



**NEW FORMS OF INTEGRATION IN EMERGING AFRICA**  
Policy workshop organised by the OECD Development Centre in collaboration with  
the Graduate Institute for International Studies, Geneva

Geneva, 13 October 2000

**SUMMARY**

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## SUMMARY

### **New Forms of Integration in Emerging Africa**

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1. The OECD Development Centre, in collaboration with the Graduate Institute for International Studies in Geneva, organised a policy workshop to bring together the researchers carrying out case studies for the Centre on new forms of integration and co-operation in sub-Saharan Africa. The purpose was to discuss preliminary drafts of those studies with a view to providing guidance to authors on how to improve them within the framework of the overall objectives of the Centre's research activity, "New Approaches to Poverty Reduction in Development", to be completed by end-2000. The workshop also attracted a number of other participants, all speaking in their personal capacity, from the diplomatic corps of Algeria and Switzerland, Geneva-based inter-governmental organisations such as the International Labour Office (ILO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO), international civil society (World Council of Churches, World Economic Forum), and academia.
2. The exchange of views focused on the prospects for regional integration in sub-Saharan Africa the scope for using multi-country initiatives to implement structural reforms, and the implications for official development assistance (ODA) of the new drive towards regionalism. Much discussion centred on why regional integration has malfunctioned in the past, as it did in each case study presented, and which conditions should be in place to ensure that regional integration meets the development needs of African countries. The importance of taking into account the political, economic, legal and institutional realities in each country and region when designing integration schemes was underlined.
3. Particular attention was given to three key ingredients of regional integration: (i) the need for strong political leadership; (ii) the active participation of civil society and the business sector; and (iii) the need to ensure coherence between domestic liberalisation, regional integration and co-operation, and multilateral negotiations. Considerable attention was also devoted to the factors and forces creating resistance to progress in regional integration in sub-Saharan Africa, notably, the behaviour of vested interest groups. The need for development partners, e.g. ODA Agencies, multilateral lenders, international organisations and development NGOs, to identify and support actors that work *for* such progress was highlighted as a priority.
4. The case studies will be revised in light of the comments and ideas generated during the workshop. Final versions will be prepared for publication as Technical Papers of the Development Centre, to be released before the Second International Forum on African Perspectives, co-organised with the African Development Bank, to be held on 8-9 February 2001, in Paris. The Forum will be devoted to the topic of "Regionalism in Africa". A synthesis report of the project will be also prepared in 2001.