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# Rethinking African in the Global Development Agenda: Pathway to Economic Transformation

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**ABSTRACT:** This research is motivated by the urgent need to rethinking Africa's development within the global space. Rethinking Africa's development must transcend isolated national efforts and emerge as a coordinated continental imperative. Repositioning Africa within the global development architecture necessitates coordinated strategies from regional institutions. The research used time series data from 1990-2024. Having observed the data properties, that all the data series are non-stationary at levels but stationary at first difference using Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF), and all the variables are cointegrated using Hansen Test of Co-integration, Fully Modified Ordinary Least Square (FMOLS) is used in the study. The results shows that a 19.4-unit increase in FDI corresponds to a one-unit increase in GDP, demonstrating that FDI significantly contributes to economic growth in Africa. Aligned with established economic literature, the results further indicate that increases in GDP lead to reductions in Africa's poverty rates. Furthermore, the analysis reveals a positive association between the Human Development Index (HDI) and GDP, indicating that improved human capital positively influences economic output in Africa. it was recommended that Trade expansion, export promotion, and enhanced regional integration must be central to Africa's economic agenda. Increasing GDP should not be Africa's sole objective. Equally critical is the enhancement of key macroeconomic indicators, including human capital development. Addressing unemployment, poverty, inequality, and improving the quality of education and healthcare systems are essential for increasing productivity and positioning Africa competitively within the global economy.

**Keywords:** Economic Development, Africa, Poverty, Humand Development Index, Fully Modified Ordinary Least Square (FMOLS).

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## INTRODUCTION

Africa has remained a focal point of discourse within global development research, largely due to its unique demographic, economic, and socio-cultural characteristics. The continent possesses a notably

youthful population, with a median age of approximately 19 years, indicating a predominantly young and dynamic populace. This demographic trend, coupled with abundant natural resources and rich cultural diversity, are advantages to Africa as continent. However, prevailing literature often portrays Africa through a lens of systemic underdevelopment, characterized by persistent poverty, high unemployment, and widespread economic inequality (Addae, 2014; Mienebimo, 2024). Using the international poverty line benchmark of $2.15 per day, approximately 45% of Africa's population lives in extreme poverty (Bank, 2023). Despite the continent's developmental potential, macroeconomic indicators continue to reflect grim realities. This is significantly higher than global averages and remains a critical challenge to the continent's economic progress. Some countries, including Burundi, South Sudan, and Malawi, report Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) index scores of 0.0, indicative of minimal or no measurable progress in addressing poverty-related targets. Similarly, nations such as Mozambique, the Central African Republic, and Madagascar show marginal progress with SDG index scores of 3.2, 3.2, and 4.2 respectively (Sachs et al., 2023).

For the sake of analytical clarity and consistency in regional assessments, most international development frameworks delineate North Africa as a separate geopolitical and socio-economic bloc (Dai et al., 2024). As a result, the term Sub-Saharan Africa is commonly employed to refer to the countries located in West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, and Southern Africa, while the term Africa in its broader sense includes these four sub-regions along with North Africa (AU, 2015). This classification is essential not only for comparative analysis but also for tailoring policy interventions to distinct regional realities in governance, economic structure, and development needs.

Comparative global statistics further emphasize the continent's developmental disparities. While sub-Saharan Africa struggles with a 45% poverty rate, other regions such as East Asia and the Pacific (1.2%), Latin America and the Caribbean (4.3%), Europe and Central Asia (2.3%), South Asia (8.6%), and even high-income regions such as the United States (11.1%) report significantly lower poverty incidences. The global average poverty rate stands at approximately 8.5%, with Africa emerging as the predominant contributor to this figure (Bank, 2023). These disparities underscore the urgency for rethinking the continent's position and priorities within the global development agenda, with a view toward inclusive and sustainable economic transformation. A significant constraint to Africa's developmental progress is entrenched in issues of governance and institutional fragility. Governance reform has been repeatedly identified as a fundamental requirement for reversing the continent's developmental stagnation (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012; Hope, 2001; Ozekhome et al., 2023). Within this governance discourse lies the persistent challenge of the resource curse-a paradox wherein countries rich in natural resources experience slower economic growth, weaker democratic institutions, and heightened conflict (Auty, 1993; Sachs & Warner, 2001). Many African states exemplify this phenomenon, where abundant natural endowments have not translated into broad-based development, largely due to rent-seeking behavior, corruption, weak regulatory frameworks, and external dependency (Elhiraika & Mbabazi, 2021; Nathaniel, 2021).

The resource curse in Africa is often compounded by external economic structures that prioritize raw material extraction over value-added production, perpetuating structural dependency in global value

chains. Addressing this challenge necessitates a comprehensive governance overhaul that promotes transparency, institutional accountability, and regional economic integration. Only through such systemic reforms can Africa shift from being a marginal player to an influential agent in shaping the global development agenda (Union, 2015).

Scholars and development practitioners have increasingly argued that prioritizing development interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) could serve as a strategic entry point for advancing the broader African development agenda (Africa, 2019; Collier, 2007). With a regional poverty incidence of approximately 34.9%, the disparity between SSA and the continental average remains marginal, underscoring the potential of sub-regional progress to significantly influence overall continental outcomes (Bank, 2023).

Rethinking Africa's development within the global space must transcend isolated national efforts and emerge as a coordinated continental imperative. The urgency to reposition Africa within the global development architecture requires collective strategic action by regional institutions, governments, and stakeholders to define and pursue a common development agenda. This continental reorientation is vital for asserting Africa's rightful place in global governance and economic systems. The main objective of this paper is to establish a nexus between rethinking African in the global development agenda and to propose the pathway to economic transformation.

**Theoretical literature**

Frankel (2010) attributes the persistent underdevelopment of many African nations to the resource curse theory. Fernando (2022) further elucidates this concept, describing it as a paradox wherein countries endowed with abundant natural resources exhibit poor economic and political performance. According to the theory, the discovery and exploitation of natural resources-such as crude oil, gold, diamonds, coltan, and cobalt-often correlate with slower economic growth, entrenched corruption, deteriorating living standards, widespread poverty, and weakened democratic institutions.

A case in point is the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where the discovery of cobalt, coltan, and diamonds has been intricately linked to prolonged political violence, rampant unemployment, rising inequality, and deepening poverty. Similarly, the extraction of oil in Sudan and South Sudan, as well as the exploitation of crude oil and diamonds in Angola and Nigeria, has exacerbated internal conflicts and intensified political instability. Rather than serving as catalysts for national development, these resources have turned many African states into arenas of elite-driven political dysfunction. Corruption among political leaders has been a significant driver of both economic stagnation and governance failure in these contexts. The cases of Equatorial Guinea and Zambia further reinforce this narrative. Both countries exhibit symptoms commonly associated with the resource curse, including pervasive corruption, recurring civil unrest, weak institutional frameworks, neglect of key economic sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing, and overdependence on volatile global commodity markets. These systemic issues underscore the urgent need for a comprehensive rethinking

of Africa's development trajectory, coupled with a strategic reorientation and repositioning of the continent within the global economic system.

It is essential to note, however, that the resource curse is not an exclusively African phenomenon. Countries such as Venezuela and Peru in South America, Iraq in the Middle East, and Kazakhstan in Central Asia have also experienced the adverse effects of natural resource abundance. Venezuela, despite possessing one of the world's largest proven oil reserves, has faced severe macroeconomic instability, hyperinflation, chronic food shortages, political unrest, and ongoing insecurity-conditions indicative of the resource curse at work. In such cases, natural resource wealth has failed to translate into broad-based economic prosperity or sustainable development.

Namkoong (1999) critically examines various dimensions of dependency theory, highlighting its relevance in analyzing the structural impediments to development in Africa. Of particular significance is the international dependency revolution theory, which offers a compelling framework for rethinking Africa's development agenda. This theoretical perspective posits that African countries are constrained by deep-seated political, institutional, and economic rigidities—both internal and external in nature. These constraints are further exacerbated by an entrenched system of dominance and dependency between African states and the advanced industrialised nations of the world. The theory contends that the persistent underdevelopment in Africa is not merely a consequence of domestic inefficiencies, but also a result of asymmetric global relationships that sustain unequal exchanges. In essence, it emphasises that the structural relationship between African nations and developed economies perpetuates systemic poverty, economic marginalization, and inequality across the continent. Thus, international dependency revolution theory underscores the need to address not only internal governance and policy challenges but also the broader geopolitical and economic dynamics that reinforce Africa's peripheral position in the global economic order.

Todaro & Smith (2006) articulate three principal strands within the broader dependency theory, namely: the neo-colonial dependency model, the false-paradigm model, and the dualistic development thesis. These models offer nuanced explanations for the persistent underdevelopment observed in many African countries. The neo-colonial dependency model asserts that the enduring underdevelopment of African nations is largely attributable to their historical and structural ties with former colonial powers and the broader international capitalist system. According to this model, the legacy of colonialism has entrenched a pattern of economic and political subordination, wherein African states remain dependent on external actors for capital, technology, and policy direction.

This theory emphasizes that African countries are enmeshed in a global network dominated by powerful multilateral financial institutions-such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-as well as multinational corporations and bilateral aid agencies. These entities often impose stringent conditionalities on financial assistance, including structural adjustment programs and market liberalization policies, which frequently undermine domestic development efforts. Rather than fostering sustainable growth, such externally imposed prescriptions tend to reinforce dependency, limit policy autonomy, and constrain the capacity of African nations to pursue development strategies aligned with their local contexts and needs. In this light, the neo-colonial dependency model presents

a critical lens through which the persistent development challenges in Africa can be understood—not solely as internal governance failures, but as outcomes shaped by historically rooted and structurally unequal global power relations.

The false-paradigm theory, as discussed by Todaro & Smith (2006), attributes Africa's persistent underdevelopment to the adoption of inappropriate policy prescriptions often advocated by foreign experts and international institutions. According to this theory, the developmental trajectory of many African nations has been misdirected by externally imposed economic strategies that fail to align with local realities, social structures, and institutional capacities.

Weller (2012) underscores the relevance of both the false-paradigm theory and the neo-colonial dependency theory in explaining the development challenges faced by countries in Africa. The study highlights how misguided policy frameworks-often promoted by international financial institutions and foreign advisors-have significantly derailed Africa's development efforts. Akerlif & Michaillat (2015) further reinforces this argument, asserting that the involvement of international experts who lack a deep understanding of African socio-cultural norms and institutional contexts has led to the widespread adoption of flawed economic paradigms. These externally imposed models, with theoretical sophisticated simulation, often fail to reflect the lived realities of African economies. Todaro specifically criticise the reliance on complex econometric models and abstract theoretical constructs provided by foreign consultants, multinational donor agencies, and international assistance organizations. These models—though intellectually elegant—are often ill-suited to the structural and institutional conditions in Africa, leading to counterproductive outcomes.

The false-paradigm model offers important theoretical support for the need to rethink development from within Africa, by Africans. It provides a cogent explanation for the repeated failure of externally driven development initiatives, even in cases where significant technical assistance has been provided by institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank. Policies grounded in Western economic theory—such as trade liberalization, privatization, deregulation, and fiscal austerity—are frequently ill-adapted to African contexts. Rather than fostering growth and stability, such measures have often exacerbated economic decline, as reflected in worsening macroeconomic indicators, rising poverty, and increased social vulnerability.

The dualistic development theory attributes Africa's persistent underdevelopment primarily to the existence of high and enduring inequality within its economies. This model is grounded in the concept of dualism, which refers to the simultaneous coexistence of two fundamentally distinct economic and social sectors within the same country. Ranis (1988) provides a historical overview of dualism in economic thought, focusing particularly on the bifurcation between the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. More broadly, dependency theorists extend this concept to explain the coexistence of extreme wealth alongside pervasive poverty within African countries. This duality manifests not only between sectors but also spatially and socially, highlighting a structural divide between modern, capital-intensive industries and traditional, subsistence-based economies.

Critically, the dualistic development thesis posits that this coexistence is chronic rather than transitional, with entrenched disparities persisting over time. The relative superiority of the affluent sectors or groups and the inferiority of the impoverished majority show little evidence of convergence or reduction, thereby perpetuating socio-economic fragmentation and inhibiting cohesive national development.

## Empirical Literature

Nhamo (2016) critically examines the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in relation to Africa's Agenda 2063, identifying key thematic issues such as gender equality, women's education, technological advancement, and the imperative to prioritise African interests in global development discourse. Nhamo highlights several notable omissions within the SDG framework concerning Africa's position in the global arena, including the persistent lack of progress on reforming the United Nations and other international governance institutions, insufficient attention to the green economy agenda, unresolved land grabbing concerns, and the need for international equity. The study emphasizes that for Africa to effectively address entrenched poverty and inequality, the continent must intensify efforts to mobilize domestic resources and reduce dependency on external aid, thereby fostering self-reliance and sustainable development.

Complementing this perspective, Nwozor (2021) explores the intersection of global and continental development frameworks, particularly the SDGs and Agenda 2063, advocating for the institutionalisation of an active and capable state to accelerate socio-economic transformation. Given the prevalence of weak institutional frameworks across many African countries, Nwozor argues that such fragility significantly undermines developmental outcomes. Supporting this viewpoint, empirical research by Acemoglu (2005) and Acemoglu & Robinson (2012) demonstrates that strong institutions constitute a critical determinant of national development and prosperity. Their findings underscore the centrality of robust governance structures and institutional quality in achieving sustainable development objectives.

Kituyi (2017) articulates the role of tourism within Africa's Agenda 2063, emphasizing that sustained tourism development can significantly contribute to inclusive economic growth across the continent. Complementing this perspective, Ufomba (2020), through empirical analysis, concludes that Agenda 2063 provides a robust framework capable of achieving sustainable development. The study highlights that African governments possess the requisite cultural assets, resources, socio-political environment, and institutional frameworks necessary to effectively implement the Agenda's blueprint toward a satisfactory outcome. To realize the objectives of Agenda 2063, Ufomba (2020) recommends that African countries should reduce compulsory measures and enhance regional trade integration to mitigate capital flight caused by leakages in capital accumulation. Additionally, the development and strengthening of indigenous political structures are advocated to foster industrialization and establish resilient political institutions. The paper further concludes that aligning national development programs with the continental Agenda 2063 is imperative for its success. Moreover, industrialization

must be prioritized as the central development strategy for African nations to achieve meaningful progress.

Supporting this viewpoint, I.M.F. (2023) empirical findings on Africa's post-COVID-19 recovery underscore the critical importance of structural reforms and industrial policies. The recommendation for African countries to focus on industrial development is a recurrent theme in policy discourse, serving as a baseline benchmark for sustainable growth and a fundamental driver of economic development, particularly within developing African economies.

## METHOD

The research used time series data from 1990-2024. Having observed the data properties using E-view, that all the data series are non-stationary at levels but stationary at first difference and all the variables are cointegrated, Fully Modified Ordinary Least Square (FMOLS) is used in the study. One important advantage of the FMOLS model is that it corrects for serial correlation and endogeneity. The functional form of the model is given as:

$\beta_{FMOLS} = \sum (y_t^* - \beta' x_t^*)^2$, where $y_t^*$ and $x_t^*$ are the adjusted values of the dependent and independent variables to correct for serial correlation and endogeniety. The operational form of the model is given as:

$$GDP_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FDI_t + \beta_2 GINICOE_t + \beta_3 HDI_t + \beta_4 INF_t + U_t$$

Where, $\beta_1 > 0$, $\beta_2 < 0$, $\beta_3 > 0$, $\beta_4 < 0$.

FDI: Africa total direct investment

GINICOE: Africa gini-coefficient

HDI: Human Development Index

INF: Africa inflation rate

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Unit Root Tests for the Variables

Subjecting time series data to second order test is advisable to avoid application of inappropriate econometric technics. More often than not, the data set are not stationary, hence the need for constant test to determine whether the mean, variance and autocovariance are time invariant (Gujarati, 2005;Aladejana et al., 2021; Falade et al., 2021; Okeowo, 2019, 2023, 2024; Okeowo et al., 2023; Okeowo & Awotade, 2024; Ozekhome et al., 2024). It implies that using Ordinary Least Square (OLS) will produce a spurious results, hence the need for alternative econometric techniques.

**Table 1.** Unit Root Tests- 1990 to 2024 Series

| Variables | ADF Test Stat. Level | Conclusion | ADF Test Stat. 1st Diff. | Conclusion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| FDI | -1.386286 (-2.951125) | Non-stationary | -8.159868 (-2.95402) | Stationary |
| GDP | -0.027895 (-2.951125) | Non-stationary | -4.544371 (-2.95402) | Stationary |
| GINICOE | -1.912100 (-2.951125) | Non-stationary | -6.157535 (-2.95402) | Stationary |
| : HDI | -0.217753 (-2.951125) | Non-stationary | -6.147576 (-2.95402) | Stationary |
| INF | -1.592220 (-2.951125) | Non-stationary | -4.033237 (-2.95711) | Stationary |

**Result extracted from E-views output**

Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test is used to conduct the unit root tests. The calculated values of these statistics tests are compared with their critical values. The result shows that the entire variables are non-stationary at level but stationary at first difference **(**table 1).

**Table 2.** Hansen Test of Co-integration Result

| Lc statistic | Stochastic Trends (m) | Deterministic Trends (k) | Prob.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0.912259 | 4 | 0 | 0.0551 |

With Lc Sttistics of 0.91, stochastic trend of 4 and Prob* of 0.0551, the null hypothesis is not rejected at the 5% level, which support that the series are cointegrated, that is, a stable long run trelationship exists among the variables used in the model (table 2).

**Table 3.** Fully Modified Least Squares (FMOLS) Result

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| FDI | 19.49466 | 3.007882 | 6.481193 | 0.0000 |
| GINICOE | -3165.464 | 21091.36 | -0.150083 | 0.8817 |
| HDI | 9939924 | 1012516 | 9.817058 | 0.0000 |
| INF | 3549.396 | 4683.825 | 0.757799 | 0.4547 |
| C | -3541345 | 1095597 | -3.232342 | 0.0031 |

Table 3 presents the empirical relationship between Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP), indicating a positive correlation. Specifically, a 19.4-unit increase in FDI corresponds to a one-unit increase in GDP, demonstrating that FDI significantly contributes to economic growth in Africa. These findings are consistent with Khan and Mehboob (2014), who employed multiple regression analysis over a twenty-year dataset and established that FDI exerts a significant positive impact on economic growth. Similarly, (Dinh et al., 2019), analyzing data from

thirty developing countries, reported that although FDI's short-term effect on economic growth may be limited, it substantially contributes to GDP growth in the long term. This underscores the necessity for long-term policy frameworks aimed at attracting and retaining FDI.

Aligned with established economic literature, the results further indicate that increases in GDP lead to reductions in Africa's poverty rates, with a coefficient of -3165. This suggests that a unit increase in GDP results in a decrease in the poverty rate by 3,165 units. Balasubramanian et al. (2023) reported comparable findings. Balasubramanian et al. (2023) examined data from low- and middle-income countries and found that a 10% increase in GDP per capita leads to a 4-5% reduction in multidimensional poverty; covering education, health, and unemployment dimensions. Additionally, Richard (2004), using data from sixty developing countries, demonstrated that a 10% increase in mean income could reduce poverty by approximately 27.9%, thereby highlighting the critical role of economic growth in poverty alleviation.

Furthermore, the analysis reveals a positive association between the Human Development Index (HDI) and GDP, indicating that improved human capital positively influences economic output in Africa. Conversely, inflation is also positively related to GDP in the model; however, persistently high inflation may adversely affect Africa's economic growth. Therefore, adopting inflation-targeting policies is recommended as a viable macroeconomic strategy to curb the continent's elevated inflation rates and support sustainable growth.

The findings of the research demonstrate that foreign direct investment (FDI) significantly contributes to economic growth in Africa. This conclusion aligns with prior studies by Kotey (2019), Khan & Mehboob (2014). Kotey (2019) particularly notes that although FDI inflows to Africa are considerably lower than those to other continents, the inflows facilitate technology transfer, which serves as a principal channel of spillover effects. Empirical evidence from these studies underscores technology transfer as a critical mechanism through which FDI helps bridge the technological gap between developed and developing economies. Moreover, the review emphasizes that technology spillovers originating from multinational corporations via FDI have the potential to stimulate sustainable economic growth by enhancing productivity and innovation capacity across African economies. However, to maintain and accelerate this growth trajectory, it is essential to address inhibiting factors such as institutional weaknesses and insufficient absorptive capacities, which currently constrain both FDI inflows and the effective transfer of technology within the continent. Addressing these barriers is crucial for sustaining and amplifying the positive impact of FDI on Africa's economic development.

The study aligns with the findings of Kouadio & Gakpa (2022), who demonstrated that economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa contributes to the reduction of extreme poverty; however, this effect becomes statistically significant only when governance quality surpasses a certain threshold. Good governance is thus identified as a critical factor for fostering equitable growth and effective poverty alleviation. Similarly, a Bank (2023) study corroborates the positive association between economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa, while noting that the magnitude of poverty reduction per unit of GDP growth is comparatively lower than in other regions. This study underscores the pivotal

role of foundational elements such as education, infrastructure, and social stability in translating economic growth into tangible poverty alleviation outcomes. This synthesis highlights the importance of institutional quality and socio-economic fundamentals in amplifying the poverty-reducing effects of economic growth in the African context

In alignment with these findings, examines the dynamics of economic growth, income inequality, and poverty in Nigeria, presenting empirical evidence that growth within labor-intensive sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing yields a more substantial reduction in poverty levels. Furthermore, the study highlights that elevated income inequality attenuates the poverty-alleviating impact of economic growth.

Agbo (2025) presents a nuanced outcome, indicating that in the short run, the economic growth rate exerts a weak positive effect on poverty reduction, whereas GDP per capita demonstrates a statistically significant and more substantial impact in lowering poverty levels. The study further observes that unemployment marginally exacerbates poverty, and increased government expenditure is positively correlated with higher poverty incidence. Additionally, inflation exhibits a modest poverty-reducing effect. The econometric model accounts for approximately 41% of the variance in poverty levels, suggesting that beyond economic growth, factors such as income inequality and government policy interventions are critical for achieving meaningful poverty alleviation. Similarly, Taqi et al. (2021) identify a strong and significant positive correlation between the Human Development Index (HDI) and GDP per capita, positing that enhanced human development drives higher economic growth, thereby establishing a mutually reinforcing relationship between the two variables (Adeyemo, 2020).

## CONCLUSION

Africa's economic trajectory presents a complex interplay of significant challenges. This offer unprecedented opportunities and substantial potential for sustained growth. Despite this potential, the continent continues to grapple with fundamental economic constraints, including weak institutional frameworks, excessive reliance on imported goods coupled with a low export base, including governance issues that is marked by political corruption, widespread infrastructural deficits, and a declining industrial sector.

Reevaluating Africa's development strategy to achieve long-term economic transformation is imperative. The continent must prioritize inclusive growth, technological innovation, and digitalisation, alongside sectoral diversification. This will address the persistent challenge of economic mono-dependence prevalent in many African countries. Transitioning from predominantly agrarian economies to fully industrialised nations represents a viable pathway forward.

To realise a prosperous future, Africa must effectively harness its youthful population and optimise its human and material resources. Furthermore, leveraging technological advancements and the

opportunities presented by global digitalisation will be critical to accelerating sustainable development and economic resilience across the continent.

Recommendation

- Trade expansion, export promotion, and enhanced regional integration must be central to Africa's economic agenda. With a primary focus on the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), African international trade can be increased. The removal of approximately 90% of tariffs on intra-African trade would effectively establish a functional free trade zone across the continent. To complement this, local manufacturing should be vigorously encouraged and substantially subsidised to reduce dependency on external trade partners such as the European Union and China.
- The growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), particularly in cross-border trade, should be prioritised across African countries. The AfCFTA, as Africa's flagship trade agreement, represents a powerful economic instrument to boost intra-continental trade and foster deeper economic integration. Analysts regard this initiative as one of the most significant projects ever undertaken by the continent. Rebranding Africa's economic future entails reconceptualising the AfCFTA as analogous to the European Union's single market- albeit without a common currency- thereby substantially reducing trade barriers and cross-border logistics costs while strengthening intra-African value chains and enhancing competitiveness.
- Many African countries remain heavily reliant on crude oil exports, a dependence that poses significant economic risks. There is an urgent need to adopt industrialisation strategies such as import substitution, export promotion, and broad-based economic diversification. A paradigmatic shift from crude oil exports toward value-added manufacturing is essential. Furthermore, African nations should leverage their agricultural potential by investing in agro-processing industries to reinforce the agricultural value chain. To realize a successful industrial revolution, Africa must address its infrastructural deficits. This includes expanding road networks, increasing hydropower capacity, and augmenting energy supply with renewable sources such as solar power. Institutional frameworks, governance structures, and leadership paradigms across Africa require comprehensive restructuring and strengthening. Transparency in the public sector and a robust anti-corruption agenda should be core priorities within institutional reforms.
- Increasing GDP should not be Africa's sole objective. Equally critical is the enhancement of key macroeconomic indicators, including human capital development. Addressing unemployment, poverty, inequality, and improving the quality of education and healthcare systems are essential for increasing productivity and positioning Africa competitively within the global economy.

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