

## Newsletter N° 41 - March 2016

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](http://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](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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                  |
|-----------|------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Ghana     | 06/04/2016 | 5.800.000      | EuropeAid/151090/DD/ACT/GH |
| Chad      | 26/04/2016 | 950.000        | EuropeAid/151435/DD/ACT/TD |
| Chad      | 18/04/2016 | 1.580.000      | EuropeAid/151444/DD/ACT/TD |

### • EIDHR: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

| Countries        | Deadline   | Budget (EURO) | Reference                  |
|------------------|------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Papua New Guinea | 11/04/2016 | 900.000       | EuropeAid/151170/DD/ACT/PG |
| Malawi           | 13/04/2016 | 900.000       | EuropeAid/151436/DD/ACT/MW |
| Papua New Guinea | open       | 295.000       | EuropeAid/131030/L/ACT/PG  |

### • Food Security

| Countries  | Deadline | Budget (EURO) | Reference                  |
|------------|----------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Cameroon   | open     | 4.000.000     | EuropeAid/150622/DD/ACT/CM |
| Madagascar | open     | 1.700.000     | EuropeAid/134180/M/ACT/MG  |

### • Various fields in ACP countries

| Countries | Deadline | Budget (EURO)    | Reference                    |
|-----------|----------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Cameroon  | open     | 4.040.000        | EuropeAid/151036/DD/ACT/CM   |
| Cameroon  | open     | 2.000.000        | EuropeAid/151037/DD/ACT/CM   |
| 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 ACP-EU

### EU relations with African Caribbean Pacific countries after 2020

The Cotonou Agreement framing the EU partnership with ACP (African Caribbean Pacific) countries will expire in 2020. What will come next? CONCORD Europe submitted a response to the EU's joint public consultation at the end of 2015.

The partnership with ACP countries is the longest-standing and most comprehensive one the EU has ever engaged in. It is currently framed within the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA). This agreement regulates the ACP- EU relations in several areas relevant to CONCORD's work.

The CPA will expire in 2020 and its revision will not just impact EU's relations with the 79 partner countries in those 3 regions, but also EU's external relations as a whole. Upcoming ACP-EU negotiations will cover several areas relevant to CONCORD's work: What is the space of civil society? What happens if the European Development Fund is budgetised? How does trade relate to development policy? How can the EU ensure Human rights are respected while keeping an equal partnership? How to ensure Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)? The role and consequences of migration? There are many questions underlying this partnership that deserve detailed thought.

Currently the EU is undertaking steps to determine its position in view of the upcoming negotiations with the ACP Group of States. In order to inform discussions, the European Commission and the European External Action Service launched a Joint Consultation Paper 'Towards a new partnership between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries after 2020', followed by a public consultation running from 6 October to 31 December 2015. CONCORD Europe submitted a response to this consultation to ensure that after 2020 relations between the ACP countries and the EU will be based on the following key principles, in a nutshell:

- Any future partnership between the ACP-EU will have to be framed in the context of the new Agenda 2030 and should contribute to its implementation at all levels. The new sustainable development goals address global challenges in an integrated way and provide a great opportunity for further tackling them jointly, moving away from the donor-recipient dynamic as they are universally applicable. Any future partnership should support a development model that is people and planet centred, addresses all dimensions of sustainable development and respects human rights.
- The future framework should continue to support and encourage CSOs to play a decisive role in addressing global challenges. The legal enshrinement of civil society as an actor in the CPA should be maintained and strengthened

at operational level. The revised partnership needs to keep its recognition and scale up the engagement with non-state actors, in particular CSOs.

- Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, which is a legal obligation for EU Member States and which is now also included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is essential to promote sustainable development. The future partnership should therefore capture the PCSD principle and include a commitment towards its full implementation in all policies having a direct or indirect impact on people's rights and livelihoods.

More information on CONCORD's position on the ACP-EU relations can be found in the response to the Joint Consultation Paper. [http://www.concordeurope.org/images/CONCORDSubmission\\_ConsultationCotonou.pdf](http://www.concordeurope.org/images/CONCORDSubmission_ConsultationCotonou.pdf)

#### **The future of the ACP-EU Relations: What role for the AU?**

The Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA), between the Group of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Union with its 28 member states will expire in 2020. This cooperation framework dating back to 2000 was born out of the successive Lome Conventions (1975-2000). On 8 December 2015, the African Union Commission (AUC) in co-operation with the independent think tank European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) organised a special "Fridays of The Commission" conference-debate at the headquarters of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa. The event aimed to stimulate an informal debate among Addis based actors (AUC, RECs, EU Embassies, NGOs, researchers and academics) on the historic ACP-EU partnership. The meeting also aimed to explore options for the future Post Cotonou 2020 taking into account the rapidly changing global and African contexts including the emergence of the African Union, as the leading pan African institution, and the growing role of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). So far the debate on the future of the ACP-EU partnership has been primarily led by the EU and ACP institutions in Brussels. But this is a debate that also concerns the African Union (AU) as the large majority of ACP countries are also member of the AU.

Source: CTA Newsletter 482 EN

#### **Future of ACP and relations with EU top concern for Ambassadors**

Ambassadors of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in Brussels examines the draft report of Eminent Persons regarding the future of the ACP Group, at a special meeting on the topic on 21 March. The 12-member Eminent Persons Group (EPG), chaired by the former President of Nigeria Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, was created in 2013 and charged with reviewing the ACP Group as an organisation, including its successes and failures, and to provide recommendations for reforms in the future. During his inaugural address to the ACP Committee of Ambassadors as Chairman, H.E. Roger-Julien Menga of Congo (Brazzaville) said that the EPG report will be processed by ACP officials in Brussels, who will advise their Capitals in the lead up to the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. It is expected that the document will also influence parallel discussions on the future relations between the ACP Group and the European Union, its main development partner. With the current ACP-EU partnership agreement ending in 2020, groundwork towards negotiations for a post-2020 deal has already begun. "While there is still a bit of time before formal consultations between our two parties begin, I would like to urge us to be proactive in bringing out the positive results that are a result of the ACP-EU relationship over the past forty years, and to develop a strategy in order to engage institutions and individuals that would be critical in the decision making about the future of the relationship, not least within individual European capitals as well as our own member states and regions," stated Ambassador Menga. The annual ACP-EU Joint Council of Ministers is scheduled for 28-29 April in Dakar, Senegal, where high level side event will also be held to mark 40 years of cooperation between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Source: CTA Newsletter 483 EN

#### **ACP, EU lay groundwork for pivotal Joint Council meeting in Dakar**

The Draft Agenda for the upcoming ACP-EU Joint Council of Ministers, scheduled for the 28-29 April in Dakar, Senegal has been endorsed by Member State representatives from the European Union as well as the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group. The Joint Council of Ministers is the highest decision-making body of the ACP-EU Partnership, which brings together 28 Member States of the European Union and 78 from Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific, under a legally-binding framework outlining parameters for trade, political dialogue and development cooperation between the two groups of countries. At a meeting of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March, members agreed that the 2030 global development framework will have a significant bearing on future cooperation. "The ACP Group is of the view that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), constitutes a comprehensive approach that aims to achieve sustainable development for our Member States. It is important that concrete measures be taken to align our priorities, and better position ourselves to implement the 2030 Agenda successfully," stated the Co-President of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors, H.E. Roger-Julien Menga, Ambassador of the Republic of Congo. "The European Union is absolutely committed to continue to play a full, active and constructive role in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in cooperation with all partners and stakeholders. It is very important to ensure that the ACP-EU Partnership be brought in line with the Sustainable Development Goals," stated Co-President H.E Pieter de Gooijer, Ambassador of the Netherlands.

Source: CTA Newsletter 484

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#### **News from the ACP**

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#### **Preparation for Habitat III: launch of the elaboration of the Guinea national contribution**

Habitat III is the third United Nations Conference on housing and sustainable urban development. Twenty years after Habitat II, Habitat III will be a major event centred on the problem of cities in a context marked by new challenges of urbanisation. Organised in Quito (Equator) from 17 to 20 October 2016, it will be focused on the theme of "sustainable urban development: the future of urbanisation?"

By assessing the progress made since the setting of the urban agenda in 1996, it will consist of responding to the challenges of fight against poverty and inequalities, and identifying new challenges for the next 20 years. It will consist of exchanging policies and strategies allowing to reaffirm the role of cities and territories as the motor of sustainable development.

At the end of the conference, a Declaration will be adopted by Member States. Though non-binding, it will however be decisive for national policy development as it will present guidelines for the programmes and actions to be carried out on sustainable urban development.

In preparation for the Conference, Guinea launched the elaboration of its national contribution during the workshop held on 19 November 2015 at the Ministry of Township and Planning, during which a draft of the report was presented by the Drafting Committee with the support of UN-Habitat. The report assesses the context of Guinea and makes proposals for interventions in six main themes:

- Urban demography
- Urban planning
- Environment and urbanisation
- Urban governance and legislation
- Urban economy
- Housing and basic urban services

The report will be finalised during the first quarter of 2016 after consultation among all the families of actors involved in the field of habitat.

The Guinea draft national report is available on the ANCG website: <http://www.ancg-guinee.org/>

Source: ANCG Newsletter N°6 - January-March 2016

#### **“KWinS” Policy launched on 1 December 2015 Bairiki Square**

The “KWinS” Policy, short for ‘Kiribati Wash in Schools’, was successfully launched by Hon. Maere Tekanene, Minister of Education, witnessed by hundreds of guests, participants, students, entertainers and thousands of listeners nationwide, who tuned in to the live broadcast by Radio Kiribati.

The Policy’s main aim is to ensure that all school children in Kiribati have full access to safe drinking water, suitable and clean sanitation facilities and improve hygiene practices in their schools and local communities, at all times, to meet their basic human rights, educational, social, cultural, physical, emotional and learning needs. The Minister, in her remarks thanked the New Zealand government and UNICEF for their assistance, while the New Zealand High Commissioner, Don Higgins, whose government had invested over a million dollars in the project, asked that the policy be implemented fully and timely to benefit the children and communities.

The Chief of Field Office and Head of UNICEF, Mr. Cromwell Bacareza, said that health and education go hand in hand, and that healthy children perform better in schools. He promoted the use of hygienic practices by children, especially washing of hands with soap and then made a summary in the vernacular, saying, “*Te ataei ae marurung ma ni wanawana bon kabwaian Kiribati nakon taai aika a na rook*”. (A healthy and bright child is a valuable resource for the development of Kiribati in the future).

KiLGA is a member of the KWinS Steering Committee and represents the Island Councils that run preschools, and whose Mayors would make ideal champions in the advocacy for WinS Policy and activities on their islands.

Source: KiLGA Newsletter Vol.5 - Issue 12 - 31 December 2015

#### **Announcement**

##### **Peacebuilding and Local Governance, 4-8 July 2016, Barcelona**

The main questions that will be addressed in this course are: How can local governments achieve lasting stability, sustainable peace and sustainable development? What lessons can be learnt from their peacebuilding approach in different post-conflicts contexts? How can development partners increase the effectiveness of their support to local governments in a post conflict context? When does the decentralisation process facilitate or hinder peacebuilding processes and what is the role of local governments in both situations? At the end of this course, participants:

- Are aware of the concepts and theories related to peacebuilding interventions;
- Have analysed the state of local authorities and political economy of decentralisation in post conflict countries;
- Have discussed critically to what extent decentralisation in post conflict contexts may have counterproductive effects;
- Have reflected on the impact of peacebuilding interventions for sustainable peace and development at the local level in relation to state legitimacy;
- Have shared experiences on establishing inclusive governance in post conflicts contexts; and
- Have developed ideas for monitoring and evaluating the impact of programmes within peacebuilding interventions.

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

#### **Practical information**

The training will be held in partnership with the **Barcelona International Peace Resource Center** and take place at the beautiful Casa Sant Felip Neri in the northern part of Barcelona, Spain. La Casa offers basic accommodation from € 35 per night (single room with basin and shared bathroom facilities) to € 50 per night (double room for individual use with private bathroom facilities), breakfast and taxes included. La Casa has a limited number of rooms with private bathroom. If you would like to make use of this offer, please mention it in the application form.

For participants favouring hotel comfort and services, we recommend the Hotel Catalonia Castellnou\*\*\* (located 5 minutes walking distance from the House) at € 75 per night (breakfast and taxes included). The course fee is € 2,450. This includes all training-related costs, as well as drinks, lunches, training materials and travel during the training programme. Travel to and from Barcelona and accommodation is not included. The course language is English.

Application procedure and on-line application form:

The deadline for application is **20 May 2016**.

For more information about the application procedure and the online application form:

[http://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2016/01/application-procedure-peacebuilding-local-governance-2015\\_1/](http://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2016/01/application-procedure-peacebuilding-local-governance-2015_1/)

**Decentralisation: A local perspective to the Sustainable Development goals, 11-15 July 2016, The Hague**

Key question in this course is how governments can decentralise policies and services to local levels to promote more inclusive and sustainable development in order to contribute to the new Global Goals. (Fiscal) support modalities for donors are discussed as well as the political economy of decentralisation, central-local government relations and strategies and tools for empowering local authorities, such as the 5C-capacity building approach by VNG-international. During this Summercourse we discuss how donor and development agencies can support a multilevel governance approach to deal with future development challenges. The course consists of several modules:

- What are the **latest insights and recent lessons** in decentralisation and sustainable local development? We will explore the potential of local governance in realising sustainable development, while taking into account the **political economy of decentralisation reforms** with public finance and planning expert **Paul Smoke** (to be confirmed).
- Our internationally renowned expert on decentralisation **Jamie Boex** talks about inter-governmental (fiscal) relations and local service delivery in **different country contexts** and addresses different (fiscal) support modalities.
- We will discuss strategies and instruments for empowering local authorities. **A new tool for local government capacity development** that has recently been developed by VNG International will be introduced. We zoom in on the capacity of local authorities to design strategies, deliver and manage services, increase transparency and accountability, and successfully engage with other tiers of governments, civil society and the private sector.

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

Practical information

The course fee is € 2,450. This includes all training-related costs as well as drinks and lunches, training materials and travel during the training. 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.

If you have questions or would like to receive more information you can contact us at [info@thehagueacademy.com](mailto:info@thehagueacademy.com) or +31 70 3738695.

Application procedure and on-line application form:

Deadline for application is **20 May 2016**.

For more information about our general conditions and the online application form:

<http://thehagueacademy.com/blog/2015/09/application-procedure-decentralisation-and-local-governance-2014/>

## Reading

### Why the EU must do more to implement the 2030 Agenda

Given the scope and universal nature of the 2030 Agenda, its implementation requires a new quality of cooperation with greater inter-departmental work and whole-of-government approaches that encompass all dimensions of EU internal and external policies. Linking the core ongoing European strategy processes - including the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy and the revision of the Europe 2020 Strategy to the 2030 Agenda can help to create more coherent policies says the German Development Institute.

<http://www.die-gdi.de//briefing-paper/article/towards-a-sustainable-development-union-why-the-eu-must-do-more-to-implement-the-2030-agenda/>

**Small middle-income countries in Africa need to diversify their economic activities, create jobs, build more infrastructure, further human development, and make growth more inclusive, says Brookings.**

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/africa-in-focus/posts/2016/02/22-small-middle-income-countries-africa-zhu?rssid=africa+growth>

**The Work Programme of the ACP-EU Committee on Development Finance Cooperation for 2016-2017**

<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-2105-2016-INIT/en/pdf>

### Four challenges for Africa in 2016

Four major conferences in 2015 set out a package of global agreements on trade, development financing, climate change and the United Nations' new Global Goals. These provide a good base for a more systematic and comprehensive approach to address some of today's global challenges. 2016 confronts us with the task of turning these grand words into deeds. Africa will need to move decisively to put its global commitments into practice.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201602111595.html>

**Africa's influence is set to expand, but given a lack of deep continental integration on both the political and economic front, the continent will remain relatively marginal in global affairs, says the Institute for Security Studies Africa.** <http://allafrica.com/stories/201602092273.html>

CONCORD released a position paper with recommendation to the EU for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

<http://concordeurope.org/2016/02/08/recommendations-for-the-implementation-of-the-agenda2030/>

The IMF empirically assesses the role of structural and institutional reforms in driving productivity growth across countries at different stages of development. It gauges whether particular policies and reforms matter more for increasing productivity growth at the aggregate and sectoral levels for emerging market and developing economies.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43686.0>

According to research and consultancy firm Frost & Sullivan, new mega trends in Africa reveal GDP growth of 4.5 trillion by 2025. "Africa is the only continent that has the potential to achieve double digit economic growth within the next decade," they say.

<http://ww2.frost.com/news/press-releases/new-mega-trends-africa-reveals-gdp-growth-45-trillion-2025/>

**The EU needs a radical rethink of its international cooperation**

These are challenging times for policy makers, as global security risks become ever more complex. The tragic events of 2015 show how the challenges of poverty and development need to be tackled together. In 2016, the European Union will need a radical rethink of its foreign and development policies. The temptation may be to look for immediate solutions - but there are no quick or easy answers. We need to look at the root causes of these crises, and collective action is required at the global level.

<http://www.euractiv.com/section/development-policy/opinion/eu-needs-radical-rethink-of-foreign-aid-in-2016/>

**African leaders today no longer welcome the support of non-state actors in tackling governance challenges.** For this reason, the future of the African Peer Review Mechanism is at stake, argues SAIIA.

<http://www.saiia.org.za/opinion-analysis/african-peer-review-mechanisms-future-hangs-in-the-balance>

French President François Hollande confirmed a major reform of the France's aid program that would boost its annual development budget from 8.5 billion euros to 12.5 billion euros by 2020.

<https://www.devex.com/news/france-to-reform-aid-program-increase-annual-development-budget-by-4-billion-euros-87626>

**Mobilising African resources for Agenda 2063**

Discussions for the UN Agenda 2030 have set high expectations for domestic resource mobilisation. The African Union's Agenda 2063 is a roadmap for structurally transforming Africa over 50 years, emphasising the importance of domestic resource mobilisation for a successful implementation of the continental development blueprint. Why then do African countries not mobilise enough domestic resources to finance their development? The Africa Capacity Building Foundation share their perspective on the challenges for sustainable development in 2016 and beyond.

<http://ecdpm.org/talking-points/challenges-2016-blog-mobilising-african-resources-agenda-2063/>

**The 2015 Corruption Perceptions Index from Transparency International shows that more than 6 billion people live in countries with a serious corruption problem.** In countries like Guatemala, Sri Lanka and Ghana however, citizen activists in groups and on their own have worked hard to drive out corruption. <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2015>

**'Lived poverty' drops across much of Africa**

Lived poverty - an index that measures the frequency with which people experience shortages of basic necessities - remains pervasive across much of Africa. But Afrobarometer shows evidence that in 22 of 33 countries across Africa, fewer citizens are going without enough food, clean water, needed medical care, enough fuel for cooking, and a cash income than three years ago. Lived poverty tended to decrease in countries that had made progress in developing basic infrastructure.

[http://afrobarometer.org/sites/default/files/publications/Policy%20papers/ab\\_r6\\_policypaperno29\\_lived\\_poverty\\_declines\\_in\\_africa\\_eng.pdf](http://afrobarometer.org/sites/default/files/publications/Policy%20papers/ab_r6_policypaperno29_lived_poverty_declines_in_africa_eng.pdf)

**Africa prospects for managing economic shocks**

In 2015, sub-Saharan Africa experienced its slowest economic growth rate since the 1998 global financial crisis. The Brookings Institution argues that slower economic growth in Africa creates opportunities for appropriate and timely policy measures that can make a difference and help sub-Saharan African economies regain their growth momentum, both in the short and long terms. [http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2016/01/foresight-africa/foresightafrica2016\\_ch1.pdf?la=en](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2016/01/foresight-africa/foresightafrica2016_ch1.pdf?la=en)

The detailed final aid figures for 2014 are now available on the OECD Aid Statistics web site.

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/final2014oda.htm>

China's economic slowdown, a stronger dollar, geopolitical tensions, and renewed global risk aversion are pivoting economic risks to emerging markets. <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2016/RES011916A.htm>

The IMF says that in the short-run, additional public expenditure for asylum seekers in Europe will provide a small positive impact on GDP. Over the longer-term, depending on the speed and success of the integration of refugees in the labour market, the increase in the labour force can have a more lasting impact on growth and the public finances. Any adverse effects to native workers will be limited and temporary.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43609>

The Africa Research Institute has released a number of interactive resource for the 2016 elections in Africa including a map, a timeline and expert briefings.

<http://www.africaresearchinstitute.org/blog-sticky/2016-elections-africa/>

"Towards a new partnership between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries after 2020". Contribution of the German Development Institute to the EU public consultation

[http://www.die-gdi.de/uploads/media/DIE\\_contrib\\_ACPEUConsultation\\_211215f.pdf](http://www.die-gdi.de/uploads/media/DIE_contrib_ACPEUConsultation_211215f.pdf)

A new online course from the World Bank: Engaging Citizens - A Game Changer for Development? 1 February-7 March 2016 provides overview of citizen engagement, critically analysing how it can be leveraged most effectively to achieve development results.

<https://www.coursera.org/course/engagecitizen>

This blog from The Economist explains where the Arabs stand in the world and with each other, and what the weaknesses and strengths of Arab states and societies are in the context of the post-Arab revolutions.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2016/01/daily-chart-8?fsrc=rss>

A European Court of Auditors Special Report identifies nine key risk areas related to a results-oriented approach for EU development and cooperation action

<http://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=34793>

**Foresight Africa: Top priorities for Africa in 2016**

The Brookings Institution examines recent external economic shocks - such as plunging commodity prices and China's economic slowdown - and how these will affect Africa in 2016. They argue that African policy-makers need to temper those economic shocks and create opportunities out of them. The paper looks at issues such as job creation, industrialisation, urbanisation, African governance, regional integration and international trade.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports2/2016/01/foresight-africa-top-priorities>

International aid reached a record high in 2014, but the Centre for Global Development (CGD) reports that aid to the very poorest countries fell sharply in 2014.

<http://www.cgdev.org/blog/aid-isnt-reaching-very-poorest-countries>

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) looks at how to sustain public sector capability in developing countries and find that it is more likely to happen where there is high drive for reform from both the political leadership.

<http://www.odi.org/publications/10226-sustaining-public-sector-capability-developing-countries>

The UNDP 2015 Human Development Report shows major progress has been made over the last 25 years with 2 billion people lifted out of low human development levels. Human development continues to improve, but at a slower pace.

<http://report.hdr.undp.org/>

This European Parliament paper sets out some suggestions for how the EU could use taxation to promote good governance in third countries and intensify its work in this area

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL\\_IDA\(2015\)569976](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_IDA(2015)569976)

The World Bank finds that trade openness tends to reduce poverty in countries where financial sectors are deep, education levels high and institutions strong.

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2016/03/26082962/trade-reduce-poverty-view-africa>

**Promoting Manufacturing in Africa.** To seize opportunities to promote manufacturing, African governments will have to formulate and implement coherent industrial development strategies, argues Supporting Economic Transformation (SET). The key elements of such strategies must include: continued improvements in sound macroeconomic management, a stronger general investment climate, support for the private sector, and development of public infrastructure. Increased exports through better regional trade and integration and foreign direct investment are also needed. <http://set.odi.org/promoting-manufacturing-in-africa/>

The Danish Institute for Human Rights' Human Rights Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals is a fully searchable database showing the concrete links between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and human rights instruments and labour standards.

<http://sdg.humanrights.dk/>

An Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) study on African Sub-regional Development Banks concludes that, while they are an appropriate means of funding infrastructure projects and supporting regional integration, their impact is limited by their modest size, strength and capacity.

<http://www.icafrica.org/en/news-events/ica-news/article/study-scrutinises-african-sub-regional-development-banks-contribution-to-infrastructure-development-375952/>

The Brookings Institution examines four questions on the state of the West African Economic and Monetary Union and implications for other regional economic communities.

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/africa-in-focus/posts/2016/03/15-west-africa-economic-monetary-union-sy-sow?rssid=africa+growth>

The South African Institute for International Affairs published 'Building Freedom? Securing Constitutionalism and Civil Liberties in Africa - An Analysis of Evidence from the African Peer Review Mechanism'.

<http://www.saiia.org.za/research-reports/building-freedom-securing-constitutionalism-and-civil-liberties-in-africa-an-analysis-of-evidence-from-the-aprm>

A new research series launched at IFAD aims to spark debate around critical global issues that affect smallholder agriculture and rural development. Their first paper is entitled 'Agricultural and rural development reconsidered: A guide to issues and debates'.

<https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/a3d5d393-fcaf-49e8-ae9a-46cdc1f098a6>

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

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