

Press Release Book Launch in Kigali, Rwanda:

Transformative Regional Integration in Africa

Volume 18 of the African Development Perspectives Yearbook

**Launch Event in Kigali, Rwanda, Kigali Convention Centre,
25-27 October 2016, organized by UNECA, Sub-regional Office for
Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) and the University of Bremen, Research
Group on African Development Perspectives Bremen**



Key Insights:

- Transformative Regional Integration in Africa is a concept of interest to policymakers as it allows for the identification of critical constraints and opportunities in the integration process.
- Transformative Regional Integration in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) is a first important step to realize the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) and the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).
- Transformative Regional Integration allows for a country to country assessment of the benefits and costs of a wider and a deeper regional integration as the focus is on the importance of key partners in the region.
- Transformative Regional Integration emphasizes key policy issues (such as food security and agricultural development; ease of doing business; strengthening competitiveness and industrial champions, negotiations about new partnership arrangements with other world regions).
- Transformative Regional Integration benefits from the development of regional value chains (RVCs) and may support the consolidation of the RVCs.



Contents of the Book: Transformative Regional Integration in Africa

In Volume 18 of the African Development Perspectives Yearbook with the title “**Africa’s Progress in Regional and Global Economic Integration – Towards Transformative Regional Integration**” major strategic and policy issues are analysed. The guiding theme is how to make regional integration in Africa more transformative so as to speed up structural transformation. So far regional integration in Africa was based on a conventional (linear) model, starting from preference zones and then moving to free trade areas, customs unions, monetary and economic zones, etc. In this volume a new approach is envisaged. Based on Africa’s deep rooted structural problems the key aspect of a transformative regional integration is how to promote structural change by adapted strategies and policies for the whole region. In this context the African regional economic communities (RECs), but also the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) and the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) are evaluated. Specific problems of a more transformative regional integration agenda are discussed (food security and agriculture; industry, enterprise growth and competition; and agreements with extra-regional partners, like the Economic Partnership Agreements of EU with ECOWAS, SADC and ECA). Regional value chains are related to their regional and sub-regional impacts and to the potential for transformative regional integration. A strategy to speed up transformative regional integration is presented.

Bibliographic References:

Achim Gutowski/Tobias Knedlik/Patrick N. Osakwe/Isabelle Ramdoo/Karl Wohlmuth (Editors), 2016, African Development Perspectives Yearbook 2015/16, Volume 18, Theme: Africa's Progress in Regional and Global Economic Integration – Towards Transformative Regional Integration, Wien/Zürich/Münster: LIT Publishers, Web Access: <http://www.lit-verlag.de/reihe/adpy>) and <http://www.lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-643-90523-9>

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