



Institut | Aspen France

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL EUROPE-AFRICA CONFERENCE

« *Africa: New Actors, New Partnerships* »

FONDATION MERIEUX – ANNECY, SEPTEMBER 1-3, 2006

By confronting the points of view of actors and decision-makers from the economic, political and academic worlds, those from NGOs and from the informal sector, paying special attention to proposals made by Africans, and with a concern for coming up with concrete recommendations, the Institut Aspen France Europe-Africa conferences have, for over ten years, provided in-depth reflections on development conditions in Africa and the relations between the two continents.

Topics such as the emergence of the African private sector, the challenge of globalization, regional integration, the private sector's contribution to NEPAD's operations and the impact of international trade rules have thus been covered at the meetings organized every other year on the shores of Annecy Lake.

Since the last conference in August 2004, interest in Africa has been increasing in the countries to the North, as can be seen in the G8 Summit in Gleneagles in July 2005. At the same time, new dynamics have been developing, as have new flows of people, goods and capital, sources of risks as well as opportunities. Will Africa be able to take advantage of this new environment or will it suffer again?

A preparatory meeting was held in Accra in November 2005, at the invitation of the Ghanaian government. It enabled us to identify the questions that will be at the heart of this seventh international conference: Africa's evolution in the new world economic and political situation, the redefinition of partnerships, the appearance of new actors and Africa's capacity to handle the effects of globalization.

For the first time, Institut Aspen France will cover these questions in plenary sessions as well as in thematic workshops.

The program for this conference was prepared with the active cooperation of **Jean-Christophe Bas** (*Development Policy Dialogue Manager, World Bank, member of the Executive Board, Institut Aspen France*), **François Jay** (*Investment Officer, French Development Agency*), **Patrick Guillaumont** (*President, Cerdi*), **Olivier Lafourcade** (*President, OML Consultants*), **Henry Marty-Gauquié** (*Director for France, European Investment Bank*), **Albert Owusu-Sarpong** (*Ambassador of Ghana to France*), **Pascal Peyrou** (*Executive Director, Sopat*), **Daniel Pouzadoux** (*Advisor, Forum Francophone des Affaires*) et **Patrick Sevaistre** (*European Manager, EU-SADC Investment Promotion Program*).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2006

Welcoming and check-in

AFTERNOON

PALACE DE MENTHON

Route des Bains, 74290 Menthon St Bernard - France
Tel: (33 4) 50 64 83 00 - Fax: (33 4) 50 64 83 81

5:00 – 6:30 p.m

INTRODUCTORY ROUNDTABLES (PALACE DE MENTHON)

Three roundtables will be held concurrently in the Hotel's lounges:

- 1) Cultures, religions and beliefs in Africa: what impact do they have on development?
- 2) Bilateral and multilateral aid: what is the situation? Effects and complementarity.
- 3) How can the major healthcare challenges be met?

8:00 p.m

WELCOME COCKTAIL AND OPENING DINNER
Palace de Menthon

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2006

FONDATION MERIEUX – CENTRE DES PENSIERES
55, route d'Annecy
74290 Veyrier du Lac – France

9:00 a.m.

WELCOMING AND OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

SESSION I

SINCE 2004 (ANNECY CONFERENCE VI): WHERE IS AFRICA TODAY?

This first session will be an opportunity to take stock of Africa today: firstly, concerning developments in traditional issues over the past two years – since the last Institut Aspen France conference in August 2004, and secondly, the new processes that are emerging or developing and which may significantly affect the African continent in the years to come.

- Evolution of conflicts and the political situation; The state of regional integration; Macroeconomic developments; The situation of the private sector; How are Africa's relations with its external partners evolving? The Gleneagles Declaration, WTO Conference in Hong Kong, The Paris Conference on innovative development financing: what has become of the international community's decisions to double aid to Africa and how are institutional agreements being implemented?
- What are the new global dynamics that have or will have a major impact on Africa's development: Asia's emergence and boom; South-South relations; the explosion of migratory flows, etc.? How should we interpret these developments and the ensuing prospects?

These topics could be covered in sub-sessions dedicated, respectively, to the political and geopolitical environment, economic questions and the institutional context.

12:30 – 2:15 p.m.

LUNCH

Keynote Speaker (tba)

2:30 – 5:45 p.m.

SESSION II

AFRICA AND ITS PARTNERS: DEVELOPMENTS AND PROSPECTS

India, China... New actors are emerging or strengthening their presence on the African continent. What are the risks and opportunities? Will the traditional partners be called into question? Is Europe still a partner? What consequences will these changes have for the private sector?

This session will be held in the form of concurrent workshops which will provide an opportunity for more in-depth discussions on certain topics. The minutes will be discussed in a plenary session on Sunday morning.

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

WORKSHOPS

The workshops will be held at the Mérieux Foundation.

Workshop 1 - Emergence of the South: Risks and Opportunities for Africa

The emergence of new economic actors and “partners” in Africa: is this a temporary presence or will it be durable? What might the consequences be, firstly on development policies, and secondly on relations between Africa and its traditional partners? Notably, what might be the effects of China and India’s immense needs for energy, raw materials and agricultural products? What role is South Africa developing: an economic driving force or a regional power? How can we encourage the flow of investments toward Africa from these new actors in the worldwide economy? Won’t this emergence of Asia also have negative effects on Africa? How can Africa foresee them and protect itself against them?

Workshop 2 - Europe-Africa: New Partnerships?

As the European Union and its Member States are the main donors worldwide, what can we say about European development aid strategy today (budgetary assistance for projects, programs, etc.) and what are the consequences of the Union’s expansion?

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) are the new context of Europe-Africa cooperation. Their consequences are not yet fully understood by the Africans. This workshop will be an opportunity to present them better, to debate them and to launch discussions on what needs to be formalized to adapt to and confront this new challenge.

How can Africans influence European policies concerning them?

Workshop 3 – African Businesses in this New Environment

How does the African private sector perceive developments in the international environment and the emergence of these new actors? Can they take advantage of the situation? How can the business climate be adapted to this new situation so as to optimize African businesses’ chances and roles in development?

It will also be important to determine the expectations of African businesses in terms of partnerships with their counterparts in the OECD and Asian countries. What are their expectations for financing, what methods are best suited to the African economic fabric, technical assistance, new opportunities in an expanded Europe or with new partners? The participants may also discuss the role of the European private sector, which, to a degree, is also a new development actor in the context of new partnerships: “North-South business partnerships” have major groups supporting development actions through their sustainable development projects. The groups thus ensure the continuation of their operations by investing in the economic environment in the widest meaning of the term: healthcare, training, promoting local entrepreneurship, creating subcontracting centers, etc.

4:45 – 5:45 p.m.

PLENARY SESSION ROUNDTABLE

MIGRATION: OBSTACLE OR CHANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT?

In Africa’s participation in its own development, what is the link between migration and development? What is the role of migrations and diasporas? How can we encourage the migrants’ financial transfers to their home countries?

What is the outlook for these diverse fields?

EVENING

OFFICIAL DINNER

Guest Speaker - tba

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2006

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

SESSION III

PLENARY SESSION ON THE MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOPS

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SESSION IV

HUMAN CAPITAL, THE KEY TO AFRICA’S SUCCESS

Africa’s human resources and the investments dedicated to them are at the heart of the challenges facing the continent.

How is Africa going to invest in its people today? What policies are best suited in terms of training and employment? How can the brain drain be managed so as to keep the most talented people at home?

How can we encourage the development of leadership among the upcoming generations, with the appropriate criteria of modern governance? How can the new generations make up for Africa’s weaknesses and make it more attractive?

Can we help women to become a driving force for development, and if so, how?

12:30 p.m.

CONCLUSION OF THE DEBATES

1:00 p.m.

INFORMAL CLOSING LUNCH