

EBA Seminar:

What Role for the African Development Bank in a New Africa?

Venue: "Bankhallen", UD, Malmtorgsgatan 3, Stockholm
23 March 2015, 14.00-16.00, Coffee and registration from 13.30

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is an important actor in Swedish aid. Like other development banks it subsidizes loans to low income countries (LIC) with a combination of aid money and reflows from its commercial lending to middle income countries (MIC). Dr Christopher Humphrey argues in a new EBA report that slow lending procedures and strict rules make MIC:s less prone to borrow from the AfDB. This leads to decreasing reflows and a weaker overall position for the AfDB. Hence, he argues, the Bank needs to reform in order to stay relevant.

The wider challenges the bank faces stems from a rapidly changing African continent. Economic growth brings a multitude of new financial flows – domestic and international – as well as development of markets. How can new sources of development finance support broad based – and hence long-term – economic growth and poverty reduction? What role could the African Development Bank play in this dynamic phase? And how can foreign aid be used catalytically in this new setting?

Registration

Please register Wednesday 18 March at the latest to: eba.seminarium@gov.se or at www.eba.se. The number of seats is limited.

Program

13.30 Coffee and registration

14.00 Welcome and introduction – Torgny Holmgren (moderator)

14.05 The African Development Bank – Ready to Face the Challenges of a Changing Africa? - Christopher Humphrey

14.40 Comments followed by panel discussion: What Future Roles for the AfDB and Aid in Financing Africa's Continued Development?

- How Relevant is the AfDB for Today's Kenya? – Njuguna Ndung'u

- How Relevant is the AfDB in the Global Financial System? – Anders Borg

Ulrika Modéer; Anders Borg; Njuguna Ndung'u; Anna Ryott; Christopher Humphrey

15.55: Concluding Remarks – Lars Heikensten

Speakers and panelists

Christopher Humphrey, PhD, Researcher, Zürich University, Switzerland;

Njuguna Ndung'u, Professor, former Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya;

Anders Borg, Chair, Global Financial System Initiative, World Economic Forum, former Minister of Finance, Sweden;

Anna Ryott, Managing Director, Swedfund

Ulrika Modéer, State Secretary for Development Cooperation, Sweden;

Lars Heikensten, Chair EBA, CEO the Nobel Foundation, former Governor of the Swedish Riksbank.

Torgny Holmgren, Member of EBA, CEO Stockholm International Water Institute, Sweden