



SRMUN Charlotte 2018
Global Interdependence and the Changing Role of the United Nations
April 12-14, 2018
afdb_charlotte@srmun.org

Esteemed Delegates,

I welcome you to SRMUN Charlotte 2018 and the African Development Bank (AfDB). I am Susan French and it is my distinct pleasure to serve as your Director for this stimulating and exciting committee. This is my fifth year participating with the conference and fourth year on SRMUN staff. Previously, I have served as an Assistant Director (AD) of the General Assembly Plenary, General Assembly Fourth, and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). I hold a Bachelor's degree in Homeland Security, and recently graduated from the University of Southern California where I received my Master's degree in Social Work.

Serving as your AD for this challenging committee is Jadina Hale. This will be her second time serving on staff. She previously served as the AD for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at SRMUN Charlotte 2017. Jadina is currently pursuing her Bachelor's degree in International & Global Studies with a concentration in Affairs and Development from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The AfDB is dedicated to social and economic growth across Africa and promotes social progression among its Regional Member Countries (RMCs). The AfDB accomplishes this by lending money to African Governments and private companies investing in Africa. The AfDB works in tandem of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to reverse poverty by providing financial assistance to both public and private entities in an effort to foster sustainable growth within its regional borders.

Keeping in mind the mandate and pillars of the United Nations, the AfDB Charter, and the theme of SRMUN Charlotte 2018, the following topics have been selected to discuss at this year's conference:

- I: Furthering Private Sector Development for Economic Growth
- II: Enhancing Nutritional Programs to Improve Quality of Life

This background guide serves as a foundation for your research; however, it should not be utilized as a delegation's entire means for the above topics. Each individual topic is prepared in depth and it is expected that delegates will research beyond this guide in preparation for their position paper as well as for the conference itself. Each delegation is required to submit a position paper, no longer than two pages in length (single spaced), which should showcase your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. More information regarding formatting and examples for position papers can be found at srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than March 23, 2018 by 11:59 pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Jadina and I send you the warmest regards in preparation for SRMUN Charlotte 2018 and look forward to reviewing your position papers. Please feel free to contact Director-General Desiree Kennedy, Jadina, or myself should you have any questions during your preparation for the conference.

Susan French
Director
afdb_charlotte@srmun.org

Jadina Hale
Assistant Director
afdb_charlotte@srmun.org

Desiree Kennedy
Director-General
dg_charlotte@srmun.org

Committee History of the African Development Bank

On 10 September 1964, the African Development Bank Group was founded to facilitate development endeavors on the African continent.¹ Founded by the 23 newly independent African States, it is comprised of three institutions: The African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Development Fund (ADF), and the Nigerian Trust Fund (NTF).^{2,3} Approximately two years later the AfDB became a fully functioning international organization and began to implement its mission on 1 July 1966.⁴

The mission of the AfDB is to promote sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa.⁵ The AfDB supports several initiatives across Africa, including those from Regional Member Countries (RMCs) and non-regional Member States.⁶ The two main objectives of AfDB are “mobilizing and allocating resources for investment in RMCs; and providing policy advice and technical assistance to support development efforts.”⁷ True to its objectives, the AfDB mobilizes and allocates resources through a ten-year strategy plan, which focuses on five areas of African development: infrastructure development and regional integration by fragile Member States, regional integration and private sector development with gender inequality cognizance, private sector development and governance and accountability with regard to agriculture and food security, and skills and technology advancement.⁸ The AfDB is one of the five major global multilateral development banks seeking positive social change through financial growth.⁹

Initially, AfDB membership was only open to independent African States, but membership to non-regional Member States was opened in 1982 to expand African trade and economic relations abroad.¹⁰ Presently, the AfDB is comprised of 54 Regional Member States and 26 Non-Regional Member States.¹¹

AfDB’s commitment to the economic advancement of Member States began at its inauguration when 20 of its participating Member States financed 65 percent of its capital stock at USD 250 million.¹² Providing financing for Member States is a primary motivation for the AfDB.¹³ The AfDB seeks to expand the continental share of the global economy by focusing on:

“infrastructure development to help reduce the cost of doing business in Africa, help sustain a large and competitive regional industry, private sector development, a powerful instrument for the promotion of industrialization, improvements in institutional quality key for competitiveness, and economic sustainability, and knowledge generation and capacity building important to industrialize Africa.”¹⁴

¹ *The Agreement that established the African Development Bank*, <http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Legal-Documents/Agreement%20Establishing%20the%20ADB%20final%202011.pdf> (accessed August 26, 2017).

² Ibid.

³ “About Us,” African Development Bank Group, <http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/> (accessed August 27, 2017).

⁴ African Development Bank (AfDB), <https://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/corporate-information/african-development-bank-afdb/> (accessed August 26, 2017).

⁵ “Mission & Objective,” African Development Bank Group, <http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/mission-objective/> (accessed August 27, 2017).

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ AfDB Group Financial Presentation – May 2014, http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Financial-Information/AfDB_Group_Financial_Presentation_-_May_2014.pdf (accessed September 7, 2017).

⁹ African Development Bank in Brief, http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/AfDB_in_Brief.pdf (accessed August 25, 2017).

¹⁰ African Development Bank in Brief, http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/AfDB_in_Brief.pdf (accessed August 25, 2017).

¹¹ Members, African Development Bank Group, <https://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/corporate-information/members/> (accessed December 17, 2017).

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ AfDB Group Financial Presentation – May 2014, http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Financial-Information/AfDB_Group_Financial_Presentation_-_May_2014.pdf (accessed September 7, 2017).

The AfDB's funds increased substantially from the initial capital stock of USD 250 million to USD 2.9 billion in 1982.¹⁵ In 1983, AfDB increased access to USD 6.3 billion.¹⁶ In June of 1987, the AfDB had increased its capital stock to USD 22.3 billion, "following a 200 percent Fourth General Capital Increase achieved in Cairo, Egypt."¹⁷ In 1998 at the Fifth General Capital Increase, the AfDB concluded with a record high of a 35 percent capital increase and "attributed 60 percent shareholding to regional countries [Member States] and 40 percent to non-regional countries [Member States]."¹⁸

In 1948, Africa's share of global trade was at eight percent, but it has since declined to approximately three percent in 2017.¹⁹ As this global market share has consistently declined, the AfDB works to reverse this trend. International commerce and Africa's role in the global market is a contributing factor to the programs sponsored by the AfDB.

RMCs have had to cope with the financial ramifications of unethical and criminal practices, such as human trafficking, war, political instability, and health disparities; practices that deteriorate the economic progress necessary to achieve regional financial stability.²⁰ Regional stability is of the utmost importance to the AfDB, due to the economic interdependency that exists within the continent.²¹ As such, the African Development Fund, a part of the AfDB, was initially created to help find a valuable and ethical way to finance and lend money to low-income Member States for them to be financially solvent.²² Since its inception, it has "emerged as the solution to two major constraints which became apparent after the Bank commenced operation: the nature as well as terms of lending to the poorest of the [Member States], especially for projects with long-term maturities or non-financial returns such as roads, education and health."²³ The AfDB has taken an active role toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN).²⁴ Thus, social change has also become a driving force of the AfDB.

Eligibility for AfDB support is based on several instances, such as a Member State's consideration for increasing economic capacities in an endeavor to become emerging markets.²⁵ In determining support, special focus is granted to economically fragile Member States, and its ability to provide basic levels of public service.²⁶ The most poignant challenge the Fund faces is nearly half of its clientele are considered fragile States, which significantly increases the possibility of exposing contributing Member States to economic shock as a result.²⁷ Nevertheless, the AfDB greatly contributes to the reduction of poverty and social development through its economic investments in projects on the African continent.²⁸ Throughout the past 40 years, the AfDB has invested USD 45 billion to foster these goals.²⁹

¹⁵ *African Development Bank Group: Building today, a better Africa tomorrow*, <http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/history/> (accessed November 1, 2017).

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ *African Development Bank Group: Building today, a better Africa tomorrow*, <http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/history/> (accessed November 1, 2017).

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ *Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade*, https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/ATPC/issues_affecting_intra-african_trade_proposed_action_plan_for_biat_and_framework_for_the_fast_tracking_en.pdf (accessed October 25, 2017).

²⁰ *Public Service Ethics in Africa*, <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan000160.pdf> (accessed September 7, 2017).

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ African Development Bank in Brief, https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/AfDB_in_Brief.pdf (accessed August 25, 2017).

²⁴ "Mission & Objective," African Development Bank Group, <http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/mission-objective/> (accessed September 7, 2017).

²⁵ *The Agreement that established the African Development Bank*, <http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Legal-Documents/Agreement%20Establishing%20the%20ADB%20final%202011.pdf> (accessed August 26, 2017).

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ About the ADF, African Development Group, <https://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/corporate-information/african-development-fund-adf/about-the-adf/> (accessed August 28, 2017).

²⁹ Ibid.

The Nigerian Trust Fund (NTF) is an example of success and positive collaboration between the Nigerian government and AfDB.³⁰ In 1976, the NTF was created through an agreement between the AfDB and the Nigerian government and, since its establishment, remained as a “self-sustaining revolving fund.”³¹ By expanding access of low-income Member States of the AfDB to financing opportunities, the NTF has created an atmosphere of partnership among Member States.³² Member States receive loans based on the completion of projects like infrastructure development.³³ The NTF financing model, in an effort to combat corruption, makes funds available directly to projects and not to the Member State.³⁴ Direct transfer of capital from the NTF to the project is for the sake of transparency. All loans provided through NTF have low to no interest charges, however, there is a service charge of 0.75 percent per annum on outstanding balances and a commitment fee of 0.5 percent per annum on undisbursed commitments to both concessional loan operations with short-term and long-term maturities.³⁵ Funds raised by service charges are used to supplement the capital financing of the AfDB.³⁶

Through regional collaboration, the AfDB helped establish other international organizations focused on African development through financial investments. Regional organizations that frequently cooperate with the AfDB include, but are not limited to, the Africa Re-insurance Corporation, Shelter Afrique, Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI), Federation of African Consultants (FECA), the Africa Project Development Facility (APDF), the International Finance Company for Investments in Africa (SIFIDA), African Management Services Company (AMSCO), African Business Round Table (ABR), African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIMBANK), African Capacity Building Foundation, Joint Africa Institute, and the PTA Bank.³⁷

AfDB has pursued institutional reforms to maximize efficiency and effectiveness, with the overall goal of improving the quality of the services it provided to Member States.³⁸ The current organizational structure was chosen to support efforts in capacity building and strengthen economic growth, while the structural reforms enhanced accountability and responsiveness in critical situations.³⁹

³⁰ Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF), <http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/nigeria-trust-fund-ntf/> (accessed August 25, 2017).

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF), <http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/nigeria-trust-fund-ntf/> (accessed August 25, 2017).

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF), <http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/nigeria-trust-fund-ntf/> (accessed August 25, 2017).

³⁷ History, African Development Group, <https://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/corporate-information/history/> (accessed August 29, 2017).

³⁸ Structure, <http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/structure/> (accessed November 5, 2014).

³⁹ Ibid.

I. Furthering Private Sector Development for Economic Growth

“There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.”
- Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General⁴⁰

Introduction

Politically and economically, the world has historically been divided into two distinct groups, “developed” and “underdeveloped.”⁴¹ This bi-polar notion has been used for centuries and when depicting African Member States, they are often perched at the disadvantaged bottom.⁴² This became especially apparent at the beginning of the 1960s, when most were newly independent from their colonial ties.⁴³ Since then, African Member States have been consistently ushered into and over-utilized by the global economy for their raw materials and have become consumers of finished goods from industrialized Member States, thus further entrenching their already uneven international division of labor.⁴⁴

This uneven balance, however, is found to be unfit for Africa in the 21st century, as a “New Africa” has been born; from the 1970s through the 1990s, Africa was torn with the strife of war, political instability, corruption, disease, and hunger.⁴⁵ Part of the new birth of Africa began as the continent dedicated itself to move beyond the struggle of and against colonialism and instead, focus on economic development and independence by utilizing the abundance of natural resources it can offer to the rest of the world through international trade.⁴⁶

However, this new focus of prosperity and development has not been easily attainable and remains a challenge for the continent. The paradigm is changing and one of many ways to resolve the issue is to further private sector development for economic growth.⁴⁷ Through partnerships with the AfDB, World Bank, and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), as well as capitalizing on innovative ideas in the areas of education, energy, transportation, and business, RMCs are entering the modern age through the expansion of business and global relations. There are challenges to progress in areas such as commodity transformation, diversifying African economies, and capitalizing on areas such as tourism to help provide stability for private sector growth.⁴⁸ Yet, opportunities for growth are constantly presenting themselves across all platforms in Africa.

Current Situation

As depicted above and outlined in the African Development Groups’ *Supporting the Transformation of the Private Sector in Africa, Private Sector Development Strategy, 2013-2017*, “Africa is at an important junction.” The collective economy of the continent is growing at a faster pace than those of many other regions, causing unique

⁴⁰ Deputy Secretary-General’s remarks at Security Council Open Debate on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations [as prepared for delivery], 29 August 2017, United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/dsg/statement/2017-08-29/deputy-secretary-generals-remarks-security-council-open-debate> (accessed August 28, 2017).

⁴¹ Africa’s Decade of Change, Reflections on 10 years of NEPAD, Joint Publication of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, Published August 2012, <http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/pubs/2013decadeofchange.pdf> (accessed September 28, 2017).

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Africa’s Decade of Change, Reflections on 10 years of NEPAD, Joint Publication of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, Published August 2012, <http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/pubs/2013decadeofchange.pdf> (accessed September 28, 2017).

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Africa’s Decade of Change, Reflections on 10 years of NEPAD, Joint Publication of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, Published August 2012, <http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/pubs/2013decadeofchange.pdf> (accessed September 28, 2017).

⁴⁸ Opening Statement on the Occasion of the 2016 Africa CEO Forum, AfDB, https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/Opening_Statement_on_the_occasion_of_the_2016_Africa_CEO_Forum_by_Akinwumi_A._Adesina_Pr esident_of_the_AfDB_Group.pdf (Accessed August 10, 2017).

problems for a large and diverse region.⁴⁹ Since the 1990s, the economies in Africa have grown twice in rate, exports have boomed, markets have diversified, foreign direct investment has increased by a factor of six, and the African middle class has emerged.⁵⁰ Further, its youth are embracing new technologies, creating a force for economic change.⁵¹ With increased political and social stability coupled with growing intraregional trade and the creation of new regional common markets, Africa is faring each and every day as more ‘attractive’ for investors.⁵² Currently, the domains for growth prioritized by the AfDB are energy, transportation, agribusiness, and the social sector.⁵³ In 2016, a total of USD 2.71 billion was given to various businesses and RMC governments by the AfDB to encourage private sector growth.⁵⁴ However, we cannot say that Africa is prosperous as it still faces “deep and persistent inequalities.”⁵⁵ These inequalities comprise of high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, and a “middle income trap.”⁵⁶

Energy

Energy is an all-encompassing term that often refers to both conventional and non-conventional energy sources, and it accounted for 8.8 percent of AfDB funds spent in 2016.⁵⁷ In 2012, it was estimated that less than one-in-five living in Africa had access to electricity.⁵⁸ Currently, approximately 90 percent of people living in Sub-Saharan Africa have no access to power or utilities.⁵⁹ Renewable energy sources such as hydropower, solar, and geothermal are accessible in a large portion of Africa, and could potentially be used to bring undeveloped areas into the modern era.⁶⁰ Further, reliable access to energy can spur economic growth by presenting businesses new opportunities to operate regularly, as well as reach parts of the continent that before were unreachable.⁶¹ However, it is difficult to initiate the utilization of renewable energy sources, as the expenses of creating new facilities, running lines, permitting and regulatory processes, as well as lack of technical expertise and training to run these types of facilities, create barriers for RMCs.⁶²

The extensive expenses of expanding access to energy in Africa are perhaps the most problematic of challenges. The World Bank estimated that, for the power grid to be expanded to reach the full continent by the year 2040, annual

⁴⁹ *Supporting the Transformation of the Private Sector in Africa, Private Sector Development Strategy, 2013-2017*, African Development Group, Published July 2013, [https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Policy-Documents/2013-2017 - Private Sector Development Strategy.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Policy-Documents/2013-2017_-_Private_Sector_Development_Strategy.pdf) (accessed August 12, 2017).

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Private Sector Operations in Figures, AfDB. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/sectors/private-sector/private-sector-operations-in-figures/> (Accessed September 21, 2017).

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Private Sector Operations in Figures, AfDB. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/sectors/private-sector/private-sector-operations-in-figures/> (Accessed September 21, 2017).

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Making Renewable Energy More Accessible in Sub-Saharan Africa, The World Bank. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2017/02/13/making-renewable-energy-more-accessible-in-sub-saharan-africa> (Accessed September 21, 2017).

⁵⁹ Renewable Energy in Africa, AfDB <https://www.afdb.org/en/blogs/afdb-championing-inclusive-growth-across-africa/post/renewable-energy-in-africa-8829/> (Accessed September 23, 2017).

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Barbieri, Cecile. “Private sector to invest in Africa’s energy potential,” Euractiv, June 24, 2015. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/development-policy/news/private-sector-to-invest-in-africa-s-energy-potential/> (Accessed January 22, 2018).

⁶² Ibid.

investments of a minimum USD 3.2 billion each year from 2015-2040 were necessary.⁶³ Further, the report suggests that privately financed electrical lines could wholly transform the continent and increase economic growth opportunities.⁶⁴ However, the challenges faced are not stopping Africa from attaining renewable energy ventures as they understand that energy is the biggest drivers of economies and it will light the continent's vast rural areas.⁶⁵ To combat the hurdles, several African governments have shown policy commitment to renewable-energy by making investment vehicles for independent power producers.⁶⁶

Thus, the private sector both in and outside of the African continent has concentrated significant efforts and funds to improve access to energy throughout the region. In 2015, French electrical equipment specialist company Schneider Electric launched the Energy Access Ventures (EAV) fund.⁶⁷ This EUR 54.4 million is designated by companies to help improve access to energy in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the specific goal of bringing electricity to one million homes by the year 2025.⁶⁸

Additionally, USAID, a government agency of the United States of America that works to end global poverty, created the Power Africa program.⁶⁹ Power Africa is a public-private partnership program designed with the goal of bringing an additional 30,000 megawatts of clean power to Africa, as well as establishing 60 million new home and business power connections.⁷⁰ In addition to the funds contributed by governments, NGOs, and UN organizations, Power Africa has more than USD 54 billion in commitments from more than 130 private sector partners.⁷¹ 40 of these private sector partners have invested in a sub-initiative of Power Africa titled "Beyond the Grid," a project to develop and distribute mini power systems throughout the continent.⁷²

Transportation and Infrastructure

In 2016, Africa spent nearly 6.1 percent of the USD 2.71 billion AfDB budget on improving transportation and access across Africa.⁷³ Improving transportation infrastructure across the continent is essential to promote economic growth, as business can more easily expand and trade is easier to conduct with strong infrastructure systems. If the infrastructure systems in Africa were at the level of those in the rest of the developing world, the average GDP across the continent would increase 1.7 percent each year.⁷⁴ Additionally, the cost of transportation around Africa averages at a 14 percent value of the goods, nearly double that of other developing states, and sits at 50 percent for

⁶³ "Linking up: Public-Private Partnerships in Power Transmission in Africa," World Bank. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/06/06/how-to-boost-private-sector-investment-in-africas-transmission-sector>. (Accessed January 22, 2018).

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ "Investing in Africa's Renewable Energy Sector," Thomson Reuters. https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/story/Investing_in_Africas_Renewable_Energy_Sector-ZAWYA20170126104426/ (Accessed January 22, 2018).

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Barbieri, Cecile. "Private sector to invest in Africa's energy potential," Euractiv, June 24, 2015. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/development-policy/news/private-sector-to-invest-in-africa-s-energy-potential/> (Accessed January 22, 2018).

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ "Who We Are," USAID. <https://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are> (Accessed January 22, 2018).

⁷⁰ "Power Africa," USAID. <https://www.usaid.gov/powerafrica/aboutus> (Accessed January 22, 2018).

⁷¹ "Private Sector Partners,"

⁷² "Beyond the Grid," USAID. <https://www.usaid.gov/powerafrica/beyondthegrid> (Accessed January 22, 2018).

⁷³ Private Sector Operations in Figures, AfDB. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/sectors/private-sector/private-sector-operations-in-figures/> (Accessed September 21, 2017).

⁷⁴ Okosi, Frances. "Catalysing private sector investment in Africa," Infrastructure News. August 8, 2017. <http://www.infrastructurenews.com/2017/08/08/catalysing-private-sector-investment-in-africa/> (Accessed January 22, 2018).

Africa's five landlocked states.⁷⁵ To further complicate matters, only 26 percent of Africa's roads are paved.⁷⁶ According to the World Bank, closing these gaps would require an annual investment of USD 93 billion per year through 2028; to date, less than half of that number is being invested.⁷⁷

However, even with these astonishing figures, transportation and infrastructure continue to be two economic segments where it is more difficult to encourage private sector development.⁷⁸ A number of problems remain in incentivizing private sector investment in transportation and infrastructure: "whether real or perceived, elevated levels of risk, particularly political risk driven by macroeconomic instability in many African countries; in the power sector, poor credit utility off-takers; inadequate institutional and regulatory frameworks, particularly for public private partnership arrangements and; a lack of 'bankable' projects."⁷⁹ Thus, organizations called development finance institutions, are working to mitigate these risks and encourage private sector investment by providing guarantees and insurance to those institutional investors, private banks, and other organizations to promote investment in one of the most important pieces to bringing Africa into the modern era.⁸⁰

In September 2016, the AfDB Board of Directors approved a USD 83.9 million loan to assist in furthering infrastructure and roadways for Ghana.⁸¹ Ghana is quickly growing and there are many goods to be transported. However, without proper infrastructure, this is nearly impossible in some of the AfDB Member States.⁸² This loan will provide Pokuase, Ghana with a brand new 3-tier highway interchange that will ease congestion and allow the new, highly industrialized area quicker access to businesses, factories, and ports for delivering and shipping of goods.⁸³ This not only provides connections to industrialized areas, but also provides the critical infrastructure needed to connect the Port of Tema to Ghana's second city, Kumasi, and to Burkina Faso.⁸⁴ This urbanization, business development, and agribusiness play a huge role in suitability efforts.

Furthermore, private investment in infrastructure has been spurred by the G20 Compact with Africa.⁸⁵ A central piece of this Compact is to improve economic conditions for private investment on the continent, with particular attention to infrastructure development and improvement.⁸⁶ As part of this, the G20 has asked the International Finance Corporation to create a "toolbox" of information for investors, firms, and governments looking to engage as to where and how their assistance would be most valuable.⁸⁷ The goal of this toolbox is to drive investment towards transportation and infrastructure, areas currently lagging.

⁷⁵ Kauffmann, Celine. "Expert Roundtable: Investment in Transport Infrastructure." <http://www.oecd.org/investment/investmentfordevelopment/41775965.pdf> (Accessed January 22, 2018).

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Okosi, Frances. "Catalysing private sector investment in Africa," Infrastructure News. August 8, 2017. <http://www.infrastructurene.ws/2017/08/08/catalysing-private-sector-investment-in-africa/> (Accessed January 22, 2018).

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Okosi, Frances. "Catalysing private sector investment in Africa," Infrastructure News. August 8, 2017. <http://www.infrastructurene.ws/2017/08/08/catalysing-private-sector-investment-in-africa/> (Accessed January 22, 2018).

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Accra Urban Transport Project to address the challenges of a rapidly growing city, AfDB. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/accra-urban-transport-project-to-address-the-challenges-of-a-rapidly-growing-city-16169/> (Accessed November 11, 2014).

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Accra Urban Transport Project to address the challenges of a rapidly growing city, AfDB. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/accra-urban-transport-project-to-address-the-challenges-of-a-rapidly-growing-city-16169/> (Accessed November 11, 2014).

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ "About the Compact with Africa," G20. <https://www.compactwithafrica.org/content/compactwithafrica/home.html> (Accessed January 21, 2018).

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ "Africa Needs More Private Investment," World Economic Forum. (Accessed January 22, 2018).

A transportation improvement program with particular success was the 2010 implementation of the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) in Lagos, Nigeria.⁸⁸ Lagos is one of the more densely populated areas in Nigeria, as it is the smallest state and home to nearly 18 million inhabitants.⁸⁹ Lagos also serves as a central hub for commercial and industrial activities, and houses approximately 45 percent of skilled trade workers in Nigeria.⁹⁰ In 2008, the test pilot of the bussing system was implemented and the BRTS lite began with 22 buses that covered 12 miles.⁹¹ By 2010, a full-scale operation was launched with over 900 buses.⁹² Projects such as the BRTS not only facilitate travel and commuting, but also elicit outside contractors and foster vendor competition and economic stimulation.⁹³ Beyond outside competition, BRTS creates local jobs and allows for local skilled trade workers to provide for their families while allowing for clean, comfortable, and safe commuting for those who work outside of their local community.⁹⁴

Agribusiness

Throughout Africa, many RMCs are living in poverty with limited access to food, compounded by a lack of food quality.⁹⁵ Investments into agriculture have the potential to not only increase the amount of food for people to live off of, but also to create economic growth as the manufacturing and trade sectors are largely reliant on food and agriculture trade.⁹⁶ In efforts to identify sustainable food sources, the Business and Sustainable Development Commission of Grow Africa identified 14 sustainable business prospects targeted at food security totaling USD 2.3 trillion annually through 2030.⁹⁷ Their report called for forward thinking such as “cattle intensification where sustainable improvements could increase value by USD 15 billion a year, to reducing food waste in value chains worth USD 405 billion to the private sector.”⁹⁸ Reducing waste creates more sustainability in future economies, however, it is also one of area that is often overlooked.

Private sector investment in the agriculture and agricultural trade sectors of Africa has grown slowly but steadily in recent years; in the past decade, investment in agribusiness has remained at less than ten percent of investment in sub-Saharan Africa.⁹⁹ However, fruit and vegetable exports, as well as food processing, transportation, and marketing, are consistently attracting higher levels of foreign direct investment.¹⁰⁰ To address these challenges, the International Finance Corporation has launched a five year program to invest USD 2 billion into Africa’s

⁸⁸ The Bus Rapid Transit System of Lagos, Nigeria, UN Sustainable Development. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_pdfs/meetings2010/egm0310/presentation_Orekoya.pdf (Accessed October 9, 2017).

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ The Bus Rapid Transit System of Lagos, Nigeria, UN Sustainable Development. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/dsd/susdevtopics/sdt_pdfs/meetings2010/egm0310/presentation_Orekoya.pdf (Accessed October 9, 2017).

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ “African Successes- Listing the Success Stories,” The World Bank. <http://blogs.worldbank.org/african/african-successes-listing-the-success-stories> (Accessed January 22, 2018).

⁹⁵ Feed Africa, AfDB. <https://www.afdb.org/en/the-high-5/feed-africa/> (Accessed September 24, 2017).

⁹⁶ Mhlanga, Nomathemba, “Private Sector Agribusiness Investment in Sub-Saharan Africa.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2010. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/k7443e/k7443e.pdf>. (Accessed January 22, 2018).

⁹⁷ Unlocking Business Opportunities To Accelerate Sustainable & Inclusive Growth, Grow Africa. <https://www.growafrica.com/groups/unlocking-business-opportunities-accelerate-sustainable-inclusive-growth> (Accessed November 10, 2017).

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ Mhlanga, Nomathemba, “Private Sector Agribusiness Investment in Sub-Saharan Africa.” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2010. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/k7443e/k7443e.pdf>. (Accessed January 22, 2018).

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

agribusiness sector, supporting projects across the food supply chain with the purpose of developing an independent and competitive sector to provide economic growth and prosperity.¹⁰¹

Lesotho

Most of the developed and developing Member States have drawn up strategies and implemented programs aimed at developing the private sector.¹⁰² Like other developing Member States, Lesotho recognizes the critical role that a well-developed private sector plays in economic growth and development.¹⁰³ In Lesotho, the private sector consists mainly of three segments, namely the primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors.¹⁰⁴ The highest proportion of economic activities in Lesotho is attributable to the private sector, the primary sector specifically.¹⁰⁵ The highest contribution to GDP comes from privately owned mines and agricultural farms.¹⁰⁶ The industrial sector consists of manufacturing, utilities and construction sub-sectors, all of which are privately funded as well.¹⁰⁷ To augment the development of the private sector, the following measures were implemented: a provision of incentives for entrepreneurship and investment (especially in education), an increase in productivity through greater competition and innovation, harnessing international connections through trade and investment, strengthening the market access and functioning, and reducing political and economic risk and vulnerability.¹⁰⁸ As a result, there was an increase in the national GDP between years 2000 and 2006.¹⁰⁹

Bottlenecks in Lesotho

Though there were successes, the private sector development in Lesotho has been constrained by several factors.¹¹⁰ The first obstacle is outdated laws and regulations.¹¹¹ They involve unnecessarily long and complex procedures when registering and licensing firms, as well as administrative requirements that make it cumbersome to obtain work and residents permits.¹¹² Currently, it takes 28 days to register a business in Lesotho, and 73 to start a business.¹¹³ This proverbial “red-tape” causes entrepreneurs and investors to become leery of starting new businesses.¹¹⁴

The second obstacle is underdeveloped Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy.¹¹⁵ FDI refers to “an investment made by a company or individual in one country in business interests in another country, in the form of either

¹⁰¹ “Agribusiness in Africa,” IFC. http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/REGION__EXT_Content/Regions/Sub-Saharan+Africa/Investments/Agribusiness/ (Accessed January 22, 2018).

¹⁰² “The role of Private Sector Development in economic growth: the case of Lesotho”, CBL Economic Review No. 112, December 2009, https://www.centralbank.org.ls/images/Publications/Research/Reports/MonthlyEconomicReviews/2009/Econo_Review_Nov_2009.pdf (accessed January 22, 2018).

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ “The role of Private Sector Development in economic growth: the case of Lesotho”, CBL Economic Review No. 112, December 2009, https://www.centralbank.org.ls/images/Publications/Research/Reports/MonthlyEconomicReviews/2009/Econo_Review_Nov_2009.pdf (accessed January 22, 2018).

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ “The role of Private Sector Development in economic growth: the case of Lesotho”, CBL Economic Review No. 112, December 2009, https://www.centralbank.org.ls/images/Publications/Research/Reports/MonthlyEconomicReviews/2009/Econo_Review_Nov_2009.pdf (accessed January 22, 2018).

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ “The role of Private Sector Development in economic growth: the case of Lesotho”, CBL Economic Review No. 112, December 2009,

establishing business operations or acquiring business assets in the other country, such as ownership or controlling interest in a foreign company.”¹¹⁶ It is important to note that Lesotho has been more successful in attracting FDIs than other least developed Member States.¹¹⁷ Though Lesotho is open to FDIs, the current taxation laws and regulations in the country are only partially addressing the investors’ needs and this poses a concern for further FDI flows.¹¹⁸ Additionally, skills shortages result in high labor costs.¹¹⁹ Other Member States face similar bottlenecks when trying to expand the private sector.

In some cases, it is not easy to measure economic output that is solely attributable to the private sector and this has led to underestimation or over estimation of the contribution of the private sector to total economic output.¹²⁰ Moreover, developing the private sector helps in making more people to be actively involved in economic activities and decision-making processes by attracting new stakeholders into the economy, provided the driving motive behind the economic activity is profit.¹²¹

Conclusion

The private sector can be defined as, “a basic organizing principle for economic activity in a market-based economy where physical as well as financial capital is generally privately owned, and production decisions are made for private gain.”¹²² A developing or growing private sector allows new investments that increase flow of goods and services, creates employment opportunities, promotes innovation and entrepreneurial capacity and increases income directly through employment and indirectly through higher national output. High employment and income enhance the likeliness of eradication of poverty. The relationship between the private sector and economic growth has been recognized globally through numerous initiatives, however, it would be wise for the African Development Bank to evaluate the benefits of private sector development for the overall economic success of developed and developing Member States.

Committee Directive

Many RMCs throughout Africa are at varying stages of development, furthering the difficulty of achieving equality and development across Africa. Also, many Member States still struggle with energy, poverty, and healthcare problems. Creating sustainability in the face of these challenges, among others, can seem nearly impossible. The challenge of upcoming generations is to face these impossibilities and make them possible.

Mali was the first in the Sub-Sahara to receive a renewable energy source such as the solar PV. How can other RMCs plan for this type of renewable energy source, given the challenges that come along with it such as its high dollar value to implement, as well as transactional costs such as training and employment of those certified, and further technical support? How can the AfDB encourage private sector investment into these specific initiatives so that Member States are actually able to benefit from the results?

https://www.centralbank.org.ls/images/Publications/Research/Reports/MonthlyEconomicReviews/2009/Econo_Review_Nov_2009.pdf (accessed January 22, 2018).

¹¹⁶ “Foreign Direct Investment – FDI”, Investopedia, <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/fdi.asp> (accessed January 22, 2018).

¹¹⁷ “The role of Private Sector Development in economic growth: the case of Lesotho”, CBL Economic Review No. 112, December 2009, https://www.centralbank.org.ls/images/Publications/Research/Reports/MonthlyEconomicReviews/2009/Econo_Review_Nov_2009.pdf (accessed January 22, 2018).

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ “The role of Private Sector Development in economic growth: the case of Lesotho”, CBL Economic Review No. 112, December 2009, https://www.centralbank.org.ls/images/Publications/Research/Reports/MonthlyEconomicReviews/2009/Econo_Review_Nov_2009.pdf (accessed January 22, 2018).

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Ibid.

With the rapid changes in technology and more of Africa and RMCs modernizing, how can Africa's youth that are impoverished and with limited access to technology stay abreast of upcoming trends? Can private sector investment be utilized to bring training and technology to areas that are behind in progression?

Keep in mind, the UN has continuously envisioned a sustainable international community through their first set of MDGs. Considering the future, the UN has developed models of SDGs, and now have carried it further with the 2030 Threshold 21-integrated SDGs why try to forecast or simulate business trends in the future. While currently this is only being benchmarked in the United States of America, how can this forward thinking be applied to the sustainable efforts in agriculture, social sectors, and energy development, to guide private sector development in the AfDB?

II. Enhancing Nutritional Programs to Improve Quality of Life

“Nutrition is not just a health and social development issue, nutrition is an investment that shapes economic growth for all African nations.” – AfDB President, Akinwumi Adesina¹²³

Introduction

Food is one of the world’s most important resources. Yet, hunger is one of its biggest problems, with over 790 million people suffering worldwide.¹²⁴ Access to quality food in sufficient quantities is a fundamental right and essential to development and improving the quality of life for all people. Food insecurity, the limited and/or uncertain access to safe nutritional foods, leads to hunger and eventually malnutrition.¹²⁵ The UN recognizes this, as reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger, which is the objective to “...end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.”¹²⁶ The African Development Bank (AfDB) is committed to this goal with plans such as Feed Africa, an initiative to fight and eventually eliminate hunger by applying current resources in conjunction with new programs to maximize agricultural production.^{127 128}

Food insecurity is often divided into three categories: acute, occasional, and severe.¹²⁹ Acute food insecurity is defined as an immediate threat to food security.¹³⁰ Occasional food insecurity occurs when the threat of insecurity is temporary.¹³¹ Severe food insecurity happens when meeting dietary needs is permanently and consistently under threat.¹³² As the AfDB recognizes, nutrition is the “cornerstone of good human and economic development.”¹³³

History

Individuals suffering from malnutrition often see diminished abilities to fight illnesses, perform general labor, and even retain information.¹³⁴ Ultimately, these diminished abilities lead to a decreased level of success in school and the workplace, lowering the productivity of communities while resulting in increased poverty levels.¹³⁵ Although developing Member States saw a 42 percent decrease in undernourishment between 1992 and 2014, Sub-Saharan Africa has seen the least progress, with over a quarter of its population still chronically undernourished.¹³⁶

¹²³ “African leaders make economic case for increased nutrition investments, AfDB President hosts high-level event with new economic data showing increase nutrition investment can result in \$83 billion in GDP growth,” African Development Growth, Published 24 May 2016, <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/african-leaders-make-economic-case-for-increased-nutrition-investments-15704/> (Accessed August 12, 2017).

¹²⁴ “World Hunger, Poverty Facts, Statistics 2016” - World Hunger News. <http://www.worldhunger.org/2015-world-hunger-and-poverty-facts-and-statistics/#hunger-number> (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹²⁵ “United States Department of Agriculture.” USDA ERS - Definitions of Food Security. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security/> (Accessed August 14, 2017.)

¹²⁶ “United Nations. SDG” Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs> (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ “Feed Africa.” African Development Bank. <https://www.afdb.org/en/the-high-5/feed-africa/> (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹²⁹ “Food Insecurity in Africa in Terms of Causes, Effects and Solutions: A Case Study of Nigeria.” *ResearchGate*, 12, www.researchgate.net/publication/293814921_Food_Insecurity_in_Africa_in_Terms_of_Causes_Effects_and_Solutions_A_Case_Study_of_Nigeria. (Accessed September 1, 2017)

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² “Food Insecurity in Africa in Terms of Causes, Effects and Solutions: A Case Study of Nigeria.” *ResearchGate*, 12, www.researchgate.net/publication/293814921_Food_Insecurity_in_Africa_in_Terms_of_Causes_Effects_and_Solutions_A_Case_Study_of_Nigeria. (Accessed September 1, 2017)

¹³³ “Nutrition,” African Development Bank. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/topics/nutrition/> (Accessed January 21, 2018).

¹³⁴ “Nutrition.” World Food Programme. <http://www1.wfp.org/nutrition> (Accessed August 14, 2017.)

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ “World Hunger, Poverty Facts, Statistics 2016.” World Hunger News. <http://www.worldhunger.org/2015-world-hunger-and-poverty-facts-and-statistics/#hunger-number> (Accessed August 14, 2017.)

While there are many causes of food insecurity, some of which are connected, the most common catalyst is food shortage.¹³⁷ This shortage can be caused by environmental changes, violent conflict, and political insecurity.¹³⁸ Environmental changes and erratic weather patterns are constant plagues to the agricultural economy of Africa.¹³⁹ In recent years, rainfall patterns have become increasingly unpredictable, resulting in water supply shortages.¹⁴⁰ In extreme cases this can lead to long droughts and famines, such as the famine in Somalia from 2010-2012, which resulted in nearly 260,000 deaths.¹⁴¹ Higher temperatures are also being faced by many RMCs, resulting in farmlands depleted of necessary moisture and nutrients, as well as the destruction of crops.¹⁴³ With over half of the world's fertile, arable land in Africa, improved agricultural technologies and accessible water sources may be a way to overcome this challenge.¹⁴⁴

War and political instability often cause a disruption in food production and can make it difficult to find necessary resources. This problem is exacerbated by an inability to provide food aid. There have been several instances both internationally and regionally where conflict and violence affected the level of food aid supplied, and sometimes resulted in a suspension of aid altogether. Internationally, food aid to Myanmar and Yemen has been suspended by the World Food Programme due to escalating violence.¹⁴⁵ Among RMCs, portions of food aid delivered to Nigeria, to assist those fleeing Boko Haram militants, were "diverted" by insurgents.¹⁴⁷

Current Situation – Nutritional Programs to Mitigate Food Insecurity

Currently, the Republic of South Sudan has more than 7.5 million individuals in need of assistance due to malnourishment and has been declared as being in a state of famine.¹⁴⁹ The Republic of Yemen has more than 18 million in need of food with 7 million individuals considered "severely food insecure."¹⁵⁰ These scenarios have had disastrous effects among some of the more vulnerable populations. Pregnant women who are malnourished throughout their pregnancy are most likely to give birth to malnourished infants.¹⁵¹ It is estimated that undernourishment causes the death of approximately 3.1 million children around the world annually, due to fetal

¹³⁷ Frimpong, P. (2014). *FOOD INSECURITY IN AFRICA: Can we feed the world?* <https://www.modernghana.com/news/444630/food-insecurity-in-africa-can-we-feed-the-world.html> (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

¹⁴⁰ Frimpong, P. (2014). *FOOD INSECURITY IN AFRICA: Can we feed the world?* <https://www.modernghana.com/news/444630/food-insecurity-in-africa-can-we-feed-the-world.html> (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² "United Nations News Centre - Somalia Famine Killed Nearly 260,000 People, Half of Them Children – Reports UN." *UN News Service Section*. www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=44811#. WeewpMiGPIU. (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ "Agriculture, Food Security, and a Greener Environment." African Development Bank, www.afdb.org/en/knowledge/publications/tracking-africa%E2%80%99s-progress-in-figures/agriculture-food-security-and-a-greener-environment/. (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹⁴⁵ "Yemen - State of Food Insecurity in Yemen Based on the Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA), April 2017." United Nations World Food Programme - Fighting Hunger Worldwide. www.wfp.org/content/yemen-state-food-insecurity-emergency-food-security-nutrition-assessment-april-2017. (Accessed September 19, 2017.)

¹⁴⁶ "UN Suspends Food Aid to Refugees in Myanmar." *Breaking News, World News & Video from Al Jazeera*, September 2, 2017, www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/suspends-food-aid-refugees-myanmar-170902072235098.html. (Accessed September 19, 2017.)

¹⁴⁷ "Half Nigeria Food Aid Not Delivered." *BBC News*. www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-40325043. (Accessed September 17, 2017.)

¹⁴⁸ "Nigeria Says Half of Government Food Aid Never Reached Victims of Boko Haram." *U.S. Reuters*. www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-security/nigeria-says-half-of-government-food-aid-never-reached-victims-of-boko-haram-idUSKBN1990OH. (Accessed September 17, 2017.)

¹⁴⁹ UN aid chief urges global action as starvation, famine loom for 20 million across four countries. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56339#>. WeabBsiGPIU (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ World Food Programme. Nutrition | World Food Programme. <http://www1.wfp.org/nutrition> (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

growth restriction, vitamin deficiency, stunting, and wasting.^{152 153} In Africa alone, 58 million children under the age of five are chronically undernourished. Children who face undernourishment between birth and the age of two are at greater risk, and those who survive are often stunted and largely face irreversible damage.¹⁵⁴

Famine and food insecurity in these Member States is due in large parts to the constant state of conflict in the region. Meanwhile, drought conditions continue to plague the Federal Republic of Somalia, putting over half of its population at risk of famine. Of this population, approximately 330,000 children are considered acutely malnourished.¹⁵⁵

Furthermore, the economic impact of malnutrition is astounding. On the African continent, the impact of undernourishment is estimated to be around USD 25 billion annually.¹⁵⁶ The average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) loss faced by RMCs is between three and 16 percent per year, due to infant and children mortality, and the permanent negative physical and mental effects of undernourishment.¹⁵⁷ Addressing the problem of food insecurity through nourishment programs is proven to be economically advantageous for the African continent, as every dollar of investment into nourishment programs has an estimated return on investment of 16 dollars.¹⁵⁸ Thus, the AfDB has taken a hands-on approach to the issue, with President Adesina making it his personal vision to lead the continent to nutritional security and prosperity.¹⁵⁹

Currently, there are several programs in place to address different aspects of food insecurity and thus a poor quality of life. In 2016, the Bank launched the African Leaders on Nutrition, an effort to achieve a hunger-free continent.¹⁶⁰ This initiative, focused on both increasing investment into nutritional programs as well as promoting more analytical evidence and research about how to best raise the nutritional profile of the continent.¹⁶¹ Some of the primary components of the nutritional program investment of this program will focus on Vitamin A fortification, new, supportive breastfeeding policies, and food fortification.¹⁶²

The World Food Programme (WFP) operates several programs across 80 Member States to provide nutritional assistance to millions of individuals in need.¹⁶³ WFP's primary objectives are to provide emergency food services, development aid, and rehabilitation support.¹⁶⁴ Annually, WFP delivers 12.6 billion rations to those in need, making them the leading humanitarian organization devoted to ending hunger.¹⁶⁵ The WFP operates programs such as the Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme in Ghana, as well as school food programs throughout Africa.¹⁶⁶ The MAM Programme targets 96,000 children and 12,000 women who are pregnant or breastfeeding,

¹⁵² World Hunger, Poverty Facts, Statistics 2016 - World Hunger News. <http://www.worldhunger.org/2015-world-hunger-and-poverty-facts-and-statistics/#hunger-number> (Accessed August 19, 2017.)

¹⁵³ Ibid.

¹⁵⁴ World Food Programme. Nutrition | World Food Programme. <http://www1.wfp.org/nutrition> (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ "Nutrition," African Development Bank. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/topics/nutrition/> (Accessed January 21, 2018).

¹⁵⁷ Ibid.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹⁵⁹ "Nutrition," African Development Bank. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/topics/nutrition/> (Accessed January 21, 2018).

¹⁶⁰ "African leaders make economic case for increased nutrition investments," African Development Bank. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/african-leaders-make-economic-case-for-increased-nutrition-investments-15704/> (Accessed January 21, 2018).

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ World Food Programme. "Overview." *Front Page | World Food Programme*, www1.wfp.org/overview (Accessed September 2, 2017.)

¹⁶⁴ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶⁶ *Public Documents Search*, pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/620931449638425255/120415-ticad-lauren-landis.pdf (Accessed August 19, 2017.)

providing them with fortified foods to ensure they receive key nutrients.¹⁶⁷ School food programs focus on providing children with at least one hot meal a day.¹⁶⁸ These programs decrease absenteeism while increasing enrollment, therefore increasing the number of children who are not only able to focus while in school, but also able to complete schooling and move into the workforce both educated and physically able to work.¹⁶⁹

Actions of the United Nations

Food insecurity and the need for improved, sustainable nutritional programs have been recognized and discussed by various committees within the UN, as evident by the numerous resolutions and reports found on the subject. In June 2015, the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) created the UN Global Nutrition Agenda.¹⁷⁰ This Agenda aligned UN agencies in support of nutritional goals by creating a general framework for guiding future actions related to resolving the hunger crisis.¹⁷¹ The Agenda seeks to achieve “optimal nutrition,” by adhering to ten key principles with three priority outcomes.¹⁷² Included in the ten principles are the ideals that: nutrition is a multisector issue, a change in the food system is necessary, stronger healthcare systems are integral, and local adaptation of Member State priorities is vital in the success of nutritional programs.¹⁷³ Additionally, the three priority outcomes are 1) that nutrition be embedded with policies at all levels of government, 2) that quality programs are created, and 3) that adequate support systems are in place to implement programs.¹⁷⁴ It also encouraged collaborative efforts between UN agencies and development partners like the Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Programme, and Network and Communities of Practice for Scaling up Nutrition.¹⁷⁵

Additionally, the UN created the High Level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security (HLTF) in April 2008 due to the dramatic rise of global food prices.¹⁷⁶ The program was led by the UN Secretary-General and brought together 23 heads of UN specialized agencies with the primary task of promoting comprehensive and unified responses to the international community of achieving global food and nutrition security.¹⁷⁷

In November of 1996, the UN hosted the World Food Summit in Rome, Italy, and set a goal of reducing the number of hungry people in the world by 50 percent by 2015.¹⁷⁸ Since then, the UN has continued to monitor and engage in activities to achieve this goal. A main part of attaining this goal is a focus on the MDGs, and further the SDGs to create new and effective programs to help end hunger.¹⁷⁹ In attempt to further this, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN has created the Anti-Hunger Program and the International Alliance Against Hunger, two distinct initiatives designed to create additional resources and encourage public-private partnerships in the mission to end hunger.¹⁸⁰

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ “Improving Africa’s School Feeding Programs: Analysis Sheds Light on Strengths, Challenges.” World Bank, www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/06/09/improving-africas-school-feeding-programs-analysis-sheds-light-on-strengths-challenges (Accessed September 2, 2017.)

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

¹⁷⁰ “UNSCN launches the UN Global Nutrition Agenda.” SUN. <http://scalingupnutrition.org/news/un-global-nutrition-agenda/> (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² “United Nations Global Nutrition Agenda”. Scaling Up Nutrition. <http://scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/UN-Global-Nutrition-Agenda-2015.pdf> (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹⁷³ Ibid.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ “UNSCN launches the UN Global Nutrition Agenda.” SUN. <http://scalingupnutrition.org/news/un-global-nutrition-agenda/> (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹⁷⁶ Food, United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/food/> (Accessed January 22, 2018).

¹⁷⁷ “World Food Summit,” FAO. http://www.fao.org/wfs/index_en.htm (Accessed January 22, 2018).

¹⁷⁸ Ibid.

¹⁷⁹ “Monitoring Progress since the WFS,” FAO. http://www.fao.org/monitoringprogress/initiatives_en.html (Accessed January 22, 2018).

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.

Actions of the AfDB

The AfDB firmly maintains that improving nutrition in states directly leads to the improved quality of life in the state by decreasing poverty, improving health, and decreasing mortality rates.¹⁸¹ Thus, the Bank has invested in nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific activities that help to mitigate this problem across the continent.¹⁸² Perhaps the best example of this is Feed Africa. Feed Africa is an initiative developed by the AfDB to boost Africa's Agricultural potential.¹⁸³ This plan capitalizes on the fact that 60 percent of the world's unused arable land is located in Africa.¹⁸⁴ This initiative has three goals: "contribute to the end of poverty, end hunger and malnutrition, make Africa a net food exporter."¹⁸⁵ Under this initiative, Africa could increase its agricultural production and, with improved market access, reduce poverty, increase food security, contribute to economic stability, and reduce migration and internal conflict.¹⁸⁶

Furthermore, the AfDB is investing in creating projects in RMCs. The RMC is responsible for creating and implementing the project, while the Bank helps to finance the nutritional project through direct investment. For example, in Madagascar, the AfDB invested USD 1 million into the Food and Nutrition Services program of the Great South Region of the Member State to alleviate the heightened increase in malnutrition caused by a severe drought in the region.¹⁸⁷ The primary focuses of the increase in funding are to decrease stunting in the development of children, and increasing the overall health and wellness of those who are suffering.¹⁸⁸

Similarly, the AfDB has invested nearly USD 30 million in the Skills Development and Entrepreneurship Project Supporting Women and Youth in Zambia.¹⁸⁹ This program, which focuses on job creation for women and youth through the growth, sale, and trade of cassava products will directly impact poverty and unemployment in the region, while indirectly contributing to increased food security and strengthened nutritional profiles through fortified cassava products in school and government nutrition programs.¹⁹⁰

Conclusion

Food insecurity is one of the world's biggest problems. Fortunately, it is a problem that, with time, can be resolved. Each year more people die from hunger than tuberculosis, AIDS, and malaria combined.¹⁹¹ While many Member States have nutritional programs in place to combat food insecurity and improve nutrition, there are still millions of people suffering, and the need for continued improvement. The quality of life on the African continent can be directly impacted by investment in programs to decrease food insecurity and increase nutritional support programs. With better nutritional programs, an individual's health will improve, their ability to learn and succeed is no longer diminished, and their life expectancy is lengthened.¹⁹² On a larger scale, these individuals can earn a living wage resulting in decreased poverty levels. Food security may also result in less internal and community conflicts over

¹⁸¹ "Nutrition," African Development Bank. <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/topics/nutrition/> (Accessed January 21, 2018).

¹⁸² Ibid.

¹⁸³ Feed Africa - African Development Bank. <https://www.afdb.org/en/the-high-5/feed-africa/> (Accessed August 11, 2017.)

¹⁸⁴ Ibid.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

¹⁸⁷ "AfDB Group announces USD 1-million emergency grant to mitigate severe malnutrition for Madagascar's Great South Region." African Development Bank. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/afdb-group-announces-usd-1-million-emergency-grant-to-mitigate-severe-malnutrition-for-madagascars-great-south-region-15994/>. (Accessed January 21, 2018).

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ "Zambia: US \$30 million for skills, jobs and entrepreneurship for women and youth in the agriculture sector," The African Development Bank. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/zambia-us-30-million-for-skills-jobs-and-entrepreneurship-for-women-and-youth-in-the-agriculture-sector-14838/>. (Accessed January 21, 2018).

¹⁹⁰ Ibid.

¹⁹¹ World Hunger, Poverty Facts, Statistics 2016 - World Hunger News. <http://www.worldhunger.org/2015-world-hunger-and-poverty-facts-and-statistics/#hunger-number> (Accessed August 14, 2017.)

¹⁹² Ibid.

food shortages. The creation and implementation of nutritional programs will result in not only more food for the masses, but also a sustainable business model that could provide a boost to RMC economies and the global economy.

Committee Directive

Historically, there have been many occasions where international nonprofits have provided food and nutritional assistance to those in need. However, not all of these options provide a sustainable food source. When considering the topic, keep in mind the food and nutritional programs currently in effect within your RMC as well as neighboring RMCs. Also consider their sustainability level and effectiveness. What are ways RMCs and the AfDB could decrease dependence on food imports? Are there more effective ways to provide nutritional assistance to those in need that could be utilized regardless of the challenges (i.e. drought, conflict, locale) faced? What can be done to expand and implement stronger school feeding programs? Could food programs developed for Africa be utilized on a global scale?

Technical Appendix Guide

Topic I: Furthering Private Sector Development for Economic Growth

Banson, K. E., Nguyen, N. C., Bosch, O. J. H., and Nguyen, T. V. “A Systems Thinking Approach to Address the Complexity of Agribusiness for Sustainable Development in Africa: A Case Study in Ghana.” *Syst. Res.* 32: (2015) 672–688. doi: 10.1002/sres.2270.

This article takes a deeper economic view of sustainable development and agriculture. There has been tremendous growth in Ghana and this article looks further at this Member State as a case study to overcoming the obstacles for sustainable agricultural development. By studying from an economic model standpoint, this gives insight into potential failures and obstacles that may need to be overcome. Ghana has been the central point in a lot of case studies given their rapid growth and development.

Gregor, Schwerhoffa; Mouhamadou, Sy. “Financing renewable energy in Africa – Key challenge of the sustainable development goals.” *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*. 75, (2017) 393-401

This article reiterates that sustainable energy is one of the main tenants of supplying sustainable growth. While some may choose to finance and explore alternative energy sources, this article proposes that this will only create more problems down the road, thus dampening long-term sustainability efforts. Focusing on renewable energy not only provides for sustainable energy and growth, but supports the overall UN Sustainable Development Goals. This article reviews all these points and exposes the uncovered areas for exploration.

Gyimah-Brempong, K. “Corruption, economic growth, and income inequality in Africa.” *Economics of Governance*. 3 (2012): 183-209.

This paper explores how corruption has direct impacts on sustainable growth. Specifically, the direct and indirect impacts that corruption has on development, physical capita, growth rates, and income inequality. With a proven correlation between corruption and income equality, this paper discusses the direct impacts on families and their ability to provide for their families.

Topic II: Enhancing Nutritional Programs to Improve Quality of Life

Devereux, Stephen. “Social protection for enhanced food security in sub-Saharan Africa.” *Food Policy*. 60: (2016) 52-62

This article explores the proactive approach of decreasing food insecurity through more social programs, which historically have been lacking in underdeveloped areas such as some found in Sub-Sahara Africa. Taking a look at the social aspects and intersecting this with vulnerabilities specific to each region can help create a more proactive approach in prevention. The article calls for a shift from being reactive to understanding what each region needs and allowing for more protective factors such as food security, income and job equality, social programs, and specific community-based solutions.

O’Connor, Daniel; Boyle, Philip; Ilcan, Suzan; Oliver, Marcia. “Living with insecurity: Food security, resilience, and the World Food Programme (WFP).” *Global Social Policy* 17(1) (2016): 3-20.

This article gives a more in-depth coverage of the World Food Programme (WFP) and its evolution. It elaborates on the impact in which the WFP has already had and how the shift has moved towards resiliency and the connection to food security. Focusing on resiliency allows for a more directed focus on sustainability and resiliency during food crises.

“South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative,” The World Bank.
<http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/safansi>.

SAFANSI is an example of a program that the World Bank is engaging in to help mitigate the problem of malnutrition and its impacts on development throughout the southern portion of the continent. Delegates can use this as a resource to review programs currently in place around the world and evaluate the effectiveness of the techniques.