

WDA Forum

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***Africa's Demographic Dividend:
Unlocking the Value of Human Resources in the Sub-Sahara***
American Enterprise Institute/World Demographic & Ageing Forum
Washington DC, June 24-25 2019

Sub-Saharan Africa is the most demographically dynamic region of the modern world. Today more babies are born each year in Nigeria than all Europe including Russia. Over the coming generation (through 2040), the sub-Sahara may account for two fifths of the world's increase in manpower and total population. One child in three may be sub-Saharan within a generation (e.g., the year 2040)—and although these must be treated with caution, longer-term population projections today suggest the sub-Sahara region may generate *all* population growth for the planet in the second half of this century.

Africa's increasing demographic weight can only make human flourishing in the sub-Sahara if numerous societal, economic and political challenges are addressed and tackled. At the moment, despite the continent's tremendous diversity, health levels and educational attainment lag; manpower tends to be underutilized; and governance remains widely problematic. For half a century the sub-Sahara has seen the world's slowest overall rate of economic growth.

Mineral and natural resources notwithstanding, the sub-Sahara's greatest wealth lies in its human beings—and Africa's success in the decades ahead will turn on unlocking the value of its human resources.

Given these overarching realities, we believe the time is right for rigorous and scholarly examination of the demographic and human capital questions that will be integral to Africa's florescence and advance. This issue of unlocking the value of human resources in the sub-Sahara is an important and increasingly pressing matter for the international community: for Africans and non-Africans alike. We believe, in fact, that this issue will define one of the great challenges for humanity over the course of the coming century.

We propose here a modest initiative to begin framing the research and policy questions that must be addressed if Africa is to capitalize upon its "demographic dividend" and succeed in long term human development. Our idea is to gather a selected interdisciplinary group of international experts in Washington DC for a two day workshop to delve into a number of separate but overlapping aspects of the challenge. The American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and the World Demographic and Ageing Forum (WDA) would organize the workshop we envision, in co-operation with the Embassy of Switzerland in the USA.

The anchor to these discussions that will be recently published book *Africa's Population – In Search of a Demographic Dividend* (Hans Groth and John May, editors)—the flagship volume for the current state of research in this field. Several of the key contributors to this volume will be invited to participate in the proposed workshop. In addition, we intend to draw in leaders in knowledge and practice from the US, Europe, and Africa. The two-day workshop will be invitation only—but it will partner with the Swiss Embassy in DC for a public event that will engage an envisioned 80-100 stakeholders from a variety of circles the Washington DC community.

Agenda

All Sessions in AEI HQ, The Classroom, Ground Floor
(1789 Mass Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036)

June 24: 02:00 – 05:00pm)

Session One: Institutions, Policies, and Economic Growth

1. Introductions, Workshop Framing
(Martin Dahinden, Nick Eberstadt, Hans Groth)
2. Economic Outlook for the Sub-Sahara; Policies to Unlock the Demographic Dividend
(Albert Zeufack, lead presenter)
3. Transparency, Corruption, Governance
(Clay Fuller, lead presenter)
4. Fragile States and the Future
(Patrick Quirk, lead presenter—invited)
5. Entrepreneurship and Job Creation: An Ethiopian Case Study
(Hans Groth, lead presenter)

A reception will be held at the Swiss Embassy at 6PM

June 25: 09:30am – 12:30pm)

Session Two: Demographics and Human Capital

1. Demographic and Educational Projections for Sub Saharan Africa: Implications and Uncertainties
(Wolfgang Lutz, lead presenter)
2. The Family Planning Factor
(John May, lead presenter)
3. Health for Africa: Constraints and Prospective Breakthroughs
(Janet Fleischman, lead presenter; Team Novartis, lead presenter)
4. Unlocking Human Potential—The Women Factor
(Augusto Lopez Claros, lead presenter)
5. Synthesis: What We Know; What We Don't Know; Research Agenda; Policy Implications
(Jack Goldstone, lead presenter)

A light luncheon will be served at AEI at noon on Tuesday June 25

Workshop Invitees

Nicholas Eberstadt* PHD Co-Chair (AEI)

Hans Groth* MD Co-Chair (WDA)

- Amb. Martin Dahinden* PHD (Swiss Foreign Ministry)
- Sangu Delle JD MBA (Golden Palm Investment)
- Emily Estelle* (AEI)
- Do Thu Thien* MPH (Novartis)
- Janet Fleischman* (CSIS)
- Clay R. Fuller* PHD (AEI)
- Jack Goldstone* PHD (George Mason University)
- Augusto Lopez-Claros* PHD (World Bank)
- Wolfgang Lutz* PHD (Wittgenstein Centre)
- John May* PHD (Georgetown University)
- Sinit Mehtsun* M.Sc. (Novartis)
- Patrick R. Quirk PHD (US Department of State)
- Justin Sandefur* PHD (Center for Global Development)
- Thomas Zeltner* MD LLM (Chairman, KPT)
- Albert Zeufack* PHD (World Bank)

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About the World Demographic & Ageing Forum

Population trends as well as ageing and generational issues are among the key challenges of the 21st century, but also a source of unique opportunities. With a vision of maintaining and enhancing welfare and prosperity in the future, the WDA Forum aims to address and research these demographic issues and their impact on the social, economic and political environment in the international context. To this end, it has defined five areas of action: work life, retirement plans, financial markets, health and digital ageing. As a think tank, the WDA Forum works closely with the Institute of Insurance Economics at the University of St. Gallen as well as other educational and research institutions including the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, Stanford University in California, and Fudan University in Shanghai. The WDA Forum was established in 2002 and is based in St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Further information can be found at: www.wdaforum.org