

Abstract: Africa faces multiple economic challenges due to its exposure to global shocks, such as market instability, climate change, geopolitical tensions and dependence on raw materials. These vulnerabilities are exacerbated by high borrowing costs, limited infrastructure and a lack of economic diversification. However, UNCTAD notes that the continent has a \$3.4 billion opportunity if it can transform these weaknesses into strengths by implementing resilience and development strategies.

Controversial points:

Future economic opportunities: Africa can transform its economic vulnerabilities into opportunities through trade, investment and regional integration. Africa has the potential to become a key driver of global trade and economic growth.



Strengthen SMEs: SMEs account for 80% of employment in Africa, but face challenges due to weak infrastructure, currency volatility and limited access to finance. This may be important for Africa's future economic development.

Regional trade: Commodity dependence, high debt and insufficient infrastructure make African economies more vulnerable. Strong and diversified trade networks can strengthen their resilience and stimulate growth.



Key Countries:

South Africa: In the last decades, this country has taken on an important economic role in the African continent due to its recognition as an emerging

market internationally, making South Africa an upper middle-income country based on the World Bank's ranking; it allows the country to have well-developed infrastructure, permitting the progress in the region.

Nigeria: The economic development in Nigeria slowed from 3.3% in 2022 to 2.9% in 2023, because of high inflation and sluggish growth in the global economy, although the Nigerian economy is one of the largest in Africa, being its primary industry the petroleum, followed by the oil and manufacturing industry.

China: This country has become Africa's largest trading partner, with an outlook in sub-Saharan Africa. Around 16% of the imports of African countries come from China, according to the IMF, giving \$282 billion in total trade volume; at the same time, China has been providing Africa with a new source of infrastructure, mining, and energy financing.

U.S.A: The recognition of Africa's importance to U.S. strategic and economic interests is happening in parallel efforts by other global powers. As Africa is increasingly recognized at the highest levels of American decision-making in new and dynamic ways, the tools of U.S. engagement with the continent largely have not caught up at all.

Russia: The influence of Russia in the African interest has grown promptly, this capacity extends from deepening ties in North Africa, expanding its reach in the Central African Republic and the Sahel, and rekindling Cold War ties in southern Africa, this highlights the Russian political authority in African countries.

Egypt: This country plays an important role in Africa's development, Egypt has a strategic location along the Suez canal letting improve regional trade, also Egypt is a key player in the politics of the continent, mediating conflicts across the region. Egypt's bequest in culture, economy, and politics make it an essential force in Africa's growth.

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