

# Global Agenda Council on Africa 2012-2014



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## Understanding/Context

Africa's narrative is changing from a continent in need of aid to a place of opportunity for growth and prosperity. Many African countries are seeking emerging-economy status within the next two decades, which they could achieve if they are able to sustain double-digit growth. These high aspirations call for new governance models to capitalize on opportunities and address new challenges. Africa also needs to identify quality growth models that increase competitiveness and employment while lowering poverty. Concurrently, Africa's swelling consumer base is offering new retail opportunities.

## Shaping the Agenda

After examining which challenges relevant to the continent it could have an impact on, the Global Agenda Council on Africa identified the following six focus points: three pertaining to building human capacity, through education, entrepreneurship and talent mobility; one specific to the China-Africa dialogue; one on the post-2015 Development Agenda; and the last one on natural resources management. The Council is producing policy briefs on each of these work streams and providing recommendations that governments and businesses can implement. So far, the Council has:

- Aligned itself with the three main regional organizations on the continent: the African Development Bank (AfDB); the African Union Commission (AUC); and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). In the first year, the Council visited the AfDB headquarters in Tunis to coordinate its work and that of the AfDB.
- Organized and will continue organizing events during Forum activities that reflect and highlight the priorities of the Council, such as private events at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos-Klosters and the World Economic Forum on Africa in Abuja.

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Over the next year, the Council will finalize the policy briefs on the above themes to advance the dialogue at the Annual Meeting 2014. It will also prepare a presentation of the outcomes for the 2014 World Economic Forum on Africa and for the Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank in May 2014, with specific recommendations that can be implemented in a short-term framework. At the same time, it will continue to align its work with the key regional organizations, including a visit to the AUC. A legacy should be built so that the work of the Council continues beyond this two-year term. Some of the work streams will need to be housed in different organizations across the continent to be continued, which the Council will work on in the first half of 2014.

## Contact Information

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