Policies and practices relating to the deepening of economic ties amongst partner countries to co-develop economic activities across borders.
Russia and Africa: Long-Term Partnership in Trade and Economy

The report prepared by the Roscongress Foundation in collaboration with the International Trade and Integration Research Center (ITI) especially for the first Russia–Africa Economic Forum gives an overview of Africa’s role in global economy and of the trade relations between Russia and Africa.

Russia’s Trade and Integration in the Asia-Pacific Region: Results and Prospects

The report prepared by the Russian Foreign Trade Academy in collaboration with the Russian APEC Study Center analyzes main trends in the development of the Asia-Pacific region, interactions of Russia and the EAEU with the APAC countries, prospects for growth in trade and investment, and the regional agreements.
**KEY CONCLUSIONS**

**Economic integration boosts the development of the continent**

Establishment of regional economic associations is an existing global trend of modern development of the humanity. At the moment Africa has eight regional economic associations that pursue the same objectives: to create favourable conditions for people and for business. The point of these economic associations is by jointly effacing boundaries for goods, workforce, capital and services to create more favourable conditions for implementing their national sovereignty and realizing their economic and social development potential – Tigran Sargsyan, Chairman of the Board, Eurasian Economic Commission.

There are 55 countries in Africa, and our leaders have come to a conclusion that it is important to integrate the continent and make a transition from fragmented economies to a major economic block. This is the largest block of this sort due to the free trade zone – Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission.

If you can enter the global market, you have no barriers for development. But as we do not have such options, we start with the integration scheme, interacting with neighbouring countries – Caleb Fundanga, President, Institute for Finance and Economics of the Republic of Zambia.

**Russian companies’ interest in African market facilitates cooperation between EAEU and Africa**

The African continent is of special interest for Russia. Today almost all our major companies work there – Sergey Katyrin, President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation.
It is the development of business processes that forms the economy, and our companies that are now actively interested in the African continent, the EAEU countries, can support this trend of cooperation between the largest associations: EAEU on one side, and 55 countries of the African Union on the other – Nataliya Zaiser, Chair of the Board, Africa Business Initiative Union.

**RUSSIA–AFRICA ECONOMIC FORUM**

**New Forms of Cooperation between Russia and Africa: Opportunities for Special Economic Zones Based on the Project to Establish a Russian Industrial Zone in Egypt**

📅 24 October 2019  ☑️ 11:00–12:30

**Moderator**

Marina Kim

Anchor, Channel One Russia

**KEY CONCLUSIONS**

**Russian industrial zone in Egypt is a new promising form of cooperation between two countries**

Together with our Russian colleagues we are discussing the use of a territory with the area of five million square metres; this is the territory that, as part of the larger special economic zone, will be provided to Russian residents at some stage of the project implementation. <…> We are certain that our cooperation with Russia, with Russian companies will be very fruitful, and that they will become more and more interested – Yehia Zaki, Chairman, Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone).

Our main objective is to unlock our potential and that of Russian technologies using this amazing platform in Egypt. <…> We are talking about a combination of Russian high-tech production and the Egyptian platform, where we can see workforce and related industry sectors that are necessary for implementation of this product. As a result, we see a lot of potential – Amr Nassar, Minister of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The industrial zone project in Egypt is a very different scale than just an industrial park. Such zone is a hub, where and around which a competence centre is created. The imprint that Russia will be leaving over the upcoming years and decades around this hub is going to be much more significant than just some profit, some goods that are produced and sold. This is
going to be a huge community of people who will have received education according to our technologies, approaches and standards — Mikhail Orlov, Partner, Head of Tax and Legal, KPMG Russia; Chairman of the Expert Council of the Committee for Budget and Taxes of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

The interest expressed by Egypt is very understandable. It is great that they see Russia as a partner: indeed, we can bring certain technologies, certain capital and facilitate development — Andrey Slepnev, Chief Executive Officer, Russian Export Centre.

Africa is no stranger to Russia. Brand new unique opportunities are emerging, and we will not miss them. In ten years, Africa might be the second China in terms of production, consumption and scale. <\> We believe in this project. We know that it was conceived long ago. Now we are implementing it — Marina Kim, Anchor, Channel One Russia.

Russia and Africa: Uncovering the Potential for Cooperation

Russia and Africa: Uncovering the Potential for Cooperation

23 October 2019  
10:00–13:00

Moderator

Irina Abramova

Director, Institute for African Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Corresponding Member, Russian Academy of Sciences

KEY CONCLUSIONS

Developing close business ties serves our common interests, contributes to the sustainable growth of all our countries, helps to improve quality of life and solve numerous social problems — Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation.

Russia is among the top ten suppliers of food to the African market. We are now exporting more agricultural products than weapons to the markets of third countries. Weapons account for $15 billion of our exports, whereas agricultural products are nearing $25 billion in sales, I believe. So, the potential for development is good here — Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation.

We aim to develop mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of science, technology, education, digital technology, culture,
infrastructure – especially transport infrastructure – energy, industry, and mining. We believe we can develop cooperation further and take it to a whole new level – Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission.

**Russian business is interested in working with all African countries**

African countries are becoming increasingly attractive for Russian businesses. This is largely due to the fact that Africa is becoming a global economic growth centre. According to experts, Africa’s GDP will have reached $29 trillion by 2050 – Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation.

Apart from the ever so interesting commodities sector, promising investment opportunities include the energy sector, agriculture processing, urban development, fishery, education and medical services, and infrastructure development – Andrey Kostin, President, Chairman of the Management Board, Member of the Supervisory Council, Member of the Strategy and Corporate Governance Committee, VTB Bank.

A continent that stretches for 30 million square kilometers possesses incredible mineral deposits, up to the 30% of the global wealth. Africa leads in a number of minerals, such as magnesium, chrome, bauxites, gold, platinum, cobalt, and diamonds – Sergey Gorkov, General Director, Chairman of the management Board of Rosgeologia».

Africa remains and will remain a priority for our grain producers. We supply many countries of the continent with wheat. It is known to be a stable and high-quality product – Sergey Yushin, Head of the Executive Committee, National Meat Association.

Africa is among the most promising markets for Russian-made fertilizers. The last three years the consumption volume here is growing 4–5% annually, when the average global growth is at 1.5–2%. Today, Russian companies supply over a ton of produce to Africa, which amounts to 10% of the overall fertilizer consumption on the continent – Andrey Guryev, Chief Executive Officer, Chairman of the Management Board, PhosAgro.

**State level support promotes networking**

Many Russian companies have for a long time and successfully worked with their partners from various sectors of the African economy and are determined to increase their presence in Africa. We will support such plans at the state level – Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation.

Africa has numerous economic advantages and our economic Forum could become a platform that provides new collaboration opportunities – Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission.

Both the Summit and the Forum happening in Sochi these days, show the growing mutual interests in developing joint projects. It is a great opportunity to discuss the goals we are facing – Dmitry Mazepin, Chairman of the Board of Directors, URALCHEM.

**Russia is ready to share**

African countries are going through a series of transformations:
competences and technologies in both commercial and social spheres

infrastructural, digital, and human. These transformations aim to improve the quality of life for the people that populate this great continent. In the recent years, Russia has amassed a great volume of competences and now we are ready to pursue joint projects that will aim at raising the living standards — Maxim Oreshkin, Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.

We are partners. Today, many new deposits, including those that are discovered in Africa with assistance from out companies, are discovered by our professionals. We are very proud — Dmitry Kobylkin, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation.

We have developed cooperation in the fight against dangerous infectious diseases. Our country was one of the first to respond to the Ebola epidemic by allocating over $60 billion for fighting it. It should be said that the vaccine is very effective. I believe it is the best in the world — Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation.

Russia traditionally plays an active role in aiding the African countries in healthcare. This can remain our priority today — Veronika Skvortsova, Minister of Health of the Russian Federation.
## Speakers and experts

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Synopsis on the topic «Economic Integration»

1. **Anton Kuprinov**
   Executive Director, Moscow Small Business Credit Assistance Fund

2. **Alexander Auzan**
   Dean, Faculty of Economics, Lomonosov Moscow State University

3. **Stanislav Voskresensky**
   Governor, Ivanovo Region

Full list of speakers and experts →
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