



G7 SUMMIT CHAIR'S SUMMARY OF THE OUTREACH SESSION ON AFRICA

The G7 Heads of State and Government and the Presidents of the European Council and of the European Commission met in Taormina on 27 May 2017 with the Heads of State and Government of Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria and Tunisia, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Director General of the IMF, the President of the World Bank, the Secretary General of the OECD, the President of the African Union, the President of the African Union Commission and the President of the African Development Bank.

The discussion developed around the question of how the G7, African countries, international and regional organizations can strengthen their partnership in support of Africa's stability, security and sustainable development, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and African Union's Agenda 2063.

Particular attention was given to the potential of innovation and the role of human capital in boosting sustainable and inclusive growth in the continent.

A peaceful, secure and stable Africa

It was stressed that peace and security are fundamental preconditions for sustainable development in Africa. The importance to strengthen cooperation against terrorism and



violent extremism, including through increased G7 support for the training and equipping of local security forces, was emphasized. It was underlined that encouraging political dialogue, enhancing preventive diplomacy and strengthening crisis and conflict management are key factors in laying the foundations of social and economic development. The crucial role of good governance, the rule of law and democratic participation was also pointed out.

In light of the nexus between sustaining peace and sustainable development, it was highlighted that Africa's stability requires effective responses, with the active and continuous support of the international community, to the primary challenges of food security and nutrition, public health, human mobility, quality education, environmental protection and access to sustainable energy. In particular, food insecurity was referred to as one of the most serious challenges and a key-driver of underdevelopment and forced migration.

The need for a comprehensive approach to human mobility - based on partnerships with African countries to effectively address the main drivers of the issue - was underlined.

Unlocking Africa's potential through innovation and human capital development

It was stated that innovation and human capital development can be powerful drivers of sustainable and inclusive development in Africa. The importance of extending the benefits of the New Production Revolution (NPR) to the African continent, drawing inspiration from the G7 People-Centered Action Plan on Innovation, Skills and Labor, was underlined. To this end, awareness has been raised about the need to strengthen the partnership with African countries so as to:

- empower the private sector, also by strengthening traditional SMEs;
- promote innovative entrepreneurial systems, while reinforcing the diversification of production;
- reinforce the development of innovative start-ups and their collaboration with traditional business, starting from the sectors of renewables, agriculture, agri-food and services;
- introduce and spread NPR-enabling infrastructures, such as smart grids and resilient and smart logistics infrastructures;
- strengthen quality employment, through vocational and professional training and the development of new skills, especially for youth;
- empower women and girls and actively promote their inclusion in the labor market.

It was also emphasized that African countries should be supported in attracting increasing flows of private investments.



The importance to assist African countries in developing sound policies and regulatory frameworks, innovative solutions and effective business models for a secure and sustainable energy access was stressed.

The Italian G7 Presidency announced that the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) Plenary Session - to be held in Rome in October 2017 - will be dedicated to the promotion of smart and integrated infrastructure in Africa with a specific agenda for digitalization, de-carbonization and mobility.

A positive momentum

It was pointed out that several elements are concurring to boost investment in the African continent, paving the way to an inclusive and innovation-driven development:

- The G20 efforts, under the current German Presidency, to set up a “Partnership with Africa” through a better financial and regulatory framework;
- The European Commission’s efforts to deploy the “European External Investment Plan”;
- Specific Country-led initiatives, such as the investment pledge made at the VI Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD);
- The African Union “Smart Africa” initiative, also supported by the African Development Bank, which could contribute, *inter alia*, to introducing NPR-enabling Quality Infrastructure in Cities and rural areas.

Promoting a new generation of innovation leaders

The importance to support the emergence of innovation leaders in Africa - including by strengthening links between African and G7 scientific and academic systems - was emphasized.

In this respect, Italy’s announced its intention to launch a “G7 Exchange and Empowerment Program for Emerging African Innovation Leaders”. This pilot program - proposed by Politecnico di Torino and Politecnico di Milano and supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - will contribute to developing a qualified generation of African Innovation Brokers (AIBs).