



The 4th Africa ThinkTank Summit

4^{ème} SOMMET DES THINK TANKS AFRICAINS

Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)
April 6-8 2017

“African Think Tanks and Industrialization in Africa”

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Preamble

1. We, the African think tanks, have met in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on April 6-8, 2017 in the framework of the Fourth Africa Think Tank Summit. As we conclude our 2017 Summit on the theme "African Think Tanks and Industrialization in Africa", we would like to express our deepest and sincere appreciation to the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) for organizing this Summit in partnership with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the *Cellule d'analyse de politique économique du Centre ivoirien de recherche économique et sociale* (CAPEC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency.
2. We note the importance of developing the human and institutional capacities of African countries particularly with regard to implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development goals as stipulated in the various continental, regional and national strategies.
3. In line with the theme of the 2017 Summit, we note that Agendas 2063 and 2030 as well as the various regional economic communities and continental institutions' strategic plans (AfDB high fives, for instance) emphasize the importance of and necessity to structurally transform Africa through industrialization, manufacturing and value addition with the ultimate goal of creating inclusive and sustained growth.
4. We welcome the expressed commitment of the Africa Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities represented at the Summit in working with think tanks to finding lasting solutions to Africa's sustained industrialization.

African think tanks can effectively support industrialization for Africa's transformation

5. We recognize that think tanks have an important role to play to support the structural transformation of African economies which will involve the shift from low- to high-productivity activities and industrial development.
6. We therefore recommend that think tanks conduct critical research around the capacity gaps facing the continent, and share best practices on how to address them especially with regard to development and effective implementation of industrial policies on the continent.
7. We reaffirm that a key area of intervention of think tanks is to design, and advise on public policies aimed at promoting industrialization to private sector activities and interests in order to support industrial development and sustained economic growth.
8. Given the in-depth knowledge and experience as well as the mandate of the think tanks, we urge countries, regional economic communities, and continental bodies to engage with and use the services of African think tanks in developing home-grown evidence-based analysis, advocacy and research necessary for successful design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of industrial policies and interventions for Africa's sustainable development.
9. We urge African governments—the main beneficiaries of the work done by think tanks—to work with African think tanks and capacity building institutions to focus on expanding on critical skills and human capacity to catalyze the industrialization process.

10. Recognizing that the successful industrialization of Africa requires a favorable mind-set and the definition of an African-model, we are proud to have developed a research agenda that will inform capacity building initiatives around mind-set change for industrialization in Africa and commit ourselves to implement that agenda. We urge ACBF to coordinate the development of the strategy and interventions with the required contributions from all think tanks as well as key stakeholders (the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Export-Import Bank, etc.) – as main supporters.
11. We also take the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to ACBF and partners for supporting the development and publication of the report on the “Survey of the Capacity Needs of Africa’s Regional Economic Communities and Strategies for Addressing Them” which will significantly contribute to targeted and coordinated capacity building for the RECs so they can effectively foster regional integration, trade and industrial development.
12. We call upon African countries and development partners to join ACBF and the regional economic communities in prioritizing and collaboratively working in implementing the recommendations of the Report.

Industrialization in Africa from the perspective of job creation for youth

13. We express our profound concern about youth unemployment “crisis” in Africa and the resulting pressures on migration to other nations for economic opportunities along with the disastrous consequences including loss of lives of young Africans.
14. We therefore stress the need for African countries to implement industrial policies that promote the intensive use of their comparative advantage – in terms of resources and youth capacity utilization – that will increase the success of achieving pro-poor growth and job creation.
15. Acknowledging that the informal sector provides over 70 percent of employment in many countries, we agree and urge African countries to develop systematic programs of training and re-training to ensure that the informal sector copes with new technologies and market dynamics, and have access to credits with the aim of supporting the industrialization process.
16. We recommend African countries to develop the capacities required to create jobs by among other means embarking on massive agricultural and resource-based industrialization to produce goods and services with added value.
17. For industrialization to be successful in Africa in terms of job creation for youth, we urge African countries to (1) create the required conducive environment underpinned by a transformative leadership and a competitive and dynamic private sector driven by a producer and not a consumer mindset; (2) develop and support the establishment of competitive cross-border financial institutions aimed at supporting the industrialization process across the continent; and (3) ensure that there is a mass of critical technical skills available to manage and deliver efficiently on the industrialization agenda while making sure that Africa gets the best in the global industrial value chain.

Moving forward

18. We take the opportunity to emphasize the need to increase the resources allocated to industrialization in general and to think tanks for supporting Africa’s industrialization in particular. We therefore call upon African governments, the Regional Economic Communities, AUC, NEPAD,

ACBF, UNECA, AfDB, Afreximbank, and other supporters of think tanks to place our contribution at the center of their respective agenda in improving industrialization in Africa.

19. We collectively recognize the significant contribution of industrialization in mitigating high levels of youth unemployment on the continent. We therefore stress the need for African countries to address the industrialization challenges and prospects from the perspective of decent and productive jobs creation for youth.
20. We commit ourselves to proactively engage policy-makers, private sector and non-state actors to support Africa's transformation in general and in the areas of industrialization and youth employment, in particular, through policy-oriented and problem-solving research and analysis, advocacy, advice, capacity building and the provision of platforms for stakeholder engagement.
21. We resolve and call upon all stakeholders to support ACBF so that it continues to provide leadership in coordinating capacity building efforts towards implementation of Agendas 2063 and 2030, particularly with regard to achieving accelerated industrialization as a means for mobilizing domestic resources and creating jobs for the youth.

Presented on 8 April 2017 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

