

12 October 2018

Voices from Africa

United Nations Development Programme



UN humanitarian and development chiefs join forces to support crisis-affected people in North-East Nigeria



Maiduguri, 6 October 2018 – United Nations Development Programme Administrator Achim Steiner and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock today called on national and international partners to reinforce joint efforts to address the dire humanitarian needs in the conflict-affected north-eastern Nigerian states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, while at the same time speed up the recovery of livelihoods. Read more [here](#).

Setting the Course for TICAD 7 in 2019, Ministerial Meeting Pledges to Sustain Momentum in Exchanges between Africa and Japan



the latest developments in the region, reviewing advances made towards goals and commitments since the TICAD VI conference in 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. Learn more [here](#).

Tokyo, 11 October 2018 – The 2018 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial Meeting concluded its two-day gathering with pledges to sustain the growing momentum in exchanges between Africa and Japan. The 2,100 participants from 54 African countries, including representatives from international and regional organizations, development partner countries, non-government organizations and the private sector, discussed

Keynote Speech by Ahunna Eziakonwa at the 2018 YouthConnekt Africa Summit



wildlife; above all, I am in awe of our continent's rich diversity, beauty, energy and the talent of our youth! This is Africa! You, dear youth delegates, are the force to transform our continent! Through your ingenuity, Africa is on the move! Read more [here](#).

Kigali, 8 October 2018 - I am delighted to be in the land of the thousand hills and to deliver the Keynote Address at this year's YouthConnekt Summit! As I look at the countless YouthConnekt participants and delegates in this room, I am motivated!

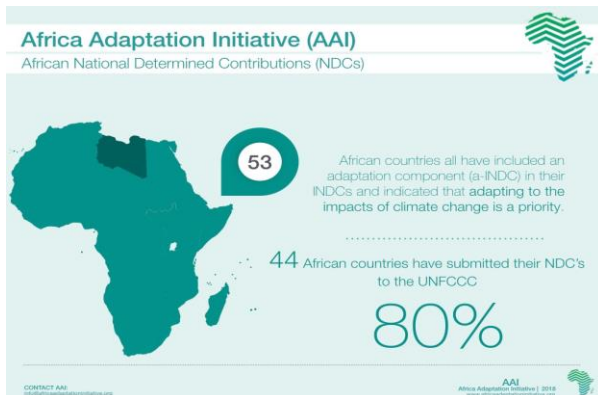
THIS IS AFRICA... the energy, the creativity, the resources—the awe-inspiring beauty of our land, our Oceans, lakes, and mountains, our exotic

Strong call for African and Japanese businesses to deepen ties on eve of 2018 TICAD Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo



Tokyo, 5 October 2018 - The 2018 Ministerial Meeting of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) began informally on Friday 5 October during a high-level thematic side event organized by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Japanese External Trade Organization (JETRO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Read more [here](#).

UNDP and partners highlight Africa's adaptation efforts during UNGA 73



According to an upcoming report on African climate adaptation response, African countries devote, on average, 2 percent of their GDP to climate adaptation. The ramifications of this effort for continent's and the global community's response to climate change, were discussed during a high-level roundtable in New York, on the margins of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 24th September 2018. Read more [here](#).

High-Level Conference in Berlin commits to comprehensive crisis response in the Lake Chad Region



Berlin, 4 September 2018 – The High-Level Conference on the Lake Chad Region concluded today with renewed commitments by participants to work together to address the multi-faceted crisis affecting the region. More than 70 countries, international organizations and civil society actors gathered in Berlin on 3-4 September to discuss solutions to bring peace and stability to the affected countries. The participants discussed humanitarian assistance, crisis prevention and stabilization, as well as development, to chart a way forward for a comprehensive and inclusive response. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for in-depth discussions on various aspects that had been raised during the 2017 Oslo Humanitarian Conference on Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region. [Read more here.](#)

Highlights from UNGA 73



UNGA Flickr Album [here](#)

UNDP kicks off dialogue series on African development and informal countdown to TICAD 7



Tokyo, 12 July 2018 - The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Representation Office in Tokyo launched AFRI-CONVERSE, a dialogue series on African development and networking. The maiden edition of Afri-Converse which took place on Friday 29 June 2018 aimed to take stock of TICAD's achievements (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) and to kick off a conversation about its enduring relevance as the

forum is marking its milestone 25th anniversary and gearing up towards the organization of its 7th global conference (TICAD VII) in Yokohama, Japan, in 2019. In attendance were more than 100 participants from the government, African diplomatic community, business circles, UN and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and academia in Japan. African Business Education (ABE) Initiative students also joined the discussion. Read more [here](#).

UNDP and Accenture launch YAS! to expand opportunities for youth



Johannesburg, 26 June 2018 – Young African entrepreneurs with potential to scale up across the region will soon have access to financing and support through a new innovative platform.

YASI, or Youth for Africa and SDGs, was launched at the Responsible Business Forum taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 25-27 June 2018. The platform is an online portal developed by UNDP in partnership with Accenture South

Africa. It aims to address the four main pillars of the entrepreneurship ecosystem: Information, Mentorship, Funding and Network. Read more [here](#).

UNDP Africa partners with private sector to achieve Global Goals



Johannesburg, 27 June 2018 –UNDP launched its Impact@Africa initiative today at the Responsible Business Forum taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa. Impact@Africa is meant to support the creation of a vibrant environment for impact investing in Africa, by helping to address the key barriers that inhibit the development and growth of the sector on the continent. UNDP recognises that the action of governments on their own is, though instrumental,

not enough to promote sustainable development and equitable growth; and help reduce poverty. Development partners must make sure that all parties concerned are on board – including the private sector. Read more [here](#).

UNDP Ghana launches Multi-Stakeholder Waste Resource Platform Initiative



24 July 2018 - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched a new initiative to promote waste recovery in Ghana, through the creation of a digital and one-stop shop solutions platform that will connect all stakeholders along the waste management chain. The initiative is funded by UNDP's new "Country Investment Facility" which provides the organizations' country offices with the opportunity to promote innovation and the sustainable use of

technology to expand the capabilities of people and communities. Read more [here](#).

Global gathering of artisanal and small-scale miners charts vision for sustainable development



Livingstone, 11 September 2018 – Over 500 people from more than 70 countries have assembled in Livingstone, Zambia, for the International Conference on Artisanal and Small-scale Mining and Quarrying (ASM18) to chart a vision for sustainable development in the sector. Read more [here](#)

Government of Angola contributes to UNDP programmes in the country



Luanda, 28 September 2018 - The Angolan government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, announced on Tuesday, September 25th a financial contribution of about six hundred thousand dollars (600,000.00) to support the programmes implemented by UNDP together with the Government of Angola. Read more [here](#).

Ahunna Eziakonwa Takes the Helm of UNDP's Africa Portfolio



New York, 15 August 2018 – Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa officially began her role today as UNDP's Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa. In this role she will lead UNDP's work supporting 46 countries in Africa to achieve Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. Read more [here](#).

Our blog series



Why investing in Africa is sound business and a sustainable corporate strategy

By Ayodele Odusola, Chief Economist, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa

The best time to invest in Africa is now. Bringing foreign investors into Africa has not moved as quickly as expected, however, because foreign investment decisions are often methodically over-structured. One of the major factors cited is too much risk. But risks and profits are inseparable twins: high-risk ventures are frequently associated with higher profits. Read full blog [here](#).



Gender equality is so much more than a goal

by Angela Luisigi, Strategic Advisor, UNDP Africa

It is true that “Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance” (Kofi Annan). On 28th August 2016, Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta unveiled the Africa Regional Human Development Report 2016 on Accelerating Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Africa in Nairobi with 14 African heads of state, prime ministers and ministers Read more [here](#).



The Liberia Moment: From Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding in this new Liberian landscape

by Pa Lamin Beyai, UNDP Liberia Country Director

Change is at hand in Liberia. A new Government, inaugurated in January 2018, takes shape under H.E. President George Manneh Weah who took over from former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who governed for 12 years. Read full blog [here](#).



Can the Diaspora Resolve the Foreign Exchange Crunch in Ethiopia?

by Degol Hailu and Tsegaye Lemma

The new Prime Minister of Ethiopia called on his people in the diaspora to help him tackle the foreign exchange shortage. He announced the establishment of a Trust Fund to be financed by one dollar a day contributions from an estimated three million Ethiopians living outside of the country. This could be considered as innovative financing mechanism for development. Will he succeed? Read full blog [here](#).



Business unusual will drive Africa's quest to achieve health care for all

By Siddharth Chatterjee and Radhika Shah

Africa's quest for health continues to be held back by a combination of factors such as natural disasters and pandemics, prevailing high rates of communicable and rising incidence of non-communicable diseases, sedentary lifestyles, road accidents and greater population mobility. Read more [here](#).

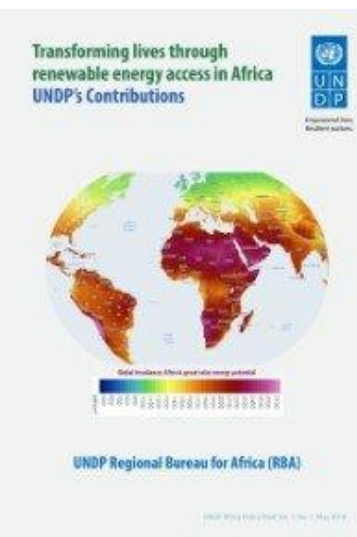


Addressing the foreign direct investment paradox in Africa

By Ayodele Odusola, Chief Economist and Head of Strategy and Analysis Team, UNDP Africa

Africa's experience on inward foreign direct investment (FDI) presents a paradox. Conventionally, capital is expected to flow from countries with low to high returns. Read the full blog [here](#).

Publications



Upcoming events

17 October, 2018: [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)

17-19 October, 2018 [Africa Dialogue Series 2018](#) New York, NY

24 October, 2018: [United Nations Day](#)

26-28 November, 2018: [Sustainable Blue Economy Conference](#) Nairobi, Kenya

1 December, 2018: [World AIDS Day](#)

2-14 December, 2018: [Katowice Climate Change Conference \(UNFCCC COP 24\)](#)

3-5 December, 2018: [African Economic Conference](#) Kigali, Rwanda



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