



The Africa Caribbean Pacific Local Government Platform
Plateforme des Collectivités Locales des pays Afrique Caraïbes Pacifique

Newsletter N° 46 - June 2017

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>

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

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Haiti	18/08/2017	1.900.000	EuropeAid/155911/DD/ACT/HT
Congo Brazzaville	03/07/2017	4.750.000	EuropeAid/156067/DD/ACT/CG
Zimbabwe	29/06/2017	5.000.000	EuropeAid/154220/DD/ACT/ZW

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

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Guyana & Suriname	20/07/2017	640.000	EuropeAid/155906/DD/ACT/Multi
Madagascar	15/09/2017	1.000.000	EuropeAid/156477/DD/ACT/MG
Sudan	30/07/2017	1.700.000	EuropeAid/156415/DD/ACT/SD
Gabon, Sao Tome & Principe, Equatorial Guinea	20/07/2017	1.180.000	EuropeAid/155608/DD/ACT/Multi
All countries	19/07/2017	5.000.000	EuropeAid/153778/DH/ACT/Multi
Papua New Guinea	open	295.000	EuropeAid/131030/L/ACT/PG

• **Food Security**

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Madagascar	open	1.700.000	EuropeAid/134180/M/ACT/MG

• **Various fields in ACP countries**

Countries	Deadline	Budget (EURO)	Reference
Nigeria	open	3.000.000	EuropeAid/138867/ID/ACT/NG
Burkina Faso	01/08/2017	2.000.000	EuropeAid/156171/DD/ACT/BF
Sub Saharan Africa	27/07/2017	9.000.000	EuropeAid/156423/DD/ACT/Multi
Burkina Faso	11/07/2017	10.000.000	EuropeAid/155765/DD/ACT/BF
Zimbabwe	31/07/2017	2.300.000	EuropeAid/155198/DD/ACT/ZW
Malawi	17/07/2017	14.000.000	EuropeAid/155474/DD/ACT/MW
Trinidad & Tobago	08/08/2017	900.000	EuropeAid/154823/DD/ACT/TT
All ACP countries	open	7.000.000	EuropeAid/130741/D/ACT/Multi
Mauritius	open	56.000.000 (MUR)	EuropeAid/134113/M/ACT/MU

Should you need assistance in responding to an EC call for proposals let the ACP-LG Platform know by sending an email to platform@acplgp.net and we will be pleased to help you register in the PADOR system, find partners, check your proposal, etc. You are also encouraged to read the article "How to write a good project" on our website www.acplgp.net

5th Assises de la coopération décentralisée - Regions and Cities for Development - Brussels, 10-11 July 2017

On 10 & 11 July 2017 the European Committee of the Regions and the Commission organise the 5th Assises de la coopération décentralisée. More than 600 participants, Local and Regional Authorities from the EU, Africa, Caribbean, Pacific and Latin America will come together to discuss common challenges and build sustainable partnerships for cooperation to development.

The 5th edition of the Assises will focus on the crucial role of Local and Regional Authorities in localising the Sustainable Development Goals, in the wake of the new Agenda 2030 for Development.

The conference will consist in thematic plenary sessions, parallel round tables on policy-making, project-oriented workshops and thematic stands with networking areas.

Day 1

9.00-9.30: Opening

9.30-11.00: Thematic session I: The new political context of development cooperation

11.30-13.00: Thematic session II: Decentralised cooperation: new developments, trends and scenarios; future challenges and opportunities.

14.30-17.30: Round tables:

1. Sustainable Development Goals
2. Migration
3. Climate change / Energy
4. Cooperation and territorial development

17.30-19.00: Networking cocktail

18.15-20.30: Cinema for Development: 'Demain' (France, 2015)

Day 2

9.00-10.45: Round table 5: Capacity building + Parallel session: Review of recent trends in decentralised cooperation

11.00-13.00: Plenary session: Conclusions, outlook and political commitments for the future of decentralised cooperation

14.30-18.00: Workshops:

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Climate change
- Food security and safety
- Humanitarian crisis
- Cooperation and territorial development
- Education for development

Stands: The Assises will feature a variety of stands showcasing projects to witness how decentralised cooperation may foster stability, sustainability and growth. The stands will be a meeting point for interaction, networking and visibility of participants.

Networking areas: The participants will be able to develop projects and partnerships in a networking area divided in four thematic tables:

- Migration, disasters, human crisis, human rights
- Climate change, energy, nature and environment
- Economic and social development
- Governance, democracy and capacity building

Information & registration:

www.cor.europa.eu/portal

<https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/decentralised-cooperation/event/5th-assises-decentralised-cooperation>

News from the EU

The new European Consensus on Development - EU and Member States sign joint strategy to eradicate poverty

The European Union and its Member States signed on 7 June a strategic blueprint, outlining the future of European development policy. This "New European Consensus on Development" represents a new collective vision and plan of action to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

The jointly developed strategy, in the form of a Joint Statement, was signed during the annual two-day European Development Days by the Prime Minister of Malta, Joseph **Muscat**, on behalf of the Council and Member States, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude **Juncker**, the High Representative/Vice President, Federica **Mogherini**, and the President of the European Parliament, Antonio **Tajani**.

The new European Consensus on Development constitutes a comprehensive common framework for European development cooperation. For the first time, it applies in its entirety to all European Union Institutions and all Member States, which commit to work more closely together.

The new Consensus strongly reaffirms that poverty eradication remains the primary objective of European development policy. It fully integrates the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In doing so, it aligns European development action with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which is also a cross-cutting dimension for the EU Global Strategy.

European leaders committed to three areas:

- They recognise the **strong interlinkages** between the different elements of such action. This includes development and peace and security, humanitarian aid, migration, environment and climate, as well as cross cutting-elements, such as: youth; gender equality; mobility and migration; sustainable energy and climate change; investment and trade; good governance, democracy, the rule of law and human rights; innovative engagement with more advanced developing countries; and mobilising and using domestic resources.

- The new Consensus furthermore takes a comprehensive approach to means of implementation, **combining traditional development aid with other resources**, as well as sound policies and a strengthened approach to policy coherence, recalling that EU development cooperation always has to be seen in the context of Europe's partner countries' own efforts. The Consensus provides the basis for the EU and its Member States to engage in more innovative forms of development financing, leveraging private sector investments and mobilising additional domestic resources for development.
- The EU and its Member States will create **better-tailored partnerships** with a broader range of stakeholders, including civil society, and partner countries at all stages of development. They will further improve their implementation on the ground by working better together and taking into account their respective comparative advantages.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/06/07-joint-strategy-european-consensus-development/>

EU proposes enhanced partnership with Africa on peace and security, and job creation for youth

The European Commission and the High Representative / Vice-President presented on 4 May a revitalised framework for joint action, to build a stronger strategic partnership between Europe and Africa for more prosperity and stability in the two continents. The Communication presents innovative proposals in a number of key areas - such as peace and security, migration, job creation or energy - based on priorities defined by African countries and stepping up the existing fruitful cooperation between the two continents. This comes ahead of the Africa-EU Summit in November this year, which will put a specific focus on youth.

The EU proposal identifies three objectives for building an EU-Africa alliance to address common global and regional challenges:

- a **stronger mutual engagement and increased cooperation** bilaterally and in the international arena, based on common values and shared interests,
- **security**, on land and on sea, and the **fight against transnational threats**,
- **sustainable and inclusive economic development** in Africa, in order to create the jobs that the continent needs.

Concrete actions are proposed around two main strands.

The first one aims to achieve **more resilient states and societies**, through closer cooperation and action in order to prevent conflicts, improve conflict management, strengthen governance systems, and manage migration and mobility.

The second strand will aim to **create more and better jobs, especially for youth**. It develops concrete proposals for attracting responsible and sustainable investment, for example with the recently proposed External Investment Plan, which is expected to leverage up to €44 billion of private investment. Further proposals concern the cooperation in renewable energy, agriculture, agribusiness and the blue economy as well as advancement of knowledge and skills. For example, the Commission proposes to launch an African Youth Facility, which will expand the scope of Erasmus+, or to support digital innovation in Africa.

The Joint Communication will now be presented to the Council and the European Parliament.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-1189_en.htm

Background documents:

Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council for a new impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=JOIN:2017:17:FIN>

Q&A on the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council for a new impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-1202_en.htm

Thematic factsheets related to the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council for a new impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/25436/factsheets-renewed-impetus-africa-eu-partnership_en

News from the ACP

Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) Tanks over 60% completed by May

By May 2017, 65% of RWH tanks, built with Councils' communities, on a voluntary basis, were completed - a fair achievement - thanks to the Mayors.

The RWH Tanks Project, originally implemented by the MPW&U, involved private contractors that set up the water tanks on the outer islands. When the deadline for the completion of the project came about, many water tanks were still unfinished.

Not wanting the funds to be returned to the donor, the Chief of UNICEF in Kiribati, Mr. Cromwell Bacareza, working through KiLGA, got the consent of Mayors from 13 Councils to collect a share of the RWH tanks, with building materials such as cement, timber and iron roofing, to construct them in selected communities. The communities' contribution was their free labour and local materials such as gravel.

"I am happy with the communities that have completed their tanks, as they have clean rain water for their use that will improve the health and well-being of their children," commented the UNICEF chief.

However, some Councils were not able to complete their systems, even after being allowed extended deadline; so the tanks may have to be moved to schools or other communities that can complete them.

One of the contributing factors to the delays include the lack of materials provided for the systems, as some were short-handed or misplaced.

The best practice here is the fact that many communities were able to complete their tanks by freely giving their labour and local resources. This excellent attitude and practice needs to be encouraged since it allows for greater ownership of the projects, thus making them more sustainable.

One notable indicator of the usefulness of the tanks is the tell-tale footprints that have cut distinctive foot-paths to the taps of the completed RWH tanks for water collection. Many of these are children's foot-prints.

Source: KiLGA Newsletter Vol 7 Issue 4 - May 2017

Reading

Blended finance and the new aid rules: a risky mix? Eurodad blog.

http://eurodad.org/blended-finance-aid-risk?utm_source=ECDPM+Newsletters+List&utm_campaign=6a3e61928b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_06_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f93a3dae14-6a3e61928b

Falling aid for education putting global goals at risk, warns UN agency

http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/06/falling-aid-for-education-putting-global-goals-at-risk-warns-un-agency/?utm_source=ECDPM+Newsletters+List&utm_campaign=6a3e61928b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_06_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f93a3dae14-6a3e61928b

Electrifying Africa: how to make Europe's contribution count. Bruegel.

http://bruegel.org/2017/06/electrifying-africa-how-to-make-europes-contribution-count/?utm_source=ECDPM+Newsletters+List&utm_campaign=6a3e61928b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_06_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f93a3dae14-6a3e61928b

The G20, climate action and economic globalisation: An agenda. An ICTSD opinion piece argues that the G20 agenda of conventional macroeconomic focus would be ineffective unless further actions were taken.

http://www.ictsd.org/opinion/the-g20-climate-action-and-economic-globalisation-an-agenda?utm_source=ECDPM+Newsletters+List&utm_campaign=6a3e61928b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_06_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f93a3dae14-6a3e61928b

European Companies Commit to Carbon Reductions, Align with SDGs. IISD.

http://sdg.iisd.org/news/european-companies-commit-to-carbon-reductions-align-with-sdgs/?utm_source=ECDPM+Newsletters+List&utm_campaign=6a3e61928b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_06_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f93a3dae14-6a3e61928b

A trade deal between the EU and east Africa is in trouble. The Economist argues that the EU's push for new trade deals in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific faces headwinds and that a trade deal between the EU and Africa is in trouble.

<http://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21722684-eus-push-new-trade-deals-africa-caribbean-and-pacific-faces>

World is plundering Africa's wealth of 'billions of dollars a year'. The Guardian.

https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/may/24/world-is-plundering-africa-wealth-billions-of-dollars-a-year?CMP=share_btn_tw

Financing Sustainable Urban Development in the Least Developed Countries. UN-DESA and UNCDF.

<http://www.uncdf.org/article/2082/financing-sustainable-urban-development-in-the-least-developed-countries>

'New Consensus' on Development adopted - and immediately condemned. Euractiv reports that the recently adopted new European consensus on development has been immediately condemned by NGOs working in the field as a document that serves first and foremost EU interests.

<http://www.euractiv.com/section/development-policy/news/new-consensus-on-development-adopted-and-immediately-condemned/>

Transforming Water-Scarce Cities into Water-Secure Cities through Collaboration. The World Bank.

http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2017/05/15/water-scarce-cities-initiative?utm_content=buffer46774&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Consequences of the high cost of food in West Africa. Rural 21 casts light on the high cost of food in West Africa and on the consequences on nutrition safety in the region [in French].

<http://www.rural21.com/francais/regardons-de-plus-pres/detail/article/consequences-du-prix-eleve-des-denrees-alimentaires-en-afrique-de-louest-00002331/>

Development serving the purpose of migration control. This opinion piece by the EU Observer explains how the new EU Consensus on Development appears to be serving the purpose of migration control rather than the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

<https://euobserver.com/opinion/137932>

Africa: Implement Policies for Growth, IMF Tells Sub-Saharan Africa. IMF urges Sub-Saharan African governments to implement policies for growth, in order to reverse the current economic slowdown in the region, reports AllAfrica. The article refers to the recent IMF's Regional Economic Outlook 2017 on Sub-Saharan Africa.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201705180028.html>

<http://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/SSA/Issues/2017/05/03/sreo0517>

America's snub of the African Union should spur regional powers into action. The Conversation's article warns that America's snub of the African Union, combined with rising nationalism in the European Union could jeopardise Africa's position in the international arena.

<https://theconversation.com/americas-snub-of-the-african-union-should-spur-regional-powers-into-action-77443>

How to make grants a better match for private sector development. The World Bank.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/psd/how-make-grants-better-match-private-sector-development>

Global growth strengthens in line with economic forecasts, but prospects for some of world's poorest regions deteriorate. UN report

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/05/global-growth-strengthens-in-line-with-economic-forecasts-but-prospects-for-some-of-worlds-poorest-regions-deteriorate-un-report/>

A court in crisis? The ICC in Africa and beyond. In this paper by Egmont the author explores the current state of affairs regarding the Court, that has been accused by several African members of being politicised, neo-colonial and biased.

http://www.egmontinstitute.be/publication_article/a-court-in-crisis-the-icc-in-africa-and-beyond/

French election: What Emmanuel Macron's win means for Africa

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-39843396>

Africa: Pan African Parliament Wants Continental Police. AllAfrica reports that the Pan-African Parliament wants a continental police body to keep law and order on the continent.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201705180432.html>

The number of countries facing a debt crisis is rising, according to data disclosed on the World Debt Day, states the Jubilee Debt Campaign in a recent piece.

<http://jubileedebt.org.uk/press-release/global-debt-crises-threats-increase-across-world>

Africa and the World Poverty Clock

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/05/18/africa-and-the-world-poverty-clock/>

ODI Shares Six Lessons in Accelerating SDG Progress

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/odi-shares-six-lessons-in-accelerating-sdg-progress/>

Strategies for a renewed Africa-EU partnership. This Friends of Europe report examines strategies for a renewed Africa-EU partnership that addresses the changing challenges and opportunities facing both continents.

<http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/en/newsroom/all-news/friends-europe-study-strategies-renewed-africa-eu-partnership>

The Migration&Development Apparatus: Contradictions between international discourse, institutional practices, and migrants' perspectives

<https://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/publications/the-migration-development-apparatus>

Africa has vast agricultural potential - so why are we due to import \$110b worth of food annually by 2025? A New Times article asks why are Africa is due to import \$110b worth of food annually by 2025, while at the moment the \$35 billion worth of food and agricultural products are imported to the continent every year.

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/article/2017-04-27/211427/>

The World Bank has recommended a series of reforms aimed at fostering the access to technology in the Sahel region to accelerate the digital revolution in the area, reports an article by Jeune Afrique [in French].

http://www.jeuneafrique.com/435606/economie/banque-mondiale-recommande-serie-de-reformes-aux-pays-sahel-acceler-revolution-numerique/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=JAEco&utm_campaign=TweetJAEco_05052017

Africans rising: The time for action is now. This World Economic Forum's article takes stock of the outcomes of the 2017 World Economic Forum on Africa and affirms that Africa's first priority should be to embark on a path of sustainable and inclusive growth.

<https://www.weforum.org/press/2017/05/africans-rising-the-time-for-action-is-now>

Why the African Union must press ahead with a business and human rights policy. This article by The Conversation provides guidance to regulate the impact of business activities on people for states, regional economic communities and regional institutions.

<https://theconversation.com/why-the-african-union-must-press-ahead-with-a-business-and-human-rights-policy-75712>

2016-2017 Report Card on International Cooperation. The think tanks network Council of councils reports an overall disappointing progress in global cooperation efforts in 2016.

<https://www.cfr.org/councilofcouncils/reportcard2017/#/>

From partnerships to self-interest: how can we reverse the trend in EU Development Cooperation? This article by Concordeur highlights that equal partnerships are the answer to meet current global challenges.

<https://concordeurope.org/2017/05/08/reverse-trend-eu-development-cooperation/>

Once more into the breach: Does foreign aid work? This Brookings article casts light on the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of foreign aid and focuses on the case of the Trump administration and criticises its short-sighted proposals.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2017/05/08/once-more-into-the-breach-does-foreign-aid-work/>

THE ISSUE: A new era of relations. In this article by Barbados' Nation News, former Barbados ambassador for the European Union Errol Humphrey invites the Caribbean to reflect upon a series of issues concerning the upcoming new era for ACP-EU relations before the United Kingdom leaves the EU.

<http://www.nationnews.com/nationnews/news/96530/issue-era-relations>

EU-Africa relations and strategies for a renewed partnership. Friends of Europe.

http://www.friendsofeurope.org/global-europe/eu-africa-relations-strategies-renewed-partnership/#.WQny_Tn-AVI.twitter

Over three-quarters of African countries saw an improvement in their Human Development Index (HDI) score, according to the Human Development Report 2016 by UNDP.

http://www.thisafricaonline.com/News/African-region-boosts-human-development-scores?ct=true?utm_campaign=Copy+of+TIA+enews+May+1st+issue&utm_source=emailCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=#.WQsSpsLT_DM.twitter

A note on the informal sector. CGD analyses fresh data made available by more comprehensive Enterprise Surveys of formal and informal firms, assesses why many informal businesses in developing countries choose to remain informal.

<https://www.cgdev.org/publication/note-informal-sector>

The "Big Bond": How to Maintain African Growth While Reducing the Fiscal Burden on Donors. A Center for Global Development blog states that, due to a dropping economic growth rate in Africa, job creation for young people and investments in infrastructure should support the fragile economy.

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/big-bond-how-maintain-african-growth-while-reducing-fiscal-burden-donors>

Trends, challenges, and opportunities in closing the financing gap for African energy infrastructure. Brookings.

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/closing-the-financing-gap-for-african-energy-infrastructure-trends-challenges-and-opportunities/>

Ghana's financial turnaround. ODI discusses how finance can catalyse economic transformation in Ghana.

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10775-ghana-s-financial-turnaround-how-finance-can-catalyse-economic-transformation>

Project in Zambia traces the link between research, entrepreneurship, women and youth. AllAfrica.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201704190203.html>

The World Bank has released the '2017 Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals.' The Atlas includes over 150 maps and data visualisations to assist with efforts to track progress in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/world-banks-2017-atlas-of-sdgs-provides-tool-for-tracking-implementation/>

Radical investments are needed to meet global water and sanitation targets, according to a new report by UN-Water.

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/04/radical-investments-needed-to-meet-global-water-and-sanitation-targets-un-report/>

Making Africa Great Again: Reducing aid dependency. In reaction to the US budget proposal presented in March, Brookings makes a case for reducing aid dependency in order to "make Africa great again".

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/04/20/making-africa-great-again-reducing-aid-dependency/>

Democracy is not dying while its state around the world is very troubled, argues an Op-Ed on Carnegie Endowment.

<http://carnegieendowment.org/2017/04/11/democracy-is-not-dying-pub-68651>

Europe is still a superpower and there is little reason to doubt it will remain one, argues FP.

http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/04/13/europe-is-still-a-superpower/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FP%204-13&utm_term=Flashpoints

A collection of interviews around the topic of the future of Africa. This Agence Francaise de Developpement publication features the voice of five different African stakeholders with different geographical and professional backgrounds [in French]

<http://ideas4development.org/afrique-continent-avenirs/>

Time to move towards an interest-driven Africa-EU political partnership. Parts 1 & 2. After years of talks pivoting around the idea of a mutually beneficial partnership, the EU and the African continent still have not managed to deliver on the political aspirations of the 2007 Joint Africa-EU Strategy. Geert Laporte analyses why that is the case.

<http://ecdpm.org/talking-points/move-towards-interest-driven-africa-eu-political-partnership-part-one/>

<http://ecdpm.org/talking-points/time-interest-driven-africa-eu-political-partnership-part-two/>

The impact of Economic Partnership Agreements on the development of African value chains. This new ECDPM paper examines the EU's EPAs with the East African Community and with the Southern African Development Community to assess the likely direct and indirect impacts of these EPAs on three domestic African value chains in Kenya and Namibia.

<http://ecdpm.org/publications/impact-epas-on-african-value-chains/>

Recommendations for the G20 Compact with Africa Initiative. The Business 20 group.

<https://www.b20germany.org/news/news/article/b20-compact-with-africa-recommendations-published/>

Digitalisation can improve financial inclusion for smallholder farmers according to the One Acre Fund, a non-profit social enterprise based in Kenya.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/06/digitization-can-improve-financial-inclusion-for-smallholder-farmers/>

The Climate & Development Knowledge Network explores governance approaches that recognise the links between the water, energy and food sectors.

https://cdkn.org/resource/working-paper-making-governance-work-water-energy-food-nexus-approaches/?loclang=en_gb

The impact of climate change on food security and livelihoods of small-scale farmers in Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe. IRIN.

<http://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/06/14/fact-file-climate-change-food-security-and-adaptation>

Why agricultural research investment lags in Africa south of the Sahara. International Food Policy Research Institute.

<http://www.ifpri.org/blog/why-agricultural-research-investment-lags-africa-south-sahara>

African startups are making use of the continent's untapped trove of consumer data. Quartz Africa.

<https://qz.com/1001674/africas-consumer-data-opportunity-is-being-tackled-by-startups/>

The recovery of the global economy is fragile and still threatened by a multitude of risks, according to Ayhan Kose of the Brookings Institute.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2017/06/09/the-fragile-global-recovery-surprisingly-unsurprising/>

A new article by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development asks whether trade policy is an effective instrument to narrow gender gaps.

<http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/news/the-case-for-mainstreaming-gender-in-trade-policy>

The president of the African Development Bank joined leaders from African countries and G20 members in Berlin to discuss opportunities for business and increased investment in Africa.

<https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/g20-african-countries-explore-opportunities-to-increase-investments-in-africa-at-berlin-conference-17106/>

Eurodad has launched an interactive infographic that investigates public development banks, which builds on their recent discussion paper 'Public development banks: towards a better model'.

<http://eurodad.org/pdb-infographic>

The new European Consensus on Development aligns EU support for development with the goals of the 2030 Agenda and other UN agreements concludes the IISD SDG Knowledge Hub.

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/new-european-consensus-for-development-aligns-with-2030-agenda/>

On 12 June, delegates from across Africa, the G20 group, the private sector and anti-poverty activists gathered in Berlin to discuss Africa's population boom and how to best invest in the African youth, reports AllAfrica.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201706130074.html>

The Media Foundation for West Africa has launched the 'Journalist of the Month' series to celebrate journalists who are based in and/or write about West Africa and who are having a positive impact on society through their work.

<http://www.mfwa.org/mfwa-introduces-journalist-of-the-month-series/>

January-June 2017 edition of the African Governance Newsletter. This African Governance Architecture report reflects on Africa's democratic dividends and deficits ten years after the adoption of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

<https://www.scribd.com/document/351887660/African-Governance-Newsletter-Democratic-Dividends-and-Deficits-Jan-June-2017>

Do weak governments doom developing countries to poverty? Center for Global Development.

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/do-weak-governments-doom-developing-countries-poverty>

An article by Tralac casts light on how investment policy reforms in Africa can best be harmonised in order to avoid undesirable fragmentation and overlaps of investment regimes.

<http://mailchi.mp/tralac/investment-policy-reforms-in-africa-tralac-newsletter-1580705>

The African continent must invest in manufacturing to rise up to the challenge of job creation. The Financial Times.

<https://www.ft.com/content/1dc17d12-51e8-11e7-bfb8-997009366969>

Lights on, Africa! Europe must coordinate support for electrification. This Bruegel blog post explains that while the programmes by the EU and its member states to support electrification in Africa are numerous, fragmentation reduces their impact.

[http://bruegel.org/2017/06/lights-on-africa-europe-must-coordinate-support-for-electrification/?utm_content=buffer0672c&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer+\(bruegel\)](http://bruegel.org/2017/06/lights-on-africa-europe-must-coordinate-support-for-electrification/?utm_content=buffer0672c&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer+(bruegel))

The current world population of 7.6 billion is expected to reach 8.6 billion in 2030, 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100, according to a new United Nations report.

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/06/world-population-projected-to-reach-9-8-billion-in-2050-and-11-2-billion-in-2100-says-un/>

Notes from the G-20 High-Level Conference on the Compact with Africa. Brookings.

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2017/06/20/notes-from-the-g-20-high-level-conference-on-the-compact-with-africa/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=global

New analysis reveals significant slowdown in growth of international humanitarian assistance despite high need. Development Initiative.

<http://devinit.org/post/new-analysis-reveals-significant-slowdown-growth-international-humanitarian-assistance-despite-high-need/#>

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