

October 21, 2016 Follow- up Meeting in Pretoria, South Africa

CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE ROUNDTABLE IN AUGUST 25-27, 2016, Pretoria, South Africa

EQUAL PARTNERSHIP IN AFRICA (EPA) FOR INTRA AFRICAN TRADE (EPA-ATDI) AND INDUSTRY: REVISITING THE LAGOS PLAN OF ACTION TO REENGINEER NEPAD TO NEW PROGRAMME ON AFRICAN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (NEPATD)

Background

More than any time in the history of global trade relations, regional trade agreements have taken centre-stage as an alternative to the multilateral liberal international economic order. The formation of mega trade agreements such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreements (TPPA) between European Union and United States of America, and the United States of America and Asian countries signals new paradigm in the governance of trade and investment. A successful conclusion of these agreements will effectively obliterate the little gains made by African countries under the multilateral trading system.

The absence of African countries from the negotiations of these mega trade agreements will eventually worsen the position of the continent as a rule-taker on trade agreements. Africa's engagement with the European Union under the tenuous and potentially damaging Economic Partnership Agreements and the United States of America under the unilaterally designed African Growth and Opportunity Act has only served to weaken the negotiating capability of the continent. The most likely outcome of these agreements is that Africa will remain at the margin of global trade as exporters of raw materials.

Given the painful experiences of the continent over the past five decades of flag independence, this economic dependence must be avoided at all costs. This can only happen through Intra Regional Economic Communities (INTRARECs) and

Inter-RECS Trade relationship as a matter of policy priority and practice by all African countries and RECs. To achieve this, Africa needs

EQUAL PARTNERSHIP FOR INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE AND INDUSTRY (EPA-IATDI).

The Objective

The objective of the Roundtable is to revisit the Lagos Plan as it concerns trade, industry, science and technology in order to refocus our energy and resources on building a self-reliant Intra-African economy for growth and development in accordance with EPA-IATDI.

Justification

Prof. Adebayo Adedeji former Executive Secretary of ECA and now Chair of APRM (NEPAD) in his paper on "From the Lagos Plan of Action to NEPAD and from the Final Act of Lagos to the Constitutive Act: WHITHER AFRICA" told us about the five landmark strategies which together provided the continents preferred development agenda from 1980s to include:

- i. The Lagos Plan of Action (1980-2000) and the Final Act of Lagos (1980)
- ii. Africa's Priority Programme for Economy Recovery (APPEC) 1986-1990 which became UN Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD)
- iii. The African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programme for Socio-Economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) 1989
- iv. The African Charter for Popular Participation for Development (ACPAD) 1990
- v. UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) 1991.

All the African home grown plans were opposed, undermined and jettisoned by Bretton Woods Institutions and Africans were thus impeded from exercising the basic fundamental right to make decisions about their future. The UN-PAAERD and UN-NADAF that were not African home grown suffered the same fate.

From the obvious to the complex question, what then is the Holy Grail of a Development Plan for Africa?

The historical narrative above suggests the need to revisit the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos and refocus its agenda to be,

- Intra-African Trade and Industry (ATI)
- Intra-African Direct Investment (AFDI)
- Intra-African Science, Technology, Research and Innovation (IASTRI)

The principles of this revised framework can be used to build new African people-centred intra-Africa trade and industry based on intra-African direct investment, science, technology research and innovation. Maximizing African capacity available now and in the future will be crucial for this. We can do this by maximizing African capacity available now and in the future.

Date:

The Two-days Roundtable will be held on August 25-27, 2016, Pretoria, South Africa

Participants

Participants will be drawn from the academia and policy community. Other participants will also be drawn from the African Union, NEPAD, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Department of Trade and Industries from all African countries, Think-Tanks, Chambers of Commerce and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). However, paper presenters will be sourced from established and emerging Africanist Scholars with specialization in Global and Political Economy of Africa.

Host Organizers and Funders

Thabo Mbeki Foundation, Concerned for Africa, the Department of Science and Technology, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa ECA, Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute, PANAGRAF

Event Format

The Roundtable is structured to have two plenary sessions as well as four parallel sessions where academic and policy oriented papers will be presented, debated and harmonized. These papers will be focused on issues of industrialization, intra-Africa trade and development on the continent. Based on the discussions on the papers presented, a blue print for accelerating the process of Intra-African

trade will be prepared in form of a policy brief, which will be sent to all Heads of State and Governments as well as to the Secretariats of the Regional Economic Communities. The papers presented will be edited by identified scholars in preparation for a book volume.

Expected Outcomes

1. A two-day Roundtable on Equal Partnership in Africa for intra-African trade.
2. A blueprint for accelerating the process of Intra-African Trade, sharing responsibilities, among African countries.
3. Policy Brief based on the blueprint developed.
4. An edited book
5. A Monitoring and Implementation Steering Committee, which will follow up on the implementation of the blueprint

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