



International Call for Papers:

Volume 23 (2022) of the African Development Perspectives Yearbook with the title “Business Opportunities, Start-ups and Digital Transformation in Africa”

Invited are contributions for Volume 23 (2022) of the African Development Perspectives Yearbook with the title “**Business Opportunities, Start-ups and Digital Transformation in Africa**”. The contributions should be evidence-based and policy-oriented. High academic standards are requested and will be reviewed by referees. Non-technical papers with deep analysis, which are readable by practitioners in development cooperation and by media people, have a high priority in the selection process. The analytical concept of the proposed contribution and the methodological framework of analysis should be outlined in the Abstract which is submitted to the Editors.

Upon acceptance of the paper, the *Contributors* will receive Editorial Guidelines and a Template. Accepted papers will be grouped into Thematic Units, and the respective Unit Editors will contact the contributors quite regularly during the process of finalization to discuss the drafts.

Guest Editors for various Thematic Units are also invited to apply. Editors of Thematic Units are also named as Volume Editors. Guest Editors are responsible for a Thematic Unit with three to five (3 – 5) contributions and an Introduction. For specific themes see below the Main Issues proposed by the Editors for Volume 23 (2022). These proposed themes are only examples. The Editors are open to present and to accept further suggestions. The Festschrift at the occasion of “Thirty Years (1989-2019) of the African Development Perspectives Yearbook” was released recently and has approved this format of the Yearbook editions. Guest Editors and Contributors will get a copy of the Festschrift, as it contains valuable suggestions for further improvements of the African Development Perspectives Yearbook.

See the *Context* of the **African Development Perspectives Yearbook** and as well the activities of the Africa Research Programme of the **Research Group on African Development Perspectives Bremen** at IWIM (Institute for World Economics and International Management), University of Bremen: <http://www.iwim.uni-bremen.de/africa/africanyearbook.htm>, and: http://www.iwim.uni-bremen.de/afrikanische_entwicklungsperspektiven_research_group/. The **African Development Perspectives Yearbook** is published since 1989. The volumes 20 and 21 (for the years 2018 and 2019) were on the theme “**Science, Technology and Innovation Policies for Inclusive Growth in Africa**”. In 2019, the Research Group celebrated the event of 30 years of publishing the **African Development Perspectives Yearbook**. The volume 22 (2020/2021) is in print, and the title is “**Sustainable Development Goal Nine (Infrastructure,**

Industrialization, Innovation) and African Development – Challenges and Opportunities“. It will be released early in 2021. The timetable for volume 23 (2022) is presented below.

The Editors also invite publishers and institutes to send books and issues of periodicals as well as research discussion papers and documents being of relevance to the theme of volume 23 for review and information in the *Book Reviews/Book Notes Section* of the **African Development Perspectives Yearbook**. The **Book Reviews/Book Notes Editor** is Prof. Dr. Samia Satti Osman Mohamed Nour (Ph.D.), Full Professor of Economics, Economics Department, Faculty of Economic and Social Studies, Khartoum University, P. O. Box 321, Khartoum 11115, Sudan, E-mail: samiasatti@yahoo.com; alternative E-mail addresses are: samia_satti@hotmail.com and samiasatti78@gmail.com. You can start now to send material for review directly to her. Collections of relevant books can be reviewed in the form of review essays.

The theme for volume 23 (2022) on **“Business Opportunities, Start-ups and Digital Transformation in Africa”** is related to the ongoing global digital transformation, with impacts on productive sectors and the society also in Africa. African countries are differently advancing in the process of digital transformation, and some countries are even leading in this process by presenting digital solutions to current problems as we can see now in the COVID-19 crisis. The COVID-19 crisis reveals that health systems, education systems, government structures, financial services, and manufacturing processes are impacted by the digital transformation. Digital platforms give access to medical innovations, give information about hygiene advice, and provide for local availability of health protection utensils so that those living in remote rural areas and in semi-urban areas can also be reached. Those who are working in informal sector occupations get also access to digital media. In manufacturing sectors, we see a process of repurposing of industries towards basic goods for protecting people from COVID-19. We also encourage contributions along these lines.

The volume 23 (2022) of the African Development Perspectives Yearbook will cover three main issues:

First, *the new business opportunities created by the digital transformation* will be reviewed. Consumers, producers, traders, and entrepreneurs benefit from the new business opportunities. New products, new services, new forms of cooperation, and new supply chains emerge.

Second, *the digital transformation increases the number of start-ups and venture capital funds* in Africa. All types of start-ups are growing rapidly in Africa, and digital entrepreneurship is advancing not only in technology hubs but in all areas where Internet access is given. The many emerging start-ups (in all productive sectors and in all branches of digital transformation) and finance institutions (from venture capital funds to impact, innovation and technology funds) are important for employment creation, structural transformation, poverty reduction, and the connection to local, regional and global markets.

Third, there are *longer-term implications of the digital transformation for the productive sectors*, mainly for manufacturing sectors and for agribusiness. But there are also strong impacts on services and administration sub-sectors.

It is an intention to publish in volume 23 country-specific, company-specific and sector-specific digital transformation cases, company success stories, but also analytic essays on the perspectives of the “fourth industrial revolution” for Africa and on the impacts of “globalization 4.0” on Africa. It is also of great interest to see how informal sectors can become part of the core economy in Africa through the digital transformation. COVID-19 is affecting the pace of the digital transformation in Africa, and this process needs to be documented.

Main Issues proposed by the Editors for the Thematic Units of Volume 23 (see below some suggestions of themes for Contributions and Units):

Digital Transformation and New Business Opportunities in Africa – Observable Trends, Driving Factors, and Important Actors

- *How is the digital transformation affecting countries and sectors, large public and private companies, medium-sized enterprises, and small industrial enterprises?*
- *In which sectors of the economy are new business opportunities created through the digital transformation?*
- *What do we know about the employment effects of the new business opportunities?*
- *Will the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) accelerate the growth of business opportunities and the pace of digital transformation?*
- *Which African countries advance most rapidly in the process of digital transformation, and what do we know about their development paths?*
- *What is the role of the digital country development plans and agendas, and what are the outcomes in terms of implementation?*

Start-Ups and Venture Capital Funds in Africa – Impact of the Digital Transformation

- *In which countries and sectors is the establishment of start-ups and venture capital funds growing rapidly, and what do we know about the respective development paths?*
- *Are the new enterprises related to the emergence of technology hubs and science centres, and what is the role of pro-active national support policies?*
- *What is the role of digital platforms for the growth of start-ups and venture capital funds?*
- *Is the trend towards new social and solidarity economy enterprises sustainable, and what are the opportunities and perspectives?*
- *Is the observable growth of the impact investments pushing the establishment of start-ups?*
- *What do we know about the business models and the life cycle of ICT and software development start-ups in Africa?*

Digital Entrepreneurship in Africa – Towards new entrepreneurial drivers and actors

- *What do we know about the sources, the growth patterns, and the structures of digital entrepreneurship in Africa?*
- *Are the new digital enterprises mostly dependent on large and multinational mobile operators, or can they also develop independently and autonomously?*
- *What do we know about the foundations of entrepreneurship – by class, group, ethnic identity, region, status, and the readiness to adopt new and digital technologies?*
- *To what extent is digital entrepreneurship in Africa becoming part of global and regional networks and platforms?*
- *Which country cases are of special interest for analysing the role of digital entrepreneurship – often cited are Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Egypt, and which other countries can be mentioned?*

Informal Manufacturing Sectors in Africa - Responding to the Digital Transformation

- *New technology trends of manufacturing in informal sectors – is a mapping possible?*

- *How can digital platforms contribute to the accumulation of technological capabilities in informal sector manufacturing?*
- *What is the role of informal ICT enterprises for the digital transformation?*
- *How can public Infrastructure Policies and public STI Policies contribute to an improvement of Informal Sector Enterprises Support Systems?*
- *Country Cases of Digital Support Policies for Informal Manufacturing Enterprises – which countries are leading in policy design and implementation?*

Innovative Firms in Africa and Digital Infrastructure – New Patterns, Drivers and Actors

- *How is the quality of the digital infrastructure and the innovation capacity of high-growth corporations in Africa?*
- *How can innovative firms in Africa use the public digital infrastructure for regional and global networking and marketing?*
- *What is the contribution of digitalization to the innovation processes and the R&D strategies of high-performing enterprises in Africa?*
- *What do we know about the digital infrastructure of industrial zones/technology zones/export processing zones in Africa?*

Industrial Production, Digital Infrastructure, and Open Innovation in Africa

- *How does the provision of digital infrastructure speed up the spread and use of open innovations?*
- *For which production and services sectors can open innovation platforms be a key development factor?*
- *How to evaluate the benefits of open innovation processes for manufacturing corporations – What do comparisons of country, company and sector cases reveal?*
- *Cases of open innovation in selected manufacturing and services sectors – How are the innovation partners cooperating and sharing the available resources?*
- *Towards more inclusive and equitable business models – to what extent are they based on open innovation solutions?*

The “Fourth Industrial Revolution” and “Globalization 4.0” – The next steps towards restructuring Africa’s Productive Sectors

- *How can we assess and measure the progress in African countries towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution?*
- *How are African enterprises and Foreign Investors in Africa responding to Globalization 4.0?*
- *Small African Manufacturing Firms are partners in Global Value Chains - Is their integration into the value chains contributing to Technological Upgrading, to Digital Learning, and to Human Resources Development?*
- *How will Digital Infrastructure and STI Infrastructure deepen the integration of small firms into global and regional value chains?*

COVID-19, Digital Platforms, and the Restructuring of the Health Systems in Africa - Repurposing the Pharmaceutical Industry, the Medical Equipment Industry, and the Health Sector Infrastructure

- *Will COVID-19 have a long-term impact on the health-related industries and services in Africa?*

- *To what extent are workers in informal sectors and people in rural and semi-urban areas impacted by digital health platforms?*
- *What are the long-term consequences of the repurposing of local industries for basic health and hygiene products?*
- *Is the digital mapping of Grassroots Medical Innovations and of Traditional Health Knowledge making progress – and what do we know about uses?*
- *Will the digital transformation of the higher education, research and university systems contribute to a greater resilience of the African health and social safety systems?*

Further Information for Contributors, Reviewers, and Guest Editors:

To the Contributors of Volume 23:

Please send an *Abstract* and a *short CV* not later than **March 15, 2021** to the Volume Editor (see below). Questions concerning organizational matters should be directed to the Managing Editor (see below). The Editors will respond within 4 weeks to your proposal. If you have already contributed to a former volume of the Yearbook, please send only an Abstract.

To the Guest Editors of Volume 23:

Please send a *short CV* and a *Proposal* for one of the *Thematic Units* mentioned above or chosen by yourself not later than **March 15, 2021**. If you have already contributed to a former volume of the Yearbook, please send only the Proposal.

To the Reviewers of drafts, books, and other material for Volume 23: Please send your material to the *Book Reviews/Book Notes Editor*.

Timeline for Volume 23 (2022):

Deadline for Abstracts/Proposals for Thematic Units: March 15, 2021

Acceptance or Rejection of the Proposed Contributions: April 15, 2021

First Draft of the Contributions submitted: August 15, 2021

Final Draft of the Contributions submitted: October 15, 2021

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