
Chairs' Conclusions

Africa Advisory Group Video Conference

27 October 2020

1. Governments acted quickly and decisively to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic and its intertwined health, social and economic impacts; however, we remain in the grip of the global pandemic. Multilateral cooperation between all partners of the Compact with Africa is driven by the notion that there is no dichotomy between health and the economy. We need to address the health pandemic as well as the economic fallout.
2. The global economy will not recover fully until equitable and affordable access to vaccines for all is ensured. We therefore welcome that much progress has been made towards accelerating the equitable distribution of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, notably by the ACT-A mechanism and the COVAX Facility.
3. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated debt vulnerabilities and threatened the fiscal sustainability of many countries. We therefore welcome that the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors have extended the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) for at least six months beyond the end of 2020. We welcome that the G20 have endorsed a common framework for debt restructurings. Forty-six countries in total have requested to benefit from the DSSI – among them six Compact countries.
4. It is clear that member countries of the Compact with Africa made great gains in competitiveness before the global pandemic. Looking at the investment dynamics over the past 12 months, Compact countries look relatively more resilient compared to the rest of Africa. Growth in Compact countries accelerated since the initiative's launch and outpaced emerging-market and developing-country peers.
5. As uncertainty remains high, it is now time to redefine the path of sustainable development; to think beyond the crisis response; to further increase the economic potential of Compact countries and to strengthen investor confidence. Our ambition is to build back better.
6. Against this background, we would like to thank the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund for their Private Sector Investment Report and the African Center for Economic Transformation for its Independent Peer Review Note, which outline the current challenges in Compact countries and provide for a wide variety of detailed policy recommendations.
7. Dedicated support from G20 partners and international organisations remains crucial. In this regard, our outreach to the private sector needs to be stronger. Investor events such as the Africa Investment Forum have created a lot of awareness for the 12 Compact countries and need to be resumed as soon as possible.
8. We expect the international organisations to assist Compact countries throughout the different stages of the pandemic – rescue, restructuring and recovery – and also to provide

advice to Compact countries on regional integration and urbanisation as important growth and investment drivers in the future to complement the pre-Covid drivers. Compact teams on the ground provide a valuable platform that enable all partners to discuss those issues and reach out to the private sector. In this regard, we call upon all partners of the Compact with Africa to boost Compact team activities.

9. We would like to thank all partners for their ongoing commitment to and support for the Compact with Africa initiative. In particular, we appreciate the Saudi Arabian G20 Presidency's support for our ongoing efforts and welcome the commitment of the upcoming Italian G20 Presidency to continue the Compact with Africa initiative.
10. The Africa Advisory Group is expected to reconvene in Spring 2021; the format and exact date will be communicated in due course.