



Africa's Trade and Governance Agenda in a changing global Environment

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We are making certain Assumptions....

- That recent global crises require new African & global responses
- In a manner that will allow Africa to respond & act collectively
- Do we have the institutions & procedures to do so?
- In respect of which crises should Africa respond?
 - War in Ukraine
 - Climate Change
 - Pandemics
- What can we learn from collective responses elsewhere? EU & NATO
- Under what conditions will sovereign States act collectively?



How would collective African policy responses achieve?

Sovereignty and a Collective Voice

- African nations treasure their Sovereignty
- Historical reasons and factual conditions why this is so
- But sovereignty has serious implications for collective action
- And for unlocking Africa's potential
- What does sovereignty mean for us?
- Sovereignty can keep Politicians in power with hands in the till
- It is an act of sovereignty to conclude binding Agreements
- If the AU is Africa's collective voice, then there are limitations re what can be done
- We preach solidarity but as sovereign states

What have we done traditionally?

- Who are “We”?
- We pushed for decolonization, dignity and political independence
- In our own sovereign states
- Then we embraced Non-Alignment....
- Till the Berlin Wall came down
- We founded the OAU & AU but with 8 RECs and overlapping membership
- We adopted the Abuja Treaty for the AEC
- UN and WTO membership
- Doha Development Round
- A seat on the Security council



China became an important trading partner & Investor in infrastructure

What lessons to be learned from AfCFTA & Climate Strategy?

- Member-driven efforts mean sovereignty is re-stated
- Consensus decision-making
- We discovered our own *acquis* but did not define it
- Is AfCFTA an institutional framework for continental value chains?
- What does this mean?
- There are serious problems at home
- RECs demand joint action --- how much of this for AfCFTA?
- Climate Change Strategy comprehensive but institutional framework
- On Climate change we are united That we are not to be blamed.
- How far does this take us?

The war in Ukraine

- A red line has been crossed ...and matters could become worse
- Western & NATO responses different this time
- West sees this as a global crisis
- EU acts collectively because they have sacrificed sovereignty
-and needs energy
- West says it is not possible to remain non-aligned
- Even if we invoke our sovereign right to do so
- China has its own agenda – the global order is a Western design
- Can some African nations benefit from this crisis?
- Will Africa become strategically more important? Cobalt example.