

The *African Development Perspectives Yearbook* fills a gap in the literature on Africa's development problems. Experts from African institutions and regional organisations, from international organisations, from universities and research institutions, from governmental and non-governmental organisations, and from the donor community analyse issues and report on problems and solutions, on new policies, programmes, projections and visions, and on new and ongoing projects in and for Africa. Various levels of action that are relevant for Africa's development are considered in this Yearbook – the international community in its relations to Africa, interregional and national issues of Africa's development, but also local projects and local development achievements are documented.

Africa's development perspectives are therefore analysed and commented from the global to the local space, by presenting analytical surveys and policy statements, declarations and programmes of international, regional, national, and voluntary organisations and associations. It is also the purpose of the *African Development Perspectives Yearbook* to establish a news-and-information network, and a forum for international communication on Africa's development perspectives.

The African Development Perspectives Yearbook Volume XVIII:

Africa's Progress in Regional and Global Economic Integration - Towards Transformative Regional Integration

In Volume 18 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 issue is how to make regional integration in Africa more transformative. So far regional integration in Africa is based on a conventional (linear) model, starting from trade preference zones and then moving to free trade areas, customs unions, monetary and economic zones, etc. with the ultimate goal to reach political unity. Based on Africa's deep rooted structural problems the key aspect of a transformative regional integration is how to promote structural transformation by adapted strategies and policies for the African regional economic communities (RECs), but also for the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) and the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). Also, specific problems of a more transformative regional integration agenda are discussed (food security and agriculture; industry development, enterprise growth and competition; and economic partnership agreements with extra-regional partners, like the Economic Partnership Agreements of the EU with ECOWAS and EAC). In a final part, three global value chains of importance for Africa (for diamonds, shea butter, and sesame) are considered in their impact on regions, on sub-regions, and on regional integration.

Complementary to Volume 18 is Volume 19 with the title "Africa's Progress in Regional and Global Economic Integration – Towards New Trade and Investment Policies". Two major issues are discussed – first, the role of "New Trade Policies in Africa for Structural Change" and second, the role of "New Investment Policies in Africa for Structural Change". The role of newly conceived policies to support a more transformative regional integration process for Africa is analysed through analytical surveys and country cases. In a final part important new books on the theme are reviewed.

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