

15th Europe-Africa Conference
23-25 November 2023

“Africa & Europe : (re)inventing a shared destiny”

Summary Report



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE
FRANCE

INDEX

Concept note	4
Europe-Africa Conference	6
Agenda	16
Participants list	20
Acknowledgments	23



This report was produced in partnership with Caroline Roussy, Director of the Africa Program at IRIS, and Henri de Montmarin, Communications & Partnership Manager at Aspen France.



Concept Note

The fifteenth Europe-Africa Conference of the Aspen Institute France took place from November 23 to 25, 2023, at the Fondation Mérieux in Annecy. **It marked the thirtieth anniversary of these meetings** created by Raymond Barre, bringing together around fifty African and European leaders from the economic, political, cultural, and international organizations sectors every two years. **The goal is to promote fruitful relations between Europe and Africa and foster economic and social development.** The announcement of the creation of an Aspen Africa Institute is on the horizon.

To prepare for the next Conference, **an Aspen delegation, led by Pascal Lamy, former Director-General of the WTO, visited Libreville (Gabon) on April 6-7,** at the invitation of the Gabonese Government. This aimed to fully consider the voice and expectations of African leaders in establishing the agenda for "Annecy 15". This visit, organized by the National Agency for the Promotion of Investments (ANPI), took place in the context of the One Forest Summit held a few weeks earlier in Libreville, attended by President Macron. The summit marked international mobilization for forest preservation.



Mustapha Mourahib, Selena Souah, Dominique Trinquand, Alvine Tremoulet, Wilfrid Lauriano do Rego, Jean-Christophe Bas, Pascal Lamy, Arnaud Favry all took part to the Aspen France delegation in Libreville

More than ever, the destinies of Europe and Africa are intertwined. According to experts, by the end of the century, the African population is expected to reach nearly 4.4 billion, representing 3/5 of the world's population. This demographic growth risks outpacing economic growth and the ability to create the necessary jobs to ensure political stability on the continent. This challenge is as immense as that of climate change, where Africa could be the main victim.

Faced with these two colossal challenges, it is the responsibility and interest of Europe to cooperate with Africans and together find paths to sustainable economic development. **Since the last Conference in November 2021, two major events have occurred that have deeply marked the relationship between Europe and Africa:**

- **The Ukrainian conflict and the lukewarm, even distant, reaction of many African countries** indicate that a profound link between Europe and Africa has been broken, which had already seriously eroded during the Covid and Europe's attitude towards vaccines, in addition to a significant colonial legacy on both sides. Does this foreshadow a lasting and profound rupture? What (re)vision of the world do Africans have? How do they see their alliances in the years to come?
- **The COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh** reached a major agreement on establishing a financing mechanism to compensate vulnerable countries for "loss and damage" due to climate-induced disasters. "An essential political signal to rebuild broken power," said the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The climate issue, which may oppose the "North" and the "South" in the future, is now the primary candidate for a renewed Euro-African partnership.



After rich exchanges during the preparatory meeting in Libreville, Pascal Lamy, President of the Aspen Delegation, proposed the **following orientations constitute the framework for the program for Annecy 15 in November :**

- **How does Africa see the world in the next 20 or 30 years, and how does it see itself in the world?** A consensus has been reached to open the proceedings of Annecy 15 by giving a strong voice to Africa and Africans, inviting them to share their vision of the continent's development, its prospects in the coming decades, its relations with the rest of the world in terms of economics, geopolitics, organization, and governance of the continent.
- **How should the European vision and strategy for investments in Africa evolve?** Clearly, the African economy suffers from access to financing at reasonable costs for development. Europe urgently needs to change its investment matrix, which often dates back to the 1960s ("colonial investments"; extractive activities; subcontracting), undergo a paradigm shift favoring the enrichment and development of value chains and sectors. There is also the question of African countries' ability to diversify their economies, moving from raw material extraction to their transformation and manufacturing, the development of value chains and sectors.
- **How to accelerate regional and continental integration processes - often stalling - to achieve the necessary economies of scale?** African economies suffer from segmented and restricted markets that do not reach critical mass, with borders still often posing costly obstacles, in a world where markets of fewer than 100 million inhabitants no longer make sense. Fifty airlines operate in Africa today, while there are only four or five in India and China. How to create continental or at least regional-level structures?
- **How to combine the dual challenge of clean development and industrialization?** Climate change is a huge challenge and risk for Africa. Nearly 70 percent of major African cities are coastal and threatened. Currently, only 2 percent of green funding goes to Africa. How to capitalize on the continent's natural capital? How to concretely implement carbon credits, penalize emissions, how to remunerate carbon capture and storage?

Jean-Christophe Bas, President of the Aspen Europe-Africa Committee



Europe-Africa Conference

Session 1 - From Annecy 14 to Annecy 15 : Africa and the Upheaval of the World Order

As Pascal Lamy recalled in the introduction of this session, the world has changed more in two years than in the last two decades, especially geopolitically. Whereas Europe is entering a new cycle, marked by the end of the illusion of peace, Africa is witnessing the end of Western domination. Between these two continents, the emotional divorce is consummated, as shown, among other things, by the UN vote on March 2, 2022, regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As Pascal Lamy explained, societies are polarizing worldwide and retreating to an identity base. This phenomenon could lead less economic growth due to increased risk costs.

Following this introduction, Fatoumata Ba argued that, in spite of the economic growth witnessed in many countries, development is still lacking in Africa. Africa is hit hard by inflation. Prices have increased on average between 5 and 8 times due to the last two exogenous shocks, the pandemic, and the war in Ukraine. The COVID-19 pandemic, aside from its economic impact, still has health impacts because the entire African population has not had access to vaccination. Despite these challenges, there are some hopeful signs: more and more specialists and leaders are sensitive to the diversity of Africas. However, Mrs. Ba insists that it is false and unfair to speak uniformly about Africa as if it were a singular and indivisible entity, especially economically.

In spite of considerable challenges, there are some hopeful signs in Africa : on the technological front, some countries (e.g. Kenya, Egypt, Nigeria) have achieved tremendous progress and many startups have emerged, argues Fatoumata Ba.

Vincent di Betta's intervention focused on the topic of education. According to him, many training programs do not lead to employment yet. Didier Acouetey's intervention was very much along these lines. The issue of employment is, indeed, a common denominator in Africa and inequalities seem to be the major cause of *coups d'Etat*. Over the past ten years, there have been massive investments, but a hierarchy of priorities has not been established.

Over the past ten years, Africa has witnessed a massive level of investments but a clear hierarchy of priorities has not been established, advocated Didier Acouetey.

Ngueto Tiraina Yambaye concluded the session by saying that Europe and Africa are somewhat like an old couple that must reinvent itself. It is necessary, he emphasizes, to reform international institutions where Africa's voice is not yet adequately considered. Mr. Yambaye eventually advocated for a more balanced partnership between Africa and Europe which need each other more than ever.



Focus - Security Dilemmas in Africa : Bridging Gaps through International and Regional Cooperation

As a specialist of Middle East, Gilles Kepel provided an update of the situation between Gaza and Israel. The situation is indeed worrisome, emphasized Gilles Kepel, as the conflict seems to be out of control. "What remains of the Abraham Accords that advocated peace through prosperity?" asks Gilles Kepel before arguing that symbolically, the attacks of October 7 2023 appear as a revenge for 1973.

What possibility of an exit ? A new geography must emerge, according to Gilles Kepel, who argues that we are currently witnessing all the destabilizing factors that foreshadow a new geopolitical reconfiguration. In view of these elements, and considering the likely arrival of new immigrants from the Middle-East to Europe, it is necessary to move towards an expanded Mediterranean geopolitical force in which migration issues could no longer be ignored.

This timely intervention by Gilles Kepel was followed by the speech of General Dominique Trinquand who published in October 2023 *"What Awaits us : the butterfly effect of World Conflicts"*.

Throughout his intervention, the General presented the 3 main security challenges faced by Africa. The first is the jihadist risk, particularly prominent in such countries as Burkina Faso where 40% of the territory no longer falls under State control.

In Burkina Faso (where the jihadist risk is a cause of concern), 40% of the territory no longer falls under State control, reminded the General Dominique Trinquand.

Throughout his intervention, the General presented the 3 main security challenges faced by Africa. The first is the jihadist risk, particularly prominent in such countries as Burkina Faso where 40% of the territory no longer falls under State control. The Russian influence is the second challenge. A skewed perception of the global world order, supposedly indifferent to the fate of Africa, constitutes the last factor of destabilization.

Damtien Larbli Tchintchibidja emphasized the erosion of state authority in Africa, exemplified by the latent economic instability, the rising security challenges and the amplification of political violence. This climate of insecurity affects many areas, including education. The Vice-President pointed out that, today, 40% of children are not

enrolled or have dropped out of the school system. H.E. Emanuela Del Re then reflected on migratory movements in Africa, that bring about both security and political problems. She insisted on the fact that security conditions are not met for populations, as shown by the case of refugees displaced in large numbers in the central Sahel. Emanuela del Re reaffirmed the EU's main goal, which aligns with the integrated strategy adopted in 2021 and emphasizes governance. In Burkina Faso, some NGOs can no longer travel and implement their programs. Everyone asks for help from the EU, which becomes more challenging due to the deteriorating security situation. However, and contrary to some claims, the EU continues to fund programs, with amounts ranging between 500 and 600 million. Mrs. Del Re strongly disputes analyses suggesting that aid to the Sahel has decreased and/or been redirected to Ukraine

Contrary to some claims, the EU continues to fund programs (to restore the security in Africa), with amounts ranging between 500 and 600 millions, argued Emanuela Del Re, High Representative of the European Union for the Sahel region





Session II - African Voices on the Future

Mrs. Delapalme asserts from the outset that there is no emergence of a new world order, but rather a geopolitical shift. We have moved from a world of alliances to a world of successive coalitions.

In this still unstable geopolitical reconfiguration, the BRICS group is on the rise, representing over half of the world's population and a quarter of the GDP. The policy of double standards is becoming less tolerable, especially when observing the differential treatment between Ukrainian and African refugees.

Addressing Africa's demographic growth, Nathalie Delapalme pointed out that, by the end of the century, African population will amount to 4,4 billion.

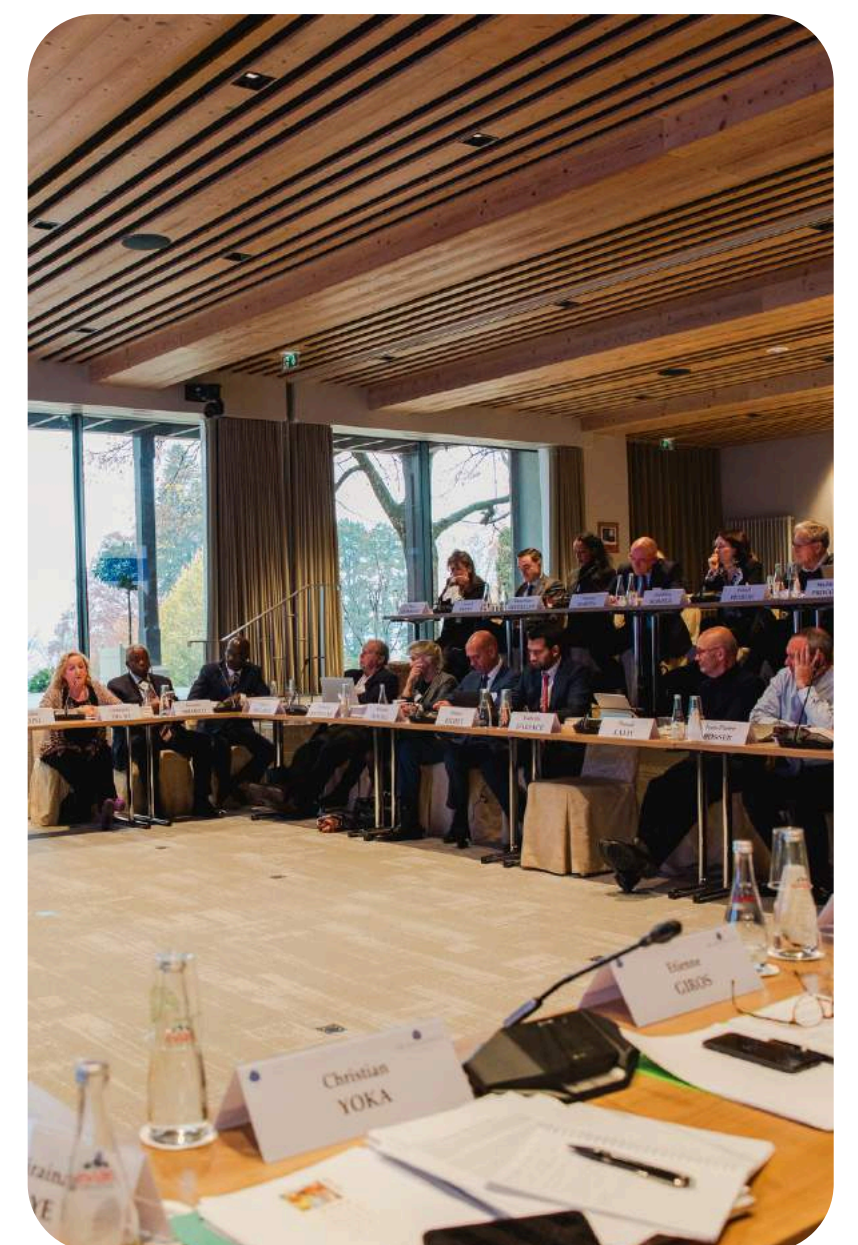
Amama Mbabazi mainly focused on human capital and described Uganda's evolution from a simple coffee exporter to a competitive player in the global coffee market.

Etienne Girois then stated that there is a discrepancy between the reality of risk in Africa and the perception of risks by the private sector. To reassure investors, the presence of three different credit rating agencies in Africa is a major problem.

To nuance this somewhat pessimistic picture, Abdou Diop preferred to highlight some recent encouraging initiatives, such as The African Continental Free Trade Area (ZLECAF) and the initiative of King Mohamed VI who recently invited African countries to create an alliance against terrorism. Today, no less than 23 countries have joined this alliance. Concerning Europe-Africa relations, still marked by colonization, there is a need to advocate for new approaches to the African continent.

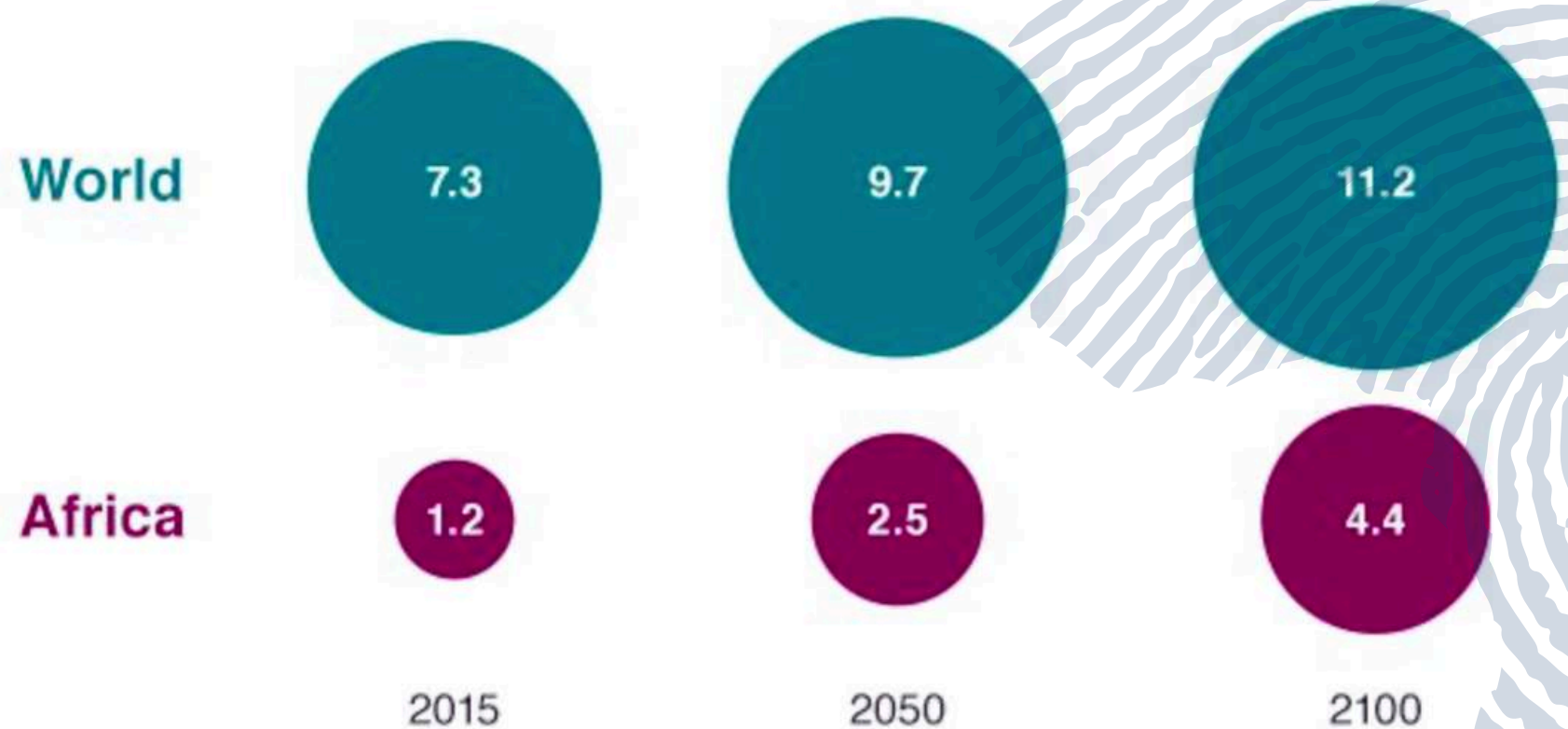
By the end of the century, African population will amount to 4,4 billion, Nathalie Delapalme pointed out.

Didier Acouetey and Papa Amadou Sarr concluded the session by pointing out that Africa is still somewhat isolated within the international community. Is it any longer justified that no African country should have a seat on the United Nations Security Council?



Population growth forecasts

Billions



Source: UN population division forecasts

BBC



Session III - Finance, Investment and Development

In his introduction, Alioune Ndiaye also stressed that the perception of risk is overestimated in Africa.

Mr. Ndiaye recalls that the annual GDP growth was positive between 2009-2018 (minimum of 2.7%) on the continent, despite its multiple crisis (Arab Spring, etc.).

By 2050, Africa will count 2.5 billion inhabitants and will become a major consumer market, that cannot be ignored. Regarding traditional financing, Mr. Ndiaye reveals that multilateral development institutions like the World Bank, are aware that their resources are limited to meet the continent's needs, and they plan to play a more effective role, by attracting other investors, such as the private sector.

Mustapha Mourahib, who moderated this session, sought to put the "Europe-Bashing" issue into perspective and urged Africans to decolonize their minds. Regarding risk perception, Mr. Mourahib deplored the proliferating misinformation on both sides.

Serge Ekue emphasized that financing, investment, and development are the DNA of multilateral development banks. He pointed out that the international institutional model needs to be rethought in favor of local patterns. Eight West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) countries have populations as large as the USA, yet the funds available do not match the challenges. The capital is crucial, and African banks are undercapitalized compared to global counterparts. The market charges 6 to 7% interest, which is unsustainable for Africa.

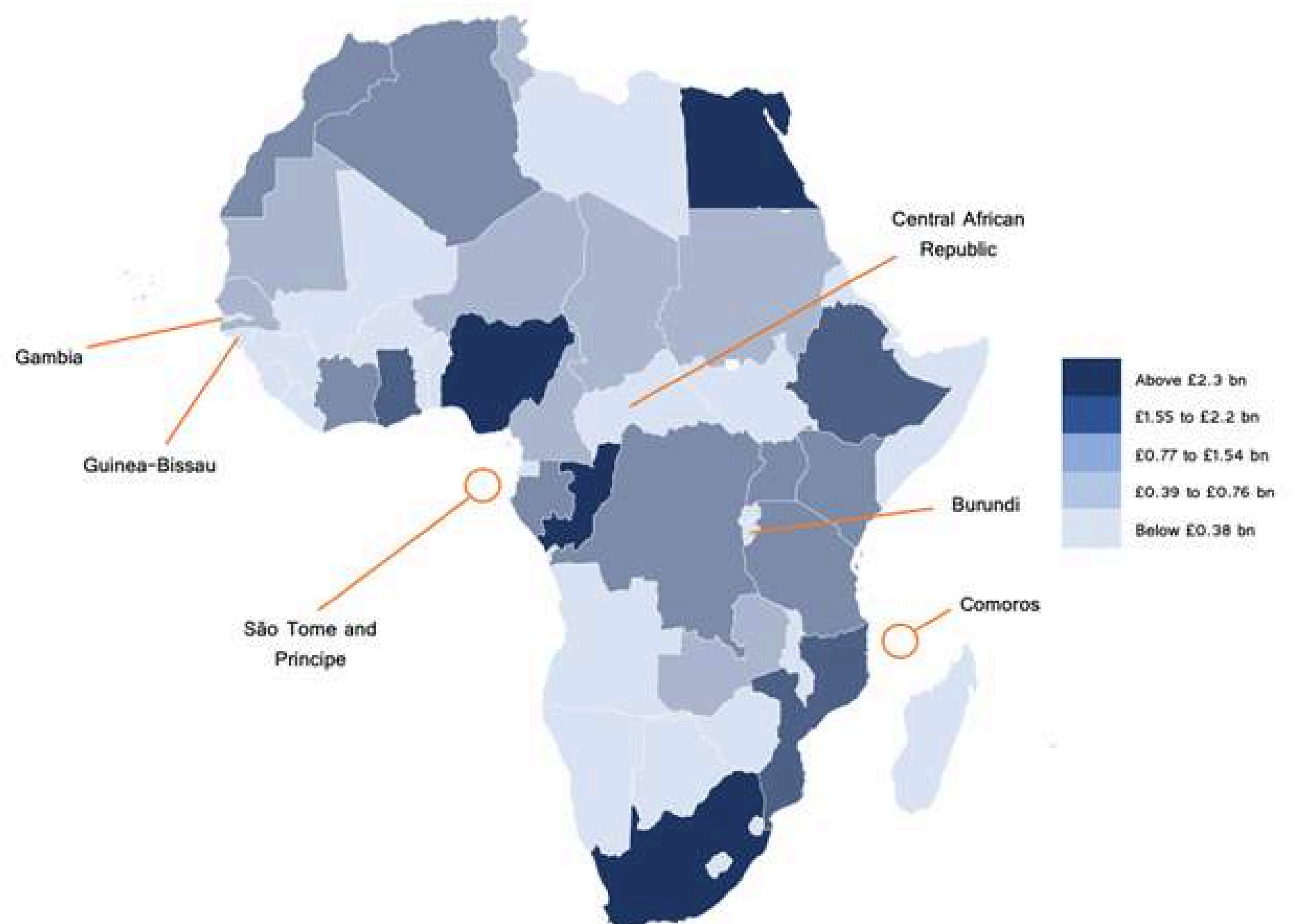


The capital is crucial, and African banks are still undercapitalized compared to global counterparts. The market charges 6 to 7% interest, which is unsustainable for Africa, argued Serge Ekué.

Lionel Zinsou stressed that Africa's real strength lies in its human and heritage capital, citing increased life expectancy and demographic changes. On arable land, there are opportunities for financial growth.

In summary, Lionel Zinsou's intervention sought to demonstrate that Africa is under-debted and possesses significant human and heritage capital. The narrative must change to recognize these true indicators.

Isabelle Bébéar emphasized the role that Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) play in empowering African financial and economical actors. In this respect, DFIs must help local capital and be willing to incur losses to help strengthening the power of local communities.



FDI inflow in Africa in 2019 and selected countries.
Source: UNCTAD 2020.



Session IV - Environment, Climate & Development : The Dual Challenge of Sustainable Development & Industrialization

Mr. Nooke began by acknowledging Africa's development potential. Today, Africa is stronger and capable of choosing its partners. However, concerning climate change, and its devastating effects on both continents, Europe's interests align with Africa's. This is the reason why strengthened and balanced partnerships are more needed than ever. But how can we achieve these common objectives ?

For Bertrand Badré, Africa is seen in an extremely binary way ; whether it constitutes a major threat to achieving climate change or it is the panacea. Today, a worrisome tension lies within the international governance system the climate change issue is not given the consideration it rightly deserves. Bertrand Badré also emphasized the need for significant funds for the transition.

However, these investments require lower interest rates for Africa (a problem already highlighted by Serge Ekué). The Paris Summit for a New Financing Pact (which took place on 23 June 2023) seems to address the right issues , which are : how to enhance the local-fiscal environments, how to attract private capital (only 4% of the European private sector's savings are in Africa, Bertrand Badré added), how to eliminate the normative barriers which hinder investment on a bigger scale etc. Will these promises actually materialize in reality ?

Concerning climate change, Europe's interests align with Africa's. Strengthened and balanced partnerships are more needed than ever.



Kako Nubukpo highlighted a project initiated by UEMOA, the West Africa Coastal Areas Management (WACA) program*, which focuses on the resilience of West African coasts. This initiative aims to mitigate coastal erosion in Togo (which could have very harmful consequences for the local populations) and demonstrates that international organizations can make a difference if they work hand-in-hand with local communities.

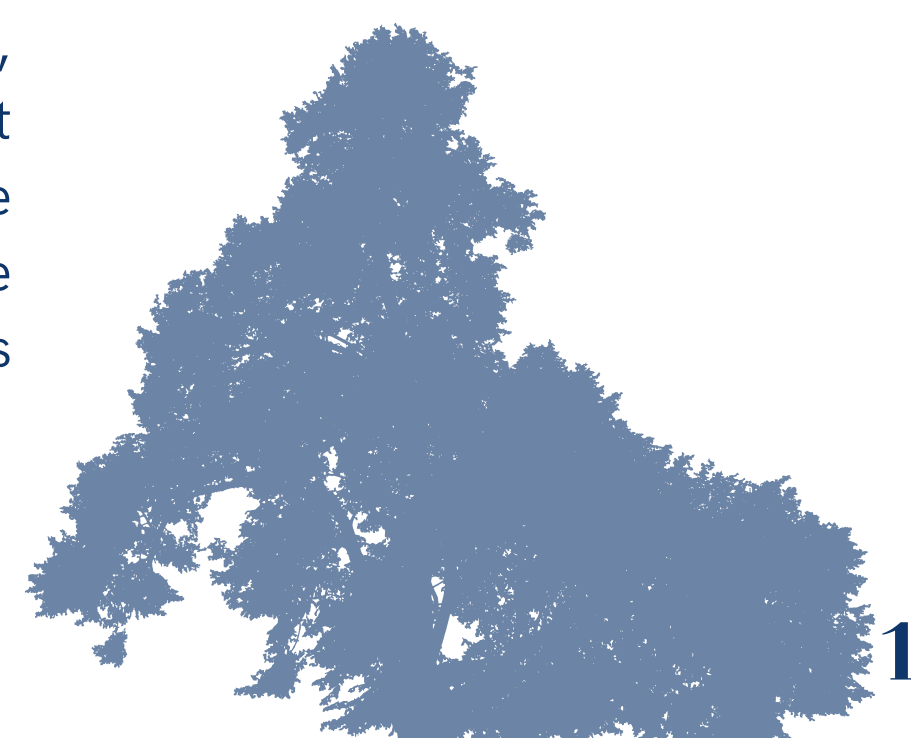
Momar Nguer then reflected on his 40-year career at Total Energies, emphasizing two concerns : youth and rural areas. He asserted that the continent's exponential demographic growth is not necessarily an advantage. African states spend 80% of their budgets on services, leaving little for development. He pointed out that when George H.W. Bush decided to end family planning funding, it had dramatic consequences. According to Momar Nguer, part of the solution lies in better educating girls.

Regarding democracy and elections, Nguer argued that people expect nothing from political changes. The two alternatives for them are to take up arms or embark on perilous journeys.



**According to a World Bank report, coastal degradation costs West Africa \$3.8 billion a year. For more information about the WACA program, visit the UEMOA website or the World Bank website dedicated page.*

Lionel Zinsou stressed that Africa's real strength lies in its human capital, citing increased life expectancy and demographic changes. On arable land, there are opportunities for financial growth. Papa Amadou Sarr also disagreed with Momar Nguer on the matter of demographic growth. He took the example of Senegal, where youth and demographic growth have brought great benefits. The emergence of start-ups and innovation needs the arrival of young people on the market.



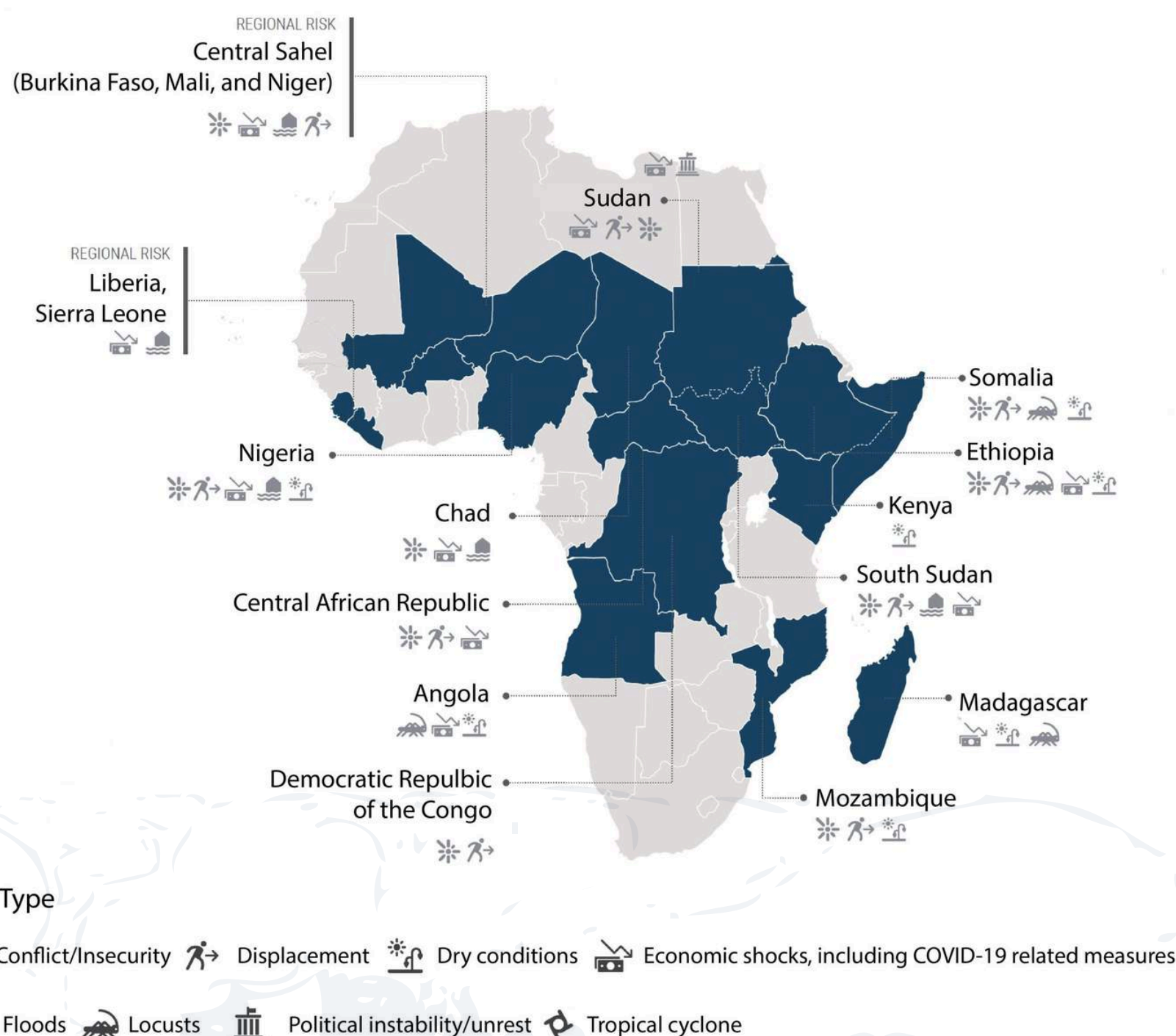
Session V - The Challenges of Food Sovereignty

Maddalena Procopio introduced the session by reminding the participants that global events like the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, emphasized Africa's need to reduce external dependence on food supply. However, structural deficiencies, like infrastructure and finance, limit its possibilities.

Abdou Diop pursued the discussion by underlining the deleterious impact of the COVID pandemic on Africa's food sovereignty. According to him, the four main challenges ahead are : the demographic growth, the small size of farms (most are less than 1 hectare), the high percentage of unused land (50% at least) and the water management issues (shortages or floods). To meet these challenges, Abdou Diop proposed several solutions, based on a shift towards more productive, higher value-added agriculture, capacity building, improved governance and international cooperation.

Kako Nubukpo shared Abdou Diop's vision, particularly with regard to international cooperation. He also pointed out the limitations of current agricultural policies, urging a shift from project-oriented initiatives to a common vision.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY HOTSPOTS IN AFRICA



Source: FAO-WFP; based on projections for the final quarter of 2021

(Kako Nubkpo) pointed out the shortcomings of current agricultural policies, urging a shift from project-oriented initiatives to a common vision.

Lionel Zinsou stressed that Africa's real strength lies in its human capital, citing increased life expectancy and demographic changes. Günter Nooke pointed out the challenge of informal employment and the need to transition from subsistence to profitability in agriculture.

Concluding the session, Etienne Giros added that, in his view, cooperatives are key players for change. He also pointed out that the productivity of African farms is still very low : farmers produce 400 times less per hectare than in the United States. To improve the quality of finished products, he also suggested Giros establishing value chains from upstream (farmer) to downstream (finished product), controlling costs, setting quality standards, and securing more funding.

African farmers produce 400 times less per hectare than in the United States, Étienne Giros reminded participants



Session VI - Technological Solutions for Common Challenges (shaping the Future of Collaboration between Europe and Africa)

To introduce the session, Angélique Botella noted the significant growth in the field of telecommunications and digital economy. Indeed, Africa has witnessed a 10% increase in Internet access. The EBRD provides financial and technical support in the digital sector, supporting programs undertaken by the Tunisian Ministry of Telecommunications to implement e-identity solutions, for example.

Nicolas Bourg chooses to use the term "technology" emphasized that innovations must meet the needs of populations. The digital economy could weigh \$180 billion by 2030, and this figure is expected to increase in the following years. Consequently, it is a real driver of growth.

It is noteworthy that, in terms of technology, development stages and pace differ between Europe and Africa. Africa has skipped the wired era to turn directly to GSM and digital operators and has quickly become a global reference, especially in mobile banking.

Technical development initiatives in Africa could be developed in Europe, leading to a process of inversion.

Telecel has, for example, organized a large competition for start-ups in Africa, Nicolas Bourg told the participants. Every year, 5 start-ups are selected by a jury, receiving financial support, local mentoring, and training in South Africa. After 4 years, no failures are reported; on the contrary, 15,000 jobs have been created.

In terms of technology, development stages and pace differ between Europe and Africa. Africa has skipped the wired era to turn directly to GSM and digital operators and has quickly become a global reference, especially in mobile banking, noted Nicolas Bourg

Ouns Lemseffer agrees with Mr. Bourg and affirms that tech and digitization are sources of development. Tech can be used in agriculture, as demonstrated by Kenya, which has adopted technological solutions for the dairy sector with great success. Nicolas Bourg then warned the participants about the other side of the coin : cyber risks.



Over the past twenty years, Rwanda (population 14 million) has become a hotspot of tech and innovation in Africa. The country ranks eighth among start-up ecosystems in the Middle East and Africa, and fourth in Africa as a whole, according to the 2022 Global Startup Ecosystem Index.



Africa is indeed facing overly rapid technological development and is susceptible to cybercrime. Enhanced cooperation with Europe would ensure conditions for mutual security.

Falilou Fall asked the question : how to cooperate ? What are the assets of each party ? Europe has capital, technology, and innovation. Africa has raw materials and human resources. Whereas the European population is aging and decreasing, in Africa, it's the opposite.

Regarding education, in Africa, there is a need for engineers, but most students choose marketing. There is a real challenge of qualified workforce, and on this front as well, cooperation is needed.

According to Falilou Fall, three actors should interact: States, companies, and universities. A common cluster policy needs to be created, developing common value chains.

Alioune Ndiaye, President of Orange MEA Special Contribution

Major technological disruptions are expected or already underway worldwide: Artificial Intelligence will profoundly transform our lifestyles; satellite technology will become more accessible, bringing new opportunities; 5G is in full deployment, holding promises for industries, logistics, agriculture, and health.

Africa and Europe must leverage these technologies that will shape our future and make their voices heard in their design, usage, and regulation. Improved cooperation between our two continents could strengthen us and help us position ourselves. For this, two pillars seem essential to this collaboration.

Firstly, European technology companies could consider Africa as a genuine potential market and invest more substantially. I quote the Managing Director of the IMF, who stated during the last Annual Meetings held in Marrakech, "the time has come for multinational corporations to invest in Africa." Unfortunately, in the technological sector, or more specifically in the telecommunications sector, we observe that European providers are not highly present. The few that exist have economic models that remain non-competitive compared to Asian providers.

We see that the European Union is taking actions in this direction. The European Commission has launched the Global Gateway initiative, aiming to mobilize 300 billion euros with the European private sector; half of which should be dedicated to the African continent, with a significant portion allocated to the digital sector. In this program, financial instruments such as guarantees and insurance are expected to encourage European technology companies to invest in Africa while securing their investments.

The African continent must also do its part by offering a sufficiently attractive framework to attract the European private sector. This involves socio-political stability, security, a healthy business climate, and incentivizing fiscal and regulatory policies.

Today, in several African states, the telecommunications sector faces a heavy tax burden as it is one of the few formal economic sectors that generate tax revenues. A study published by the University of Clermont-Ferrand in 2020 showed that the value generated by investments in the telecom sector is mostly captured by fiscal policies in several African countries, up to 118% in Niger.

This type of tax policy hinders investments and discourages investors. Heavy taxation is the reason why the Orange Group exited the Nigerien market a few years ago.

Secondly, Europe and Africa must have a holistic approach to technology and innovation. Collaboration should not be limited to infrastructure or funding only. It can also address issues related to enhancing the skills of populations and the innovation ecosystem in general. The upskilling of youth in the digital domain is a commitment by Orange in Africa and the Middle East : with primarily the support of the German Cooperation and more recently the French Development Agency and the European Commission, Orange has provided free training to over a million young people in technologies such as Amazon Cloud and supported more than 250 digital startups through its seventeen Orange Digital Centers.

We believe that through this initiative, we will succeed in developing digital skills in youth and stimulate an ecosystem ready to embrace the technological disruptions of tomorrow, creating innovations not only for Africa but also for the entire world, as was the case with Mobile Money.

In 2050, the African continent will concentrate a significant portion of the world's workforce; it will be in everyone's interest for this labor market to be highly skilled and make a significant contribution.

The African market is expected to reach two billion consumers by 2050, half of whom would be technology-savvy youth. Europe should see the continent as a real opportunity and go beyond the usual perception of high risk



Alioune Ndiaye,
President of Orange MEA



Focus on Health in Africa

Michèle Boccoz emphasizes that the page of the pandemic seems to have turned. These years have been somewhat forgotten as other crises have erupted. However, the last pandemic was over 100 years ago, so it must be admitted that no one was prepared.

The crisis process, according to Ms. Boccoz, goes from panic to oblivion. However, the crisis is deeper due to environmental problems and the transmission of viruses from animals to humans. Long-term work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which also requires a holistic approach, has been ongoing. During COVID-19, the private sector played its role : quick reactions from research led to the development of rapid and effective tools, even though there was inequitable access to vaccines in Africa, despite COVAX.

What lessons to draw from this? What is the next crisis? Michèle Boccoz asks. Many factors need to be considered: climate change, population growth, urbanization, economic and social growth, population movements, and wars. For a better health system, it is essential to consider global aspects, coordination, interdisciplinarity, intercontinental cooperation, and communication.



Building equitable access to healthcare is necessary. An WHO academy is opening in Lyon*. Now the question, according to Ms. Boccoz, is how to "Think global, Act local" because there are common challenges and local issues.



"The WHO Academy is an investment in health, education, knowledge and technology, but ultimately it's an investment in people, and in a healthier, safer, fairer future."
Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO



**Closing Remarks (by Pascal Lamy)-
Looking ahead (Re)inventing a
common destiny**

The conference delved extensively into discussions surrounding Africa, yet surprisingly little attention was directed towards Europe, sparking contemplation on the potential for a meaningful partnership between the two continents. This becomes particularly pertinent when considering the challenges on the horizon for Europe.

Pascal Lamy raised a crucial point regarding the omission of sensitive issues, prompting reflection on whether this oversight was due to time constraints. Notably, the connection between Europe and Africa on security issues was underexplored though Africa and Europe share concerns about Russia's influence posing challenges for both regions. Qatar's involvement in financing religious fundamentalism on both sides was also underscored, shedding light on a critical but neglected dimension.

Similarly, the conference overlooked the significant issue of green colonialism, emphasizing the need for a more comprehensive discourse on this sensitive but strategic topic.

A noteworthy observation emerged when comparing the macro and micro levels of discussion. On the micro level, there was a discernible lack of attention to the numerous sectors where business is thriving.

In the context of Europe-Africa relations, Pascal Lamy advocates for a shift away from emotional responses towards a focus on well-understood common interests.



In the context of Europe/Africa relations, Pascal Lamy's perspective, differing from Mr. Peyrou's, advocates for a shift away from emotional responses towards a focus on well-understood interests. This call for pragmatism in the face of the passions anticipated in the coming years underscores the need for a measured and reasoned approach to foster meaningful collaboration between the two continents.



Agenda

Thursday 23 November

19:30 - 20:00 | Cocktail

20:00 | Opening Dinner

Welcoming address:

Jean-Luc Allavena, Chairman, Aspen Institute France

Pascal Lamy, President of Aspen Europe-Africa Forum

Speakers:

Damtien Larbli Tchintchibidja, Vice-President, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Friday 24 November

9:00 - 9:15 | Opening session

Jean-Luc Allavena, Chairman Aspen Institute France

Pascal Lamy, President of Aspen Europe-Africa Forum

9:15 - 10:15 | Session I - From Annecy 14 to Annecy 15: Africa and the Remaking of the World Order

What are the major economic and political trends that have affected Africa, the relations between Africa and Europe, between Africa and other parts of the world since "Annecy 14" ? What is / will be the impact of the war in Ukraine, the Middle East crisis and their long lasting effect? Can the COP27 agreement and climate cooperation contribute to restore trust between Europe and Africa?

Chair :

Jean-Christophe Bas, Head of the Preparatory Committee, Aspen Institute France, Member of the Executive Board, Aspen Institute France

Speakers :

Mr. Pascal Lamy

President of Aspen Europe-Africa Forum, Former Director General of the World Trade Organization

Mrs. Fatoumata Ba

Founder & Executive Chair, Janngo Capital, Member of the Board, Aspen Institute France

Mr. Enguerrand Rochefort

Chairman & Co-Founder, Rochefort & Associés

10:15 - 11:00 | Focus - Security Dilemmas in Africa: Bridging Gaps through International & Regional Cooperation

What are the key security challenges facing Africa, and what impact do they have on the continent's stability and development? How can international cooperation and regional efforts contribute to enhancing security in Africa and addressing daunting issues such as terrorism and organized crime? What are the possible consequences of the crisis in the Middle East on the security in Africa?

Chair :

Jean-Christophe Bas, Head of the Preparatory Committee, Aspen Institute France, Member of the Executive Board, Aspen Institute France

Special guest speaker : "The Geostrategic Consequences of the Crisis in the Middle-East"

Gilles Kepel, Political scientist, Specialist of the Middle-East



Speakers :

H.E. Emanuela del Re

European Union Special Representative to the Sahel

General Dominique Trinquand

President, DHT Conseil, Former Head of the French military mission at the United Nations

Damtien Larbli Tchintchibidja

Vice-President, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

11:15 - 12:45 | Session II - African Voices on the Future

How does Africa envision its role and position in the world in the next 20 to 30 years? In what ways can this African vision contribute to influencing global geopolitics and economics? How do Africa's projected population growth and economic challenges affect the world order? How does shared history, including colonial legacy, influence the current dynamics between Europe and Africa?

Chair:

Nathalie Delapalme,

Executive Director, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Speakers:

Amama Mbabazi

Former Prime Minister of Uganda

Kako Nubukpo

Commissioner for Agriculture, Water and Environment at the West African Economic and Monetary Union

14:30 - 16:00 | Session III - Finance, Investment and Development

What role does financial cooperation and investment play in fostering sustainable development and economic growth in Africa? How should the European vision and strategy for investments in Africa evolve? In what ways can Europe update its investment matrix to better support the enrichment and development of value chains and sectors in Africa, moving beyond historical patterns of investment?

Co-chairs :

Mustapha Mourahib

Executive Partner, Clifford Chance, Member of the Board, Aspen Institute France

Alioune Ndiaye

Chairman, Orange Middle East and Africa

Special guest speaker :

Serge Ekué

President of the West African Development Bank

Speakers :

Isabelle Bébéar

Head of International Relations, Bpifrance

Papa Amadou Sarr

Directeur exécutif, Agence Française de Développement

Mr. Ngueto Tiraina Yambaye

Executive Director, FAGACE



16:30 - 17:45 | Session IV - Environment, Climate & Development: The Dual Challenge of Sustainable Development and Industrialization

How can the dual challenge of sustainability and industrialization be addressed, in the context of Africa growing climate risks? What strategies can be employed to increase the allocation of greenfinancing to Africa and how can the continent leverage its natural capital? What are the specific financial needs in Africa and how can they be met?

Chair :

Günter Nooke, Former German Chancellor Special Envoy for Africa

Special guest speaker :

Bertrand Badré

CEO, Blue Like an Orange Sustainable Capital, Former Director General of the World Bank

17:45 - 18:15 | Special Session

Chair :

Didier Acouetey

CEO, AfricSearch

Keynote Speaker :

Momar Nguer

President of the African Committee, MEDEF International, President, Marketing & Services, Special Advisor for Africa to the President, Total Energies

20:00 | Dinner - 30th Anniversary Celebration, introductory remarks by Olivier Mellerio, Founder of the Aspen Institute France

Keynote speaker :

Serge Ekué

President of the West African Development Bank

Discussant :

Anne-Laure Kiechel

President, Global Sovereign Advisory, Member of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy

Saturday 25 November

9:00 - 10:15 | Session V - The Challenges of Food Sovereignty

What are the primary challenges and obstacles facing Africa in terms of Food Sovereignty? How can policies and practices be developed to ensure equitable access to food resources, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and enhance food security? In what ways can local and international initiatives collaborate to address food sovereignty challenges and strengthen the resilience of food systems in Africa?

Chair:

Maddalena Procopio

Senior Policy Fellow Africa, European Council on Foreign Relations

Speakers:

Abdou Diop

Managing Partner, Mazars Morocco

Etienne Giros

Chairman, CIAN



Kako Nubukpo

Commissioner for Agriculture, Water and Environment at the West African Economic and Monetary Union

10:15 - 11:15 | Session VI - Tech-Driven Solutions for Shared Challenges: Charting the Future of Europe-Africa Collaboration

How can partnerships between Europe and Africa catalyze technological innovation to promote sustainable economic growth on both continents? What investment and collaboration strategies can foster the creation and adoption of cutting-edge technologies in Europe and Africa, enhancing global competitiveness and addressing emerging societal challenges? To what extent can cooperation in innovation and technology between Europe and Africa contribute to addressing global issues while stimulating economic development and job creation?

Chair:

Angélique Botella

Associate Director, Corporate Strategy, The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Ouns Lemseffer

Partner & Co-Head of Francophone Africa, Clifford Chance, Board Member, Confédération Générale des Entreprises du Maroc

Speakers:

Nicolas Bourg

Chairman, Telecel Group

11:45 - 12:45 | Closing Session: (Re)inventing a shared destiny

Focus on Health in Africa with Michèle Boccoz, Former French Ambassador and Under-Director General of the World Health Organization & Dr. Georges Képénékian, Former Mayor of Lyon

Closing Remarks by Pascal Lamy followed by discussions



Participants list

Didier ACOUETÉY, CEO, AfricSearch

Abi AJAYI, Head of Middle East & Africa, Primary Markets at London Stock Exchange

Jean-Luc ALLAVENA, Chairman of the Board, Institut Aspen France

Fatoumata BA, Founder & Executive Chair, Janngo Capital, Board Member, Institut Aspen France

Bertrand BADRÉ, CEO & Founder, Blue Like an Orange Sustainable Capital

Jean-Christophe BAS, President of the Preparatory Committee, Institut Aspen France, CEO The Global Compass,

Member of the Executive board, Institut Aspen France

Isabelle BÉBÉAR, Directrice of International and European Affairs , BpiFrance

Michèle BOCCOZ, Former French Ambassador, Former Under-Director General, World Health Organization

Jean-Pierre BOSSER, Director General, Fondation Mérieux

Angélique BOTELLA, Associate Director, Corporate Strategy, The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Khalid BOUKSIB, Partner, Strategy & International Relations, Nexia Fiducia

Nicolas BOURG, Chairman, Telecel Group

Benoit CHERVALIER, President, BCH Invest Group, Chairman, Africa Business Europe

Isabelle DALSADE, Vice-President General Affairs, Total Energies Africa

Nathalie DELAPALME, Executive Director, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Emanuela DEL RE, European Union High Representative for the Sahel, Former Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Italy

Yodé Simplicie DION, Professor of Political Philosophy, University of Abidjan

Abdou DIOP, Associate Director, Mazars Maroc

Serge EKUÉ, President, West African Development Bank

Falilou FALL, Deputy Head of Division, OECD - Economics Department

Arnaud FAVRY, Member of the Board, Aspen France Institute, Head of International & Public Affairs, Biomérieux, Young Leader Engagé 2022

Etienne GIROS, President, CIAN (French Council of Investors in Africa)

Philippe JONNART, Trustee, Brazzaville Foundation



Laura KAKON, Director of Strategy & Growth, Honoris United Universities

Gilles KEPEL, Political Scientist, Specialist of the Middle-East

Georges KEPENEKIAN, Former Mayor of Lyon

Anne-Laure KIECHEL, President, Global Sovereign Advisory

Pascal LAMY, President, Europe-Africa Forum, Former General Director, World Trade Organization, Former EU Commissioner

Thierry LACROIX, Head of Africa, One Point

Ouns LEMSEFFER, Executive Partner, Clifford Chance

Winston MANO, Director of the Africa Media Centre, University of Westminster

Amama MBABAZI, Former Prime Minister of Uganda

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Mustapha MOURAHIB, Partner, Clifford Chance

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H.E. François NKULIKIYIMFURA, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda in France

Günter NOOKE, Former Personal Representative of the German Chancellor for Africa, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Former Member of the Bundestag

Kako NUBUKPO, Former Minister of Togo, Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, West African Monetary and Economic Union

Pascal PEYROU, Secretary General, Groupe Initiative Afrique

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Selena SOUAH, Board Member, Aspen France Institute, Aspen Young European Leader 2023, CEO & Founder, Revolution'AIR LTD

Damtien LARBLI TCHINTCHIBIDJA, Vice-President, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Dominique TRINQUAND, President, DHT Conseil



Lesia VASYLENKO, Member of the Ukrainian Parliament, Member of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Aspen Young European Leader 2021

Ngueto Tiraina YAMBAYE, Executive Director, FAGACE (Fonds Africain de Garantie et de Coopération Économique)

Christian YOKA, Director of Africa, Agence Française de Développement

Observers

Luc-Arthur ADJOU, Chief of Staff to the President, West African Development Bank

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Pierre-Yves BOISSY, Political Advisor to the EUSR for the Sahel

Delphine DECHAUX, Journalist, Challenges

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