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Might these be the answer?

Here are the five steps for creating economic growth in Africa and developing jobs for young people across the continent.

1. **Develop critical infrastructure**. The lack of modern infrastructure in Africa costs the continent "at least 2% in GDP growth annually." Among the systems that Africa needs to develop are an expansive electrical grid, roads, railways, and communications. These systems allow for more efficient production and transportation of goods, allowing for an increased economic output. Additionally, the continent needs to work on establishing clean water and sanitation systems, which will result in improved public health.

2. **Develop human capital.** Africa must invest in the skills of its people in order to advance their standard of living. Currently, "33 million primary school-aged children in Sub Saharan Africa do not go to school," and "40% of Africans over the age of 15 and 50% of women above the age of 25 are illiterate." Africans need improved access to education in order to work in skilled trades and earn higher wages.

3. **Build safety nets.** Throughout Africa, there are few systems that are established to help citizens who are living in poverty or have been negatively impacted by natural disasters. Africa must work to establish tax systems to collect revenue for providing assistance to those in need throughout the continent.

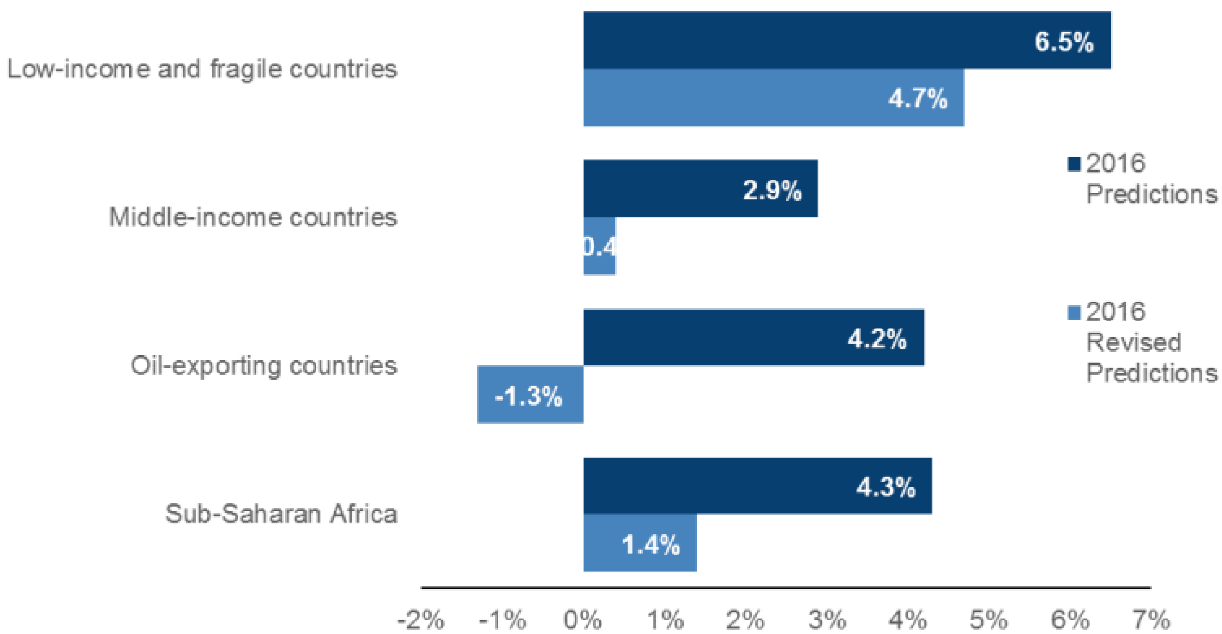
4. **Address a growing population.** In 2010, Africa was home to more than 1 billion people. The population of Africa is expected to double to 2 billion people by the year 2050. In order to help alleviate poverty in the continent, a focus should be placed on family planning. By reducing the number of births per woman in Africa, the overall GDP per capita will increase, resulting in a higher standard of living for Africans.

5. **Embrace Africa's youthful population.** Africa's youth represents the future of the continent. By establishing programs that focus on the intellectual development and health improvement of young Africans, the continent will make an investment in its future. Africa has true potential for future economic growth if the continent's nations invest in its young population, providing them with the tools they need to be successful in a global economy

2. In the 2016 publication of Foresight Africa, an annual publication by the Africa Growth Initiative at Brookings, we highlighted the continent's low growth rate. The first chapter, Managing Economic Shocks: African Prospects in the Evolving External Environment, highlights the slow growth the continent has experienced in recent years and describes the prospects for recovery, along with policy recommendations. Ahead of the upcoming publication of Foresight Africa 2017, this post reflects on the growth rate predictions from Foresight Africa 2016 and the current state of sub-Saharan Africa's economy.

   In 2015, the region experienced its slowest growth since 1998. According to the October 2016 edition of the IMF Regional Economic Outlook for Africa, the growth rate fell from 5.1 percent in 2014 to 3.4 percent. Growth predictions for the continent stated that the region's GDP growth rate would rebound to 4.3 percent in 2016 (Figure 1). However, in 2016, the continent's GDP growth rate continues to decline, as the IMF predicts a drop to 1.4 percent, 2.9 percentage points below the initially predicted growth rate. Oil-exporting countries saw the largest shock to their economies as their GDP growth forecast became negative. Equatorial Guinea, South Sudan, and Nigeria will see their economies shrink by 9.9, 13.1 and 1.7 percent, respectively.

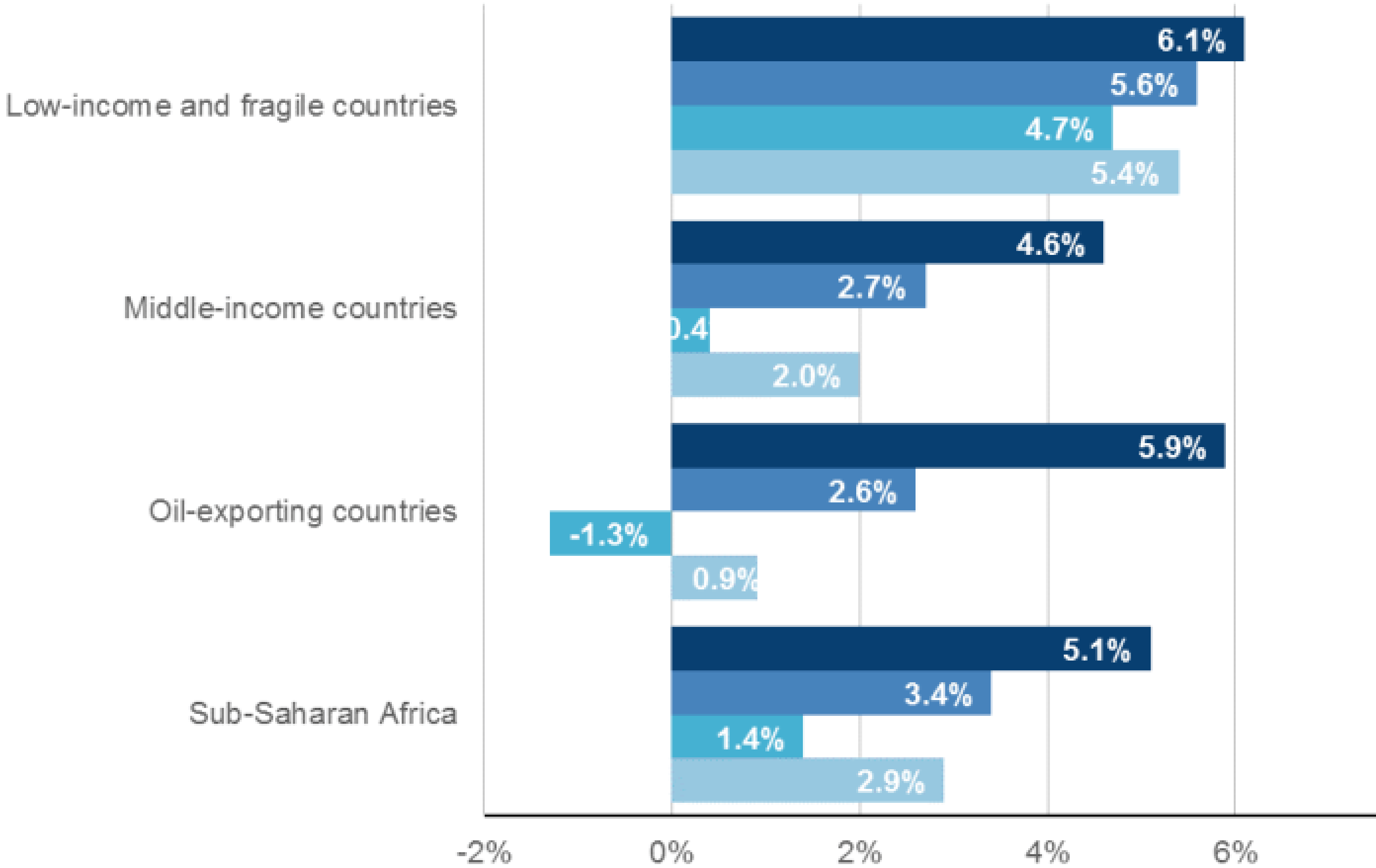
Figure 1: GDP growth rates in sub-Saharan Africa: October 2015 predictions against October 2016 revisions



Source: Regional Economic Outlook sub-Saharan Africa, October 2016

The slow growth narrative is not uniform throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Non-oil-exporting countries such as Kenya, Burkina Faso, and Senegal have recorded GDP growth rate increases, from 5.6, 4, and 6.5 percent in 2015 to 6, 5.2, and 6.8 percent in 2016, respectively. Cote d'Ivoire is set to record an 8 percent growth rate in 2016, the highest in sub-Saharan Africa. While the drop in commodity prices has negatively impacted the economy of oil-exporters, commodity importers have benefited from a lower oil import bill and an improved business environment and are predicted to grow at a rate of 5.5 percent in 2016.

Figure 2: GDP Growth rates for sub-Saharan Africa, 2014-2017



Source: Regional Economic Outlook sub-Saharan Africa, October 2016
** IMF Predictions*

The growth outlook for 2017 looks brighter (Figure 2). GDP growth is set to rebound to 2.9 percent. The regional economic outlook attributes this rebound to a pickup in global activity and the backdrop of policy adjustments.