



NSD-S Hub

NATO STRATEGIC DIRECTION SOUTH

August 14, 2019

NSD-S Hub Webinar “AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY NEXUS”



NSD-S Hub, Via Madonna del Pantano, Lago Patria - Italy 80014

www.TheSouthernHub.org

Allied Joint Force Command Naples established the NSD-S Hub in order to improve NATO's awareness and understanding of the opportunities and challenges from the South, while contributing to the overall coordination of NATO's activities and efforts. The NSD-S Hub products are developed with open-source information from governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, academic institutions, media sources, and military organizations. By design, the NSD-S Hub products or links to open sourced and independently produced articles do not necessarily represent the opinions, views, or official positions of any other organization.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
INTRODUCTION	5
ANALYSIS OF DIALOGUE BY WEBINAR SUB-THESIS	6
RESEARCH	10
REFERENCES	17

ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IO	International Organizations
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa’s Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
NSD-S	NATO Strategic Direction– South HUB
RECs	Regional Economic Communities (of AU)
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
TSI	Three Stones International
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	Development Program
WFP	World Food Program

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Development and security are inextricably linked. A more secure world is only possible if poor countries are given a real chance to develop. Even people in rich countries will be more secure if their Governments help poor countries. (Kofi Annan, Report of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, UN 2004)

Development and security have traditionally been divided in the international arenas. Nonetheless, in an increasingly interconnected and complex world, it is evident that security and development are inextricably linked, especially in developing countries and fragile states. Security issues can have socio-economic roots, including fighting over natural resources, spillover of environmental problems and natural disasters, economic and social inequalities, and migrations. At the same time, economic issues and underdevelopment may be facilitated by security problems, creating a vicious cycle where fragile states and poverty make solutions difficult, requiring a long-term approach.

On July 2, 2019, NATO Strategic Direction– South Hub (NSD-S) and Three Stones International organized a webinar titled, “Africa’s development and security nexus” with diverse perspectives from more than 15 African countries participating. The participants’ inputs were unfiltered and spontaneous to maintain authenticity. Additionally, there was a video-conference with the NSD-S Hub and participants from Burundi, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda.



The main objective of the webinar was to capture and gain understanding on how development and security in

Africa are inextricably interconnected. The perceptions and inputs have been synthesized to identify possible areas where NATO can make a positive difference.

The primary conclusion emphasized the nexus is evident, complex and can be a vicious cycle with one issue reinforcing the other. The way forward must focus on a long-term sustainable and complimentary approach.

Key Points:

- Development and security should focus on people. There is no development without community empowerment; human security should also be considered as an approach, not only the traditional national and international security.
- Address Black-market local economies within the informal sectors, making them legal to better impact development. This requires more regulation, education, skills and access to finances.
- Regulate actions of External actors working in Africa.
- International organizations can support the AU to promote leadership and accountability to the people, which can help lay the foundation for development.
- New security initiatives, at a regional level, can be positive if they create a conducive development environment. The same goes for the state expenditures. If they focus on people, they will bring economic and human development. Otherwise, there is a risk it will just reinforce corrupted regimes.

INTRODUCTION

The nexus between development and improved security is critical in Africa: extreme poverty, endemic corruption, and economic inequality are juxtaposed with political fragility, inefficient governance and institutional instability. This makes African countries a fertile ground for insecurity, conflicts, and criminal activities highlighting economic growth, impacting stabilization and security. Stabilization and improved security facilitate economic development in developing countries.

There is a reciprocal reinforcement among these two processes. But, it is not entirely clear which one has more influence on the other, or exactly when and how. It is evident, for example, that socio-political elements such as governance efficiency and social empowerment are important. Concurrently, political violence, organized crime, non-state terrorist actors and conflicts represent the fundamental source of insecurity, as well as a limit to economic growth.

Africa is accelerating political, economic, demographic, and technological transitions even if governance and institutions are not able to cope with quick and efficient strategies. Therefore, the continent needs a comprehensive, holistic and sustainable strategy to address these transitions, both at a domestic and regional level, and with the crucial support of external actors, including NATO. The first strategy should focus on the development-security nexus, enabling military and civilian agencies to work better together to implement a long-term plan for growth and stability.

ANALYSIS OF DIALOGUE BY WEBINAR SUB-THESIS

Is human security, based on the needs of the individuals, a new approach to enhance the link between security and development? Are traditional security approaches still fit to address development challenges?

There was consensus that human security and national security are compatible; they should balance each other if the countries want to tackle the security development nexus.

Human security is the key factor of national security issues when including IDPs, refugees, natural disasters, etc. Traditional approaches often deal with ongoing violent conflicts rather than focusing on prevention or post-conflict reconstruction and peace building. This is especially critical as the nature of African conflict morphs from localized and civil disputes, into global transnational problems such as terrorist groups like the Islamic State's West Africa Province, commonly known as Boko Haram).

Participants stressed that security apparatuses should focus more on human security than traditional and modern approaches. National security forces, for example, could help human security in expanding their mandate, and international security and defense organizations could also advocate and lobby for

*The problem is that people that are in poverty are desperate and influenced by anybody who comes and promises them a better life in exchange to committing to follow this person or organization. Therefore, working to improve development of these areas and communities is paramount and costs less than to defend them from armed groups or bad people. **It is a better investment to invest in development than in waging in wars** against groups who try to destabilize countries. (Frederic, finance/entrepreneur expert, Rwandan, video discussion participant)*

human security. As society is changing, new technologically-driven and demographically suitable security approaches need to be developed.

Some participants underlined the amount of effort put forth on political arrangements and dialogues, disarmament, and use of force to fight against rebels, militias or terrorists while little is done to tackle roots causes and critical factors contributing to chronic insecurity at local levels, including the abuse of power by political leaders, endemic corruption, expropriation of lands, etc.

Others stressed that youth, the future leaders of Africa, could train African states on human security approaches. International security and defense organizations like NATO could also advocate and lobby for human security.

Black-market economies benefit development in local areas

There was a general consensus that black-market economies sometimes bring temporary support to local economies; but in the long-term, they don't benefit development. Rather, they reinforce underdevelopment, disempower people, destroy local economies, threaten the social fabric, and worsen the security of a community and an entire country (like in the case of transnational criminal networks).

Some participants said black-market economies can help in the short-term, locally. For example, they operate during a crisis and shortage of goods to help the population, and disappear once the state has taken charge of the people's services. Some contributors of the dialogue stated that to move from short to long-term development, the black-market

*“There are three strategic broad areas to close the link between security and developments in Africa. The first issue is the **question of land rights**, as many conflicts can be traced to them. There is a disconnection between development policies and addressing root causes of underdevelopment and security, especially around the consistency of administering land rights and getting them secured for local communities. The second is to address this nexus in the **context of African integration**. There is lack of transnational political framework that could work for the flexible addressing of what are political grievances at the local level, which are rooted in political and economic injustices. The **third issue is trade**, which is critical for*

economies should shift to the informal sector. Later, with less regulation for company operations and reasonable taxes, black markets should shift to a formal economy. The sentiment was that if they don't shift to the formal economy, they can become sources of insecurity.

A participant wrote, “In the economies where the government is corrupt and taxes misused, local areas could develop with black-market economics. Non-state actors could even have dialogue with government

to create a ‘hybrid economy’ and foster limited economic control by government. A certain percentage of the economic proceeds (black tax) could be given to the government on a timely basis. A negative consequence is that these non-state actors can become too powerful and independent. This can lead to insecurity and wars”.

External actors have contributed to development and security in Africa

Participants generally agreed that if external actors contributed to development and security in Africa, they actually did more for the underdevelopment and insecurity of Africa than not. However, the responsibility also is in the hands of African corrupted leaders. Development projects' terms and conditions should be better negotiated, planned and implemented, to be inclusive and economically positive for people to attract external actors and investors to partake in economic growth.

Several participants stressed the problem of African dictatorships or corrupted elected leaders who make deals for the regimes' interest instead of the interest of the people.

With the current great powers' competition, there is a risk of a

new scramble for Africa and a debt crisis towards China. International organizations, like EU, UN, WFP, or regional ones like AU, could have a more positive impact, not only on development but also on security.

Examples were given of countries where external actors, in both public and private sectors, foster insecurity to easily access the natural resources in Central African Republic, DRC or South Sudan. Rwanda was mentioned as a positive case, that benefitted from external actors as they fell in line with government priorities. Also, the presence of UN peacekeeping troops in Africa, as well as the programs and activities of the UN specialized agencies like WFP, was considered to contribute to safer and more stable communities.

*First issue is the corruption in Africa. The mismanagement of resources is creating a lot of trouble for the development and creating threats also for security. Many of the leaders are focusing on remaining in power; many times they are not called to justice, even if they manipulate young people to turn one another. In DRC we have more than 75% of people living in extreme poverty, without access to services and jobs, and this make people vulnerable to manipulation by people on power. **There are many things that can be done in terms of justice in response to abuse of power and corruption.** (Alingwi, social activist, DRC, video discussion participant)*

New security initiatives can effectively address development issues related to poverty and inequalities in Africa

*We have frustration from communities because of inequality, one part of societies is getting richer and others are getting poorer. This is a source of conflict. Also, when people are not able to access basic services, like healthcare and education, this can push people to rebel against the government, as we saw in Burundian history. Burundi is struggling with leadership, many are formal rebels, and they have no educational background to manage a country. To govern a country coming from war is not easy; **we need to form leaders in all aspects of governance.** (Fikiri, human rights lawyer from Burundi, video discussion participant)*

Participants agreed that promoting new security initiatives, at regional levels, can lower the possibility of conflict and violence, creating an environment suitable for more development and bringing more state resources for development. A participant provided an example of NATO supporting AU or the G5 Sahel with its Priority Investment Program.

Some contributors mentioned, again, the importance of human security: “new security

initiatives that seek to empower the people by fighting underlying inequalities are the best practices in ensuring peace and development. Initiatives that create jobs, that provide an enabling environment for business to prosper, that provide young people and youth to access education and training facilities would keep them from engaging in insecurity activities”.

Others said using local structures within border countries could eliminate security threats that hamper the movement of people, goods, and services thereby enhancing trade. Finally, some participants stressed new security initiatives should take into consideration the context of the people, i.e. based on human security addressing development issues.

African governments have prioritized spending to have a positive impact on development

There was consensus that often, public spending doesn't equate to development. Even if spending was efficient (and often it is not because of corrupted regimes), it is not enough for development as economic growth is often unequal and spending on infrastructure does not result in development. A participant mentioned the example of DRC, where much of the spending by government falls into populist actions and responds just to

La priorité de les dépenses pour moi est l'organisation pour la gestion des ressources du pays d'abord, encourager et faciliter les femmes comme les hommes qui ont des projets à les réaliser avec les micro credit, et encadrer la jeunesse par l'éducation car les jeunes doivent être conscient que l'avenir de leur pays est entre leurs mains et pas d'abandonner le pays pour le "rêve Européen" (a participant from Rwanda)

TRANSLATION: The priorities in the expenses for me are to organize for the management of the country's resources, to encourage women and men who have projects to achieve them with micro credit, and to mentor youth through education because young people must be aware that the future of their country is in their hands and not to abandon the country for the "European dream"

emergencies but not to a long-term plan to improve citizens' life.

The majority of participants stated African governments need more efficient spending in social services, supporting communities and the private sectors. Besides spending, they need to invest in economic reforms, good governance, transparency and economic inclusiveness.

The development needs to start as a mindset shift more than a spending measure. As a participant said: "I have noticed that some countries don't have problems with lack of construction. But development isn't related just to infrastructure, development needs to start as thinking and as behavior."

RESEARCH

CAN ECONOMIC GROWTH LEAD TO IMPROVED SECURITY?

Communities lacking economic opportunities have an unequal distribution of wealth, insufficient social welfare and basic services, and are more prone to social instability. It can be compounded by the young population relocating, radicalizing, entering into criminal organizations, or expressing political rebellion through protests for lack of jobs and economic opportunities as experienced during the Arab Spring.

Africa's current economic trends are characterized by high economic growth, a growing demographic dividend and transitions towards more open markets and democratic societies. This could suggest an improvement in the security environment, but the relationship is not so direct and causal.

Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow at 3.8 percent in 2019, which is a significant improvement over last year's regional growth rate of 2.6 percent. Excluding the continent's largest economies (Angola, Nigeria and South Africa), which are growing collectively at an average of 2.5 percent, the aggregate growth rate for the region would be a healthy 5.7 percent. According to Foresight Africa¹, about half of the world's fastest growing economies are in Africa, with 20 economies expected to grow at five percent or more over the next five years. But good governance and transparency will also impact the economic performance across the region. Even with the improved growth rate, the African Development Bank's estimates there remains a \$68-\$108 billion financing gap to meet Africa's infrastructure needs, which is estimated to be in the range of \$130-\$170 billion annually, but expect to see continued growth

¹ Foresight Africa, Top Priorities for the Continent in 2019, Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution, January 2019

in finance projects during 2019. Lending from Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) continues to play a crucial role in project finance across Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in the infrastructure sector. Power projects will also be a key driver of project finance work on the continent. Today, an estimated 600 million people in Africa lack access to electricity. This power deficiency on the continent coincides with the increasing interest and investment in renewable energy sources, and thus expects to see more renewable energy projects on the continent in 2019. Nevertheless, all these economic transitions will not necessarily bring more security.

Extreme poverty in the region continues to rise. Forecasts indicate that by 2030, nine in ten extremely poor people will live in Sub-Saharan Africa. Examples of economic impediments and security challenges that Africa will face in this century include: Conflicts and political transitions that block economic development; pandemics that increase health security risks (like Ebola in DRC); climate change and natural disasters increase the vulnerability of the population, resource scarcity and economic crisis²; traditional gender inequalities block economic inclusiveness and growth; new energy needs create energy security issues (the region differs from North Africa in terms of oil richness); and finally the intrastate movements of people (either refugees, IDPs and migrants) stress the ability of states to cope with them.

Positive economic growth is limited without security and stability. For example, economic growth can increase military and security expenditures, but this doesn't necessarily correlate with more security. As SIPRI argues³, inefficient and wasteful military expenditure can bring economic and social developmental consequences that undermine regional stability in Africa.

Military spending may have a positive economic impact at the beginning i.e. jobs for troops, infrastructures investments, equipment sales etc.; however data shows that increased military spending consistently has negative impacts on a country's economic growth. As Chatman House argues, there are links between "conflict economies in Iraq, Libya and Syria and their militaries, militias and other armed groups." Conflict economies may actually drive violence in the Middle East and North African region, as in other parts of Africa.

Military spending in poor countries means also foregoing other priorities like social goods, public infrastructures, etc. Most sub-Saharan African countries spend more per capita on military expenditure for example than to prevent hunger or disease. The "Guns and Butter" curve shows, if a nation chooses to focus on military spending, the only way to meet its domestic production needs is with an increase of production, and this unfortunately is difficult in Africa.

² In the world, the number of food emergencies, when natural disasters such as drought or floods lead to food-supply shortfalls— [has risen](#) from 15 per year, on average, in the 1980s to more than 30 per year since 2000.

³ SIPRI, "Military expenditure transparency in Sub-Saharan Africa, Policy Paper n. 48, November 2018.

Economic growth needs sustainable development, with equal and inclusive distribution of resources, to represent a real support to new opportunities for communities and societies in Africa and to enable a more secure environment.

CAN IMPROVED SECURITY LEAD TO ECONOMIC GROWTH?

Economic underdevelopment facilitates insecurity but also insecurity limits the possibilities of economic growth. One of the factors for the spread of violent extremism and conflicts are the lack of economic opportunities (besides political, social and identity issues) but also the opposite is true: unsafe and insecure environments make economic development challenging. Most of the world's poorest states have experienced violent conflict in the past decades.

Conflict is often associated with underdevelopment and economic regression: a recent report noted civil wars in Africa cost an estimated average of US\$64B annually, while armed conflicts are estimated to have cost Africa \$284bn from 1990–2005⁴.

Terrorist activities, besides impeding external and local economic investments, destroy the social fabric of societies and communities, curb the business sector and impede development and growth. For example, terrorism disrupts the tourism industry for several African economies as demonstrated recently in Tunisia and Egypt⁵.

Conflicts and intra-state wars create a decline in gross national product, recession and drastic budget deficit. A rapid reduction in imports and exports can be followed by hyper-inflation and unemployment. At the meso-economic level, the presence of conflicts shifts the economy to non-tradable goods in the form of subsistence or black market, creating an economy based on the production of outlawed commodities, such as drugs and weapons, which can become more accessible. Finally, at the micro-level, conflicts can be responsible for a decline in domestic savings and investment with the consequent impact on all economic sectors possibly leading to further problems such as malnutrition, disease and famine.

Criminal organizations prevent the achievement of nearly one quarter of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, according to the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime. Illicit trade in people, goods, drugs, money, intellectual property, and natural resources limits development, weakening and threatening legal companies, and reducing public security, undermining the official security agencies. The improvement in security can facilitate a stronger economic development of African countries. But, improved security must pass from better governance and stability processes if to support economic growth.

⁴Friends of Europe, Development and Security. Investing in people, peace and prosperity, Friends of Europe's Development Policy Forum, September 2017, P. 62

⁵ Following the attacks in Tunisia in 2015, tourism revenues have plummeted from \$3.5bn to \$1.5bn in 2016. <https://www.friendsofeurope.org/publication/reflecting-security-and-development-nexus-africa>

One fundamental area where security and development are evidently interrelated is the one of conflict resolution and transformation: peace building activities in post-conflict countries need to pass from tackling the link between development and security, including with “developmental peacekeeping”, to dismantle war economies and conflict systems, and replace them with competitive ‘peace economies’.

Another crucial area is energy security. The potential of Africa is limited by the lack of access to reliable and affordable energy. Like the Middle East, Africa is experiencing an increase in threats to critical energy infrastructure and natural resource assets. The recent attacks in the Middle East and the Gulf of Oman show trends that could be expanded to and in the African continent. The African Energy Chamber recently called on African governments and oil companies to do more to protect the security of energy infrastructure in Africa.

Stabilization and security had positive effects on governance and economic development for example in the case of the Baltic States. It is no surprise that Article 2 of the North Atlantic Treaty states, members “will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them”. Security can lead to better economic development if based on efficient governance, integration and equality, and in this way create a virtuous cycle in which the two processes reinforce each other.

ROLE OF DOMESTIC GOVERNANCE AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

As Africa expands its development, economic growth and political transformations may be limited by inefficient governance, economic exclusion, and endemic corruption. All these make states unable to give basic services to the population. Addressing the institutional weaknesses of states and the lack of regional coordination of countries will be necessary to enable the nexus between development and security.

The African Development Bank, in its Ten-Year Strategy, proposed an approach that is country-led but relies on strong regional partnerships. In its recent Five Years Strategy, “Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa, 2014 – 2019”, the Bank proposed to support countries to address fragility and build resilience at the national level as well as at the regional level, with regional organizations. In particular, in the first goal, “Strengthen State Capacity and Support Effective Institutions”, the Bank stated that on state-building “establishing security and justice is a precondition for progress in all other areas.”⁶

The AU also works on the nexus between development and security of its countries especially at a regional level, with eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs) that are playing an

⁶ African Development Bank, Five Years Strategy, “Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa, 2014 – 2019”, 2015, P. 24.

increasingly important role in Africa, being involved in coordinating states' interests not only in economic development but also in governance, peace and security. The recent 12th annual UN-AU-RECs/RMs (Regional Mechanisms) consultative meeting in March 2018, underlined the importance of collaboration among states to address peace, security and development challenges and to achieve both the goals of UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (which "underscore the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries") and AU's Agenda 2063 (which first priority is "a prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development"). Since 2011, the AU initiated New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which is transforming the "African Union Development Agency" (AUDA). Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, recently said, "AUDA's mandate will allow us to mobilize more resources and it will bring coherence and interaction between Africa, the African Union, and developing partners."

The AU recently proposed the African Continental Free Trade Agreement; signed by 52 of the AU's 55-member states (only Nigeria, Benin and Eritrea did not sign the agreement) with a potential market worth of \$2.5 trillion. This is an important step and not the only one for the economic development of the continent.

According to some scholars, African policymakers, besides accelerating regional integration, need to focus on domestic issues, like bridging gaps in labor skills and digital infrastructure, including creating a mechanism to own and regulate the large digital data that Africa will produce soon, with all the consequences of possibilities and challenges at the same time (like youth empowerment with digital economy or cyber security issues). Some scholars propose urgent, innovative and inclusive financing mechanisms to support Small and Medium Size (SME) enterprises as Africa would have to create more than 130 million jobs to reach full employment by 2020 and many more in the decades to come. Others, like the World Economic Forum, argues that the future of African development lies in cities: with Africa urbanizing faster than any other part of the world there is a need to use the economic benefits not only of mega conglomerate but also of intermediary, or secondary, cities.

The G5 Sahel is a good example of combining security and development through regional cooperation, building regional security capability, but also coordinating development projects in a wide range of sectors with the Priority Investment Program. Nevertheless, as a recent ACT OPEN Publication argues, the tendency among the international actors towards the G5 Sahel "to overlook development and governance issues – in other words, to ignore the 'development'

component of the “security-development” nexus – threatens to undermine the prospects for political stability, and to fuel long-term regional insecurity”⁷.

Given the difficulty in economic and institutional transitions that Africa is experiencing, the role of external actors will also be crucial to tackle this fundamental nexus for the future of the continent.

ROLE OF EXTERNAL ACTORS

African countries have committed to implement both the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063, a plan to build a more prosperous Africa. Both will need support of external actors playing crucial roles in African development, not only with economic and humanitarian aid, but also helping foster economic perspectives and strategies for sustainability.

Between 2017 and 2018, the World Bank (WB) doubled the resources for low-income countries affected by Fragility Conflict and Violence (FCV) to more than \$14 billion. WB priorities for Africa are also crucial, given the complex interrelation in the economic development of a continent like Africa. These priorities go from empowering women and girls to accelerating digital economy; from climate change issues to regional integration facilitation; from maximizing finance for development to addressing conflict and violence⁸.

The UN Development Program (UNDP) is another important organization, with a specific program for Africa, making sure that its investment in developmental cooperation address six main integrated areas: poverty, governance, resilience, environment, energy, and gender.

Operating since 1958, European Investment Bank has programs for the Southern Mediterranean and for Sub-Saharan Africa, supporting the private sector, creating an investment-friendly environment, and also investing in local infrastructures. Since 2007, the EU has expanded its programs in Africa, with the “Africa-EU Partnership” including a peace and security program, the African Peace Facility, and a development program, the Pan-African Program. Recently, the EU announced it will give €40bn in grants from 2021 to 2027, building on Germany’s “Marshall Plan for Africa” launched in 2017. Since 2011, the EU developed a Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel. At the beginning, the strategy was only for Mali, Mauritania and Niger⁹, but three years later, the EU extended it to Burkina Faso and Chad.

⁷ OPEN Publications, “Understanding the G5: governance, development and security in the Sahel”, NATO ACT, Volume 3, Number 2, Spring 2019, P. 3.

⁸ Among other things, the WB International Development Association created an [18 Risk Mitigation Regime](#) to provide resources for countries, such as Niger and Guinea, to mitigate the drivers of Fragility Conflict and Violence.

⁹ Council of the European Union, *Council Conclusions on a European Union Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel*, 3076th Foreign Affairs Council Meeting, Brussels, 21 March 2011

The strategy has currently four type of actions: (1) development, good governance and internal-conflict resolution; (2) politics and diplomacy; (3) security and the rule of law; and 4) countering violent extremism¹⁰. These are important factors to tackle the nexus between the two phenomena. Nevertheless, as a recent IAI publication argues¹¹, the EU, like other international actors, should apply more sustainable, local and long-term development interventions to address root causes of insecurity and underdevelopment in an efficient way.

Local empowerment and support from external actors to civil society must pass from access to small credit and micro-loans that are a fundamental element for community growth, in particular with female access to credit. According to the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), in Africa, women own about 48% of all enterprises but they have rarely access to finance, that's why one of WB priorities is "Banking on Women."

Another fundamental element for local economic empowerment is the support to the agricultural sector for rural development, in particular sustainable production intensification and employment creation. International entities like FAO are trying to do to bring jobs to rural communities and not push only for opportunities in cities or outside their country.

There is a rising influence of non-state transnational actors and the resurgence of geo-strategic competition among great powers. These, in particular, could make the "scramble for Africa" could be nexus challenge as well as an opportunity for Africa, at least if Africa can negotiate good deals. For example, China has launched an initiative and currently 10,000 Chinese-owned firms are operating in Africa. There is considerable speculation on how this will impact Africa's debt crisis towards China and its appetite for debt forgiveness. Better negotiating of regional and continental policies could help balance this.

NATO could have an important role, not only facilitating and supporting processing of sustainable security in the continent, but also increasing its collaboration with international organizations, in particular the EU and UN, in order to indirectly support their work of economic development for the continent.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/120075.pdf

¹⁰ Council of the European Union, *Council Conclusions on Implementation of the EU Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel*, 3304th Foreign Affairs Council Meeting, Brussels, 17 March 2014,

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/28735/141577.pdf>

¹¹ Bernardo Venturi, ed., "The Security–Migration–Development Nexus Revised: A Perspective from the Sahel", IAI, 2017.

REFERENCES

African Development Bank, Five Years Strategy, “Addressing Fragility and Building Resilience in Africa, 2014 – 2019”, 2015

Brookings Institution, “Foresight Africa. Top Priorities for the Continent in 2019, Africa Growth Initiative”, January 2019

Council of the European Union, “Council Conclusions on a European Union Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel”, 3076th Foreign Affairs Council Meeting, Brussels, 21 March 2011

Friends of Europe, “Development and Security. Investing in people, peace and prosperity. Friends of Europe’s Development Policy Forum”, September 2017

NATO ACT, “Understanding the G5: governance, development and security in the Sahel”, Volume 3, OPEN Publications, Number 2, Spring 2019.

SIPRI/ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, “Military expenditure transparency in Sub-Saharan Africa, Policy Paper n. 48, November 2018

IAI/Istituto Affari Internazionali, “The Security–Migration–Development Nexus Revised: A Perspective from the Sahel”, Bernardo Venturi, ed., 2017