



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING FOUNDATION | FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE
Securing Africa's future through capacity development



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**ACBF NOW
PERFECTLY ANCHORED**
within Africa's development
architecture

**EGYPT AND THE GULF:
NEW INROADS SOUGHT**

STI'S
way to go for Africa

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AU Commission chairperson H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat (left) welcomes ACBF Executive Secretary Professor Emmanuel Nnadozie to the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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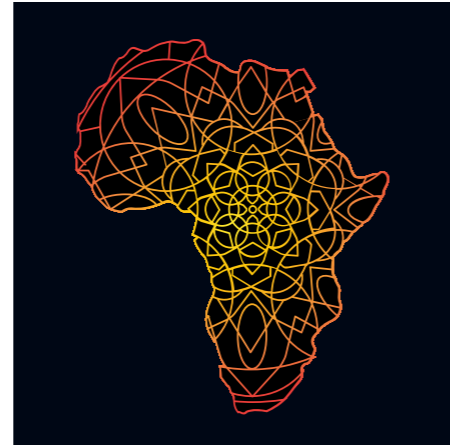
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We cannot do it on our own

Dear reader,

Last year, as we celebrated 25 years of serving Africa through robustly coordinating capacity development programs worth over 700 million US dollars across 45 countries and 8 regional economic communities since 1991, we went back to the drawing board to ensure that capacity development becomes the cornerstone of the continent's sustainable development trajectory. To be sure, capacity development was the missing link in various continental, sub-regional and national development plans.

The good news is that with our Strategy 2017-2021 there is cause for optimism, thanks to the recognition and confidence our various partners in and out of Africa are showing us. The Foundation has become the Specialized Agency of the African Union for capacity development, especially in the context of Agenda

2063 - Africa's blueprint for sustainable development by the year 2063. While we humbly accept this role, we are aware of the immense task ahead and we are grateful for the unwavering support of African governments, bilateral and multilateral partners and others.

We are also heartened by the

greater awareness and emphasis being placed on building, retaining and utilizing capacity by African leaders, Member States and our institutional partners. To effectively deliver on our new strategy, we shall focus on its 4 pillars:

- 1) enable the effective delivery of continental development priorities;
- 2) support countries to achieve tangible development results;
- 3) enhance private sector and civil society contributions to sustainable development; and
- 4) leverage knowledge and learning to increase development effectiveness. We will continue to mobilize resources for capacity development, provide capacity development and advisory services, extend grants and manage funds and provide knowledge services and innovations in capacity development.

We are confident to deliver upon this promise in the next five years because as your Foundation, we have gathered the requisite experience that makes us the go-to institution for expert knowledge and human resources to advise and support African countries, regional economic communities and institutions on decisive steps to take to develop the practical skills and institutions urgently required for the continent's economic transformation. But we cannot do it on our own. We need your support in every way. Get in touch with us today via root@acbf-pact.org.



Prof Emmanuel Nnadozie, ACBF Executive Secretary
Photo: Elizabeth Ankomah



The AU headquarters in Addis Ababa where ACBF has been making a serious case for the AU and the RECs

ACBF to deepen its working relations

effectiveness.”

ACBF will therefore capitalize on this status to better respond to the urgent capacity needs of African countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs), especially implementing Agenda 2063 in tandem with the global Sustainable Development Goals. ACBF has been making a serious case for the African Union and the RECs to get well equipped to leverage the continental Agenda, especially through its evidence-backed recommendations in study reports on capacity development imperatives for Agenda 2063 as well as in the ‘Survey of the Capacity Needs of Africa’s Regional Economic Communities and Strategies for Addressing Them.’

The status conferral provides the Foundation an opportunity to deepen its working relations with all African Union Member States, the relevant structures of the African Union Commission as well as African institutions such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Afreximbank, not leaving out multilateral partners such as the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), for the benefit of the continent. ●

ACBF now perfectly anchored within Africa’s development architecture

The Foundation is endorsed as the African Union’s SPECIALIZED AGENCY for CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Efforts to place capacity building at the center of development management in Africa were kicked several notches up following the formal endorsement of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) as the African Union Commission’s Specialized Agency for Capacity Development, early this year.

The endorsement which

became official following the Resolutions of the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in January 2017, is steel proof of the appreciation by African Union Member States of the unparalleled position of ACBF as the hub of expert knowledge and human resources on capacity development in Africa. This is based on 26 years of solid work done

by the Foundation to advise and support African countries, regional economic communities and institutions on decisive steps to take to develop the key institutions and the practical skills urgently required for the continent’s economic transformation.

“We do accept with humility, this endorsement of the African Union which is a clear pointer to

the fact that for the past 26 years, ACBF has undoubtedly proved, through its work, to be the African knowledge and capacity building service provider of choice,” said an elated Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie, who is the Executive Secretary of ACBF.

“In over two decades, we have robustly coordinated capacity development programs worth over 700 million US dollars across 45 countries and helped to set up over 40 reliable policy think tanks that do an indispensable job of advising African governments on the policies to implement to drive development through capacity development.

“Our production of several

hundred evidence-based knowledge products on Africa’s capacity needs, and practical trajectories to take in developing, using and retaining capacities homed in Africa, have proved to be torch-bearing and we have made a solid promise to deliver even more for the continent in our 2017-2021 Business Strategy. This strategy is based on four pillars, namely: enabling the effective delivery of continental development priorities, supporting countries to achieve tangible development results, enhancing private sector and civil society to contribute to sustainable development and leveraging knowledge and learning to increase development



Egypt (left) and the Gulf from space: A partnership with ACBF will see Egypt becoming a gateway for Gulf countries' support for capacity development in Africa

Egypt and the Gulf:

New inroads sought for Africa's capacity and development

In February, an ACBF delegation to Cairo, led by the Executive Secretary, Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie had a working meeting with three Egyptian government ministers who showed keen interest in forging relations with the ACBF for the country's development as well as on how ACBF should reposition itself to better serve Africa given the continent's huge capacity needs.

The ministers were:



H.E. Ahmed Kouhouk, Vice Minister of Finance for Fiscal Policies and Institutional Reforms

Photo: Amr Abdallah Dalsh / Reuters



H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Edrees, Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister for African Affairs

Photo: <http://inyarwanda.com>



H.E. Ambassador Amgad Abdel Ghaffar, Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister for Organizations

Photo: <http://linkedin.com>

The Egyptian officials said Egypt was willing to revive its cooperation with African countries and to share its best practices and experiences in capacity development. A partnership with ACBF could be catalytic in this regard. The ACBF delegation also expressed the view that a partnership between the Foundation and Egypt would constitute a gateway for seeking Gulf countries' support to capacity development in Africa through ACBF. The issue on membership of Egypt to the Foundation was particularly discussed and the Egyptian authorities promised to seriously consider and follow it up with the Minister of Finance.

The ensuing discussion covered how ACBF should position itself in the African Union architecture to leverage the various partnerships between Africa and the rest of the World, and especially with the League of Arab countries.

The Executive Secretary expressed ACBF's gratitude to all Egyptian officials for the meeting and promised to follow up on these milestone discussions to build a win-win partnership between Egypt and ACBF. ●



The smiles tell it: ACBF Executive Secretary Prof Emmanuel Nnadozie (seated, extreme right) poses with Dr. Benedict O. Oramah, President of Afreximbank (seated middle) and their support staff after signing a landmark MOU between the two organizations

ACBF-Afreximbank

partnership to support Africa

Africa stands to benefit from further initiatives to support intra-African trade, mitigate specific country risks, better university curricular on trade finance and the financing of general capacity development initiatives, following the birth of a strong new partner-

ship between ACBF and the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) at the start of the year.

The two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to this effect in January at the Afreximbank headquarters in Cairo. The MOU was signed by Dr.

Benedict O. Oramah, President of Afreximbank, and Prof. Emmanuel Nnadozie, Executive Secretary of ACBF.

Ever since, both sides have had their hands on the plough to action it with ongoing strategic work from a joint-committee that was set up for this purpose.

The joint-committee is responsible for the implementation of the Activity Implementation Plan and meets at least once a year in order to evaluate its execution, to assess progress in the implementation of the MOU and recommend any measures that may be deemed necessary to ensure an effective implementation of the MOU. ●



With a handshake, Prof Emmanuel Nnadozie (left) seals the MOU with Dr Benedict Oramah



ACBF's Reports on STI, Agenda 2063

Africa Capacity Report 2017

According to the 6th edition of the Africa Capacity Report (ACR 2017), launched across nine capital cities in Africa as well as in Stockholm (Sweden), science, technology and innovation (STI) have become even more critical for Africa after the adoption of the continent's long-term development blueprint, Agenda 2063, the

commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's own industrialization strategy.

Interestingly, Agenda 2063 is underpinned by STI as the engine of sustainable growth and economic transformation – a fact that led to the adoption of a 10-year Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) by

AU leaders in June 2014. This makes the theme of ACR 2017 – “Building Capacity for Science, Technology and Innovation for Africa's Transformation” – very timely indeed.

The report which is based on surveys carried out in 44 countries across the continent makes a clear case for better ways of pursuing financing for development through

The future in their hands: The Africa Capacity Report 2017 was launched simultaneously in multi-locations, including (above) Accra, Ghana

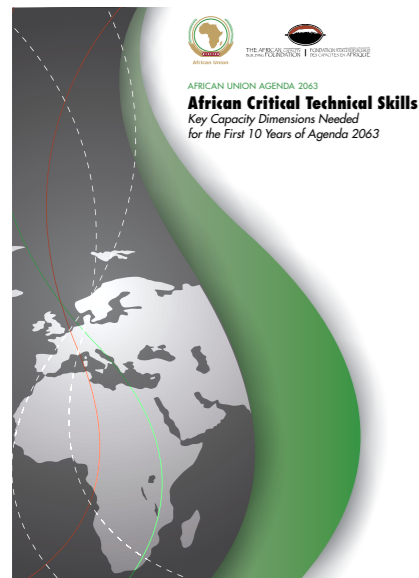
STI, developing regional strategies for the development of the sector; revolutionizing capacity development; and, investing substantially in higher education/research with the right tools. In fact, the publication says African countries must commit to honoring the one per cent of GDP pledge for research and development (R&D) investment they made in 1980 and 2005, and even take it further, to around three per cent of GDP.

Currently, Africa accounts for about 5 per cent of global GDP, but is responsible for only 1.3 per cent of global expenditure on R&D. As a result, Africa remains disadvantaged on overall STI effort due to the low investment in STI capacity development. But for the continent to become competitive globally and close its development gap with the rest of the world, African governments must plug the STI investment gap.

The multi-location launch of the report was an opportunity for African Capacity Building Foundation to emphasize its commitment to coordinate STI capacity development on the continent by building strategic partnerships as part of its 2017–2021 Strategy in support of the African Union Commission's work in ensuring that STI is indeed the enabler in implementing Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. ●

Trilogy on Africa's Capacity Imperatives for achieving Agenda 2063

At the start of the year, ACBF officially unveiled a set of three detailed reports on what Africa needs to do in earnest to implement Agenda 2063, produced in collaboration with the Africa Union Commission (AUC). These are:



1) "AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063 African Critical Technical Skills Key Capacity Dimensions Needed for the First 10 Years of Agenda 2063"

This publication observes that the single biggest challenge to ownership of Africa's development agenda and management of its key development programs is grounded in the issue of critical technical skill (CTS) in Africa. To achieve the vision of Agenda 2063, as well as Africa's ideology and existential imperative to fulfill its destiny as a great continent of the future, it must own, use, and have faith in its own CTS professionals, trained and working to a world-class standard. This document is therefore essentially about pursuing skills enhancement and improving enabling environments to achieve better outcomes.

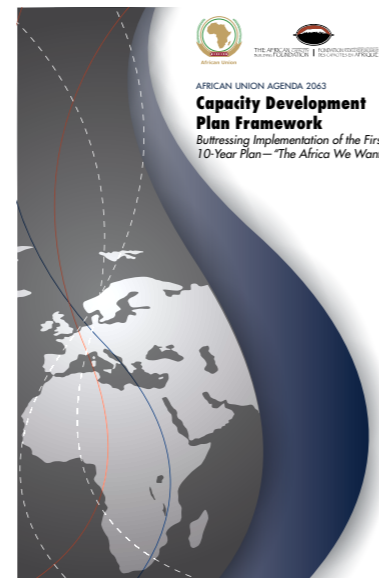


2) AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063 Capacity Requirements for the New African Vision Agenda 2063— 'The Africa We Want'

This report provides a conceptual and operational framing of imperatives and capacity issues required for delivering Agenda 2063.

The nature of the assignment required a flexible system to be used for consultation, information and data gathering, and analysis.

The document is in line with the AUC's assessment of the capacities required for implementing Agenda 2063 at the continental and regional levels (and subsequently at the national level). The document was developed after close collaboration between ACBF and the AUC.



3) AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063 Capacity Development Plan Framework Buttressing Implementation of the First 10-Year Plan - 'The Africa We Want'

This capacity development plan (CDP) document proposes multilevel and multistakeholder CDPs that identify an initial set of foundational capacity-strengthening activities for the First 10-Year Implementation Plan (first 10-year plan) of Agenda 2063.

The document is in line with the African Union Commission's assessment of the capacities required for implementing Agenda 2063 at the continental and regional levels (and subsequently at the national level). The document was developed after close collaboration between ACBF and the AUC.



Good night, good knight: Prof. Callisto Enias Madavo, ACBF Executive Board chairperson who passed away on 12 January 2017

matters including urbanization in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He championed a number of initiatives at the World Bank including the HIV/AIDS initiative, capacity development and infrastructure.

He oversaw a myriad of World Bank-supported activities in 47 sub-Saharan African countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia and Sudan. The main activities focused on economic growth and poverty reduction, and promotion of good governance. Other activities included private sector development, post-conflict programs, and social sector development. He was responsible for over 1300 staff with an administrative budget of more than 250 million a year and annual commitment of more than US\$ 4 billion in loans and grants. He did the same for East Asia in Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar.

After retiring from the World Bank, Prof. Madavo served as a visiting professor to the African Studies Program of the George Washington University, teaching a course on African Development.

Prof. Madavo held a Ph.D. (1969) from the University of Notre Dame in Development Economics.

Upon receiving the sad news of his passing, the ACBF Board of Governors, the Executive Board and the Secretariat conveyed their most sincere condolences to Mrs. Madavo, their children and all the members of their family for the irrecoverable loss to them and to the African continent as a whole.

May he rest in peace. ●

Tribute to our late Executive Board Chair:

Prof. Callisto Enias Madavo

It was with great shock that the ACBF family woke up, on 12 January 2017, to the news of the passing of Prof. Callisto Enias Madavo, who was the Chair of its Executive Board till his death.

A great son of Africa and a true promoter of capacity development for an Africa-driven sustainable development, Prof. Madavo was elected as Chair of the ACBF Executive Board on October 20, 2014.

Prof. Madavo held several

senior level positions at the World Bank, including Vice President for the Africa Region, after serving as Country Director for East Asia, Country Director for East Africa, and Division Chief of the Pakistan Programs Department. More recently, he served as a special advisor to the President of the World Bank.

Prof. Madavo had extensive experience in developmental work in a wide range of country program issues as well as sectoral



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MORE THAN



40 **THINK TANKS**

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