



PRESENTATION OF THE “DOING BUSINESS 2015-AFRICA” REPORT

Where: Casa Árabe, Madrid.

When: Tuesday, 24th of February, 2015.

Collaborators: Casa Árabe and Red de Casas.

Participants: a hundred persons attended, including representatives from companies, institutions and African Embassies in Spain.

Speaker: Augusto López Claros, director of World Bank Group's Global Indicators Group.

Report's key points:

- Doing business in Sub-Saharan Africa is becoming even easier and safer thanks to the fact that most of the African countries are legislating to improve in their countries the business environment and the legal security.
- Sub-Saharan Africa is the zone that has a larger number of this type of reforms: more than the 70% of its economies made at least one of them.
- 35 out of the 47 Sub-Saharan Africa's countries have made at least one reform to make business easier. In fact, there were 230 reforms introduced all over the world during that period, and 75 of them were taking place in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- There are 5 African economies in the list of the 10 countries that have introduced more regulating improvements to make the business environment easier between 1st of June, 2013 and 1st of June, 2014: Benin, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal and Togo.
- Mauritius appears in the 28th place of the world ranking as the first African country in which doing business is easier, followed by South Africa (43) and Rwanda (46). It is also important to highlight the fact that the last 6 countries of the ranking are African: Democratic Republic of the Congo (184), Chad (185), South Sudan (186), Central African Republic (187), Libya (188) and Eritrea (189).
- Benin is now ranked higher (151st place) thanks to reforms such as a reduction of the necessary documents for the importations, or a reduction of the minimum capital requirement and the necessary fees to start a business.
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo made improvements in five of the indicators measured in this report, introducing one-stop-shops for starting a business and making tax payment easier.
- Ivory Coast stands out for the simplification of the proceedings in the inspections at Customs and the reductions of charges in the Port of Abidjan.
- Senegal increased the security for its investors, made the payment of taxes easier and also made getting construction permit and starting of a business easier.
- Togo ranked the 149th place by easing the transparency of properties, increasing the protection of minority investors and lowering taxes.

Main conclusions:

- African economies are still very small in a global context.
- Observed tendencies in Africa are all positives, but that doesn't mean we have to forget the continent's problems.
- Despite its progress, Sub-Saharan Africa is still the hardest place in the world to do business.
- All forecasts point out that new realities are going to come first in Africa within 10 or 15 years: an extra reduction of the African GDP compared to the rest of the world, higher levels of international commerce in Africa compared to the rest of the global economy, a greater presence of international companies in Africa and a greater incorporation of women to the labor force.
- The introduction of new technologies by the African administrations is another element that is making the creation of new business in the continent easier.
- Domestic investment is the one that really creates wealth in Africa.
- The World Bank is very optimistic about Africa: despite all the problems and difficulties and all the steps we have to take, it is becoming easier to start a business in Sub-Saharan Africa thanks to the reforms that countries are introducing in their legislations.

Mentions in the media:

- Elpais.com (newspaper), Planeta Futuro section, 'Haciendo negocios en África', by Chema Caballero:
http://elpais.com/elpais/2015/02/24/planeta_futuro/1424803519_272779.html
- Televisión Española, interview with Augusto López-Claros in La 2 Noticias. 2'30" piece.
- Mundo Negro Magazine:
<http://www.mundonegro.com/mnd/24-02-2015/banco-mundial-anima-hacer-negocios-africa>
- Atalayar Magazine:
<http://www.atalayar.com/content/el-banco-mundial-propone-hacer-negocios-con-%C3%A1frica-1>
- La Provincia (newspaper). 'El Banco Mundial destaca el avance de Senegal y Cabo Verde'.
<http://www.laprovincia.es/economia/2015/02/25/banco-mundial-destaca-avance-cabo/679312.html>