

Foreword and Acknowledgements

This Volume 18 of the *African Development Perspectives Yearbook* with the title “*Africa’s Progress in Regional and Global Economic Integration – Towards Transformative Regional Integration*” has again benefited from many contributions, from various inputs and from important institutional support. The great number of contributions to this volume was made possible because of the continuing support from African and international organisations, from numerous research and development institutions, and from many individual experts cooperating continuously with us on Africa. A great number of international and regional organisations, universities and research institutes have supported this project, such as: UNECA (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) and its Sub-Regional Office in Kigali, Rwanda; the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) in Rome, Italy; UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, especially the Trade and Poverty Branch) in Geneva, Switzerland; the Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA), Gaborone, Botswana; the Arab Planning Institute (API) in Kuwait City, Kuwait; the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) in Maastricht, the Netherlands; the Department of Economics, University of Khartoum, Sudan; the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece; TRALAC, the Trade Law Centre in Stellenbosch, South Africa; the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, Legon, Accra, Ghana; and many others. All these partners have directly supported the Yearbook project and this volume on “*Africa’s Progress in Regional and Global Economic Integration – Towards Transformative Regional Integration*”, with contributions, expertise and suggestions.

Institutional support is welcomed. Many organisations in Africa, like the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union (AU), and the NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa’s Development) Secretariat have contributed with information and encouragement. Also the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Development Centre and the World Bank (with various offices at headquarters and in Africa) have given advice and information. We, as the Editors of the Yearbook, are always interested in and reliant on their advice and guidance so as to structure the future work on the *African Development Perspectives Yearbook*.

For Volume 18 of the *African Development Perspectives Yearbook* the Editors took up the issue of a much needed more “transformative regional integration” process in Africa as proposed by Patrick N. Osakwe, Head of the

Trade and Poverty Branch of UNCTAD. Based on his key contribution to Unit 1 of this volume we were guided through the whole volume to emphasize this new approach so as to stimulate regional integration in Africa more effectively. In this Volume 18 of the *African Development Perspectives Yearbook* with the title “*Africa’s Progress in Regional and Global Economic Integration – Towards Transformative Regional Integration*” major strategic and policy issues are analysed. The guiding issue is how to make the regional integration process in Africa more transformative in terms of structural change and structural transformation. So far the regional integration process in Africa was based on a conventional (linear) model, starting from preference zones and then moving to free trade areas, customs unions, monetary and economic zones, etc. The disappointing results so far in intra-regional trade, investments, technology diffusion, skilled labour migration, enterprise-to-enterprise cooperation, etc. within and between the regional economic communities (RECs) in Africa request a completely new approach.

In this volume such a new approach is elaborated. Based on Africa’s deep rooted structural problems the key aspect of a transformative regional integration strategy is how to promote structural transformation by adapted strategies and policies in the RECs and then for the whole region. In this context the African regional economic communities (RECs), but also projects like the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) and the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) are evaluated. Basic issues are elaborated in Unit 1.

In Unit 1 the core issues are: first, the concepts of a more “transformative regional integration” process and how to translate these concepts into new development strategies and industrial policies; second, the comparative analysis of regional integration in Africa and in other world regions (ASEAN and MERCOSUR), so as to learn more about the deficiencies in Africa from analysing how regional integration works in other developing regions; and third, the potential of the TFTA and of a CFTA for a more transformative regional integration process in Africa, and what all this means for individual participating countries because of their limited institutional capacities to negotiate.

In Unit 2 special policy issues are discussed. Specific problems of a more transformative regional integration agenda are analysed: first, how to reach a higher degree of food security and a more dynamic development of agriculture and agro-industries through a transformative regional integration process; second, how to speed up industry development, enterprise growth, and the transition to a more competitive environment; and third, how to reach more developmental agreements with extra-regional partners, like the European Union did in the context of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) in its negotiations with ECOWAS in Western Africa and ECA in Eastern Africa. These three issues are interrelated as a more dynamic intra-

regional and extra-regional integration process requests holistic policy responses.

In Unit 3 the analysis was extended to the role of global value chains for a transformation in the RECs, in specific countries and in sub-regions of these countries. The discussion about global value chains (GVCs) has led to a new development paradigm and it is possible and useful to merge the agendas from the “transformative regional integration paradigm” with the “GVC development paradigm”. Therefore, the state of global value chains (GVCs) in Africa is of particular interest, as basic capabilities and key preconditions matter for their functioning. The potential for economic and social upgrading through GVCs is considered as great, and the transmission channels for this to happen are many, but there are many binding constraints in Africa. Three case studies of global value chains (diamonds in Botswana, shea butter in Ghana, and sesame in Sudan) are analysed and related to their regional and sub-regional impacts. The potential contribution of the GVCs to local and national development and to a more transformative regional integration process is discussed.

Complementary to Volume 18 is Volume 19 with the title “*Africa’s Progress in Regional and Global Economic Integration – Towards New Trade and Investment Policies*”. Two major issues are discussed – first, in Unit 1 the role of “New Trade Policies in Africa for Structural Change” and second, in Unit 2 the role of “New Investment Policies in Africa for Structural Change”. The contribution of these two policy areas for a more transformative regional integration process in Africa is discussed. Various case studies highlight the transition to more dynamic development and regional integration processes. In Volume 19 there is found also a large Book Review and Book Notes section. This Unit 3 presents major new publications, discussion papers and documents related to the issues of the two volumes 18 and 19.

Many institutions contribute with news about countries and regions, information about new research projects, publications about policies and strategies, documents about declarations and agreements, and research papers, also at their early stage. Many regional and international organisations, like the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union (AU), the UNECA (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa), the World Bank, UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), IMF (International Monetary Fund), UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), and ILO (International Labour Organization), continue to support our scientific effort by sending us and making available - always timely - new strategy documents and drafts of their researches for our publication and/or for review. Also UNU-WIDER (United Nations University - World Institute for Development Economics Research) as an institution of global importance for

development has continuously supported our work with most recent research papers, publications and information about important scientific events. Furthermore, we would like to thank all these institutions by informing so many others in the development field about our work for Africa when publishing the *African Development Perspectives Yearbook*.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Patrick N. Osakwe, Head of the Trade and Poverty Branch, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and to Isabelle Ramdoo, Deputy Head of the Economic Transformation and Trade Programme at the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) in Maastricht. For Unit 1 Patrick N. Osakwe has brought in the important aspect of a more transformative regional integration agenda. Isabelle Ramdoo has contributed a lot to the Unit 2 of this volume. Both have accepted the task of becoming Unit and Volume Editors and were committed in their work. We also have to thank Andrew Mold from UNECA for his continuous encouragement; beside of being an author in several of our volumes he always pushes us to present the new yearbook volumes at the offices of the main African regional organisations in Addis Ababa and Abidjan, and elsewhere in Africa. We plan to do this with this new volume.

Professor Dr. Tobias Knedlik, the Managing Editor of the *African Development Perspectives Yearbook*, and Professor Karl Wohlmuth, the Director of the *Research Group on African Development Perspectives Bremen* and Volume Editor, are also thankful to Professor Dr. Achim Gutowski for his continuous work as the Book Review/Book Notes Editor of the *African Development Perspectives Yearbook*; he is preparing the Unit 3 with Book Reviews and Book Notes for Volume 19.

We have to thank all the contributors and supporters of the *African Development Perspectives Yearbook* for their hard work, their steady encouragement and their continuous assistance. The valuable inputs from leading African research institutions and their experts have contributed over the years to the success of the *African Development Perspectives Yearbook* as an outstanding publication on and for Africa. In 2014 the project celebrated its 25th birthday as the first volume appeared in 1989. The readers of the various Yearbook volumes have contributed with critical comments and encouragement so that over time a valuable network between readers, contributors and editors was created.

Various institutions have made over the years donations and have funded specific allocations to the *African Development Perspectives Yearbook* project, but the support of the University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany is of invaluable importance. The University of Bremen was awarded by the German scientific research community in June 2012 the title “Excellence Univer-

sity”, and the *Research Group on African Development Perspectives Bremen* is very proud about this distinction.

These donations, supports and research grants to the project have helped us to do research on African development issues, to distribute the various volumes of the Yearbook to African partner universities and to major African research institutions, and to invite research scholars from leading African research institutions to work with us in Bremen. Institutions like the Volkswagen Foundation and the Humboldt Foundation have generously financed the stay of senior researchers at IWIM (Institute for World Economics and International Management) in Bremen. Also the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) is financing research of our staff since years for their contributions to the Yearbook volumes.

Africa Research Workshops are regularly held in Bremen at the University to discuss the draft papers which are intended for publication. These Africa Research Workshops serve as forums for the intensive discussion of the draft papers and related research topics. The Editors also have to thank the many reviewers of draft contributions for their committed work. By this input the *African Development Perspectives Yearbook* has become over the years a fully refereed publication.

Many persons have given support, advice, and encouragement; others have helped with frank and critical assessments. However, the responsibility for the final product remains with the editorial team of the *Research Group on African Development Perspectives Bremen*. While Volume 18 and the companion Volume 19 are released in the years 2015/16 and 2017, the *Research Group on African Development Perspectives* now starts its work on Volume 20 with the title “*Science, Technology and Innovation Policies for Inclusive Growth in Africa*”. The theme is related to important research and cooperation programmes of the *Research Group on African Development Perspectives Bremen* at IWIM (Institute for World Economics and International Management), University of Bremen.

In the name of the Editorial Team:

Professor Dr. Tobias Knedlik, Fulda University of Applied Sciences and IWH Halle, Managing Editor, and Professor Dr. Karl Wohlmuth, Bremen University, Director of the Research Group on African Development Perspectives Bremen at IWIM, Volume Editor