

## Africa 2016 Forum Egypt's Messages to the African Continent

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**O**n the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2016, the Egyptian city Sharm El-Sheikh hosted the two-day “Investment in Africa” forum, organized by the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development in collaboration with the Egyptian government, including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Investment, and Industry and Commerce under the high patronage of H.E Abdel Fatah el Sisi, and under the umbrella of the African Union Commission. It is the first “African-African” economic forum, and thus highlights an important stage in the collective African work.

The forum witnessed the presence of Heads of State, Prime Ministers, Ministers, Ambassadors, attendees from different countries representing their governments, trade and investment sectors, private sectors, African investment agencies, regional and international development organizations, in addition to 1200 businessmen.

Such wide participation explains the due attention that Egypt gives to this forum regarding it as an important stage in terms of regional economic integration between African countries.

In this respect, “Investment in Africa” forum addressed many Egyptian messages to Africa as well as to the world, which are:

Supporting the development process in Africa based on that Egypt's economic power adds to the power of Africa.

Discussing the issues of Africa with a pure African vision and a minute African national agenda since it is the first African-African forum unlike the other forums such as the China-Africa forum, India-Africa forum and Turkey-Africa forum.

Boosting the efforts of establishing the Free Trade Zone that started in Sharm El-Sheikh 2015 according to Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration launching the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA) signed by Africa's top three economic blocks; The Common Market for Eastern



and Southern Africa (COMESA), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and East African Community (EAC).

Activating the developmental role of the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development since it is the means of development concerning the Egyptian policy in Africa.

Creating a state of “Balance” in the economic relations between the African continent and the traditional international partners.

The State Information Service (SIS), in parallel with the Egyptian efforts concerning the development of the African continent, carries on its scientific and media message through the periodical “African Perspectives”, which prospects the future issues of the African continent and discusses contributions of researchers from the different African countries covering various fields: strategic, political, economic and political.

Here, in its 44<sup>th</sup> edition, “African Perspective” discusses the following issues:

- US military programs to strengthen military capacities

of African armies.

- Efforts of integration in the African regional groupings.
- China, India Africa Summits.
- The results of the Guinean Presidential Elections.
- The presidential and parliamentary elections in Tanzania.
- The future of the national reconciliation forum in Central Africa.
- The continental stand of the African insurance market among the international insurance map.
- Organic Agriculture in Africa...the Reality and development Horizons.
- The rank of Africa according to the Global Competitiveness Report.

In consideration of the comprehensive vision of the African issues, “African Perspectives” is keen on having different axes tackling various issues in its new edition through its intellects and researchers to crystallize the development goals of the continent and to study the “national” resolutions for the obstacles that would face the African regional integration.