8:00-9:00 Registration

9:15-10:00 Introductory remarks

*Introductory words by:* Ángel Gurría, Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

*Opening keynote speech:* Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson, African Union Commission

10:00-12:00 Opening Session - Africa's economic transformation: Achievements and challenges

**Panellists:**
- Mo Ibrahim, Founder and President, Mo Ibrahim Foundation
- Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Mario Pezzini, Director, OECD Development Centre
- Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson, African Union Commission

**Moderator:** Shada Islam, Director of Policy, Friends of Europe

12:00-13:30 Lunch

13:30-15:00 Session 1 - Improving Africa's access to global and regional markets

**Panellists:**
- Amadou Bâ, Minister of Economy and Finance, Senegal
- Moustapha Ben Barka, Minister attached to the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, responsible for Investment Promotion and Private Sector, Mali
- Mohamed El-Kettani, President, Attijariwafa Bank
- Nialé Kaba, Minister Delegate for Economy and Finance, Côte d'Ivoire
- Kako Nubukpo, Minister to the President for Long-term Strategy and Public Policy Evaluation, Togo
- Ayodele Odusola, Chief of Strategy and Analysis, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Moderator:** Lanre Akinola, Editor, "This Is Africa", Financial Times

Questions and answers

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-17:00 Session 2 - Bridging the urban-rural divide: The territorial policy challenge

**Panellists:**
- Kordjé Bedouma, Minister of Finance and Budget, Chad
- Noël Akossi Bendjo, Mayor, City of Abidjan-Plateau, Côte d'Ivoire
- Bruno Losch, Research Director, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD, *Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement*)
- Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union Commission
- Abdoulaye Sène, President, Global Local Forum

**Moderator:** Serge Michel, Senior reporter, Le Monde

Questions and answers

17:00-17:30 Closing

**Moderator:** Mario Pezzini, Director, OECD Development Centre

Moussa Mara, Prime Minister, Mali
Romano Prodi, Former UN Special Envoy for the Sahel
“By Africa, for Africa?”

Industrialisation and Integration for Inclusive Growth

CONCEPT NOTES

OPENING SESSION – AFRICA’S ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Industrialisation is a central pillar of the structural transformation agenda for many African countries. The promotion of new, more productive activities — including manufacturing and the processing of natural resources — aims to accelerate the creation of jobs and lead to improved living standards. On the back of steady economic performance, African economies seem in a better position now than in previous decades to realise that vision. What have we learned from the industrial policies of the past? How much progress has been achieved over the last decade? Where are new industrial strategies implemented? And what are the next essential moves to succeed in implementing them?

Towards Africa’s economic and social transformation

African institutions have charted a clear strategic path for the continent’s development, an agenda of structural transformation. Steady economic growth is necessary, but it is not an end in and of itself. Economic growth must be made more inclusive for the benefit of people, and rest on the sound and sustainable management of natural resources. The focus is again on industrialisation. The rise of new, more productive activities must create the opportunities Africans need to free themselves from poverty. Public policies must create the conditions and be a stimulus for new businesses to thrive.

What developmental progress has been achieved so far?

To implement that agenda, the continent is in a better shape today than it has been for decades. Africa has indeed managed an impressive economic turnaround over the past 20 years. Average growth of gross domestic product (GDP) doubled from approximately 2.5% in 1981-95 to 5% over the past 15 years. And despite the deep global economic recession of 2009, the weak global economy, political turbulence in North Africa, and military conflicts and economic problems in other African countries, between 2008 and 2013 Africa’s average GDP growth still amounted to 4.5%. This compares to less than 3% for the global economy and underscores the continent’s resilience to regional and global shocks.

Africa’s growth has not remained unscathed, though. The global recession of 2009 reduced Africa’s growth to around 3% (from around 6% in 2007-08), and with the Arab uprisings in 2011, Africa’s growth fell to 3.5% (from 5% in 2010). In 2013, the weak global economy and the on-going crisis in the Euro area also took a toll on Africa’s growth, although at 4% it was still higher than global growth (3%). Today, however, economic prospects for Africa are quite good. In 2015, assuming a gradual strengthening of the global economy and improvements in political and social stability in those African countries currently affected by conflicts, Africa’s growth could return to 5-6%, a level last seen before the onset of the 2009 global recession.

This new episode of economic growth has helped improve people’s lives. By building on more prudent monetary and fiscal policies, debt relief, steady external financial inflows, higher tax revenues and more ambitious social policies, many countries have made significant strides in terms of human development. More people have been lifted out of poverty, incomes have risen and performance in education and health has improved. Most African countries are among those with the fastest improvements in the UNDP’s Human Development Index (HDI).

Tackling the next challenges

Despite all this progress, a number of pressing demands remain unmet for Africa to embark on a sustainable and inclusive path of growth. The lack of decent jobs — notably for youth — and rising inequalities are testimony to the challenge of delivering economic and social progress at a pace that can match Africa’s demographic boom. Whilst the overall number of conflict diminishes in both numbers and intensity, the continent continues to be threatened by destabilising regional conflicts (e.g. Central African Republic, South Sudan) and terrorist networks (e.g. Boko Haram in Nigeria). Further, robust institutions still represent a key challenge for many countries in the region. The private sector, in particular, needs more predictable and fairer regulation. Access to essential, quality public services, such as education and health, remains uneven. The need to build resilient health systems is best illustrated by the difficulties in tackling the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

Key questions

How can this episode of strong growth help accelerate and deepen Africa’s structural transformation? What public policies are needed to go beyond poverty reduction to the promotion of more inclusive and cohesive societies? What policies will allow Africa to make the right investments in physical and human capital to create more formal employment?
SESSION 1: IMPROVING AFRICA’S ACCESS TO GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS AND REGIONAL MARKETS

African economies are increasingly integrated into global value chains, but they remain at the periphery of the three main trade hubs: the Americas, Asia and Europe. Which policies can increase Africa's capacity to compete? Are regional and emerging markets more accessible to African producers? Can African consumers drive innovation, creativity, skills and the emergence of new regional industrial policies?

Globalisation has changed the way goods and services are produced. Production networks now span the globe, as intermediate goods are traded between countries and different value-adding activities occur in various locations. Intermediate goods have been the main drivers of the boom in trade since the 1990s, accounting for about 65% of all imports in 2012. These global value chains (GVCs) offer new opportunities for structural transformation. African countries can integrate as 'links' into GVCs at a specific stage (e.g. assembly in manufacturing, commodity production in agriculture) without having to develop entire industries. Africa’s total global value created under GVCs remains rather small (2.2%), but its participation growth rate has been high.

Ideally, GVC participation opens opportunities to upgrade through knowledge transfers, product differentiation and the addition of adjacent stages of the value chain. However, the challenge for African countries is to increase GVC participation while not becoming locked into performing low-value activities.

What are the main opportunities for African economies to upgrade in GVC?

Africa attracts investors because of its burgeoning domestic markets, abundant natural resources and plentiful supply of labour. African markets are also regarded as relatively open. Africa’s on-going retail revolution presents important opportunities to develop regional value chains, which offer closer proximity and first-mover advantages. In addition, regional markets often permit lower norm-related standards and thus present lower barriers to entry.

Opportunities in producer-driven chains tend to lie in acquiring upstream capabilities (e.g. research, supplier services and component manufacturing) or in expanding into higher quality varieties of the base product (e.g. organic or fair trade types of cocoa and coffee). Buyer-driven chains (e.g. apparel and horticulture) allow for closer links between producers and consumers by cutting out intermediaries and providing unique value added required by consumers. A good example is the growing number of flower suppliers from Kenya who directly deliver their products to retailers, thereby bypassing the traditional auction houses.

Regardless of the scenario and the specific value chain, local entrepreneurs will be crucial to identify the opportunities offered by GVCs and to take the risk to turn these opportunities into jobs and growth.

What prevents international firms from investing more in GVC relationships with Africa?

The inability to meet product quality standards, as well as high costs of transport and energy and a poorly trained workforce are among the top reasons firms cite. The lack of a strong service sector is another hindrance. While an average of 30% of the value of manufactured products exported globally is added in the form of services (e.g. design, development, marketing, warranties and after-sales care) Africa’s share in global service exports has observed a decline. The inadequate provision of public and private services, particularly extension services, penalises smaller firms, demanding a heightened focus on innovation and value added in their sector. The accelerating spread of GVCs amplifies this challenge, as they put African countries at a disadvantage in the competition for GVC investments, especially in manufacturing.

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2 Results of a country expert survey for the African Economic Outlook 2014.
By 2050, Africa will be home to 2.1 billion people. In most countries, both urban and rural populations will continue to grow well after that date. The challenge of providing future generations with adequate economic and social opportunities is daunting. National policy makers, city planners, infrastructure builders, local governments, investors, farmers’ associations, environmentalists and other stakeholders need to invent new ways of working together to meet this challenge. How can new territorial policies transcend traditional divides (e.g. urban versus rural, agricultural versus other sectors) to make the most of the demographic dividend in a sustainable manner?

Africa’s remarkable economic rise over the last decade may have diverted attention away from a silent yet arguably even more profound change: the continent’s demographic boom. From about 100 million at the outset of the 20th century, Africa’s population reached 1 billion in 2010. By 2050, it will rise to over 2 billion people, representing some 25% of the world’s population, compared to 15% today.

The entailed rise in manpower represents a huge opportunity for the continent’s development. Whereas the average economically active African had to support one inactive person in the mid-1980s, the coming decades will see this ratio improve dramatically. It is Africa’s turn to reap its ‘demographic dividend’. However that will only be possible if growth is made more inclusive, and creates jobs that tomorrow’s ever more numerous generations need. While today some 20 million young Africans enter labour markets every year, they will be 30 million by 2030. Several countries, notably in North Africa, are already confronting the challenge of not letting their youth boon turn into a bane. Furthermore, unlike East Asia a few decades earlier, Africa is undergoing its demographic transition without a commensurate process of endogenous economic accumulation. Agriculture remains the principal economic activity of a predominantly rural population, with persistently low productivity levels and low saving rates; and urbanisation progresses largely without industrialisation, nor the required levels of investment in infrastructure. The challenge of providing future generations with adequate economic and social opportunities is thus considerable.

Beyond its magnitude, this demographic boom is also unique in terms of its spatial dynamics. Africans living in the countryside — not city dwellers — will remain the majority until the 2030s, and their number will continue to grow well after 2050. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, the rural population will increase by 57% over the next 40 years, representing an addition of 310 million people. Africa’s new rural dwellers are not only growing in numbers; their patterns of living, working and travelling are changing rapidly. Stark improvements in transportation and telecommunications, the emergence of new medium-sized urban centres and the gradual rise in living standards all create new opportunities for economic diversification in rural areas, where traditional agricultural activities are increasingly blended with handicraft, trade, transportation or processing and new activities such as ITC-based services. Households also see their members increasingly involved in a variety of farm and non-farm activities, with some of them commuting between urban and rural locations.

And yet these major changes have not been enough to produce any significant overall improvement in living standards by themselves, which questions the adequacy of existing public policies. The emerging demographic and territorial realities are not easily grasped by available conceptual and statistical tools, as they defy the traditional divides between ‘urban’ and ‘rural’, ‘farm’ and ‘non-farm’ households when most of rural households have diversified sources of income. If economic policies remain blind to Africa’s fast-changing territorial realities, they may fail to effectively implement the continent’s agenda of structural transformation, poverty alleviation and sound management of natural assets. National policy makers, city planners, infrastructure builders, local governments, investors, farmers’ associations, environmentalists and other stakeholders need to work together and find new ways to face those challenges. Public policies need to escape their sectorial pattern. Can new territorial management policies help African economies make the most of the demographic dividend in a sustainable manner? Can they provide new impetus to policies in the areas of private sector development, infrastructure, decentralisation and human capital formation?
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

ÁNGEL GURRÍA
SECRETARY-GENERAL, ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

Ángel Gurría has been Secretary-General of the OECD since mid-2006. In September 2010, he was re-appointed by the OECD member countries for a second five-year mandate. His distinguished career in public service includes two ministerial posts in Mexico: Minister of Foreign Affairs from December 1994 to January 1998 and Minister of Finance and Public Credit from January 1998 to December 2000.

As OECD Secretary-General, he has reinforced the OECD’s role as a hub for global dialogue and debate on economic policy issues. Under his leadership, the OECD has expanded its membership to include Chile, Estonia, Israel and Slovenia, and opened accession talks with Russia. It has also strengthened links with other major emerging economies, including Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa. The OECD is now an active participant in both the G-8 and the G-20 processes. Mr Gurría has also participated in various international not-for-profit bodies. Mr Gurría holds a B.A. in Economics from UNAM (Mexico) and a M.A. in Economics from Leeds University (United Kingdom).

NKOSAZANA DLAMINI-ZUMA
CHAIRPERSON, AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC)

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma is the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC). The first woman to head the continental organisation, Dr Dlamini Zuma was elected in July 2012. Hitherto, she held various high government positions in South Africa and played a key role in the empowerment of women all over Africa, having played a part in changing the expectations for women. Her previous positions include Minister of Health in the cabinet of former President Nelson Mandela, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the cabinet of former President Thabo Mbeki and Minister of Home Affairs.

Dr Dlamini Zuma has been an active member of the African National Congress (ANC) and member of the South African Students’ Organisation. She studied at the University of Zululand and completed her medical studies at the University of Bristol in 1978. The African Union (AU), as well as its predecessor the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), has shifted focus from supporting liberation movements in former African territories under colonialism and apartheid, as envisaged by the OAU since 1963 and their Constitutive Act, to an organisation leading and helping to kindle Africa’s development and integration, framed in its Agenda 2063. With this in mind, the AU Commission has created three financial institutions in a bid to facilitate trade within the continent: the African Investment Bank (AIB), the African Monetary Fund (AMF) and the African Central Bank (ACB).
Africa's economic transformation: Achievements and challenges

MO IBRAHIM
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, MO IBRAHIM FOUNDATION

Dr Mo Ibrahim is the Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, which he established in 2006 to support good governance and exceptional leadership in Africa.

Sudanese-born, Dr Ibrahim is a global expert in mobile communications with a distinguished business career. He founded Celtel International in 1998, one of Africa's leading mobile telephone companies, which was sold to Zain in 2005 and was then purchased by Bharti Airtel in 2010. Dr Ibrahim is also Founding Chairman of Satya Capital Limited, an investment fund focused on Africa.

Dr Ibrahim has received numerous honorary degrees and is the recipient of the GSM Association's Chairman's Award for Lifetime Achievement (2007), the BNP Paribas Prize for Philanthropy (2008), the Clinton Global Citizen Award (2010); the Millennium Excellence Award for Actions in Africa (2012); the David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award (2012); the Africare Leadership Award (2013); the Kiel Institute Global Economy Prize (2013); the Eisenhower Medal for Distinguished Leadership and Service (2014) and the Foreign Policy Association Medal (2014). He was listed by TIME magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2008.

CARLOS LOPES
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)

Dr. Carlos Lopes is the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa. He has more than 24 years of senior leadership experience in the United Nations, including as Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Director of the UN System Staff College, Director for Political Affairs in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, all at the level of Assistant Secretary-General; and UN Resident Co-ordinator in Zimbabwe and Brazil. Specialised in development and strategic planning, he has authored or edited over 22 books and taught at various academic institutions.

MARIO PEZZINI
DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

Mario Pezzini is Director of the OECD Development Centre. The OECD Development Centre is an institution where governments, enterprises and civil society organisations informally discuss questions of common interest. Its Governing Board includes most of the OECD countries but also developing and emerging economies as full members. The Centre helps policy makers in OECD and partner countries find innovative solutions to the global challenges of development. Before joining the Development Centre in 2010, Mario Pezzini held several senior management positions at the OECD. He was Deputy Director of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate and, prior to that, Head of the Regional Policy Division, covering policy analysis on urban development, rural development, regional competitiveness and public governance.

Prior to joining the OECD, Mr Pezzini was Professor in Industrial Economics at the École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris as well as in U.S. and Italian Universities. Mr Pezzini has also served as an advisor in the field of economic development, industrial organisation and regional economics in international organisations and think tanks (e.g. ILO, UNIDO, European Commission and Nomisma in Italy). Mr Pezzini started his career in the Government Office of the Emilia-Romagna Region.
SHADA ISLAM
DIRECTOR OF POLICY, FRIENDS OF EUROPE

Shada Islam is responsible for policy oversight of Friends of Europe's initiatives, activities and publications. She has special responsibility for the Asia Programme and for the Development Policy Forum.

Ms Islam is the former Europe correspondent for the Far Eastern Economic Review and previously worked on Asian issues at the European Policy Centre. She is closely involved with initiatives to promote Asia-Europe exchanges including within the context of ASEM (Asia Europe Meetings). As a journalist, Ms Islam has also worked extensively on development questions including relations between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states, as well as on world trade, including the Doha Round. Ms Islam continues to write on EU foreign and security policy, EU-Asia relations and trade and development issues for leading Asian, European and international publications.

SESSION 1:
Improving Africa's access to global and regional markets

AMADOU BA
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, SENEGAL

Amadou Ba was appointed Minister of Economy and Finance of Senegal in September 2013. Since then, he has participated actively in developing the Plan Sénégal Emergent (PSE), an ambitious economic and social development strategy currently being implemented in Senegal. From 2006-13, Mr Ba served as Director-General of Taxes and Estates, during which time he led successful and major reforms.

Among his many achievements is a tax reform initiative that led to the adoption of the new General Tax Code, the evaluation of tax expenditures for 2008 and 2009, the development and implementation of the Fiscal Administration Development Plan (PDSAF 2008-12) and the signature of the first-ever performance contract (2009-11) between the Tax Administration and the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

MOUSTAPHA BEN BARKA
MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY AND FINANCE, RESPONSIBLE FOR INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PRIVATE SECTOR, MALI

Born in 1977 in Paris, Mustapha Ben Barka has a Graduate Certificate in Management (Treasury/Finance), a Master of Business Administration in Financial Services, and a B.A. in Finance and International Trade.


He held the positions of Manager of Investment Banking and Director Blackpearl at the FinanceCom International Senegal Group (2007-2013). He was appointed Minister attached to the Ministry of the Economy and Finance, responsible for Investment Promotion and Private Sector in 2013.
MOHAMED EL KETTANI  
CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF ATTJARIWAFA BANK S.A.

Mohamed El Kettani serves as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at the Attijariwafa Bank S.A. Prior to this position, he served as its Managing Director of Corporate Banking. Mr El Kettani started his banking career in 1984 at the Banque Commerciale du Maroc in the investment loans department; he started managing this department in 1985. His succeeding position was as deputy chief executive officer and chief officer of the loans department in 1994. In March 2003, Mr El Kettani took over the management of the department of investment banking. After the fusion of the BCM and the Wafabank in 2003, consequently renamed Attijariwafa Bank, he was appointed manager of the investment banking section of the new bank. He has been a Director of the Attijariwafa Bank S.A. since September 2007. He also maintains the position of Director of the Attijari bank S.A.

NIALÉ KABA  
MINISTER IN CHARGE OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The first woman to occupy the post of Minister in charge of Economy and Finance in the Prime Minister’s Office, Ms Nialé Kaba holds a Master of Economics with a specialty in Public Economics obtained from the University of Abidjan in 1985.

A statistician and economist engineer, she obtained a postgraduate diploma (DEA) in International Economics at the CESD of Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. Ms Kaba also graduated from the International Monetary Fund Institute in Economic Policy Management.

From 1996 to 2000, she held the position of Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister’s Office and became Deputy Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Economy and Finance in 2000. She was the Housing Promotion Minister prior to holding her current position.

KAKO NUBUKPO  
MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF LONG-TERM STRATEGY AND PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATION, TOGO

In addition to his current position as Minister of Long-term Strategy and Public Policy Evaluation of Togo, Mr Kako Nubukpo is a member of the Global Economic Governance Programme of the University of Oxford (UK).

He is former Executive Director of CADERDT, a Togolese think tank founded by the African Capacity-Building Foundation (ACBF) based in Lomé (Togo). Prior to this post, he was the Head of the Economic Analysis and Research Division at the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and the Head of the Department of Post-graduate Studies and Research in the Faculty of Economics and Management at the University of Lomé. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Lyon (France). He has worked at the Head Office of the West African States Central Bank (BCEAO) in Dakar (Senegal), and has held senior positions at the Institute of Sahel in Bamako (Mali), and the School of Management in Lyon (France). He is also a Research Fellow at the Agricultural Research Centre of International Development (CIRAD). His publications cover a range of issues related to central banking and finance in West Africa, and the economics of cotton industry in that region, among others.

AYODELE ODUSOLA  
MDG ADVISER, REGIONAL BUREAU FOR AFRICA, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

Ayodele Odusola is Adviser on the MDGs for UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA). He coordinates the preparation of African MDG reports, the MDG Acceleration Framework for Africa and MDG-related activities in 46 African countries. Within RBA, he also co-ordinates the post-2015 development agenda in partnership with the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank.
Previously, he was the Senior Economist in UNDP Nigeria and was responsible for facilitating support for the preparation of local, regional and national MDG reports. Before joining the United Nations, Mr Odusola worked with the Presidency of Nigeria. Between 1999 and 2005, he served as Head of Research and the Macroeconomic Training Programme under the Presidency's Economic Management Think-Tank. Mr Odusola has lectured in many African universities and has published extensively, both nationally and internationally. He was the African Visiting Scholar to the International Monetary Fund in 2001. Since 2010, he has been one of the co-writers of the African MDG Report, which assesses progress in Africa toward the MDGs. Mr Odusola is a Nigerian national and holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Ibadan (Nigeria).

LANRE AKINOLA
EDITOR, THIS IS AFRICA, FINANCIAL TIMES – (FT)

Lanre Akinola is Editor of This Is Africa at the Financial Times, which focuses on the policy and the business environment across the continent, as well as Africa’s strategic relationships with other world regions.

He is a 2014 Tutu Fellow and director at Tutudesk, the South Africa-based charity. With Archbishop Desmond Tutu as its Patron, Tutudesk offers a practical and highly effective solution to chronic desk shortages for kids across Africa. A native of Lagos, Nigeria, he holds a degree in politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London.

SESSION 2:
Bridging the urban-rural divide: the territorial policy challenge

Presentation by
BRUNO LOSCH
RESEARCH DIRECTOR AT THE FRENCH AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CIRAD, CENTRE DE COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE EN RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT)

Bruno Losch is an economist and lead researcher at CIRAD (Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement). He worked at the World Bank between 2005 and 2011, where he led the RuralStruc Program on structural transformation and rural change, a joint initiative of the World Bank, IFAD and the French government. Previously, he was a visiting scholar at the University of California–Berkeley, and in charge of CIRAD’s Family Agriculture Program (1998-2002).

He holds a Master’s degree in political science and geography and a Ph.D. in economics. He has published extensively in the field of rural studies, public policies and the political economy of development. He is a member of the scientific and technical committee of the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM).

KORDJÉ BEDOUMRA
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND BUDGET, CHAD

Currently Minister of Finance and Budget of Chad, Kordjé Bedoumra previously held the posts of Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic and Minister of Planning, Economy and International Co-operation.

Prior to these appointments within the government, he acquired 29 years of international experience at the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), including 16 years in management positions, including the Bank’s Vice Presidency. Mr Bedoumra formerly worked as an engineer
He holds a Diploma in telecommunications engineering from the École Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications (Paris), and a Master in Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Automation from the Faculty of Science of the University Paul Sabatier-Toulouse (France).

NOËL AKOSSI BENDJO
MAYOR, CITY OF ABIDJAN-PLATEAU

Mayor Bendjo was born in 1951 in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. He earned both a B.A. and an M.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Laval (Canada), in 1977 and 1979, respectively.

Since 1997, he has held several senior management positions within the Ivoirian Refinery Company, and is currently a Special Adviser to the Minister of Oil and Energy of the country. He is a founding member of the Benianh International Foundation (1996). He served as Permanent Member of the Davos World Economic Forum (1997-2000). In addition to acting as manager of several companies, he has served as the President of the Ivory Coast Overseas Trade Advisors National Network (RENACCE-CI) since 2000. Mr Bendjo was elected Mayor of Plateau (municipality of Abidjan) in 2001. He is the author of Demain la Côte d'Ivoire (Editions Eburnie, 2005).

ANTHONY MOTHAE MARUPING
COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC)

Prior to being appointed Commissioner for Economic Affairs at the AUC in January 2013, Dr Mothae Maruping served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the United Nations agencies in Geneva and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Dr Maruping was previously the Executive Director of the Macro-Economic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa. He also served as the Vice Chancellor of the National University of Lesotho (1982-83), as well as the Governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho (1988-98). Moreover, he has served as Chair and Member of the Boards of Directors of numerous institutions, including the Central Bank of Lesotho (1980-98), the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board as a Vice-President (2010-11), President of the WTO Council for Trade in Goods (CTG) and Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) (2011-12), as well as President of the Group of 77 and China in 2011.

ABDOULAYE SENE
PRESIDENT, GLOBAL LOCAL FORUM

Founding President of the international think tank Global Local Forum, member and former President of the Regional Council of the Region of Fatick, Abdoulaye Sène is a former Secretary-General of the association of locally elected officials from Senegal, and former Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Development and Planning within the National Assembly of the Republic of Senegal.

Previously, Mr Sène held senior positions in the Senegalese Administration. Between 1994 and 2000, he was the director of a major national program to revitalize the dry valleys of Senegal. Between 1990 and 1994, Mr Sène served as the National Director of Rural Engineering and Water Management. Beyond his activities at a national level, he co-ordinated the technical and administrative representation of Senegal within several international organisations: the Organisation for the Development of the
Senegal River (OMVS), Organisation for the Development of Gambia River (OMVG) and the Inter-African Centre for Hydraulic Studies (CIEH).

A hydraulic engineer, expert and international consultant, he is also a member of the Council of the Alliance for Rebuilding Governance in Africa (ARGA). Mr Sène was a professor at the École Polytechnique de Thies, a training school for Senegalese engineers, from 1982 to 1986.

SERGE MICHEL

SENIOR REPORTER, LE MONDE

Serge Michel, 45, is a reporter-at-large for Le Monde and Chief Editor for the project Le Monde Afrique. Michel has worked as a journalist in Switzerland, Iran, the Balkans and Africa. In 2001, he won the Albert Londres Prize, France’s most prestigious journalistic award, for his work in Iran. He is the founder of the Bondy Blog, a popular website and a stunning experience of citizen journalism, written from within the volatile French suburbs.

MOUSSA MARA
PRIME MINISTER, MALI

Moussa Mara is currently the Prime Minister and Head of Government of Mali. At 39 years old, he is the youngest to ever hold such high position within the Malian government. Moussa Mara is an expert accountant and holds several degrees in this domain. Prior his current post, Mara was Mali’s Minister of Urbanism (2013-14). He was the Mayor of Commune IV in Bamako from 2009-13 and has been President of the political party “YÉLÉMA” (Bambara word for “change”), since 2010.

Prior to his rigorous engagement in politics, Mr Mara held multiple high and prestigious positions in the private sector at national, regional and international levels. A true visionary and inspired citizen, Mara is also the author of several publications, including Reflections for a Better Nation (2006); A Diagnostic for a State of Mali (2011); and Ways of Improvement of the Malian State (2012). He wrote many other articles which can be found on his website www.moussamara.com. Moussa Mara is fluent in both French and Bambara and spoken English. He is married with three children.

ROMANO PRODI
FORMER UN SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE SAHEL

Romano Prodi was born in Scandiano (Reggio Emilia, Italy) in 1939. He earned economics and law degrees from the Catholic University (Milan) and continued his economics studies at the London School of Economics. Mr Prodi helped establish the “Italian school of industrial policy”, and acted for several years as the editor of its quarterly journal, L’Industria, Rivista di Economia e Politica Industriale. In 1981 he founded Nomisma, the largest Italian institute of economic studies, whose scientific committee he chaired until 1995.

Prior to holding the post of Minister of Industry (1978-79), Mr Prodi was the Chair and CEO of the Institute for Industrial Reconstruction (1982-89). In 1995, he founded the “Olive tree” centre-left coalition, and has served two terms as Italy’s Prime Minister (1996-98 and 2006-08). He was President of the European Commission from 1999 to 2005. He has presided over the Foundation for Worldwide Co-operation and has chaired the United Nations-African Union High-level Panel for Peacekeeping in Africa since 2008. He served as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, between 2012 and early 2014.

He has taught at the University of Bologna, Harvard University, the Stanford Research Institute, Brown University and the China Europe International Business School (Shanghai). During his academic and institutional career, Romano Prodi has been awarded a number of distinctions and holds various honorary degrees.
About the 14th International Economic Forum on Africa

With an average growth rate of about 4% in 2013, compared with 3% for the global economy, Africa continues to show strong dynamism in the face of regional and international turbulence. The continent’s average growth is projected to accelerate to close to 5% in 2014 and 5-6% in 2015. Governments therefore enjoy new leeway to implement their economic and social transformation agendas. However, success will require making this growth more inclusive and more sustainable; for example (instance), by helping African firms harness regional and global value chains to create new jobs, or by implementing innovative territorial policies to make the most of emerging rural/urban dynamics.

The Africa Forum is a space for dialogue hosted every year at the OECD, and open to African governments and institutions and their partners. Private sector representatives, academics and civil society leaders meet to debate the performance of African economies and the challenges they are confronted with. Organised by the OECD Development Centre in partnership with the African Union, the 2014 edition will focus on the pan-African agenda of economic and social transformation. It will assess its progress in light of changing global trade patterns and the demographic challenges ahead, while reviewing the implications of the Ebola crisis.

The debates will benefit from the conclusions of the African Economic Outlook 2014 report, jointly produced by the OECD Development Centre, African Development Bank (AFDB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The publication is available at www.africaneconomicoutlook.org.

About the organiser

The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. The OECD Development Centre, which is open to both OECD and non-OECD countries, occupies a unique place within the OECD and in the international community. The 2014 edition of the Centre’s African Economic Outlook looks at the theme of global value chains and industrialisation in Africa -- www.oecd.org/dev

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