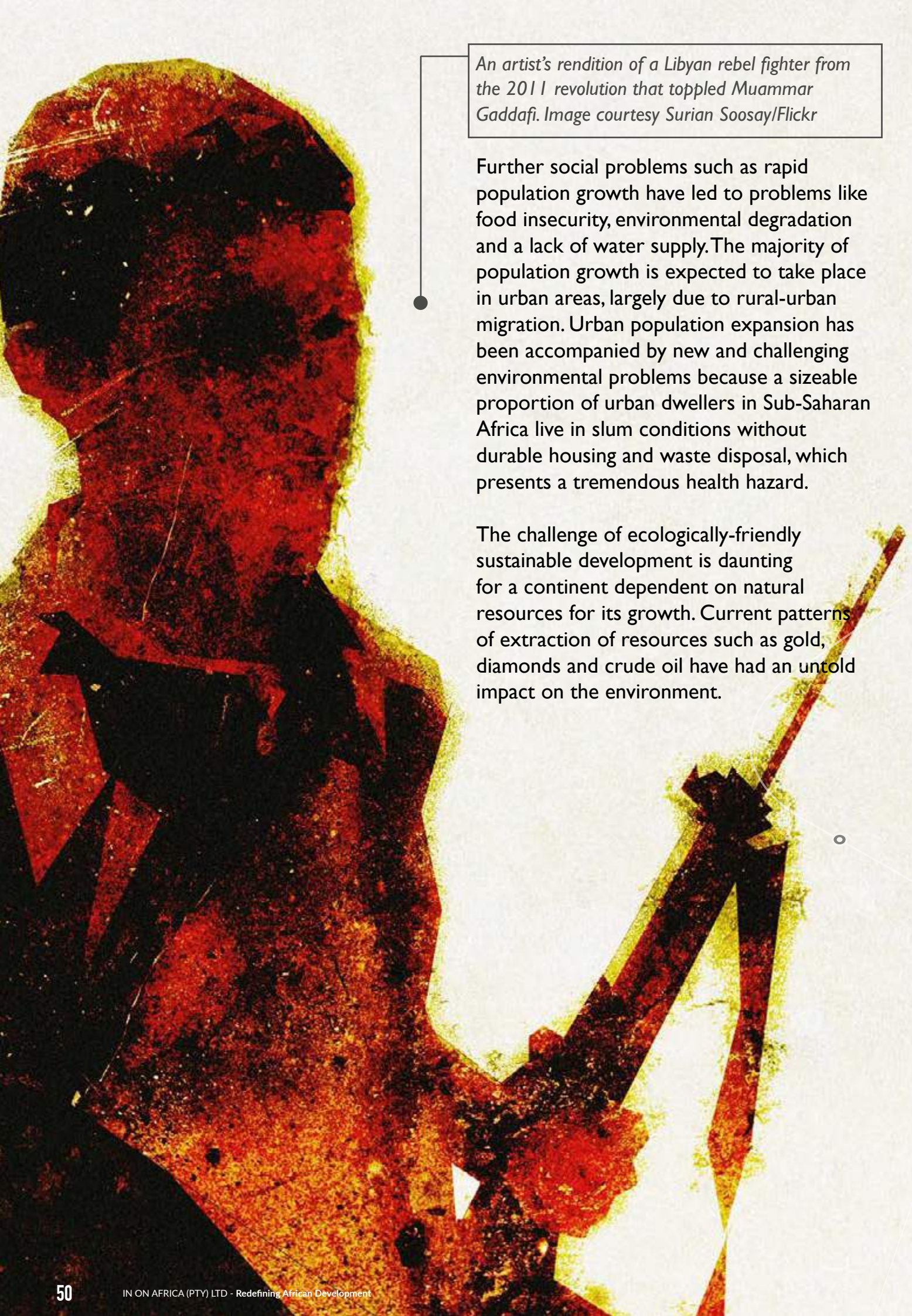
The fact is that no conflict is ever confined to the country where it originates, as it spills over to neighbouring countries with regional and global consequences.

Significant resources must be allocated to support refugees and the internally displaced; these situations degrade societies and distort economic power.

“ The fact is that no conflict is ever confined to the country where it originates, as it spills over to neighbouring countries with regional and global consequences. ”

Women pick tea in the Mount Kenya region. Two tenets of the AU's Agenda 2063 are to modernise African farming and ensure that 30% of agricultural financing is given to women. Photo courtesy Neil Palmer/CIAT/Flickr





An artist's rendition of a Libyan rebel fighter from the 2011 revolution that toppled Muammar Gaddafi. Image courtesy Surian Soosay/Flickr

Further social problems such as rapid population growth have led to problems like food insecurity, environmental degradation and a lack of water supply. The majority of population growth is expected to take place in urban areas, largely due to rural-urban migration. Urban population expansion has been accompanied by new and challenging environmental problems because a sizeable proportion of urban dwellers in Sub-Saharan Africa live in slum conditions without durable housing and waste disposal, which presents a tremendous health hazard.

The challenge of ecologically-friendly sustainable development is daunting for a continent dependent on natural resources for its growth. Current patterns of extraction of resources such as gold, diamonds and crude oil have had an untold impact on the environment.

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FEATURE ANALYSIS

The anomaly of rising poverty against surging economies in Africa

By James Hall

A UN peacekeeper provides security at a marketplace in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo. Photo courtesy MONUSCO/ Sylvain Liechti/Flickr

That poverty is a causative factor for conflict is clear. Extremely poor people are desperate and unhappy, and when one out of nine people on the African continent are desperate and unhappy, a population exists with the potential to revolt, to migrate *en masse* to become another continent's immigration crisis, or to be recruited into militant and religious extremist groups.

Consideration of the rising number of poor populations in Africa is therefore not just an economic and humanitarian imperative but a security necessity for individual nations, the continent and the global community. The latter will surely be faced with additional

waves of economic refugees and subject to attacks by terrorists recruited amongst Africa's poor.

On 16 October 2015, the World Bank released a report, *Poverty in a Rising Africa: Africa Poverty Report*, whose genesis was not conflict concerns but income distribution. The bank's researchers sought to know how African families' lives had been financially affected by 25 years of "unprecedented economic growth." To the bank's credit, no assumption was made that such growth automatically meant that individual Africans were doing better financially. As researchers in fact discovered, for 100 million Africans,

the opposite proved true. The good news is that statistically, the percentage of Africans living in extreme poverty declined from 56% in 1990 to 43% in 2012, the last year that relatively complete poverty data was compiled. This was a remarkable drop for a perennially impoverished continent.

This is also evidence that Africa's growing middle-class is not a myth but a burgeoning reality, although an African considered to be middle-class exists on far less than a Western middle-class individual and is in greater peril of slipping into poverty if a spike in joblessness occurs as a result of external economic shocks, such as volatility

in the price of commodities – still the backbone of most African economies.

“Consideration of the rising number of poor populations in Africa is therefore not just an economic and humanitarian imperative but a security necessity for individual nations, the continent and the global community.”



Families displaced by clashes between government forces and rebels in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Africa's levels of poverty and conflict are deeply intertwined.

Photo courtesy Sylvain Liechti/MONUSCO/Flickr

However, Africa's out of control population boom has almost made the statistics meaningless because, in actual numbers, Africans living in extreme poverty rose by 100 million between 1990 and 2012. The World Bank finds this statistic "staggering." What is more, the trend of Africans living in extreme poverty is expected to continue: "Further, it is projected that the world's extreme poor will be increasingly concentrated in Africa," the report noted.

Demographic data can be difficult to obtain in Africa and poverty statistics vary, particularly when totalitarian governments manipulate statistics for propaganda purposes. Considering this, the World Bank report concluded, "Even under the most optimistic scenario, there are still (today) many more Africans living in poverty (more than 330 million in 2012) than in 1990 (about 280 million)."

Where Africans' well-being is highest, conflict is lowest

Measuring a citizen's per capita share of his or her country's gross domestic product (GDP) – the amalgamation of national



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wealth – is misleading because of income disparities. National wealth is hardly distributed evenly in any country in the world, socialist nations not excepted.

A true measure of the economic status of individuals utilises a standard income of US\$ 2 a day, below which a person is considered extremely impoverished. However, there are other, so-called non-monetary measures to determine individual and national well-being. The richest businessman in conflict-heavy Central African Republic (CAR) feels a personal insecurity not known to a Senegalese fisherman whose income officially places him in the poverty bracket.

“ In terms of warfare and terrorism in Africa, which can instantly end lives and shatter fortunes, the World Bank report found that after a decade of relative peace, conflict is on the rise. ”

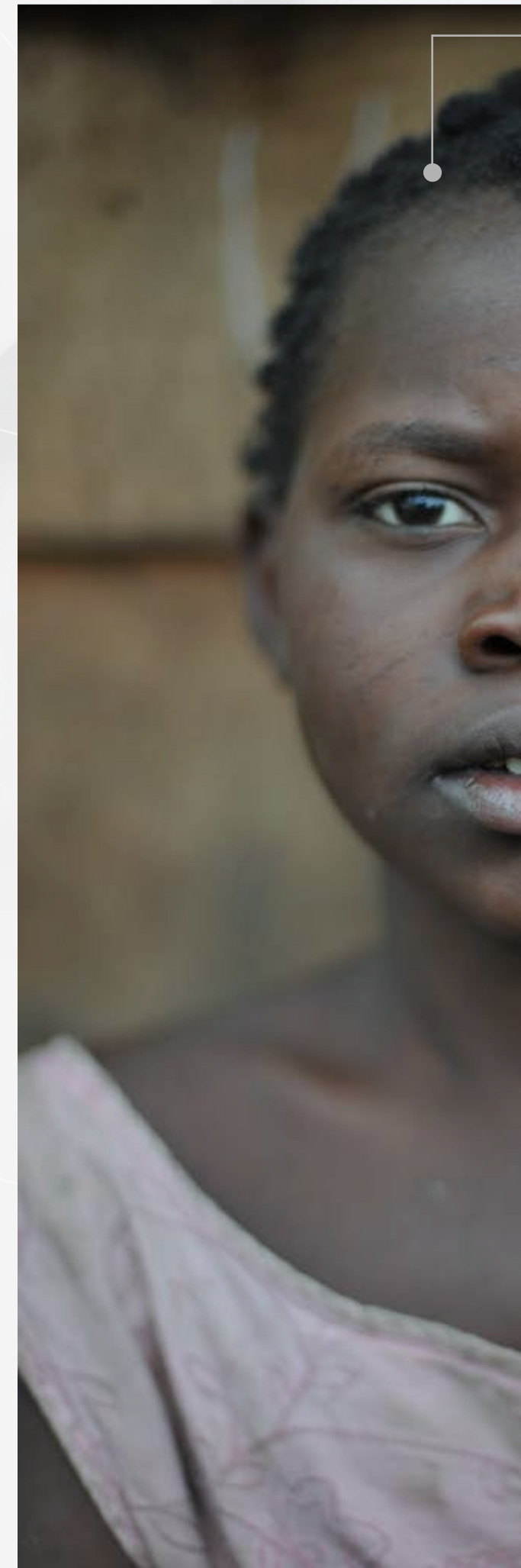
By non-economic measures, the report found, "Africa's population saw substantial progress in most non-monetary dimensions of well-being, particularly health and freedom from violence." The picture is mixed, however. While more than two in five African adults are illiterate, between 1995 and 2012 adult literacy rates rose by 4%. "Gross primary enrolment rates increased dramatically, and the gender gap shrank," the report notes, while also admitting that African children's education and thus future wealth-earning capacity is compromised by low-quality schools. Africans' life expectancy at birth rose on average 6.2 years during the past 25 years despite the HIV/AIDS epidemic that has taken its toll on Africa, more so than on any other continent. Chronic malnutrition among children under five fell by 6% during this period, although hunger remains a key concern in all African countries. In terms of warfare and terrorism in Africa, which can instantly end lives and shatter fortunes, the World Bank report found that "after a decade of relative peace, conflict is on the rise." Although, what may comprise one of the most impressive and positive statistics of the report, the number of African deaths from politically-motivated violence declined by 75% between 1992 and 2012.



Children cope with only minor learning materials at an outdoor school in the Ngorongoro area west of Arusha, Tanzania.
Photo courtesy Feans/Flickr

“Africans enjoyed considerably more peace in the 2000s than they did in earlier decades, but the number of violent events has been on the rise since 2010, reaching four times the level of the mid-1990s,” the report noted. Anti-government revolutions in North Africa traumatised the economic and non-monetary well-being of citizens in affected countries; and, Central Africa and the Horn of Africa were cynosures for insurgencies, civil war and terrorism, the latter of which was brought to West Africa by the Islamic rebels, Boko Haram.

Yet, the most pernicious generator of conflict was natural resources. The gold, diamonds, oil and precious mineral wealth of countries endowed with these resources might be expected to uplift the standards of living for citizens fortunate enough to reside in countries thus blessed. In fact, the opposite has occurred, the World Bank reports. In the CAR and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), to give two examples, the fight for precious resources has led to decades of political instability and violence. Militant groups without ideologies or territorial claims have been armed gangs on the payroll of neighbouring countries and international interests who destabilise mineral-rich areas so that illegal mining can profit their benefactors. The consequences for the ordinary people of the CAR, DRC and other countries rich in natural resources has been devastating. Conflict and national instability have made the development of education and health sectors impossible and have blocked the development of infrastructure expansion critical to raising populations out of poverty. Conflict has also killed off generations of productive workers and leaders in all fields of endeavour.



A young girl at a camp for displaced persons in Rubavu district in Rwanda's Western Province. The majority of refugees fleeing conflict zones in Africa are women and girls, diminishing their access to jobs and education, while also placing them at greater risk of sexual exploitation and gender-based violence. Photo courtesy Julien Harneis/Flickr

“ Militant groups without ideologies or territorial claims have been armed gangs on the payroll of neighbouring countries and international interests who destabilise mineral-rich areas so that illegal mining can profit their benefactors. ”

Compared to African countries that are less well-endowed with mineral and oil riches that inspire conflict and corruption, the report noted, “People in resource-rich countries tend to be less literate (by 3.1 percentage points), have shorter life expectancy (by 4.5 years) and higher rates of malnutrition among women (by 3.7 percentage points) and children (by 2.1 percentage points), suffer more from domestic violence (by 9 percentage points), and live in countries that rank low in (government) accountability measures.”

Ongoing efforts by the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA) and the UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) are doing more to pacify

militant groups and bring stability to those regions than any initiatives since those countries' national independence. Countries like Rwanda that sponsor militants to reap profits from the looting of natural resources are identified as supporters of insurgencies in other countries by the UN.

The African Union (AU) and regional bodies have also shown a determination to bring peace to resource-rich countries, whose mineral and other assets can be used to benefit African economic growth as a whole. Similarly, the dire lives of most residents of the Horn of Africa who face oppression in Eritrea, extreme poverty in Somalia and civil war in Sudan and South Sudan, will only be

improved when peace efforts are in place to enable economic growth to occur.

Economic inequity in Southern Africa assures future conflict

The most surprising revelation of the World Bank report is that Africa would enjoy the same degree of economic equality as other continents' developing countries if not for seven nations, namely Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia. "Of the 10 most unequal countries in the world today, 7 are in Africa," the report notes. However, "by excluding these countries (from the continental average),

Africa has inequality levels comparable to developing countries in other parts of the world."

With the exception of South Africa and Zambia, five of the seven aforementioned countries with sizable economic inequality in Southern Africa are small, with populations of less than five million. The inequality in these countries that allows for the amassing of wealth in the hands of very few people while the vast majority of citizens live in extreme poverty, is due to autocratic and corrupt political systems that allow public wealth to be stolen for private gain by the governing few and their cronies.

“In South Africa, persistent economy-crippling strikes and violent protests against poor government service delivery are precursors of what is likely to come.”



*MONUSCO peacekeepers monitor the streets of Goma, the capital of the DRC's resource-rich but conflict-plagued North Kivu province.
Photo courtesy Sylvain Liechti/MONUSCO/Flickr*

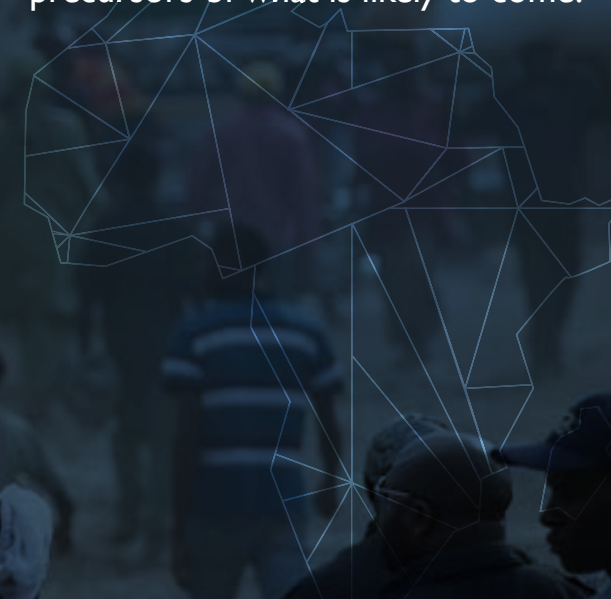
This is the case in Zambia. South Africa finds wealth concentrated both in the hands of the white minority that dominated the economy through the apartheid and post-apartheid eras and today's politicians and political allies who have benefitted from the African National Congress's (ANC) uncontested rule to become rich.

Only political maturation taking root throughout Southern Africa will end corruption, bringing opportunities and financial advancement for the masses by allowing for economic growth and an educated population.

"High levels of inequality can impose heavy socio-economic costs on society. Evidence suggests that inequality leads to lower and less sustainable growth and thus, less poverty reduction," the bank reports.

Reforming corrupt governments requires outside pressure, civil unrest or revolutions as witnessed in Northern Africa.

Such unrest generated by economic disparities and unfairness do not seem imminent in Southern Africa in the immediate future, but seem unavoidable in the mid-term. In South Africa, persistent economy-crippling strikes and violent protests against poor government service delivery are precursors of what is likely to come.





Inequality in South Africa is by some measures higher today than during the apartheid era.

Above Left: The township of Diepsloot on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

Above Right: A rooftop restaurant and bar in Johannesburg's upscale district of Sandton.

Photos courtesy Niko Knigge/Flickr; South African Tourism/Flickr

Poverty and the conflict cycle can come to an end

In Africa, extreme poverty is caused by conflict. Conflict comes in several forms: civil wars of North and East Africa, insurgencies in Central Africa and the terrorism of West Africa, all of which impoverish the masses as they sow destruction.

Corruption in Southern Africa comes at the expense of the powerless and the political outsiders, who are the middle-class and poor, and results in stagnant economies that trap the poor in their poverty and decimate the middle-class.

“Unmentioned in the World Bank’s African poverty report is the unsustainability of a continuously huge population surge in Africa, which will ensure that economic opportunities and thus advancement will remain forever beyond the reach of many Africans.”

Stabilising war-torn areas will end armed conflict and give countries the breathing



room to be able and foundation on which to raise living standards. Political maturity sufficient to reform Southern Africa’s corrupt one-party states is a longer-term process, although it may be accelerated if populations resentful of their perennial poverty caused by greedy leaders erupt in civil unrest. A third requirement to lessen the threat of conflict arising from poverty is population reduction. No African country has a population policy and most African governmental health policies reflect cultural desires for greater population growth. Unmentioned in the World Bank’s African poverty report is the unsustainability of a continuously huge population surge in Africa, which will ensure that economic opportunities and thus advancement will remain forever beyond the reach of many Africans. The statistic that 100 million Africans out of a continental population of 1.2 billion live in extreme poverty is discouraging. Equally alarming is that in 1990, the year the World Bank’s report uses for comparative purposes, the continent’s population was a third smaller at 630 million.

In Sum:

- Conflict in Africa causes poverty, which in turn leads to more conflict by inciting social unrest and insurgencies
- Ironically, resource-rich countries have more conflict and extreme poverty as corrupt officials, foreign powers and insurgencies clash to control resource wealth
- If not for seven Southern African countries where the corruption of one-party states has led to massive economic inequality amongst citizens, Africa would have the same economic equality level as non-African developing countries

James Hall, Founding Editor of the Africa Conflict Monitor (ACM) and critically acclaimed author and columnist, pioneered insider coverage and analysis of Africa, in Africa, with six books and thousands of articles and news stories for publications worldwide.



RANKING AFRICAN NATIONS

Measuring African country performance across business, economy, politics and society

Cattle traders wade through the Black Volta river on their way to a cattle market in Ghana.

Photo courtesy Neil Palmer/CIAT/Flickr

Africa is comprised of 54 independent nations and, while some of these are blessed with abundant natural resources and others are harsh desert environments or isolated volcanic islands, all have the potential for greatness. In combination, the targets aspired to in both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the AU's Agenda 2063 are geared toward unlocking this potential in each African nation and improving the prospects and well-being of their citizens.

However, just like Africa's diversity in landscape and culture, individual countries across Africa find themselves at different

points along the spectrum of national development, some further along than others. In February 2016, In On Africa (IOA) released its ground-breaking African Country Benchmark Report (ACBR), a pioneering report that holistically assesses country performance using various business, economic, political and social indices.

The ACBR shows a wide divergence in African countries' success at obtaining economies, political systems and social welfare benefits for their people.

Some countries do very well, while others are virtual 'failed states' – dangerous, miserable places with dysfunctional political and social systems.

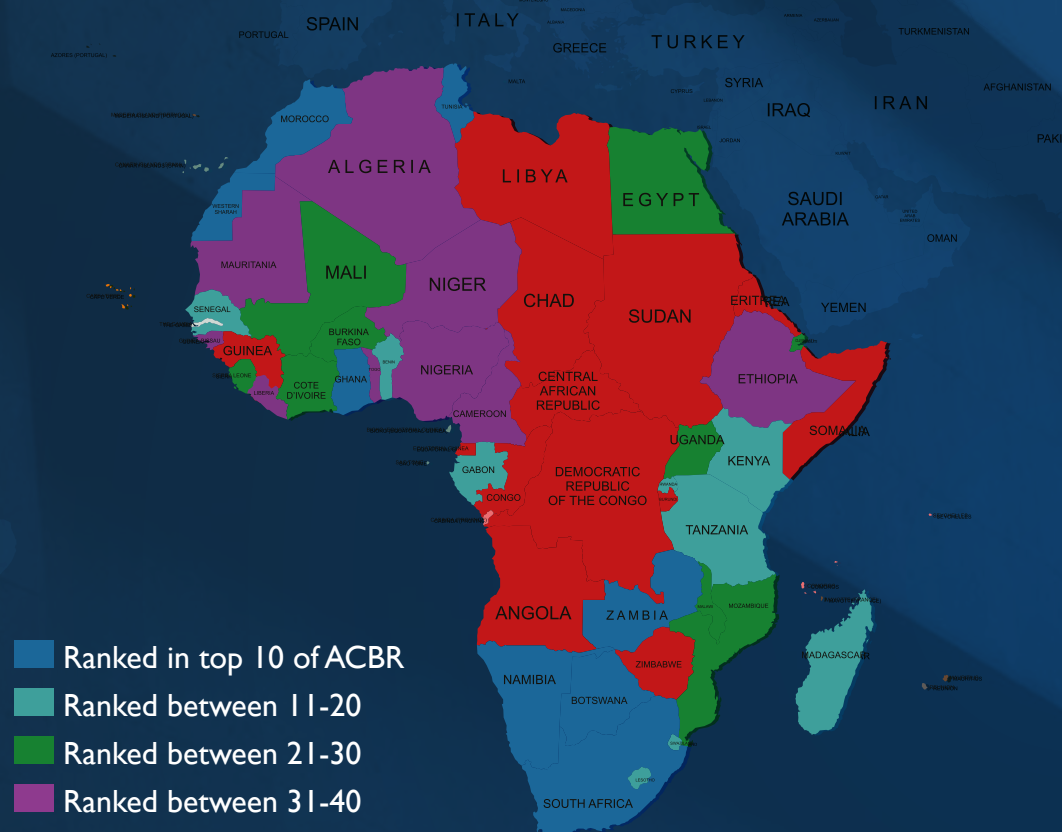
While the concurrent development agendas of the UN and AU envision a day in the future where all Africans live in sustainable societies with prosperous economies, effective governance and robust civil liberties, the ACBR examines the present status of each African country. And, in doing so, illustrates which nations are best positioned to meet the development targets laid out in the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

The following is an overview of the ACBR rankings and the insights contained within, along with highlights of the top performing countries in each African region. The full report, covering all 54 African countries, can be accessed here:
www.inonafrica.com/download/2810

IOA 2016 ACBR

IOA'S AFRICA COUNTRY BENCHMARK REPORT: MEASURING NATIONAL PERFORMANCE

- Mauritius
- Botswana
- Namibia
- Cape Verde
- Seychelles
- Tunisia
- South Africa
- Ghana
- Zambia
- Morocco
- Lesotho
- Senegal
- Rwanda
- São Tomé & Príncipe
- Gabon
- Kenya
- Benin
- Tanzania
- Madagascar
- Swaziland
- Burkina Faso
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Mozambique
- The Gambia
- Uganda
- Egypt
- Sierra Leone
- Djibouti
- Malawi
- Mali
- Comoros
- Togo
- Ethiopia
- Liberia
- Algeria
- Niger
- Cameroon
- Mauritania
- Guinea-Bissau
- Nigeria
- Burundi
- Equatorial Guinea
- Libya
- Congo-Brazzaville
- Zimbabwe
- Sudan
- Angola
- Guinea
- DRC
- South Sudan
- Eritrea
- CAR
- Chad
- Somalia



TOP-10



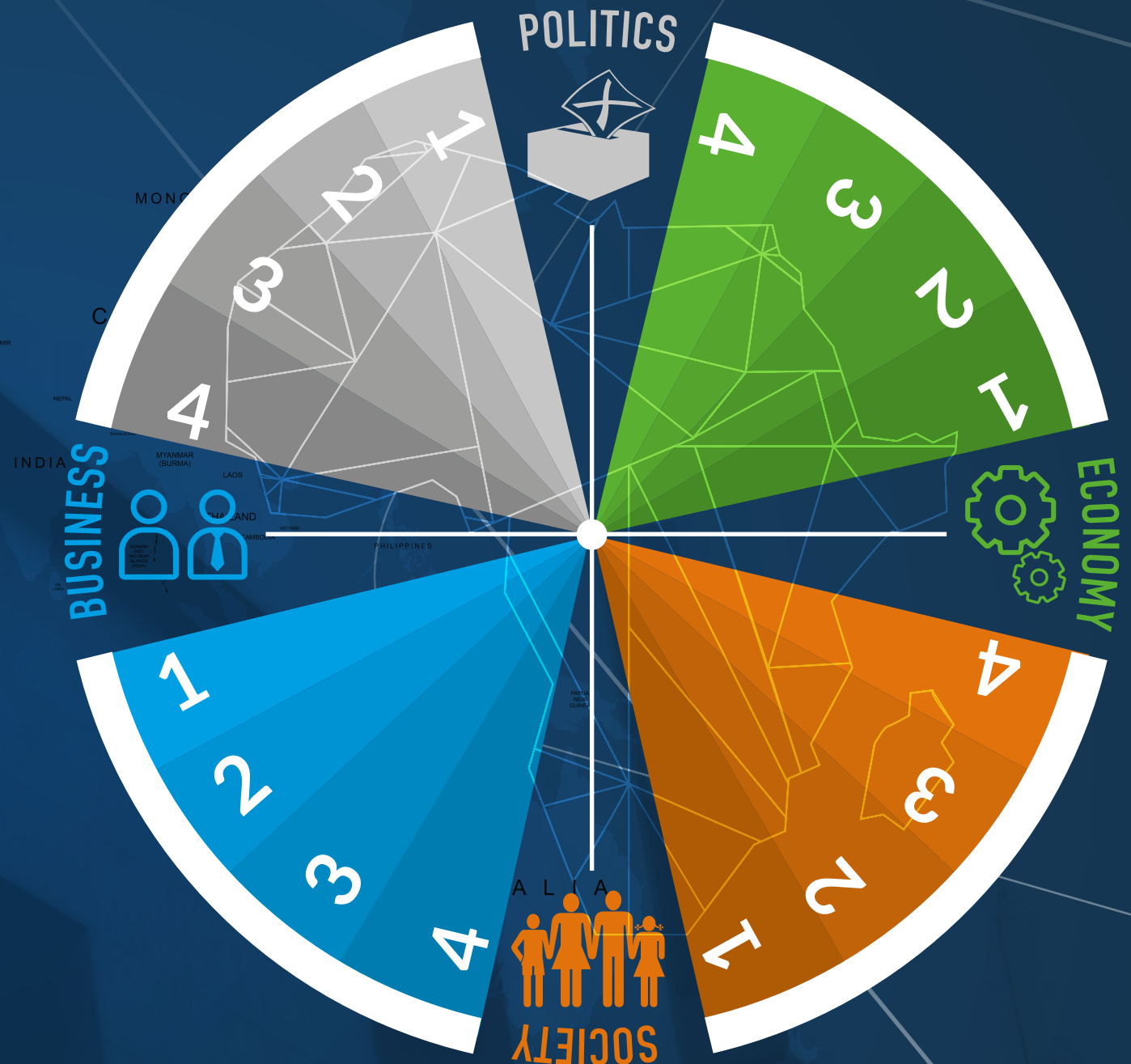
BOTTOM-10



NATIONS

TOP GDP-CONTRIBUTING SECTORS

BENCHMARK INDICATORS



- 1 PRESENCE OF A CONDUCIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT**
2 PRESENCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE
3 STRENGTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY OUTPUT
4 ENCOURAGE COMPETITION WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS

- 1 LEVELS OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE**
2 RESILIENCE TO REGIONAL AND GLOBAL FORCES
3 OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR CITIZENS
4 QUALITY OF WELL-BEING

- 1 REGULATION VS OVERBEARING GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT**
2 PRESENCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE
3 STRENGTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY OUTPUT
4 PROPER USE OF HUMAN CAPITAL AND LABOUR FORCE

- 1 STRENGTH OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES**
2 LEVEL OF MEDIA FREEDOM
3 PROVISIONS FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES
4 PRESENCE OF CORRUPTION

IOA's Africa Country Benchmark Report (ACBR) assesses African country performance from a holistic perspective, with the primary objective of providing readers with an all-encompassing picture that provides the most accurate profile of every country on the African continent.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE TOP PERFORMING COUNTRIES IN EACH REGION (OVERALL RANKING)

NORTH AFRICA TOP PERFORMER
- Tunisia (6th overall)

Tunisia's more progressive political institutions put in place after a 2011 revolution toppled a dictatorship and set into motion the Arab Spring, have translated into better opportunities for business and the uplifting of Tunisian society as a whole. Tunisia's overall index ranking, in sixth place amongst African countries, reflects the attributes of what is North Africa's most stable and perhaps economically-promising country. The legacy of political oppression and economic inequity must be overcome

to stop the exodus of dissatisfied Tunisian youth who depart to join the Islamic State (ISIS) – Tunisia provides more ISIS recruits than any country. However, fair economic growth and low inflation have been signs that government's economic stimulus initiatives are working. Strong trade links with Europe offer Tunisian exports a ready, affluent market.

The Medina district of Sfax, a city on Tunisia's eastern coast, is part of Tunisia's keystone tourism industry.

Photo courtesy Dennis Jarvis/Flickr



EAST AFRICA TOP PERFORMER
- Rwanda (13th overall)

Stability and economic growth accompanied by some human rights abuses and meddling in the affairs of neighbouring countries have been characteristic of Rwanda's post-genocide come-back. From its civil war that saw 800,000 Tutsis slaughtered two decades ago, economic growth has been accompanied by concerted efforts to accomplish gender equality in government, and these improvements are reflected in Rwanda's rankings on business, economic and society indices. Subsistence farming is the livelihood for 90% of Rwandans, and agriculture dominates Rwanda's economy.

Rwandan men showcase a traditional dance routine in the Musanze district of Rwanda's Northern Province.

Photo courtesy Voyages Lambert/Flickr

Although Kagame's desire to rule the country for the next two decades is a setback for democratic growth, his government is skilled at improving the country's business prospects.

Kigali is hoping that a new Special Economic Zone will attract agribusiness investment and establish ICT and logistics sectors in Rwanda.

WEST AFRICA TOP PERFORMER – Ghana (8th overall)

A population whose colourful culture attracts tourism and faces no external security challenges, Africa's first country to gain post-colonial independence is still a standard bearer for education and social service improvements in the West African region, but must cope with crime and domestic maladies like government corruption. New oil wealth and government's inability to ensure equitable distribution of proceeds is already having an effect on good governance and Ghanaians satisfaction with the way their country

is headed. Because between 54-60% of Ghanaians live in urban areas, informal settlements upgrades to suitable living habitats and better urban services are urgently needed. Infrastructure rehabilitation on a national scale, particularly boosting electricity supplies, is necessary for business investment. The IMF is pressing for more government fiscal austerity, which is unlikely to happen in the run-up to 2016 elections that finds voters dissatisfied with economic inequities.

Fisherman labour with their nets at Ghana's Cape Coast.
Photo courtesy David Stanley/Flickr



CENTRAL AFRICA TOP PERFORMER – Gabon (15th overall)

National prosperity that accounts for the Gabonese Republic's high placement on the ACBR has led to a syndrome of higher expectations held by the Gabonese people.

Oil accounts for 50% of GDP, 70% of government revenues and nearly 90% of exports, and dropping oil prices have hindered government's infrastructure improvement and social welfare plans. A dispute with Equatorial Guinea over ownership of a trio of islands in the Gulf of

A man gazes to the top of an old-growth tree at a forest in Estuaire, Gabon.
Photo courtesy Axel Rouvin/Flickr

Guinea has been a source of tension since the 1970s, but the two countries agreed to UN-mediated talks in January 2016. The Gabonese per capita share of GDP dwarfs that found elsewhere in Sub-Saharan Africa, but great wealth inequities have made this statistic meaningless.

If Gabon is to retain its notable stability, participation in political affairs and national income must be more equitable.

CONCLUSION



An ocean-side view at dusk from Mauritius' Pamplemousses district. Photo courtesy Stuart Richards/Flickr

SOUTHERN AFRICA TOP PERFORMER – Mauritius (1st overall)

Africa's top performer on the ACBR enjoys good governance and progressive economic and social policies reflected in the country's indices rankings. Although stable, democratic and the African leader on economic and governance indicators, Mauritius is not without its political corruption scandals and

pockets of poverty. The Indian Ocean island nation's open economy is buttressed by a competent, business-friendly bureaucracy and regulations, and good government.

Mauritians enjoy high life expectancies for Africans (76 years), high literacy levels (90%), recognition of human rights and Africa's highest real per capita incomes (Equatorial Guinea is higher on paper, but is negated by gross inequality).

Fair and regular elections ensure people- and business-oriented governance.

Lessons learned from the past ensure greater success for the future

The MDGs were not intended to be a scorecard on Africa's development performance. The quantification of targets was necessary to focus efforts at achieving the ultimate goal of eradicating poverty and ensuring that everyone could enjoy the quality of life promised by the 21st century. However, an important lesson learned in the 15 years of striving toward meeting the MDGs is that setting and meeting targets for development is not enough to create the productive, prosperous and equitable "Africa We Want."

Great strides were made in meeting MDG targets across Africa and poverty levels on the continent have fallen. However, more Africans are living in extreme poverty today than when the MDGs were first introduced as the benchmark for development. The Sustainable Development Agenda and Agenda 2063 are now well-positioned to address the shortcomings of the MDGs and to resolve their predecessor's unfinished business.

One of the keys to successful implementation of the two development plans, as the AU-UNECA Conference of Ministers and development experts generally accept, is the need to empower African people to take the lead in their own development. International development partners, be they developed nations or development agencies, will ultimately serve their own interests, often turning a blind

eye to government oppression of civil and political rights. Where corruption and poor governance fail citizens, the private sector and civil society will play vital roles in holding governments to account. These sectors of society also have an interest in and the unique qualities to rally ordinary people to get involved in development efforts.

In addition to leveraging local talent, the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda and Agenda 2063 hinges on the two agendas' harmonisation with national development plans, skills training, policy reform and the mobilisation of domestic resources for funding. But as the MDG experience demonstrates, even the best laid development plans will not be entirely successful unless political and civil rights are ensured, social and economic inequality is addressed and the conflicts that aggravate poverty and inequality in many parts of Africa are resolved.

The initial conditions present in a country influence the pace of its progress on global development agendas. Mauritius with its good governance, progressive economic and social policies and business-friendly investment climate will fare better than Ghana and Tunisia, which in turn, are likely to make greater progress toward meeting the new development goals than Rwanda or Gabon. However, both the Sustainable Development Agenda and Agenda 2063's focus on structural economic transformation and inclusive growth have the potential to unlock every African country's development potential.

CONTACT

IN ON AFRICA

PHONE: + (27) 11 027 4027

EMAIL: info@inonafrica.com

WEB: www.inonafrica.com

ADDRESS: 06 The Vine Place,
Fairland, 2030
Johannesburg, South Africa



@inonafrica



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