

Joint event by the Center for Global Development (CGD) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

Programme

Panel discussion

Unlocking Africa's Sustainable Infrastructure Potential

Exploring the Global Gateway (GG) and the Partnership for Global Investment and Infrastructure (PGII)

Date: 16th November 2023 3:00 – 4:30 pm CET

Format: online (Livestream)

Language: English

Background

Sustainable infrastructure development is of major importance for economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability in the Global South, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, many African nations face significant challenges in meeting their infrastructure requirements due to financial constraints, exacerbated by the current geopolitical environment, rising debt levels, and the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The global infrastructure financing gap is estimated to be around \$15 trillion by 2040.

Against this background, and in response to geopolitical challenges and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the EU and the G7 have developed ambitious strategies for global infrastructure projects: the Global Gateway (GG) in 2021 and the Partnership for Global Investment and Infrastructure (PGII) in 2022. The projected funding amounts to 300 billion and around 550 billion EUR, respectively (the Global Gateway being part of the PGII). Aiming at promoting a green, smart development of global infrastructure in emerging economies and developing countries, both strategies focus on areas such as energy and climate security, transport, healthcare systems, and digital connectivity. A first round of projects has recently been announced by the GG and the PGII and the strategies are starting to take shape.

This CGD and KAS co-hosted public event aims to bring together policymakers and researchers from the G7, Europe, and Africa to discuss the potential of the Global Gateway (GG) initiative and the Partnership for Global Investment and Infrastructure (PGII) in fulfilling Africa's needs for sustainable infrastructure.

In view of the ambition of GG and PGII, there are several key questions that will be discussed:

- What are the benefits of the GG and the PGII (as opposed to e.g. China's Belt and Road Initiative) for the Global South? What do the EU and the G7 need to do to be viable partners for countries in the Global South?
- How can the new strategies make a difference and fulfill the needs for sustainable infrastructure in Sub-Saharan Africa?
- With some previous infrastructure financing initiatives not living up to their expectations, how can GG and PGII actually deliver funding for projects and rebuild trust with African policymakers?
- To what extent do the EU and the G7 communicate and cooperate regarding the implementation of their strategies? How do the strategies differ? How do the EU and the G7 ensure sufficient coordination between the different initiatives?
- Where does the funding of the GG and PGII come from? Is it "old" funding being repackaged?
- What must be considered to ensure that Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are not being left behind?

Agenda

Thursday, 16th November 2023

- 3:00 pm **Welcome**
Thomas Birringer, Deputy Head, Division Analysis and Consulting, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)
- 3:05 pm **Opening remarks**
Kyosuke Inada, Chief Representative for Europe, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- 3:10 pm **Panel discussion**
- Arianna Vannini, Principal Adviser for Strategic Foresight, Chief economist, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA), European Commission
 - Amadou Hott, Special Envoy of the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa
 - Dr. Paolo Quercia, Director of the Division on Research and Analysis, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy
 - Gyude Moore, Senior Fellow, Center for Global Development (CGD)
- Moderator: Mikaela Gavas, Managing Director CGD Europe and Senior Policy Fellow
- 3:55 pm **Q&A**
- 4:25 pm **Concluding remarks**
Mikaela Gavas, Managing Director CGD Europe and Senior Policy Fellow