

Newsletter N° 39 - October 2015

The ACP Local Government Platform e-Newsletter is an electronic newsletter produced every three months by the ACP Local Government Platform (ACP-LG Platform). The editor of this e-Newsletter invites readers to make comments & contribute news on local government issues from their organisations, local authorities & countries. All former editions of the newsletter are available on the Platform website: www.acplgp.net (go to 'News', then 'Platform Newsletters'). For those who want to know about the Platform and its history, please visit the Platform website www.acplgp.net (go to 'The ACP-LG Platform', then 'Background', 'Establishment of the Platform' and 'Future orientation'). The Newsletter N 23 is a special edition to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Platform.

EC calls for proposals: open / foreseen

Various EC calls for proposals open/foreseen for some programmes of interest to local authorities can be seen at <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

- Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic programme (NSA & LA)

Countries	Deadline	Budget* (EURO)	Reference
Nigeria	30/10/2015	2.000.000	EuropeAid/137201/DD/ACT/NG

- EIDHR: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Papua New Guinea	open	295.000	EuropeAid/131030/L/ACT/PG

- Food Security

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Haiti	06/11/2015	7.000.000	EuropeAid/137451/ID/ACT/HT
Madagascar	open	1.700.000	EuropeAid/134180/M/ACT/MG

- Various fields in ACP countries

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Tanzania	16/11/2015	4.500.000	EuropeAid/137556/ID/ACT/TZ
Ethiopia	10/11/2015	1.000.000	EuropeAid/137059/DD/ACT/ET
Mauritania	19/10/2015	1.600.000	EuropeAid/137269/DD/ACT/MR
Senegal	13/11/2015	300.000	EuropeAid/137365/DD/ACT/SN
Mauritius	open	56.000.000 (MUR)	EuropeAid/134113/M/ACT/MU
All ACP	open	7.000.000	EuropeAid/130741/D/ACT/Multi

News from the EU

Key role for local and regional governments in financing for development

The 3rd conference on Financing for Development, held by the UN, was kicked off on July 13th for 3 days in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and aimed at building consensus on the means to implement the post-2015 development agenda.

The conference resulted in an official outcome document adopted by 193 Member States, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, meant to support the implementation and financing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This conference was the opportunity to look back on and acknowledge progress since the Monterrey consensus (2002) and the Doha declaration (2008), outcomes of the two previous conferences on financing for development which did not include the role of local and sub-national governments.

Moreover the summit, by building on recent UN Consultations which recognise the importance of strengthening the capacity of local and regional governments and their associations, represented an opportunity for participants to discuss the need for the localisation of resources as well as the localisation of the SDGs.

The conference also addressed the issue of unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and expressed the need to adopt "an equally ambitious, comprehensive, holistic and transformative approach" to achieve the post-2015 development agenda. In the meantime, local and regional governments made clear that the international community will be unable to achieve the SDGs without including all levels of governance in the financing process.

In the end, the conference was a "political success yet a practical disappointment". The Addis Ababa summit did make a step forward in the recognition of local and regional governments in the financing for development agenda, however further concrete actions and commitments for real achievements in territories will need to be addressed. Local and regional governments and their associations also expressed their concern regarding private investments in basic services and infrastructures as it will require careful monitoring and institutional support.

Can the local and regional governments make the SDGs a reality?

Local and regional representatives participated in four of the six interactive Multi-Stakeholder Round Tables of the Conference, sharing their experiences and proposals with Members States, international organisations, representatives of civil society and the private sector.

Moreover, eight side events organised around the local dimension of financing for development were organised by the Global Task force (GTF) and its partners.

The discussions explicitly recognised the need to support local and regional governments in their efforts to mobilise new resources. Indeed, the GTF acknowledged that "well-structured and supported local governments can contribute substantially to mobilising domestic resources in order to achieve the SDGs, promoting participatory mechanisms to increase citizen engagement and strengthen local accountability".

Other issues were discussed such as the financing of sustainable urban development, the ways to unlock already available resources, the financial architecture for localising development finance, multi-level strategies for implementing the new development agenda, public and private partnerships, etc.

Source: PLATFORMA Newsletter N 35 - July 2015

News from the ACP-EU

ACP-EU relations after 2020: a move 'beyond aid'

The Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States are undergoing a strategic review of “repositioning” the group in the global arena ahead of negotiations on the future EU-ACP relationship before the end of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement in 2020. According to ACP Secretary-General Patrick Ignatius Gomes, the current period can be characterised as one of “deep reflection, (...) [to ensure a] much more mature relationship with Europe that is not at all aid dependent. ... We want to let aid be pushed into the background.” The ACP has already identified five strategic policy domains: (i) rule of law and good governance; (ii) global justice and human security; (iii) building sustainable, resilient and creative economies; (iv) intra-ACP trade, industrialisation and regional integration; and (v) financing for development. Gomes added, “Aid is such small portion of development finance (...) For some, yes, it is sizeable – 20-30 % of the annual budget – but in several other countries it is miniscule in relation to foreign direct investment [and] what countries are able to mobilise on their own if they had better tax systems and [could] avoid becoming indebted.” The ACP Group also aims to reposition itself by diversifying relations and looking to new partners, such as the BRICS, the global South, as well as greater intra-ACP cooperation. On trade, Gomes underlined that market access was not enough, rather a structural transformation is needed to enhance productive capacity. Source: CTA Newsletter N 457 (EN)

ACP-EU relations after 2020: Issues for the EU in consultation

The Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union expires in February 2020. The European Commission and the European External Action Service hosted a series of roundtable discussions with experts this year to prepare for a public consultation and eventual EU negotiating mandate on the future of the partnership beyond 2020. This report summarises the discussions held on: i) what kind of partnership do we want?; ii) the future framework for international cooperation and development policy; iii) means of implementation; iv) stakeholders and institutions; v) regional integration and trade; vi) global challenges; and vii) demographic developments. There was consensus that a future agreement should take into account factors such as: i) the changes that have taken place in global geopolitics; ii) new emerging challenges and regional dynamics; iii) the heterogeneity of the partners; iv) the Cotonou acquis; v) shared universal values; vi) EU specific and mutual ACP-EU interests and vii) the flexibility needed to deal with changing circumstances. http://brussels.cta.int/images/EPRD_ACP-EU_Post-Cotonou_Final_Report.pdf

Joint Communiqué: 3rd Cariforum-EU Council meeting

The Third Meeting of the Joint CARIFORUM-European Union (EU) Council under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was held in Guyana on 16 July 2015. The Joint Communiqué published by both parties underscores the importance of the Five Year Implementation Review to determine the Agreement’s impact. During the meeting, it was agreed to (i) develop a joint monitoring system, as continuous monitoring of the EPA, is provided for in Article 5 of the Agreement and (ii) to establish a Special Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries to exchange information, consult and take action in these fields, in order to contribute effectively to the existing CARIFORUM Food and Nutrition Security and sustainable development plan. It was regrettable that the meeting noted that CARIFORUM States had not yet been able to fully convert the market access offered by the EPA into meaningful market presence and there was concern that the EPA has not yet had the anticipated impact on overall trade between CARIFORUM and the EU. Both parties member states were urged to ratify the agreement.

Source: CTA Newsletter N 456 (EN)

Pacific ACP Trade and Fisheries Ministers expressed concerns at the EU's proposal to defer the Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations and reaffirmed their intent to continue engagement in the comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations as a region with solidarity. The Pacific Islands Forum’s Secretary General said it is particularly disappointing that the European Commission has conditioned any further progress of the comprehensive EPA negotiations on commitments by the Pacific region in the area of fisheries. <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/press-statements/2015-media-releases/pacific-ministers-call-for-eus-commitment-to-epa-negotiation.html>

News from the ACP

ANCG - Publication of a Guide for conflict prevention in mining areas

This practical guide was presented in June 2015 in Conakry to the main public and private actors of the mining sector, in the presence of representatives of civil society organisations and local government.

Developed with the financial support of the ‘American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (AA ROLI)’ with the technical assistance of INSUCO consulting company, the guide aims to establish a framework for clear understanding of the rights and obligations of the local populations, the mining societies as well as state actors in the framework of industrial mining.

It also proposes strategies and tools that may provide spaces for negotiation and compromise.

A clearly understood and agreed framework is indeed conducive to a better management of the economic benefits from these industries and to improve transparency, and thus the level of accountability of these enterprises and local administrations. The challenge is to know how the mining activity and the wealth it generates will really improve today’s and tomorrow’s Guineans’ life.

The National Association of Guinean Municipalities - ANCG published the electronic version of the guide in its website:

http://www.ancg-guinee.org/Docs_centre_res/publication/Guide%20sur%20les%20conflits%20miniers.pdf

Source: ANCG Newsletter N5 - October 2015

News on Post-2015 global development agenda

Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A new Sustainable Development Agenda was unanimously adopted by 193 United Nations Members at a special meeting. The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next fifteen years to eradicate poverty and ensure sustainable development and peace. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. The 2030 Agenda includes an ambitious set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets, mobilising all countries and stakeholders towards their achievement and affecting domestic policies.

Sustainable Development Goals:

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

EU: adoption of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the United Nations at a special summit. The EU has been a leader in contributing to this process from the start. It is now committed to take this agenda forward, both inside the EU and through the EU's external policies by supporting implementation efforts in other countries, in particular those most in need. Ahead of the Summit, First Vice-President Frans Timmermans, responsible for sustainable development and leading the Commission delegation on behalf of President Juncker, said: "This Agreement is a historic event, and a significant step forward for global action on sustainable development. I am proud to say that from the start, the EU has been strongly committed to reaching an ambitious outcome, with a universal agenda for all countries, rich and poor alike, fully integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability. The result is a landmark achievement uniting the whole world around common goals for a more sustainable future. We are determined to implement the 2030 Agenda which will shape our internal and external policies, ensuring the EU plays its full part".

Source: CTA Newsletter N 463 (EN)

Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda demands policy coherence

Countries need to be able to work across policy domains to respond to the more complex and interrelated challenges addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and new policy coherence tools are needed, argues the OECD in its latest publication "Better Policies for Development 2015: Policy Coherence and Green Growth". The OECD says that the implementation of the SDGs will require whole-of-government approaches and strengthened institutional coordination and coherence at all levels of policy-making. The new agenda offers opportunities for countries to adjust their domestic policies, institutions and mechanisms to strengthen governments' capacities to address more complex challenges and promote policy coherence for sustainable development. The report provides an overview of national efforts to this end.

http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/development/better-policies-for-development-2015_9789264236813-en#page1

How can we implement Sustainable Development Goal 16 on institutions?

Sustainable Development Goal 16 commits the global community to work together 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." Ambitious and visionary, like all the SDGs, Goal 16 has the potential to either catalyse profound social transformation, or to remain merely empty rhetoric—illusory words on paper without substance or relevance to the lives we lead. Transformative or illusory? What can make the difference? And why does it matter?

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/future-development/posts/2015/10/01-global-goals-institutions-lawson-remer?rssid=LatestFromBrookings>

Announcement

Local Economic Development, 18-19 January 2016, The Hague

This practice oriented course focuses on strengthening the economic capacity of a local or regional community. Taking into account the post-2015 agenda, the course discusses strategies and tools for local authorities to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth and decent work for all. This course will help you to:

- assess the economic and political context for regional development;
- identify challenges and opportunities for strengthening the local economy and job creation together with stakeholders at local, regional and national level;
- develop approaches for strategic local economic planning;
- get acquainted with practical tools for supporting the local economy.

After successful completion of the course you will receive a certificate of The Hague Academy for Local Governance.

Practical information

The course fee is € 2,950. This includes all training-related costs, as well as drinks, lunches, training materials and travel during the training programme. Travel to and from The Hague and accommodation is not included. **Group discounts** are available if you participate with three or more colleagues in this course. Email us for more information.

The course language is English. This course takes place in our office in The Hague, The Netherlands.

If you would like to receive more information or in case you have any questions, you can contact us at info@thehagueacademy.com or +31(70) 37 38 695.

Deadline for application: 20 November 2015.

Application procedure and on-line application form:

<http://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2015/05/application-procedure-local-economic-development-2016/>

Fellowship opportunities

Nuffic Fellowships: The Netherlands organisation for international cooperation in higher education (NUFFIC) offers fellowships for training courses, as part of the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP) for short courses and the MENA Scholarship Programme (MSP). The aim is to promote capacity building within organisations in eligible countries (51 for NFP and 7 for MSP) via training and education for professionals. This is initiated and fully funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the budget for development cooperation.

The deadline for Nuffic fellowship applications for this course has passed already. Please see the Local Economic Development training below which takes place in September 2016 for new possibilities.

<https://www.nuffic.nl/en/programme-administration/nfp-netherlands-fellowship-programmes>

<https://www.nuffic.nl/en/programme-administration/msp-mena-scholarship-programme>

<http://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2015/05/local-economic-development-5/>

Reading

Localising aid to NGOs. Issues and challenges highlighted by a multi-country study. Overseas Development Institute. Overly strict financial management and reporting requirements from donors poorly adapted to local contexts may to some degree help sustain and justify the role of international actors. If these requirements were better adapted to local contexts then this role would be less critical and there would be more space for gradually allowing local actors to lead development interventions supported by aid. And there seemed to be little strategic analysis and decision-making as to whether international or local actors should be used to support NGOs, beyond focusing on who will deliver the required results in the timeframe of the project and can effectively handle the funding requirements. If donors are to build on, develop and help sustain local capacity successfully, they need to understand better where gaps in local capacity exist, to target suitable support in those areas, and to gradually nurture local organisations to take greater leadership of the interventions that they support. <http://www.odi.org/comment/7578-local-capacity-localising-aid-ngos-donors-hiv-aids>

Should more foreign aid be spent locally? Is giving aid to institutions in recipient countries riskier than handing cash to international NGOs and companies?

http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2013/jun/21/should-foreign-aid-spent-locally?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Gov+ernance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29

The Rising Risks of Local Government Finances in Africa. World Bank, Public Financial Management Blog.

http://blog-pfm.imf.org/pfmblog/2013/06/the-rising-risks-of-local-government-finances-in-africa.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29

Innovative Thinking and Practice in Local Governance. Institute of Development Studies. The outline of research papers contained in this overview is an effort to identify knowledge gaps, propose practical approaches, and scan new horizons that enhance development thinking and practice. The goal of these research summaries - and their corresponding papers - is to help inform and expand development initiatives of the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency (SDC) and their DLGN partners.

http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/innovative-thinking-and-practice-in-local-governance?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+local_governance_decentralisation+%28Governance%3A+Local+Governance+and+Decentralisation+%29

Political decisions and institutional innovations required for the sustainable development agenda

A realistic assessment of the political decisions and institutional innovations that are required to implement the post-2015 Sustainable Development agenda is currently missing in global discussions. The Brookings Institution argues that several significant structural changes in institutional arrangements and governance are needed as prerequisites for systemic

transformation. These entail: (i) political decisions by country leaders and parliaments to ensure societal engagement, (ii) institutional innovations in national government processes to coordinate implementation, (iii) strengthening the existing global system of international institutions to include all actors, (iv) the creation of an international monitoring mechanism to oversee systemic sustainability trajectories, and (v) realising the benefits that would accrue to the entire P2015 agenda by the engagement of the systemically important countries through fuller utilisation of G20 leaders summits and finance ministers meetings as enhanced global steering mechanisms toward sustainable development. Each of these changes builds on and depends on each other.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2015/09/08-post-2015-sustainable-development-agenda-bradford-zhang>

Beyond a middle income Africa: transforming African economies for sustained growth with rising employment and incomes. Most African countries that today are considered low income will transition to middle income within 15 years, and all but one will be middle income by 2050, according to the Annual Trends and Outlook Report from the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) of The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). It examines the factors driving Africa's recent growth performance, the nature and patterns of structural transformation among African economies, past strategies and the future outlook for industrialisation, the changes occurring in agrifood systems, and the role of major infrastructure sectors in the continent's past and future growth. They also analyse major global and continental level trends that may shape future growth across the continent and affect the region's integration into global value chains.

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/beyond-middle-income-africa>

The 2015 Africa Integrity Indicators Report assess key social, economic, political and anti-corruption mechanisms at the national level across the African continent. Measuring the existing legal framework and the "in practice" implementation produces actionable governance data that help governments, citizens and civil society understand and evaluate the status quo and identify intervention points for subsequent reform efforts.

http://aii.globalintegrity.org/scores-map?stringId=transparency_accountability&year=2015

Development Co-operation Report 2015: Making Partnerships Effective Coalitions for Action

With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the question of how to finance, implement and monitor these goals moves to the centre of the debate. Today, international development cooperation takes place in an increasingly complex environment, with an ever growing number of actors, policies and instruments involved. This complexity raises the stakes for achieving the goals, but also opens up new opportunities. Although governments will remain the key actors in the implementation of the new post-2015 goals, the role of non-state actors such as civil society, foundations and business is growing. Their association through effective partnerships will be key to the implementation of the post-2015 agenda. The Development Co-operation Report 2015 explores the potential of networks and partnerships to create incentives for responsible action, as well as innovative, fit-for-purpose ways of coordinating the activities of diverse stakeholders. The report - Making Partnerships Effective Coalitions for Action - looks at a number of existing partnerships working in diverse sectors, countries and regions to draw lessons and provide practical guidance, proposing ten success factors for post-2015 partnerships. A number of leading policy makers and politicians share their insights and views.

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/development-co-operation-report-20147721.htm>

Let's talk development: When China met Africa. To benefit from its relations with China, a new blog from the World Bank says African leaders need to focus on improving domestic policies that reform institutions, increase transparency (especially in mining), improve business environments, and promote the development of human capital.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/when-china-met-africa>

Africa rising: Shifting towards sustainable development. This edition of Bridges Africa highlights Africa's attempts at recalibrating its engagement, internationally, regionally and nationally, to ensure that its developmental concerns are adequately prioritised.

<http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/issue-archive/africa-rising-shifting-towards-sustainable-development>

African contributions to conflict resolution in Africa. This new dossier will outline recent learning about African contributions to conflict resolution in Africa over the past five years, building on our work of monitoring the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). Starting from the theme of "African solutions for African problems" the dossier will look at the evolution from the Organisation of the African Union (OAU) to the African Union (AU), the changing nature of conflict and shifting patterns of violence and the establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), among many other topics. <http://ecdpm.org/events/interventions-african-union-recs-area-peace-security-africa-2007-2013/>

Capacity development beyond aid. Peacebuilding and statebuilding cannot be enhanced without capacity development, and finding the right way to support country-driven capacity development has been a key challenge for the international community. <http://ecdpm.org/dossiers/capacity-change-performance/>

A good governance driver: Is the African Peer Review Mechanism up to it? The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) needs to be reinvigorated and given fresh political impetus if it is to serve as a driver of the African Union's Agenda 2063, which recognises that Africa's developmental challenges cannot be tackled unless its governance deficiencies are corrected. According to the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), APRM administrative reforms must be completed to streamline them, remove duplication and ultimately make them more efficient. And the funding system needs to be reviewed to ensure Member States' contributions are paid. Finally, SAIIA says the National Programmes of Action produced in response to the problems identified in Country Review Reports need to be implemented.

<http://www.saiia.org.za/policy-briefings/a-good-governance-driver-is-the-african-peer-review-mechanism-up-to-it>

Curbing illicit financial flows and recovering stolen assets means governments can unlock precious resources needed to close the financing gap in achieving the sustainable development goals and countering climate change, according to this Transparency International report.

<http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/publication/curbing-illicit-financial-flows-to-unlock-a-sustainable-future>

Brics countries launch new development bank in Shanghai. The bank is backed by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - collectively known as Brics countries. The NDB will lend money to developing countries to help finance infrastructure

projects. The bank is seen as an alternative to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, although the group says it is not a rival. "Our objective is not to challenge the existing system as it is but to improve and complement the system in our own way," NDB President Kundapur Vaman Kamath said. The Brics nations have criticised the World Bank and the IMF for not giving developing nations enough voting rights. The banks is expected to issue its first loans early next year.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/33605230>

Aid and development have been historically shaped by the context of the Cold War and the decolonisation process, while the post-cold war era led to new development priorities with a stronger emphasis on issues like governance, rights and democratisation. This is according to a new book by Myles Wickstead, which also looks at priorities for a new set of Sustainable Development Goals. <http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780198744924.do>

Toward a Monetary Union in the East African Community: Asymmetric Shocks, Exchange Rates, and Risk-Sharing Mechanisms. This IMF paper examines how susceptible East African Community (EAC) economies are to asymmetric shocks and reviews adjustment mechanisms that would help ensure a successful experience under a common currency.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43066.0>

Community Consent Index 2015. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) represents a critical tool for ensuring that local communities and indigenous peoples have a say in whether and how extractive industry projects move forward. This Oxfam policy brief examines publicly available corporate commitments and shows disappointing trends in relation to the oil and gas sector and women's participation in decision making.

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/community-consent-index-2015>

Small-scale mining to help boost social and economic development in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States. The African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, the EU and the United Nations Development Programme launched the "Capacity development of mineral institutions and of small-scale private sector operating in low-value minerals in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries". <http://www.acp.int/content/small-scale-mining-help-boost-social-and-economic-development-african-caribbean-and-pacific->

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda agreed at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development presents an ambitious financing framework that includes policy commitments in areas such as a new social compact for quality investment and a package for least developed countries. There were, however, few concrete commitments. Discussions focused on mobilising the private sector and domestic resources in the developing world to fund the Sustainable Development Goals being launched in September. While it is the first global agreement that notes the harm of illicit financial flows and calls to stop them by 2030, civil society lamented the rejection of their proposal to establish an intergovernmental UN body on tax matters. <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/>

Multilateral development banks and the IMF signalled plans to extend more than \$400 billion in financing over the next three years and vowed to work more closely with private and public sector partners to help mobilise the resources needed to meet the historic challenge of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/07/10/international-financial-institutions-400-billion-sustainable-development-goals?CID=EXT_TWBN_D_EXT

The World Bank and IMF launched a new initiative to help developing countries strengthen their tax systems. It has two pillars: deepening the dialogue with developing countries on international tax issues, aiming to help increase their voice in the international debate on tax rules and cooperation; and developing improved diagnostic tools to help member countries evaluate and strengthen their tax policies. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/07/10/world-bank-and-the-imf-launch-joint-initiative-to-support-developing-countries-in-strengthening-tax-systems>

More than 30 countries, regional and international organisations signed the Addis Tax Initiative. It intends to generate substantially more resources for capacity building in the field of domestic resource mobilisation / taxation as well as more ownership and commitment for the establishment of transparent, fair and efficient tax systems.

<http://www.taxcompact.net/activities-events/addis-tax-initiative.html>

The OECD and the United Nations Development Programme launched Tax Inspectors Without Borders, a new initiative to help developing countries bolster domestic revenues by strengthening their tax audit capacities.

<http://www.oecd.org/tax/tax-inspectors-without-borders-oecd-and-undp-to-work-with-developing-countries-to-make-tax-audits-more-effective.htm>

5 key facts on Financing for Development. For positive development outcomes, both developed and developing countries need to ensure the right policy environment to make the best and most effective use of the resources available to them. We bring you 5 key facts about Financing for Development: (1) Taxes and other public resources are the largest source of finance for development; (2) We need a completely new approach towards financing international development; (3) Finance alone will not be sufficient to achieve the post-2015 development agenda; (4) The role of Official Development Assistance is changing; (5) The new development agenda will be universal - it affects us all.

<http://ecdpm.org/talking-points/5-key-facts-financing-development/>

Post-2015: A paradigm shift? The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are ushering in a new era for development. The EU has declared its support, but it is questionable whether Europeans really recognise some of the key changes that underpin this agenda and the paradigm shift they constitute. There are two fundamental changes. Firstly, the SDG agenda is universal and the EU will be expected to achieve its various goals in Europe. Secondly, the EU contribution to this international effort is not just about aid, more importantly it is about how European policies contribute to the wider international cooperation that tackles global challenges such as climate change, trade or global financial stability. For this we need allies and partners.

<http://europesworld.org/2015/07/13/post-2015-paradigm-shift/#.Vg5qa7vouUn>

African governments should start with a strengthened focus on fiscal policy and equitable public spending on infrastructure, health, education, water and sanitation according to the Africa Progress Panel in this report. It sets out an agenda for maximising Africa's natural resource wealth and using it to improve well-being.

http://app-cdn.acwupload.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/2013_APR_Equity_in_Extractives_25062013_ENG_HR.pdf

Can stopping 'tax dodging' by multinational enterprises close the gap in finance for development? This Centre for Global Development blog asks if stopping tax dodging by multinational enterprises can close the gap in finance for development. The best estimates reveal the dilemma that the potential gains are both too small and too big to fulfil this hope. <http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/Can-stopping-tax-dodging-by-MNEs-close-the-gap-in%20FFD-Consultation-Draft.pdf>

Government at a Glance 2015: A dashboard of key indicators to help you analyse international comparisons of public sector performance. This OECD dashboard on governance contains key indicators to help you analyse international comparisons of public sector performance. <http://www.oecd.org/governance/govata glance.htm>

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - What has the EU achieved? - The factsheet highlights what progress has been made in each of the eight goals, and the specific contribution of the EU. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-5712_en.htm

One foot on the ground, one foot in the air: Ethiopia's delivery on an ambitious development agenda. Ethiopia, a country that up to the year 2000 had some of the lowest levels of human development in the world, is now one of the few nations in Africa that is on track to meet most of the Millennium Development Goals. A case study by ODI's Development Progress programme shows that Ethiopia's experience demonstrates the effectiveness of centring government policy on a single unifying goal - poverty reduction - and how a multidimensional approach can encourage ministries to work more comprehensively and consistently. It also shows the importance of integrating social sectors into broader economic planning and that high rates of pro-poor spending also benefit the economy. Finally, Ethiopia exemplifies how long-term planning and a clear division of responsibilities can build the foundation for broader transformation.

<http://ecdpm.org/publications/one-foot-on-the-ground-one-foot-in-the-air/>

The post-2015 agenda and the evolution of the World Bank Group

This paper argues that the Addis Action plan and the SDGs represent a milestone in the changed thinking about the role of the multilateral development banks and the World Bank Group in particular. By elaborating on a universal agenda for sustainable development, rather than a narrow focus on reducing poverty, the scope and ambition of support needed by low and middle-income countries has widened substantially.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2015/09/23-post-2015-agenda-evolution-world-bank-group-kharas>

New report: Investments to End Poverty 2015

A new report by Development Initiatives looks at the challenge of getting poverty to zero, the resources that will help us get there, and the data we need to succeed. Ending extreme poverty over the next 15 years will be much more difficult than halving it has been. Where poverty appears to be reducing in some countries, when the data is disaggregated, many people are being lost along the way. <http://devinit.org/#!/post/investments-to-end-poverty-2015>

MDG 8 - The State of the Global Partnership for Development

A report by the UN's Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force identifies implementation gaps to achieve the MDGs and provides recommendations for going forward. The report found much progress towards achieving MDG 8, but underscores the need for renewed political commitment to development cooperation and to a coherent set of substantive policies for global development. http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/mdg_gap/mdg_gap2014/2014GAP_FULL_EN.pdf

Projecting progress: reaching the SDGs by 2030

This report from ODI offers a first systematic attempt to project progress across the full SDG agenda. Their findings are a wakeup call on just how much more effort will be needed to reach the new goals. The report scorecard shows without increased effort, none of the examined goals and targets will be met.

<http://www.developmentprogress.org/publication/projecting-progress-reaching-sdgs-2030>

Post 2015.org - What comes after the MDGs?

The Target Tracker from post2015.org is set up to collect information about the national targets that governments will start to develop as the basis for national implementation strategies. <http://post2015.org/targets-tracker/>

Thinking politically about difficult choices - a dilemma for donors. Development aid donors are often faced with a dilemma when giving aid to non-democratic developmental states. Giving aid to governments that are committed to achieving development seems desirable, yet such assistance can also be seen as condoning or even supporting rights violations committed by non-democratic regimes. This paper from the Developmental Leadership Program proposes a conceptual framework to help donors address this dilemma in a normatively justified way. It suggests that a 'Thinking and Working Politically' (TWP) approach does not have to be silent on norms and, on the contrary, understanding political contexts and constraints is indispensable in addressing the dilemmas generated by development aid.

<http://publications.dlprog.org/DonorDilemma.pdf>

Time for a radical approach to learning in development through Theories of Change. This ODI paper draws on recent research and a series of workshops to outline the growing and diverse ways in which 'Theory of Change' approaches are understood. Such approaches, with their focus on continuous critical reflection, demand a radical shift towards more and better learning in development thinking and practice. They may be able to create a productive - albeit small - space for critical reflection. <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9835.pdf>

How does genuine institutional change take place in fragile and conflict-affected states, and how can it be supported? In its new report, ODI draws from the experience of the ODI Budget Strengthening Initiative (BSI) in South Sudan, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda and with the g7+ group of fragile states.

<http://www.odi.org/publications/9877-change-challenging-contexts-does-happen>

There is no magic bullet to promote long-term finance: governments need to focus on fundamental institutional reforms, explains the Global Financial Development Report from the World Bank. These include pursuing policies that promote macroeconomic stability, low inflation; viable investment opportunities; promoting a contestable banking system with healthy entry and exit supported by strong regulation and supervision. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/gfdr>

This article introduces the guiding principle of “Common But Differentiated Governance” (CBDG) and illustrates how this principle can make the SDGs work. It will be shown that, after more than 15 years’ experience with the concept of “metagovernance” (how to combine different governance styles into successful governance frameworks), there seems to be some convergence towards using this as comprehensive approach to achieve governance frameworks appropriate to situations. <http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/7/9/12295/htm>

Health Care, Education Are Top Priorities in Sub-Saharan Africa

A Pew Research Centre survey, conducted in nine African nations, showed that **improving health care and education are the main priorities for citizens in Sub-Saharan Africa**. Corruption, food supply, infrastructure and energy are all lower concerns. Overall, people express at least some confidence that major institutions will be able to deal with the challenges facing their countries. Most believe that governments, foreign aid organisations and businesses can help solve key problems, but have both strengths and weaknesses.

<http://www.pewglobal.org/2015/09/16/health-care-education-are-top-priorities-in-sub-saharan-africa/>

Policy Framework for Investment - OECD 2015. Drawing on international good practice, the OECD Policy Framework for Investment (PFI) gives guidance in **policy fields important for improving the enabling environment for investment**. First developed in 2006, the PFI has been updated in 2015 to take into account feedback from numerous users at country and regional levels. http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/finance-and-investment/policy-framework-for-investment-2015-edition_9789264208667-en#page1

Global outlook on aid: results of the 2014 DAC survey on donors’ forward spending plans and prospects for improving aid predictability. The OECD DAC published its Global Outlook on Aid. Total Country Programmable Aid (CPA) in 2013 was USD 102 billion in 2013. CPA is projected to increase by 4% in real terms in 2014, mainly as a result of increases from a few DAC members and soft loans from multilateral agencies. From 2015 onwards, aid levels are projected to be relatively stable. [http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC\(2014\)53/FINAL&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC(2014)53/FINAL&docLanguage=En)

Accelerating sustainability: Why political economy matters

A core concern of the next 50 years will be to accelerate environmental sustainability, while at the same time addressing poverty, inequality and social justice. But there are political conditions for achieving both progressive environmental and social change. The Institute of Development Studies considers how sustainability transformations occur and who drives them or holds them back. They argue that a historically-informed, comparative political economy approach - a structural and relational understanding of economy and politics in historical context, with an understanding of the influences of the diverse axes of social difference and power relations - is the most fruitful avenue for future research and action in the field of sustainability and development. They also claim that accelerating sustainability can only happen if there is a supportive alliance of public, private and civic actors.

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/publication/accelerating-sustainability-why-political-economy-matters>

The Africa Investment Report 2015

The key question now is how to convert a ten-year African boom into a longer term growth trajectory. Foreign investors are a growing force in the economic transformation of Africa, a role that is expanding beyond the traditional focus on energy, mining and raw materials points out this Africa Investment Report by FDI Intelligence.

<http://www.fdiintelligence.com/Landing-Pages/Africa-Investment-Report-2015/The-Africa-Investment-Report-2015>

Africa and the Peacekeeping Summit

The Africa Centre for Strategic Studies highlights some of the key challenges, evolving trends, and lessons learned from peacekeeping operations in Africa in recent years.

<http://africacenter.org/2015/09/africa-and-the-peacekeeping-summit/>

MDG Progress Reports - Africa

The Millennium Development Goals Progress Report for Africa by UNDP says that while economic growth in Africa has been relatively strong, it has not been rapid or inclusive enough to create jobs. Similarly, many countries have managed to achieve access to primary schooling, however considerable issues of quality and equity need to be addressed. Poor implementation mechanisms and excessive reliance on development aid undermined the economic sustainability of several MDG interventions.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/mdg/mdg-reports/africa-collection.html>

Leave no one behind: the real bottom billion

As the Sustainable Development Goals have been agreed by UN governments, close to a billion people remain in extreme poverty, earning less than \$1.25 a day. This paper by ODI explores which groups make up this 'bottom billion', including children, girls and minority ethnic groups, and analyses policy approaches from around the world which have been successful in targeting the most marginalised.

<http://www.odi.org/publications/9899-leave-no-one-behind-sdgs-mdgs-extreme-chronic-poverty-policy>

Industrial Policy and Economic Transformation in Africa

African countries have typically made little or no progress in transforming their economies. So how can economic transformation be promoted to ensure sustainable growth that impacts the lives of African people? The focus of this book is on the vital role that government industrial policies can play in transforming African economies: industry, finance, information technology, and agriculture.

http://jica-ri.jica.go.jp/publication/booksandreports/post_18.html

For any request for information/comment/contribution to the ACPLGP e-Newsletter, please contact:

ACPLGP - Avenue Eugène Plasky, 8/12 - 1030 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32.(0)2.732.85.62 - Fax: +32.(0)2.742.36.73

Email: platform@acplgp.net - Website: www.acplgp.net