
Chairs' Conclusions

Africa Advisory Group Video Conference

27 May 2024

- 1 We, the members of the G20 Africa Advisory Group (AAG), met on 27 May 2024. The meeting underscored the invaluable role of peaceful collaboration in achieving sustainable development and strengthening resilience during these turbulent times. Despite myriad challenges, the global economy has demonstrated remarkable resilience. Engaging in multilateral cooperation remains of paramount importance in order to sustain the current gradual yet steady upward trend. As an example, the multilateral Compact with Africa (CwA) initiative has achieved measurable success: despite the unstable macroeconomic landscape, CwA countries have outperformed their African peers economically.
- 2 We extend our gratitude to the World Bank Group (WBG) for the Monitoring Report, prepared in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The report quantifies the robust economic performance of CwA countries, with an average GDP growth rate of 4.2%, which, although lower than in 2022, remains 1.7 percentage points above the growth rate of other African countries. Exports of goods and services in CwA countries increased slightly in 2023 (+2.0%). Furthermore, we welcome the reported increase in climate-related policies to promote green private investment.
- 3 We highly appreciate CwA countries' ongoing commitment to implementing reforms to boost development. During the conference call, we heard numerous descriptions of reforms undertaken by member states such as Ivory Coast, Togo and Tunisia with a particular emphasis on measures to strengthen the private sector and expand infrastructure such as digital technology. We welcome the efforts to continue on the reform path.
- 4 CwA and G20 countries appreciate the valuable technical support provided by the World Bank Group as CwA country teams continue to facilitate the implementation of reforms. We take note of the Compact Countries and World Bank's request for additional financial support in order to reinforce these efforts through the provision of strategic technical assistance to better deliver reforms, mobilize private investments and coordinate partners as part of Country Platforms. We acknowledge the impressive activities carried out by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group to facilitate private capital mobilisation amounting to a volume of 6.2 billion USD since the start of the CwA.
- 5 We value the input from young African entrepreneurs and want to draw upon their feedback to further develop ongoing reforms. We acknowledge their advice, especially in the areas of financing for SMEs, the establishment of support hubs, and the necessity to harness the consumption potential of Africa's growing population. We invite CwA countries to engage in further dialogue with entrepreneurs and to apply lessons learned to the political decision-making process.

- 6 We take note of other countries' growing interest in joining the CwA. We welcome this development, especially in light of increasing calls to intensify regional integration. At present, Angola, Kenya, Namibia and Zambia have requested membership and have been invited to submit their reform programmes to the International Organisations for further analysis.
- 7 We thank all partners for their ongoing commitment to and support for the CwA initiative. We appreciate the European Commission's willingness to further support the CwA by linking it to the EU's Global Gateway initiative. We also take note of the African Union Commission's expressed interest in discussing sound fiscal policies at a future meeting, with a view towards improving access to financial markets and attaining investment grade ratings. Furthermore, we appreciate the Brazilian G20 presidency's support for our ongoing efforts and honour the input from the African Union Commission.
- 8 We have circulated a non-paper among G20 Sherpas, G20 Finance Deputies and all CwA countries that discusses ways to unlock the CwA's full potential, including increased engagement by G20 members to expedite implementation of the CwA 2.0 based on our joint work in the AAG. In the non-paper, we also underline a key takeaway from last year's CwA Conference in Berlin: the request by African partner countries to place a stronger emphasis on cooperation in the energy sector. We aim to comply with this request and enhance energy sector cooperation within the CwA, and we intend to discuss this matter at another joint meeting of G20 and Finance Deputies.
- 9 The Africa Advisory Group is scheduled to reconvene in autumn 2024. The format and exact date will be communicated in due course.