



# AUDA-NEPAD NEWS

A monthly publication of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD

January 2019

## **N**avigating African Priorities for the G20

**Pretoria, January 29, 2019** – Representatives from the T20 African Standing Group made up of leading African think tanks, African policy makers, researchers and thought leaders convened at the *G20 and Africa - Navigating African Priorities for the G20* conference in Pretoria, South Africa on 29 January.

The conference was held to enable African stakeholders to discuss key G20 priorities emerging out of the Argentine G20 Presidency and incoming Japanese G20 Presidency, thereby enabling more active participation of Africa in key global political, economic and developmental processes.

It was pointed out by Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Mr Luwellyn Landers that, “The deliberations of the conference is as an important input in guiding South Africa’s approach and engagement in the work of the G20 during 2019.”

Addressing Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Dr Yashuo Fujita, Deputy Director at JICA Research Institute and representatives of international organisations and think-tanks, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) stated that, “The involvement of Africa, through South Africa as a permanent member of the G20 is to align Africa’s position and that of the African Union, by maximising the space to allow Africa’s interest to be defended.”

Dr Mayaki reiterated that Africa’s priorities include the flagship programmes of Agenda 2063; strategic continental frameworks such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), among others, because the delivery process of the regional integration agenda, which starts regionally and then escalates nationally to push the regional integration agenda.

*- continues on the next page*



Keynote panellists at the G20 and Africa - Navigating African Priorities for the G20 conference in Pretoria

**Representatives from the T20 African Standing Group met to enable more active participation of Africa in key global political, economic and developmental processes**

### In this Issue

- Navigating African Priorities for the G20
- African Economic Outlook: When it comes to growth, quality matters more than quantity
- Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative progress
- Strengthening opportunities in the Tomato Value Chain
- Promoting African Tourism Innovation
- Agricultural diversification: Missing link

On another key priority for the continent, Dr Mayaki stressed that African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) needs to start by having strong internal markets to tackle the 400 million African youth that are born and with us today.

The conference acknowledged that the compact with Africa can be seen as the most innovative mechanism at the moment. Therefore, it is important to have clear and stable continuity to what has already been started by the Argentinian presidency in the G20.

Deputy Minister Landers concluded that, "Looking ahead to the G20 Osaka Summit to be held on 28 and 29 June 2019, and building on the strong commitment of the G20 to development and African priorities, we are encouraged by the Prime Minister Abe's commitment to use his Presidency of the G20 to 'Lead global economic growth by promoting free trade and innovation, achieving both economic growth and reduction of disparities, and contributing to the development agenda and other global issues with the SDGs at its core. Through these efforts, Japan seeks to realise and promote a free and open, inclusive and sustainable, "human-centred future society."

## **A**frican Economic Outlook: When it comes to growth, quality matters more than quantity

by Dr Ibrahim Mayaki

The African Development Bank has just published its African Economic Outlook. The Pan-African institution based in Abidjan forecasts that Africa's GDP will increase by 4% this year, up from 3.5% in 2018. This rate is expected to accelerate to 4.1% in 2020. While Africa's macroeconomic outlook is undoubtedly improving after several difficult years, I would like to insist on the need to remain cautious.

First, because the figures are still well below the average of more than 5% that the continent experienced in the decade preceding the commodity crisis of 2015, and are insufficient to reduce poverty and create jobs, as the report rightly points out.

Unfortunately, for years, GDP growth on the continent has not translated into economic development, due to a lack of structural reforms. The fact that Africa is still home to nearly 400 million people living in extreme poverty cannot be ignored. Nor the fact that its share in world GDP does not exceed 3%.

In addition, according to the 2018 Ibrahim Index of African Governance, economic opportunities for African citizens have improved by only 0.2% since 2008, despite a 40% increase in the continent's GDP. Job creation increased by 1.8% per year between 2000 and 2014 according to AfDB forecasts, which is less than the growth of the working population, estimated at 3% per year.

In a demographic context where 440 million young Africans will reach the age to seek employment in the next fifteen years, there is a pressing need for action.



However, it is worrying to note that Africa still has too few examples of determined policy makers on the path to structural reform. The need for reform is intensifying in a context of increasing risks related to trade tensions and debt vulnerability, topics I have already had the opportunity to discuss on this blog. I am even concerned that the favourable economic growth figures presented by the African Development Bank may make some policy makers complacent, as they can use these good performances to justify inaction.

As the saying too often goes in Africa: growth cannot be eaten. However, this should not be a curse: in many countries, growth is "eaten". Indeed, Africa needs better growth, not just higher growth. To achieve this, the solutions are well known: structural reforms, regional integration, investment in education and infrastructure, which are currently far from sufficient if we want to train and give the next generation every opportunity. It is a collective responsibility that we must assume here.

Finally, it is also the responsibility of the political elites to create the economic wealth that will enable us to free ourselves from the development aid on which we are still dependent. Too many people are unaware of this, but 80% of our States could do without it today.

I do not intend to place myself "against" this aid, but I would like to reiterate that it is by definition transitional. However, the nature of the growth we are creating in Africa risks keeping us in this state of dependence. There is now a real urgency to think together to create the conditions for "growth that can be eaten!"



The Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) was adopted to accelerate regional infrastructure development that is enabled through the political championing of projects



## Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative progress

**Windhoek, January 24, 2019** - The Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) was adopted to accelerate regional infrastructure development that is enabled through the political championing of projects. The role of the champions is to bring visibility, unblock bottlenecks, co-ordinate resource mobilisation and ensure project implementation. Most of the PICI projects, if not all, have made tremendous progress since its inception.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Technical Task Team workshop for the PICI was held in Windhoek, Namibia from the 23 to 24 January. The workshop was co-hosted by the Government of Namibia (Ministry of Works and Transport) and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD).

Namibia's Permanent Secretary Ministry of Works and Transport, Mr Willem Goeiemann gave a description of the Namibian International Logistics Hub PICI project. Through its Transport Master Plan, Namibia aims to establish a development framework and strategies to make the country the regional logistics centre. Namibia will structure this PICI project within the context of the PICI protocol and modalities.

Representing the AUDA-NEPAD CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, Mr Symerre Grey-Johnson, NEPAD Agency's Head of Partnerships, Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade said that, "PICI technical workshops not only provide a platform for knowledge sharing with all of the respective experiences, but through the active participation of all focal points, they also aim to define an implementation strategy enabling our Heads of State and Government to be actively involved in the development of these projects."

The Champions of infrastructure in PICI include:

- H.E President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria for the Missing Link of the Trans-Sahara Highway, as well as the Optic Fibre from Algeria via Niger to Nigeria;
- H.E President Macky Sall of Senegal for the Dakar-N'djamena-Djibouti Road/Rail;
- H.E Muhammadu Buhari, President of Nigeria for the Nigeria-Algeria Gas Pipeline: Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline;
- H.E President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo champions for the Kinshasa-Brazzaville Bridge Road/Rail;
- H.E President Paul Kagame of Rwanda champions the Unblocking of Political Bottlenecks for ICT Broadband and Fibre optic projects;
- H.E President Abdel Fattah El Sisi of Egypt champions the Establishment of a Navigational Line from Lake Victoria to the Mediterranean Sea via the River Nile Project (VICMED);
- H.E President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa for the North-South Corridor Road/Rail Project;
- H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta, of Kenya for the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor Project (LAPSSET)
- His Excellency, President Hage Geingob, of Namibia champions the International Logistics Infrastructure Hub Projects

The Technical Task Team workshop provided a platform for effective brainstorming and round table discussions on the best and innovative solutions for infrastructure delivery for Africa ranging from infrastructure financing solutions, enabling environment, private public partnership delivery solutions based on international best practices.





In an effort to boost domestic production, improve value and attract more investment, the Federal Government of Nigeria announced a new tomato policy in 2017. The inclusion of tomato production and processing activities for investment incentives is a positive development.

## **S**trengthening opportunities in the Tomato Value Chain

**Kano, Nigeria, January 24, 2019** – Tomato accounted for about 60% of the global vegetable production at 177 million tonnes in 2016. Nigeria is currently the second largest producer of fresh tomatoes in Africa, producing 10.8% of fresh tomatoes in the region. Over the last decade, the production of fresh tomatoes in Nigeria has grown by 25% from 1.8 million tonnes to an estimated 2.3 million tonnes.

Grow Africa and the Nigeria Agribusiness Group (NABG) held a one-day Tomato Stakeholders Summit in Kano, Nigeria on 24 January. The 1<sup>st</sup> National Tomato Stakeholders Summit (NTSS) discussed the theme “Strengthening Opportunities in the Tomato Value Chain towards a National Self Sufficiency” and brought key stakeholders together to examine the many challenges facing the industry in the country.

In his remarks, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Regional Development, Chief Audu Ogbeh highlighted the need for a mental shift in Nigerians. He noted that a desire for imported products aids smugglers and puts pressure on the Naira.

In an effort to boost and increase domestic production, improve value and attract more investment, the Federal Government announced a new tomato policy in 2017. The policy aims to discourage importation by increasing tariffs on tomato concentrate from 5% to 50% and introduced a USD1, 500 levy per tonne. Subsequently, the inclusion of tomato production and processing activities for investment incentives is a positive development. Incentives such as tax holiday and the introduction of zero percent import duty on greenhouse equipment are expected to increase investments in the tomato industry.

Currently, there is also the installation of the first solar powered cold room. The Minister also announced that the government is soon to introduce a scheme to fund agriculture machinery purchase at 5% interest.

He concluded by stating that the country is at a point where the future of the country is tied to its ability to create jobs, many of which will come from the agriculture sector.

The tomato summit is a result of a cooperation agreement between Grow Africa the Nigeria Agribusiness Group (NABG) signed in May 2017. The collaboration is aimed at working towards to improving the business environment of private sector in agriculture and for smallholder farmers including connecting commercial partners with knowledge, expertise and resources where possible. The agreement also aims to identify key platforms to advance the development of the Tomato value chain in Nigeria.

According to the NABG, there is a need to consolidate on these recent gains, by mobilising more private investment towards improving production and reducing wastage along the value chain. The summit highlighted the new direction of the tomato value chain following the commencement of the implementation of the new tomato policy, addressed some key factors limiting investment in the tomato industry in Nigeria, proffered actionable solutions to pre and postharvest losses problems while also addressing production challenges faced by farmers.

Grow Africa’s country lead, Etami Akinnuoye Ndoping noted that Grow Africa will continuously work with NABG to stimulate private sector investment in the tomato value chain, reiterating Grow Africa’s role as a convener aiming to facilitate and increase private sector investment. She also highlighted the next steps which include the Country Agribusiness Partnership Framework (CAP-F), which will be hosted at NABG and through which private sector investors will continue to be engaged on value opportunities in the sector.

The summit was attended by key government officials, industry leaders, stakeholders, policy makers and partners in the tomato sector who share similar vision of developing and enhancing the tomato value chain in Nigeria and also to forge strategic partnership with local farmers and investors in the 12 largest tomato producing States. In closing, the Emir of Kano, Muhammadu Sanusi II, expressed satisfaction with the summit and called all stakeholder to help local boost their production and cut post-harvest losses.



From L-R: Kim Whitaker of South Africa; Codou Olivia Ndiaye of Senegal; Nkosana Masuku of Zimbabwe; Rekik Bekele of Ethiopia, and David Gonahasa of Uganda.

## Promoting African Tourism Innovation

**Madrid, January 24, 2019** – The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD facilitated the participation of five African youths in the inaugural United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the AUDA-NEPAD *Tourism Tech Adventure: Promoting African Tourism Innovation*. This year's event took place on 24 January in Madrid, Spain, during INVESTOUR.

INVESTOUR is an annual Tourism Investment and Business Forum for Africa, which took place on the margins of the celebration of the 39<sup>th</sup> the Tourism and Trade Fair of Madrid. The initiative is dedicated to supporting African startups that could contribute to the transformation of the tourism sector. It challenges Africa's young entrepreneurs and innovators to design innovative startups that will positively contribute to the facilitation of travel and tourism in their respective countries and in the region as a whole.

Following a call for application made on 5 November 2018, by both AUDA-NEPAD and UNWTO, five startups were selected as part of the UNWTO/NEPAD Tourism Tech Adventure Initiative. The five startups received sponsorship to learn and pitch their startups to the world's tourism leaders, investors, corporates, academia and supporting business partners during INVESTOUR.

During the event, the Mr Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General of UNWTO expressed his organisation's gratitude to the NEPAD Agency for collaborating on the innovative project.

He underscored that this project is part of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed between both entities in 2016.

In his remarks, the AUDA-NEPAD's representative at the event, Mr Vincent Oparah, Project Manager for the Skills and Employment for Youth Programme, urged the young Africans to make good use of the various opportunities that the initiative presented to them.

The pitching competition saw Mr David Gonahasa, the Managing Director of Roundbob in Uganda, and Ms Codou Olivia Ndiaye, Co-founder and Project Manager of LIVES in Senegal, emerge as winners. Mr Gonahasa and Ms Ndiaye were rewarded with scholarships by Madrid based IE Business School to further develop their startups into big businesses.

The five participants were introduced to various innovation hubs in Madrid, which included: Wakalua (Tourism Innovation Hub); the Amazons Innovation Hub; Airbus Innovation Hub and Google Campus for further mentorship.

The event was well attended by with dignitaries that included 12 African Ministers of Tourism; the Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs in Spain, Mr Fernando Martín Valenzuela Marzo; D<sup>a</sup>. María Reyes Maroto Illera, Spain's Minister of Industry, Trade and tourism and members of the diplomatic corps.



# Agricultural diversification: Missing link

**Kafue, Zambia, January 9, 2019** - In the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP), agriculture development is considered the engine for economic growth in Zambia, and a key determinant in the country's efforts to reduce poverty.

However, productivity in the agriculture sector lags considerably behind mainly because the rural populace, which accounts for 70 percent of the country's agricultural production, seems not to produce enough to tackle poverty at household level.

Government has been implementing a number of development programmes and strategies aimed at improving agricultural productivity, though they have often generated weak responses. For example, the dependency on maize production alone has been identified as one of the many contributors to high poverty levels and food insecurity among rural farmers.

In February last year, President Edgar Lungu advised Zambians to rethink dependency on maize. "It is time farmers reconsidered their dependency on maize as a staple food and sought other alternatives. Going by what we have experienced [drought], it is time we took stock, whether maize should be the ultimate crop for survival as a people," President Lungu said.

For almost every Zambian, maize means food. Many homes, whether in the rural or urban areas, depend on nshima for their main meals. It is not an understatement that in some homes, it is the only food available for all the three meals in a day - breakfast, lunch and supper. But maize production is facing a bleak future as Zambia's staple food not only because of the erratic rainfall that the country is experiencing, but also the high cost of producing it.

Take last farming season, for instance, when the country witnessed a long dry spell, which left some maize fields scorched. Farmers in Zambia depend on rain to grow their crops and times like these leave them desperate and hopeless.

Zambia has other alternative crops like cassava, sorghum, millet and rice, which can be developed to constitute main meals. But why is farmer response to diversification weak?

Evaristo Banda, 66, a small-scale farmer in Rufunsa district, says the main problem farmers face in adjusting from maize to other cereals is the lack of technical advice and knowledge on how to go about the production of alternative crops.

Mr Banda attributes the lack of knowledge to the absence of response from agricultural extension and advisory services in his area.

"I know [about] the advice from President Lungu early last year, but farmers have no guidance on how to go about it because of the absence of technical advice from extension officers. For this, I blame the extension officers for their failure to address the diverse farmers' needs and demands," Mr Banda says. Mr Banda knows that farmers countrywide have not adapted to climatic and other risks, hence the urgent need for diversifying their farming activities.

"We know the need to diversify but we cannot explore it on our own. We need assistance through research and surveys to determine what crop to grow and at what time. Such information is missing and is the major setback to our graduation from maize to other cereal crops," Mr Banda says.

He says the relationship between farming diversity and food security has potential to change the current face of agriculture in the country.



Another small-scale farmer, Christine Singoyi, 46 of Shimabala area in Kafue knows that crop diversification has potential to grow agricultural productivity.

Mrs Singoyi says the missing link between small-scale farmers and agriculture extension officers is a drawback in the progress of farming systems in Zambia.

"We know of the cost of just growing one crop like maize both in nutrition and monetary terms but as small scale farmers. We need programmes that promote sustainable land use management practices in order to nurture our soils, but people to give us this information are not there," Mrs Banda says.

Studies indicate that agricultural diversification increases resilience, helps farmers to reduce climatic and economic risks, enhances productivity and creates food and nutrition security. The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) recently conducted a research in Zambia on the need for small-scale farmers to diversify crop production as opposed to depending on maize alone. IIED senior researcher Seth Cook notes that diversity is a key element not only to food production but also of healthy, high-quality diets.

According to the research findings, diverse agricultural production will contribute to dietary diversity in farm households in Zambia.

"In addition, studies have found stronger links between agricultural biodiversity and dietary diversity in female-headed households than those headed by males. There is also evidence that when women have control over resources such as land and money, it leads to greater allocations of household resources for food. Empowering women is clearly key," Mr Cook says.

Mr Cook says failure to diversify threatens food production and dietary patterns in Zambia. He notes that food diversity is at risk because of various factors, among them the diminishing number of crops on farms. He is hopeful that one day diversity on the farm will lead to diversity on the plate.

Mr Cook says the way forward to diversity is to protect and strengthen the knowledge and cultural practices that support diverse food systems, adding that a multi-stakeholder approach can help to achieve diversity and build upon citizens' knowledge and practices.

Article submitted by Doreen Nawa, first published in the *Zambia Daily Mail*, [www.daily-mail.co.zm/agriculture-diversification-missing-link/](http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/agriculture-diversification-missing-link/)

## Upcoming events

- 10 - 11 Feb 2019: 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- AUDA-NEPAD events on the margins of the AU Summit are:**
- 7 Feb 2019: Nourishing Africa through improved nutrition and sustainable food systems: African launch of the EAT-Lancet Commission Report on Food, Planet, Health
- 8 Feb 2019: Public Seminar: Launching a Special Report: Africa's path to 2063: Choice in the face of great transformations
- 9 Feb 2019: 37<sup>th</sup> Session of AUDA-NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee

More events can be viewed at: [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)

## Contact Us

African Union Development Agency-  
NEPAD

Communication Unit

Tel: +27 (0) 11 256 3600

Email: [info@nepad.org](mailto:info@nepad.org)

Twitter @Nepad\_Agency

Instagram nepadagency

[www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)

## Announcement



### Youth Essay Contest on The Africa We Want

African youths are invited to participate in a short essay contest on #TheAfricaWeWant

Entries will be judged on the originality of ideas or proposals that can potentially have positive societal impact currently, or those that will transform the African continent in years to come through actions that need to be taken now in Agenda 2063, the continent's vision for transformation.

**Deadline for submission: 28 February 2019**  
Winners will be announced at an award ceremony in Johannesburg, South Africa

For entry requirements go to [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)  
Contact us on Email: [essay@nepad.org](mailto:essay@nepad.org) | Tel: +27 11 256 3600/12

## AUDA-NEPAD

African youths are invited to participate in a short essay contest on

**#TheAfricaWeWant**

Deadline for submission: 28 February 2019

Winners will be announced at an award ceremony in Johannesburg, South Africa

For more information visit:

[www.nepad.org/news/youth-essay-contest-africa-we-want](http://www.nepad.org/news/youth-essay-contest-africa-we-want)

He who does not cultivate his field will die of hunger

~ Guinean Proverb



Copyright © AUDA-NEPAD

All content of the AUDA-NEPAD Newsletter is the exclusive property of the African Union Development Agency. No part of the material may be quoted, photocopied or reproduced without prior permission from the AUDA-NEPAD, 230 15th Road, Randjespark, Midrand, South Africa

