
Chairs' Conclusions

Africa Advisory Group Video Conference

15 April 2021

1. The global pandemic continues to pose enormous challenges to CwA governments and economies. We need to address the pandemic as well as the economic fallout. Sufficient access to COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics will be a key precondition for recovery. We therefore call upon all G20 members to contribute their fair share to the ACT-Accelerator, which is designed to facilitate access to these tools in a fair and equitable manner.
2. We note that economic performance in CwA countries continued to outpace peers and is expected to rebound in 2021. Hence, CwA governments should act decisively to rebuild investor confidence and fortify the role of FDI in the post-COVID-19 recovery and national development agendas. This requires a good understanding of and adaptation to the new sectoral landscape, leveraging lessons learned from the crisis while ensuring policy predictability, regulatory certainty and targeted investment promotion.
3. We note that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated debt vulnerabilities and threatened the fiscal sustainability of many countries. We therefore welcome that G20 Finance Ministers have extended the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) for the second time until the end of 2021. We also welcome the establishment of the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI. This framework has the potential to become a milestone for global cooperation as it allows countries to restructure unsustainable debt, regain solvency and achieve a resilient economic recovery.
4. We welcome the launch of enhanced intra-African trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement. Reform-minded CwA countries are well-positioned to become champions of the AfCFTA by leading the way on and accelerating the implementation of the Agreement and reaping benefits from increased trade.
5. We underscore the need to shape the economic transformation in CwA countries in order to reap the benefits from new drivers of growth. The digital economy offers CwA countries a leapfrogging opportunity to accelerate growth, poverty reduction and job creation. In addition, the green economy offers CwA countries the opportunity to leverage sustainably the continent's abundant natural wealth through smart agriculture, eco-tourism, circular economy and renewable energy practices.
6. We welcome strategic initiatives to strengthen the Compact with Africa in order to accelerate structural reforms and leverage the growth potential of the private sector. Providing enhanced technical and financial support, strengthening targeted financial assistance for business start-ups and accelerating reforms aimed at unlocking the growth potential of the private sector in Africa will be the most important steps in strengthening the Compact with Africa. France informed participants about its upcoming *Financing the African Economies Summit*, to be hosted on 18th of May. Germany as Co-Chair of the AAG

coincides with France that this Summit is an excellent opportunity to further develop the G20 Compact with Africa initiative.

7. We thank the World Bank Group (WBG), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) for compiling the Compact Monitoring Report as a collaborative effort. We expect the International Organisations to assist CwA countries in the remaining stages of the pandemic and to provide CwA countries with advice on regional integration and urbanization as key drivers of future growth and investment to complement pre-pandemic drivers.
8. Dedicated support from G20 partners and International Organisations remains crucial. In this regard, our outreach to the private sector needs to be stronger. Investor events such as the Africa Investment Forum have significantly increased awareness of the twelve CwA countries and need to be resumed as soon as possible. Compact Teams on the ground provide a valuable platform that enables all partners to discuss these issues and reach out to the private sector. In this regard, we call upon all partners of the Compact with Africa to boost Compact Team activities.
9. We thank all partners for their ongoing commitment to and support for the Compact with Africa initiative. In particular, we appreciate the Italian G20 presidency's support for our ongoing efforts.
10. The Africa Advisory Group is scheduled to reconvene in fall 2021; the format and exact date will be communicated in due time.