

## **PANELS OF THE T20 AFRICA STANDING GROUP (TASK FORCE “COOPERATION WITH AFRICA”)**

### **Panel I: Why G20 – Africa cooperation matters for global development**

**Monday, 17, September, 4:00 pm - 4:50 pm**

Competition among G20 countries to pursue new cooperation initiatives with Africa is high. In this regard, G20 countries generally follow two parallel tracks: they have their own bilateral initiatives and only in some cases use the G20 to launch new/different policy initiatives. These bilateral and G20 initiatives are not always complementary and they are not always sustained and followed up in the medium- to long-term. For instance, during the 2017 German G20 Presidency, Germany proposed a G20 Compact with Africa while the EU in parallel launched an EU External Investment Plan during the AU-EU summit in November 2017. Both aim at strengthening the investment environment in African countries and creating incentives for (foreign) investments in infrastructure and other areas. Both remain largely disconnected from other international partners' investments in infrastructure and other areas. In 2016, the Chinese G20 Presidency launched a new G20 initiative on industrialization for Least Developed Countries, while the Belt and Road Initiative – with substantial financial resources linked to it – has remained a bilateral endeavor with multiple and varied implications from region to region. Whether and how the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor promoted by India and Japan will feature during the Japanese G20 presidency remains unclear so far.

These numerous initiatives provide the opportunity for African countries to leverage their design, decide which cooperation initiatives to prioritise and how to align them with African priorities. At the same time, coordination of various international actors also weighs on African (and international actors') capacities and some initiatives may not complement one another. The objective of the panel is to discuss how to best use the interest of G20 countries (and indeed other external partners) in collaborating with Africa to enhance sustainable development and structural transformation across the continent in line with Africa's agendas.

The panel will discuss the following questions:

- How can G20 countries strengthen the coherence between their bilateral and G20 initiatives? Which factors prevent/enable better coordination?
- In what specific areas would such coordination in the G20 enable these initiatives to advance sustainable development and structural transformation?
- How can African actors make best use of the various international initiatives? How can these initiatives be aligned with Africa's Agenda 2063? What are comparative advantages of different initiatives?

### **Speakers**

*Vera Songwe*, Executive Secretary UNECA

Representative Japanese T20 process

*Sachin Chaturvedi*, Director General of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India

*Philani Mthembu*, Executive Director of the Institute of Global Dialogue, South Africa (tbc)

Moderation: *Julia Leininger*, DIE

## **Panel II: G20 Compact with Africa: Ensuring Continued Progress**

**Tuesday 18 September, 11:55 am - 12:45 pm**

**Background:** The G20 Compact with Africa was launched under the German G20 Presidency to support and deepen investment in Africa, particularly related to infrastructure. The Compact has grown from an initial seven African countries to twelve countries. The Compact envisages accelerated reforms on the part of African governments; enhanced technical assistance from the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank; and expanded investment promotion on the part of the G20 member countries. The Africa Advisory Group (AAG), a sub-set of G20 members, serves as the governance mechanism for the Compact with Africa.

**Objective:** The panel will assess perceived progress to date and discuss actions need for continued progress. The most recent meeting of the Africa Advisory Group identified a number of areas to improve implementation of the Compact with Africa. These included, for example:

- The CWA monitoring framework will be strengthened if AAG reporting includes the activities of respective development finance institutions, other Ministries beyond Development Cooperation and Finance, and chambers of commerce or other industry groups.
- To improve the CWA monitoring framework, where possible it will be helpful if AAG members articulate investment objectives in the self-assessments, either for specific countries, sectors or time periods. If investment goals are indicated, it will give the CWA more credibility and provide an improved baseline for the monitoring.
- Coordination among international organizations could be leveraged for implementation of assistance work programs of the three IOs. In reporting, a greater emphasis on trilateral coordination will increase understanding of joint support.
- The monitoring framework would be strengthened if IOs provide some indication of “additionality” of technical assistance being provided to CWA countries. This will ensure strong buy-in among CWA countries.
- CWA countries may wish to identify challenges to implementation related to actions in the policy matrices. This will better identify where particular additional support is needed and can provide areas for learning from peer CWA countries.
- CWA countries would benefit from expanded and real-time experience sharing through case studies, peer-to-peer learning, and policy platforms.
- The monitoring framework would be strengthened by a periodic (possibly every other year) private sector perception survey that is specific to the CWA. This would provide additional balance and insight.
- In-country validation utilizing a high level eminent persons panel.

The panel will identify 2-3 concrete actions that will have positive and rapid impact on CwA implementation, and that will position the CwA for continued progress under G20 Japanese Presidency. The summary of this panel discussion will be provided to the Africa Advisory Group meeting scheduled for October 10, 2018.

**Proposed Panelists:**

- *Susanne Fries-Gaier*, Chancellery, Germany (tbc)
- Japanese T20 partner organization / official TBD
- *Kojo Asante*, Director of Advocacy and Policy Engagement, Center for Democratic Development
- *Elizabeth Sidiropoulos*, Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)
- Moderator: *Rob Floyd*, ACET