



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING FOUNDATION | FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE



THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION



2015 PEP Policy Forum

May 7, 2015 – Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi (Kenya)

Unlocking Africa's growth for productive employment and poverty reduction: a dialogue on the research evidence and policy options

After many years of stagnation, African economies have started registering rapid and, arguably, more sustained growth during the past decade. The average real GDP growth rate was 4% in 2013 and is projected to expand to 4.7% in 2014 (compared to 5.1% average for all developing regions). About 25% of countries in the region have achieved growth rates of 7% or higher in 2014, and several African countries are currently amongst the fastest growing countries in the world. This has created a high degree of enthusiasm and assurance for Africa in overcoming poverty and attaining major development goals.

However, such fast economic growth - primarily driven by high commodity prices, resource extraction and exports - has not yet been successful in reducing poverty and creating productive employment. Although there has been progress made in mitigating poverty and meeting the MDGs, Africa still lags behind other developing regions, such as East Asia and the Pacific, and the Latin America and Caribbean countries, and is generally not yet on track to end extreme poverty by 2030. According to the World Bank, 48.5% of the population in sub-Saharan Africa was living on less than 1.25\$-a-day in 2010.

Critical development challenges remain, especially in terms of translating economic growth into significant poverty reduction and better opportunities for all. Among these challenges, job creation will be a key issue and priority for policy – with continual rural-urban migration and 11 million youth expected to enter Africa's labor market – over the next decade.

The key challenge is how Africa could sustain and translate rapid economic growth into inclusive growth to create better opportunities for all and eradicate extreme poverty. This will require identifying the underlying factors that limit job creation for productive employment and hinder the potential to overcome poverty – and how Africa's new wealth and natural capital could be leveraged to address its pressing social and economic objectives. It is important and timely to review the evidence on growth, job creation and poverty reduction across African countries and draw lessons on best practices and policy options for the future.



In the context of its 12th Annual Conference, to be held in Nairobi (Kenya) in May 2015, PEP will organize a special Policy Forum that will bring together several world-renowned experts along with government and policy stakeholders to discuss these issues and related policy options/solutions.

The main highlights, conclusions and lessons drawn from these discussions will later be published and circulated widely to inform policy and investment choices.

Concept

Both the keynote and panel sessions will be followed by open discussions and questions from the floor. For the panel sessions, the facilitator will moderate and manage the dialogue – i.e. inviting the panelists to discuss panel questions, as well as taking questions/comments from the audience.

Venue

Safari Park Hotel, Pavilion Room

Program of the Policy Forum

8:00 – 9:00 Registrations

9:00 - 9:45 Official Opening

CHAIR : Dr Mustapha Nabli - Chair, PEP Board of Directors

Welcome and introductory remarks:

- Dr Bekele Shiferaw, Executive Director, PEP
- Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie, Executive Secretary, ACBF
- Mr Stefan Muller, Regional Office, African Development Bank

Official opening:

- H.E. Amb. Dr. Amina Mohammed, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Government of the Republic of Kenya

9:45 - 11:00 Keynote presentation

CHAIR : Dr Simon Carter - Regional Director, Sub-Saharan Africa, IDRC

- Dr Francisco H. G. Ferreira, Chief Economist, Africa Region, World Bank.
Growth, Structural Transformation and Poverty Reduction in Africa

11:00-11:30 Group photo and coffee break

11:30-13:00 Panel discussion 1

FACILITATOR : Eric Chinje - CEO, Africa Media Initiative

What we know: reviewing evidence

- Question 1: The main sources and drivers of growth in Africa today and into the future
- Question 2: Effects of growth on poverty and employment (jobs)
- Question 3: Required structural changes and policies for unlocking Africa's growth for productive employment and poverty reduction.

Panelists

- Prof John Anyanwu, Lead Economist, Research Department, AfDB
- Prof Leonard Wantchekon, Princeton University, USA
- Prof Emmanuel Nnadozie, Executive Secretary, ACBF
- Dr Pramila Krishnan, Cambridge University, UK
- Dr John Omiti, Executive Director, KIPPRA, Kenya
- Prof Maria Laura Alzua, PEP (Impact Evaluation Program Coordinator), CEDLAS, Argentina

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Panel discussion 2

FACILITATOR : Eric Chinje - CEO, Africa Media Initiative

Using research evidence to inform a more effective policy action agenda

- Question 1: Examples of high-impact policies implemented to enhance and sustain economic growth and create jobs in African countries
- Question 2: Structural and policy constraints that hinder poverty reduction and job creation
- Question 3: Knowledge gaps and challenges for implementing evidence-informed policies for Unlocking Africa's growth for productive employment and poverty reduction.

Panelists

- Hon. Fred Mandir J Omach, Minister, Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development, Republic of Uganda
- Hon. Peter Oganga Magiti, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, Republic of Kenya
- Mr Charles Wangadya, Senior Policy Officer, African Union Commission, Ethiopia
- Mr Mamadou Biteye, Managing Director, Africa Regional Office, Rockefeller Foundation
- Dr Lydia Ndirangu Assistant Director, Kenya School of Monetary Studies, Central Bank of Kenya

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-16:30 Synthesis

CHAIR: Mr Stephen Wainaina - PEP Board of Directors

Synthesize and introduce the main highlights and conclusions from the panel discussions

Presenters: John Anyanwu (AfDB); James Rudy (AfDB); Abdoulaye Diagne (CRES, PEP); Flaubert Mbiekop (IDRC)

Discussants: John Piper (DFID); Francisco H. G. Ferreira (World Bank)

16:30-17:00 Closing remarks and vote of thanks

Dr Arjan De Haan - Program Leader, Inclusive Growth, IDRC

Dr Mustapha Nabli - Chair, PEP Board of Directors

19:00

Closing dinner