



## **FIRST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING FOR THE OECD-AFRICA INVESTMENT INITIATIVE FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

8 SEPTEMBER 2003, GENEVA  
HOSTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND

HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL  
7-9 CHEMIN DU PETIT-SACONNEX  
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*The primary purpose of this inaugural meeting of the OECD-Africa Investment Advisory Board is to discuss with key partners (interested in becoming a member of the Advisory Board) issues related to attracting and utilizing investment as a vehicle for growth and development in Africa, and help guide the design and implementation of the OECD-Africa Investment Initiative, as well as to achieve synergies with bilateral and multilateral organisations already working in Africa.*

*The meeting will provide an opportunity to test some of the ideas proposed below, modalities of co-operation, and funding, among others. The conclusions drawn from this meeting will be presented at the 16 September 2003 meeting of the CIME, and afterwards at the OECD-Africa Investment Roundtable, scheduled for 18 November 2003, back-to-back with the OECD Global Forum on International Investment (17-18 November 2003, Johannesburg, South Africa).*

### **Role of OECD in International Investment**

1. The OECD represents the advanced market economies of the world, accounting for more than two-thirds of foreign direct investment (FDI) flows and providing the bulk of official development assistance (ODA). It has decades of rich and successful experience in analysing and developing investment policies, in particular throughout its Committees' multidisciplinary approach and unique peer-review mechanism.

2. The OECD has developed extensive partnership activities with more than 70 non-member economies. Committed to enhancing the positive contribution of investment to development, the Organisation co-operates with developing countries by sharing its experience through a variety of policy dialogue forums, workshops and seminars, peer reviews, the dissemination of the best practices embodied in OECD investment instruments and guidelines, and specific projects such as creating synergies between ODA and FDI. The Organisation partners with interested governments, other international organisations, the private sector and civil society groups in formulating and implementing its investment activities.

## **Inaugural Advisory Board for the OECD-Africa Investment Initiative**

3. Increased investment can be a powerful catalyst for sustainable development and poverty reduction<sup>1</sup>. Ministers from the OECD and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) agreed during their meeting on 16 May 2002 to jointly seek ways in which OECD could contribute to best development practices, aid effectiveness, the promotion of trade and investment, good governance, and approaches to sustainable development in Africa.

4. The 2003 OECD Ministerial meeting agreed to do more to assist developing countries, particularly in Africa, to gain from globalisation by focusing on capacity building and coherence of other policies necessary to encourage growth. There was wide support in that meeting for a proposal from the Government of Japan for work with non-Member partners on a strategy to promote investment in developing countries in general, and Africa in particular. Such strategy would include the development of an integrated, balanced and operational framework for investment policy, and an enhanced capacity building mechanism based on peer review and strengthening synergy between FDI and ODA.

5. At the last meeting of the OECD Committee on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises (CIME) in April 2003, it was proposed to create an Advisory Board to help guide the design and implementation of an OECD-Africa Investment Initiative, as well as to achieve synergies with bilateral and multilateral organisations already working in Africa. The Board is to consist of key partners engaged in helping African countries attract investment and build capacities to maximise the benefits of investment for growth and development.

## **Investing in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities**

6. As the U.N. Secretary General said recently, "Africa needs more globalization, not less". In 1980 Africa's share of global trade was three percent. Today it is only one percent. The continent clearly cannot benefit from globalization and capture a fair share of global trade without much greater FDI. Risk – both real and perceived – is the primary reason more capital is not flowing to Africa. For most first-time investors, African countries are considered to be a high-risk environment. Investors frequently question the overall political commitment of African governments to long-term policy reforms to improve their investment environments.

7. In addition to the political uncertainties, private investors in Africa are constrained by several broad sets of issues, which raise the risk of investment by private businesses or lower its expected return. These include:

- Unstable and uncertain macroeconomic and business environments;
- Poor governance, including corruption, limited rule of law, lax enforcement of contracts and other shortfalls in transparency;
- Inadequate legal and regulatory frameworks, including poor tax administration and a lack of public-private sector dialogue;
- Weak infrastructure capacity and institutions;

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<sup>1</sup> The recent OECD report on *Foreign Direct Investment for Development – Maximising Benefits, Minimising Costs* – shows that a range of policies does matter in attracting investment and highlights how important policy coherence is in fostering an effective enabling environment for investment.

- Feeble human capital development and the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS; and
- Financial systems characterized by low levels of financial intermediation and sophistication.

8. In Africa, FDI has traditionally been largely limited to investments in petroleum, mining and other natural resources, and private investors have focused their activities on areas where returns are high enough to offset perceived risks. It is not surprising that the rate of return on FDI in Africa is said to be around 30 percent per year on average, according to some business surveys – higher than in any other region of the world. While most of the FDI flows to the continent have been concentrated in a handful of African countries and remain below one per cent of global FDI flows (and only four percent of the total investment pouring into developing countries), they nonetheless point to the potential for further integration of the continent in the global economy.

9. However, it would be unfair to lump all African countries together in a single stereotype. Each country on the continent is unique, and thus faces its own particular challenges to further investment agenda. Several countries have substantially and successfully improved their investment environments to encourage capital attraction and FDI. Progress in integration and co-operation, moreover, is making it possible to enlarge markets and improve infrastructure, thus making some regions a more attractive FDI destination. Since 1994, South Africa, in particular, has emerged as an important basis for export-oriented, manufacturing FDI.

## **DRAFT AGENDA**

*8 September 2003  
10:30 am-18:00 pm*

*Confirmed participants include representatives from South Africa, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Mozambique, Cameroon, Senegal from Africa; Switzerland, Sweden, United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Japan, Netherlands, France, and Germany from OECD countries; World Bank, UNIDO, UNCTAD, WTO, European Commission, NEPAD, ECOWAS, African Development Bank; OECD's Business and Industry Advisory Council Africa Task Force, World Business Council on Sustainable Development, International Chamber of Commerce, Corporate Council on Africa, African Business Roundtable, West African Enterprise Network; OECD's Trade Union Advisory Council, Transparency International, Africa, Earth Institute. (See the full list of participants in attachment).*

### **Introductory Remarks**

#### **10:30-11:00**

- Ambassador Marino Baldi, Swiss host and chairman of the CIME Advisory Board on Co-operation with Non-Members
- Eric Burgeat, Director, Center for Co-operation with Non-Members, OECD

### **Stock-taking of Africa's current problems, needs and priorities on international investment**

*Moderated by Neil Roger, Director, Investment Climate Department, World Bank Group*

#### **11.00-11.45**

#### ***Key Interventions***

- Maggie Kigozi, *Executive Director, Uganda Investment Authority*
- Stephen Hayes, *President, US Corporate Council on Africa*
- Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, *Executive President, Africa Business Roundtable, ECOWAS*

#### **11:45-12:45**

#### ***Open Discussion***

Policies play a key role in both attracting FDI and maximising its benefits. Consequently, it is critical for the international investment community to better understand African investment policies as a first step in formulating policy options specific to the African context. It is equally important that African policy-makers better understand the concerns and expectations of international investors. When both sides come

together in a mutual understanding of the issues and constraints, synergies may be formed and critical new investment opportunities created.

***Suggested issues for discussion:***

1. What are the priority areas that require urgent action by African governments? In particular:
  - To what degree are the administrative and regulatory barriers hampering investment in Africa? What measures are being taken to reduce these barriers?
  - What are the lessons learned from the African countries that successfully implemented investment policy reform?
2. What is the appropriate role for home country authorities and the enterprise sector in making FDI play a pivotal role for sustainable development in Africa?
3. What concrete steps toward closer regional integration are the top priorities in attracting FDI? What are the main political obstacles to take such steps?

***Working Lunch (continuation of the discussion)***

**13:00-14:45 pm**

*Lead discussant:* Ken Ofori-Atta, Executive Chairman, Databank Financial Services, Ghana

**OECD and Africa working together: What actions, by whom and how?**

**15:00 pm-16:30 pm**

*Moderated by Roy Stacy, Senior Manager at Chemonics International Inc.*

In Africa there are many bilateral and multilateral donor organisations working on investment issues. As no single organisation or donor country can work alone to tackle the critical challenges faced in the continent, it is important to ensure cross fertilisation and effective co-ordination with bilateral OECD donor agencies, other multilateral institutions and business community already active in the region in contributing to designing and implementing investment policies for African partners. Asia-Africa and other cross-regional co-operation initiatives should also be considered.

This session will primarily focus on how best OECD could contribute to the African investment agenda, on the basis of its strong track record and strengths, at the initiative of its member countries and in partnership with key African and international stakeholders. Specifically, under the broad goals of encouraging policies which are conducive to a favourable business environment, removing obstacles to investment and building capacities and partnerships in Africa, the following activities reflecting OECD's ongoing investment-related work can be adapted to the continent's needs and priorities and serve as a menu of possible future actions for discussion in Geneva, among other proposals that may be suggested by members of the Advisory Board:

- (i) ***"Investment capacity building: how and what for"***. A key added value of OECD's engagement in Africa would be a mechanism to enhance implementing capacities. In this context, an OECD-Africa Working Session of Government Officials on "Investment capacity building: how and what for" could be organised in April 2004, back-to-back with CIME. This working session could discuss: 1) OECD and other experiences with investment peer

reviews<sup>2</sup>, on the basis of various presentations and an OECD discussion paper; and 2) priority areas for peer review in light of Africa countries' needs. The event could be followed up by a pilot review of a volunteering African country, with OECD "logistical" assistance as required by African partners later in 2004.

- (ii) ***“Enhancing the African dimension of OECD’s project on improving synergies between ODA and FDI”***. Given the insufficient levels of private investment, Africa provides a significant case for improving the synergies between ODA and FDI. This applies to targeted approaches such as public-private partnerships as well as more broadly-based efforts at improving the enabling environment. OECD has launched a new project aimed at exploiting synergies in this area. Several African countries could be taken up as an illustrative case of how ODA can be used to leverage private investment. This issue can also be discussed in the April 2004 event.
- (iii) ***“Synthesis of investment-related regulatory, administrative and sectoral rules in Africa”***. It could be useful to compile a synthesis of investment-related regulatory, administrative and sectoral rules in Africa in close co-operation with, and support from, other organisations, African partners and business -- a compilation of existing authorised sources in selected African countries. This material is needed to get a better picture of the African situation, and could find its way as supporting material in the African events envisaged.
- (iv) ***“Transparency and public governance for investment”***. Improving the investment climate and transparency requires building of a regulatory framework for investment, a committed public administration, appropriate ethical codes of conduct for civil servants and effective tools to manage conflicts of interest between the public and private sectors. The transparency of legal and regulatory frameworks, and of their implementation, is consistently cited as one of the main concerns of international investors. CIME has undertaken recent work in the area of transparency framework. This work and the outcome of the coming GFII which will focus on this theme could serve as a starting point for an Africa-specific project.
- (v) ***“Corporate social responsibility”***. In light of the substantial body of work within the OECD on promoting corporate responsibility initiatives, it may be possible to explore the possibility of undertaking work on how corporate responsibility initiatives can promote investment and development in Africa. A special session of the GFII in South Africa on 19 November 2003 will focus on the role of corporate responsibility in improving environmental performance.
- (vi) ***“FDI-SME linkages”***. Enhancing SME-FDI linkages is an issue of great interest to most African countries, as in other developing countries. SMEs have potentially major, but largely untapped, benefits to realise from expanding investment opportunities. In the African context, the lack of adequate domestic investment and market remains a major deterrent to FDI inflows. OECD work underway in the context of the post-Bologna process could focus on how to make SMEs better local partners for foreign investors – to make African economies more attractive to FDI and to strengthen the benefits of foreign investment to the local economy. Equally important is how African SMEs could benefit from expanding regional and international trade opportunities and identify the role of the international community and stakeholders to facilitate this process.

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<sup>2</sup> Peer review is an integral part of capacity building; it provides an opportunity to transfer knowledge and experience; contributes to institution building; promotes convergence of approaches; fosters dialogue and best practices; helps develop "best practices"; and assists compliance with rules and commitments.

(vii) *“FDI and regional integration”*. Current OECD research on FDI-related issues in preferential trade agreements and economic partnership agreements involving developing countries is focusing on Southern Africa. The role of cross-border infrastructure in regional integration could also be explored, or institutions such as the World Bank could be invited to contribute. A study “Regional Integration, FDI, and Competitiveness: The Case of SADC” is under way and could be presented for discussion to the 18 November OECD-Africa Investment Roundtable. Follow-up work should be considered.

***Suggested issues for discussion:***

1. How can OECD investment capacity building activities (including investment policy peer review practices) be most usefully adapted to the African context?
2. What can be the African inputs into the ongoing OECD project to improve synergies between ODA and FDI flows?
3. What is the potential for OECD corporate responsibility initiatives in promoting investment and development in Africa?
4. How can the inter-organisational synergies be achieved between ongoing investment-related activities by bilateral and multilateral donors in Africa?
5. Which African countries should be focused on? Performing and/or failing states? What should be the main criteria in deciding?

**Coffee Break**

**Concluding Session: The Way Ahead**

**17:00-18:00**

*Moderated by Rainer Geiger, OECD Secretariat*

Advisory Board members are expected to share their views on how and in what ways their governments/organisations intend to support the proposed OECD-Africa Investment Initiative. Suggestions will be solicited as to the objectives, format and themes for the OECD-Africa Investment Roundtable which will be held on 18 November 2003 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

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**ADVISORY BOARD MEETING FOR THE OECD-AFRICA INVESTMENT INITIATIVE  
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