A CONFIDENT AFRICA HAS MANY REASONS TO BE POSITIVE

Dr Carlos Lopes describes regional integration, tackling corruption effectively and finding new ways to urbanise as key areas for the future.

THREE AREAS DISCUSSED AT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT WEEK that show the way ahead for Africa are regional integration, industrialisation and a new approach to tackling corruption, according to ECA Executive Secretary Dr Carlos Lopes.

Speaking in an interview with African Business, Dr Lopes said a major achievement was putting together the Regional Integration Index as it would change many things about the way integration, which he has described in the past as moving too slowly, moves forward.

“We are counting on the debate about regional integration becoming less political and more technical. Because the moment the debate is more technical, people will not just get away with easy proclamations of intent. And this report is a very good demonstration of where countries need to focus for things to really move.”

“It is quite a remarkable achievement to have three institutions that are in charge of African development – the African Development Bank, the African Union and the ECA - pulling together to produce the Index. This is just a first instalment of something more ambitious. We want to go further and make sure we are also going to capture the rankings for the entire continent.”

On the issue of industrialisation, he said while the issue had been on the map for a while, it remained a critical element for the transformation of Africa. “The conference really added to the debate about the expe-
riences of other parts of the world and the historical perspective that is in our report on transformative policies, and also the greening dimension of industrialisation.”

He said Africa’s contribution to manufacturing and industrialisation has to be measured through the level of manufactured value addition. This had gone down by one percent and while some would say this is marginal, Dr Lopes says actually it is significant because Africa is in a growth period.

“As a result, we would have expected manufacturing value addition to pick up, not to stagnate, even less to regress. But it is misleading to say the continent is de-industrialising. The GDP has more than doubled over the past 15 years, and is close to tripling. So it’s a much bigger economy.”

Regarding corruption, he said the work done on the report released at this event was “an important attempt for us to adjust the debate on the needs of Africa. We are very critical of the indices that have been produced based on perceptions and we think it is high time for everyone to give a bit more credit to the efforts that Africa is making in this regard.”

Dr Lopes, asked what key issues informed his comments about a “new proud Africa”, he said there were several issues that had prompted this view.

“I think one of the reasons is the sense of confidence that has come from growth. But it has been growth without quality. And now we see that with external shocks, that growth is shaken. It is still the best performing continent in the world but it is not performing at the level of, for example, India, which is a very good comparator for us because of the size of that country’s population.

“Another reason for the pride comes from the fact we have a new crop of leaders and I like to describe the leadership change that is taking place on the continent as one that is not defined by the ‘strong man’.

“The emerging leadership I am talking about is one that is much more collective and includes a number of actors that are not limited to the public figures of the past.” — DG

African governments urged to invest in vaccinations as the gateway to health and prosperity

African governments need to invest heavily in immunisation programmes on the basis that prevention is cheaper than trying to cure people of myriad ailments, Chairperson of the board of GAVI, the global Vaccine Alliance, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

Okonjo-Iweala, Nigeria’s former finance minister, spoke at the ninth joint annual meetings of the African Union specialised technical committee and finance, monetary affairs, economic planning and integration and ECA conference of African ministers of finance, planning and economic development.

She said governments needed to include immunisation in their annual budgets as this would enable great returns in terms of economic development.

She said a recent study by the John Hopkins University in the United States shows that for every dollar spent on immunisation, there were returns of $16 in avoided health costs.

“This is an exceedingly high rate of return and for ministers of finance and planning, I want to tell you this is one of the most efficient ways of spending our health dollars,” said Mrs. Okonjo-Iweala.

Health, economic and finance ministers met Sunday on the sidelines of the Conference of Ministers to discuss how they can make immunisation a priority in their respective countries.

Dr. Seth Berkely, CEO of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, said GAVI is ready to go into vaccine co-financing programmes with governments, which would make vaccines more affordable.
Des messages encourageants sur la transformation économique

**Time for members to take Agenda 2063 and SDGs home**

Beware of the ‘cappuccino approach’ to development, warns Carlos Lopes

**THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)**

and Agenda 2063 are ambitious but achievable, speakers at the first plenary of the 9th Joint AU-ECA Conference of Ministers said yesterday. But the goals need to be incorporated into national and regional development plans and progress must be closely monitored.

“All that is needed is to embed the contents of these two documents into the national and regional economic communities’ strategic frameworks and action plans,” said Mr Anthony Mthae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs at the African Union Commission. He emphasised that the SDGs and Agenda 2063 complement each other.

Some countries have already incorporated the two development agendas into their plans while others are yet to do so or are struggling with capacity. A number of countries, particularly those which have recently experienced conflict, called for assistance to domesticate the plans. There is a team led by the African Union and other continental organisations that can help if requested, they heard.

Agenda 2063 outlines the African Union’s aspirations for the continent, using lessons from the past to work towards unity and positive socioeconomic change. The first 10-year plan for achieving Agenda 2063 was adopted last year. The successor to the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations SDGs include 17 targets to tackle poverty, inequality, injustice and climate change by 2030.

Maruping said the plans are already harmonised, with Africans taking the lead in crafting the SDGs as well as Agenda 2063. They have similar aims, he said, but Agenda 2063 includes political and cultural targets as well as the social, economic and environmental goals of the SDGs.


Discutant sur l’harmonisation et la coordination des différentes politiques visant à atteindre les objectifs de Développement Durable et la Vision africaine 2063, M. Desalegn a exhorté les Etats africains à être «stratégique, ambitieux, rigoureux et discipliné” s’il veulent parvenir à un développement durable pour leurs peuples.

Le Premier ministre de la République démocratique du Congo, M. Augustin Matata Ponyo, considère, quant à lui, le gouvernement comme ayant un rôle crucial à jouer dans la réalisation du développement durable.

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, la Présidente de la Commission de l’Union Africaine, a demandé aux pays africains d’améliorer les compétences des jeunes en matière des études de sciences et techniques.

Elle a noté qu’avec une population de jeunes en plein essor, l’Afrique n’a pas d’autre choix que de chercher des solutions. Dr Zuma a également parlé de l’industrialisation et de la diversification de l’économie, sur la nécessité de réduire la dépendance à l’importation et sur la création de centres régionaux d’innovation.

Le vice-président de la Namibie, M. Nickey Iyambo, a déclaré à cette audience composée de 800 dirigeants que le “leadership solide est une condition préalable pour le développement du continent, et faire coûter nos économies tout en mettant fin à la pauvreté.”

Il a encouragé les pays africains à apprendre de la Namibie qui a cultivé l’esprit africain d’autonomie grâce à une utilisation judicieuse de ses ressources.

**ECA Executive Secretary Carlos Lopes**

said stakeholders must back up their commitments to the goals with action. He warned of the “cappuccino approach”.

“When things are going well, countries focus on economic goals, which Lopes called the espresso. Social goals are the milk, and the environment is the cocoa sprinkled on top. “The moment we have some difficulties we get rid of the cocoa and if things go really bad, the milk, but we still have an espresso,” he said.

During the plenary, speakers emphasised the importance of monitoring and evaluation in implementing the agendas to ensure success. “As we seek to strengthen evidence-based decision making processes amidst limited resources and the overarching need to deliver impactful growth for our people, the need for an M&E framework to track and measure progress underpinned by clear goals, clear indicators, smart KPIs is very, very important,” said Zainab Shamsuna-Ahmed, Minister for State Budget and National Planning of Nigeria.

This framework catering for both agendas is almost complete, assured Maruping. A team of statisticians from different institutions are currently finalising key indicators and baselines. “The agreement is that we should have a single, unified progress report in monitoring and evaluation,” he added.

There are other challenges, the Conference of Ministers heard, such as financing the projects while international development partners are reluctant to commit to funding timelines, leading to heavy focus on mobilising domestic resources.

Maruping is confident about achieving Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. “It’s ambitious but very much doable, because we have learned the lessons of the past and we have surmounted the constraints that we might have met before.” — GN
AFRICA’S SUCCESS STORIES IN FOOD SECURITY NEED TO BE FLAGGED

There is a tendency for people to focus on the negative when looking at these issues in Africa, says the FAO’s Kostas Stamoulis

In an interview at African Development Week, Mr Stamoulis said, “There seems to be a tendency to associate Africa with extreme pessimism so people don’t look at the successes here in terms of the MDGs and food security and learn from them. That’s a big mistake.”

There have been advances in addressing hunger and food security and impressive progress in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of agricultural production, especially in the last decade, and this is what should be focused on, he maintained.

People tend to be very pessimistic about African agriculture but historically, specifically in the past decade, there has been impressive progress in the value of agricultural production especially in sub-Saharan Africa as a whole.

However, a problem with this growth is that a lot of it is based on area expansion rather than in increasing land and labour productivity. And this is a fundamental issue that has to be addressed,” he said.

The FAO plays a leading role in addressing issues of agriculture and food security in Africa through its support of various conventions and in its work at both a continental and country level.

Mr Stamoulis highlighted in the importance of these issues in Africa’s development, saying that the goals of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 would not be sustainable if these were not reflected in the programmes.

“In terms of Agenda 2063, I would think it would be impossible to make significant progress if agriculture, the lifeline of most African economies, is left out.”

The attempt by African countries to develop agriculture has already progressed under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), a regional flagship programme to promote agricultural development.

“It’s a major step forward in the effort of African countries to promote agricultural development.”

Under the Maputo Declaration, African countries committed themselves to putting at least 10% of their budgets towards agricultural development. Although only a handful have met the target, Mr Stamoulis said it was still a positive development because it provides a target against which countries can be monitored by and held accountable.

The FAO is working with the private sector at all levels, both at a global level and at a country level. “Let’s make this clear. Agriculture is not a government activity, it’s a private sector activity.

“Usually when people talk about the private sector in agriculture, they talk about it either as large farms or post-production food chains.” But, he said, small farmers and producers are also very much part of the private sector in agriculture.

Increasingly, he maintains, governments and the private sector are working together to develop agriculture. “The ‘anti private’ attitude that distinguished some policies in the past is no longer the dominant paradigm.”

Mr Kostas was enthusiastic about the Blue Economy initiative, flagged at African Development Week with the launch of the Blue Economy Policy Handbook for Africa on Sunday. “It is a very important arena in which three dimensions of sustainability will meet – environment, social and economic.” — GN

---

**MDGS HUNGER GOAL**

The categorization is as follows:

**Countries that met the MDG Hunger Goal**

1. Benin
2. Ethiopia
3. Gambia
4. Malawi
5. Mauritania
6. Mauritius
7. Mozambique
8. Niger
9. Nigeria
10. Togo
11. Senegal
12. South Africa

**Countries that reached the MDG 1c target and the WFS goal of halving the number of hungry people by 2015**

1. Angola
2. Cameroon
3. Djibouti
4. Gabon
5. Ghana
6. Mali
7. Sao Tome and Principe

*FAO State of Food Insecurity Report 2015
The business of Africa: Day 5
African Development Week 2016

Harmonisation, Synergies and Sensitisation: Call for Coherent Development

AFRICAN COUNTRIES MUST FIND EACH OTHER AND work together in areas of mutual benefit instead of competing against each other in order to drive development on the continent.

This view emerged at a high-level round-table discussion on Harmonization, Synergies and Sensitization: The need for a coherent development approach.

Chaired by AU chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, it emerged in the discussion that some African countries were reluctant to share knowledge which, in some cases would benefit their neighbours, instead of letting them attempt to re-invent the wheel.

Of concern to some countries, Somalia in particular, was the fact that some successful economies were reluctant to share knowledge and expertise with their neighbours even if that would help these countries to develop.

“We have seen instances whereby successful economies have displayed a reluctance to share or opening up, and we think this is a reaction which does not move the continent forward,” said a speaker from Somalia, contributing to the debate.

“One of the speakers at the roundtable, Mr Mukhisa Kituyi, the Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, said poverty was like Ebola as it did not respect boundaries.

“In Asia, larger economies have lifted their neighbours, and China is a case in point. Most Asian countries have benefited immensely from the Chinese boom. The success stories lift the small economies as the tide rises,” he said.

Dr Nkosazana-Zuma said while Africa knew where it wanted to go, there was need for a buy-in on where it wanted to be.

“Africa must not be seen to be chasing other people’s rabbits,” she said.

“There is need for communication among ourselves on what are best practices and failures. We must learn to share information and create regional corridors and infrastructural development that benefit our people.”

Dr Frannie Lautier, the incoming senior vice-president of the African Development Bank, said development was partly dependent on countries’ goals.

“Where we are depends on where we want to place ourselves,” she said. “As countries, we should support national planning commissions as they provide the link to long-term thinking and data collection.”

Lautier said Africa will not succeed without looking at agriculture and women.

“We must transform African economies through agriculture. It can lift manufacturing in addition to providing food self-sufficiency. But this cannot succeeds without the involvement of women, who constitute 50% of Africa’s population, and the youth.

Dr Dlamini-Zuma said development should precede monitoring and evaluation. “There must be development first, and then one can start monitoring. How do you monitor what is not there,” she asked. — BT
Professor Emmanuel Nnadozie  
ACBF Executive Secretary

“I do believe that providing a platform and opportunity for important stakeholders to come together and discuss Africa’s development challenges is a very important issue and this African Development Week has provided such an opportunity where you have high-level political leaders and economic leaders from the continent from various walks of life who have come together to look at the issue of how to operationalise and implement the African Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. I think the most important thing is that we are no longer just talking about what we need to do but there seems to be a whole other talk about how we are going to do that. In other words, we are trying to not just talk the talk but also walk the walk. This is really an important take away for me.”

Ambassador Ayo Olukanni  
Vice-Chairman, FADE

“I think the key takeaway points are clear in terms of the synergy between Agenda 2063 and the SDGs – they are not competing but complementary agendas. Implicitly it means that the UN and the AU must work together to implement various goals under the two respective agendas. A lot of people on the street are still trying to digest what the SDGs mean, and we now have Agenda 2063. I am of the view that the African Development Week can help clarify the situation. I also think the civil society has a lot of work to do in this particular area as well as the media, which can break it into digestible pieces so we can own the process of implementation.”

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala  
GAVI Chairperson

“The discussion we had on trying to harmonise the implementation of Agenda 2063 with the SDGs and how this can be worked into the 10-year implementation plan for each country begins to move us in the direction of thinking more specifically about how we can act. You can only act at the country level and at the regional level so I think having the Ministers of Finance begin to think about how to implement this within their own development plans and budgets and, above all, what indicators they are going to put in to monitor. That’s a very real conversation and I think we should begin to push in that direction because that’s how we can move action.”

The organisers of ADW 2016 value your feedback to ensure they are continually providing a high level of service. Please use the ECA Poken boards to evaluate the African Development Week & Win a prize as a token of our appreciation. List of winners will be communicated on Wednesday 5 April @ 4.00 pm at the Poken Desk.

Votre opinion sur la Semaine Africaine du Développement compte afin d’améliorer continuellement l’organisation de telles rencontres. Utilisez les panneaux d’évaluation de Poken et Gagnez un prix en guise de marque de notre appréciation. Liste des gagnants sera communiqué au comptoir Poken le Mardi 5 Avril à 16.00.