

## Investment and Economic Growth: CSO Perspectives



*'Dance for and with the people but not to the tune of the donors'*

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## Investment and economic growth:

### An Overview

Progressively an increasing number of countries across Africa are registering positive economic growth due to supportive internal and external factors such as:

- Emerging democracies
- Improving peace and security
- Prudent economic policies
- ODA support
- Private-led investments

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## Challenges

- Growth has neither been pro-people nor pro-poor and it has *inter alia* promoted gender and income disparities
- Economic growth has not been evened with human development.
- Growth is slowed by unfavourable international trade instruments.
- The debt burden
- Corruption
- ODA :
  - Decreasing
  - Tied to restrictive conditionalities
  - Driven by external/OECD interests
  - In form of debt
- The impact of TICAD is limited

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## Recommendation 1:

### Investment and sustainable economic growth.

- Providing clear milestones towards increasing ODA to 0.7% of GNI by 2015
- Address the Debt problem
- Increase the proportion of Japanese ODA apportioned to grants and reduce the proportion to loans.
- Ensuring that ODA responds to the spirit and intent of the Paris declaration.
- Concerted efforts to fight corruption

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## Recommendation 2:

### Fair Trade

- Expedite growth of RECs and AU in order to promote and strengthen Intra-Africa trade *and in particular ease cross border movement of people and goods*
- Extend investment incentives to local investors and Japan to reciprocate through establishment of preferential trading conditions for African traders
- Respond to African concerns such as EPAs, subsidies and dumping of cheap products .
- Support entrepreneurship development in Africa and particularly African enterprise development and capital accumulation.

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## Recommendation 3:

### Women's and men's participation in and benefit from economic growth by:

- Increasing funding to institutions that promote micro enterprise and savings among the poor
- Investing in pro-poor agricultural and rural infrastructure
- Ease/streamline migration and tax restrictions so as to enhance the capacity of Africans in the Diaspora to freely remit funds back into Africa.
- Increase role of CSOs in national and international policy agenda setting.

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**Recommendation 4:**  
 Make economic growth and development  
 visible in people's livelihoods



**Visibility contd!**

- Community empowerment
- Delivering basic needs – basic steps for poverty reduction.
- Infrastructure development should respond to both social/livelihood needs as well as broad economic considerations.
- Enhancing peoples productive capacities
- Addressing/righting social distortions.

**Rural Transport Patterns vs  
 conventional approaches**



**Sustain the smiles of Africa people!**

