



CALL FOR PAPERS

AFRICA IN THE GEOPOLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE



Concepts: Actors, Recent Disruptions, and Managerial and Geo-economic Implications

Coordination

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This call for papers seeks to produce a comprehensive collective work on the geopolitics of international trade, with a specific focus on Africa. The central question addressed is: **What is Africa's role in the geopolitics of international trade today?** To examine this question, contributors are invited to:

- Highlight key concepts and influential stakeholders.
- Analyze geopolitical disruptions and recent systemic shocks.
- Investigate managerial, Geo-economic, and emerging implications specific to Africa.

1. Context

Since the early 2000s, Africa has played an increasingly significant role in international relations and global geopolitical and trade dynamics (AU, 2015; SPD, 2025; Policy Center for the New South, 2025; ECA, 2023; AfDB, 2024; UNCTAD, 2023). The rise of international tensions — marked by the return of inter-state wars (Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Hamas-Hezbollah), economic warfare, and geo-economic rivalries (China, West-Russia) — has accelerated Africa's transformation (Jeangène Vilmer, 2024; Holeindre, 2025). Once considered peripheral, Africa remains strategically important due to its vast natural resources (hydrocarbons, minerals, rare earths) and its key geographical positioning (Le Gouriellec, 2022). Its economic potential is based on dynamic growth, a strong demographic advantage with a young population, and an integrated continental market of 1.4 billion consumers (ITC, 2022).

However, this attraction makes the continent a space for risk diversification, while structural vulnerabilities remain high. Recent dynamics have reinforced a passive image of Africa, either as a breeding ground for criminal activities, a geopolitical playground, a theater of operations, or an arena for the confrontation of great powers (Chalmin & Jégourel, 2019). This overshadows Africa's role as a full-fledged actor in international geopolitical dynamics. These dynamics raises internal challenges, exposing the continent to major economic, security, and environmental issues that hinder sustainable development.

2. Justification and Objectives

Given the current evolution of the global scene, Africa must anticipate socio-political and geopolitical developments in the geo-economic environment where it plays a growing strategic role. This requires the mastery of global issues, the Awareness of its weaknesses the Knowledge of its strengths, Risk assessment, Seizing available opportunities and Acquiring the necessary cognitive and technical means.

This approach is equally crucial for both national and regional trade strategies in Africa, as well as for analyzing the performance of local or foreign enterprises operating on the continent. This project aims to analyze the geopolitical determinants of international trade and their impact on Africa. The main objective of this project is to examine the impact of geopolitical and geo-economic dynamics on Africa and its growing role in international trade.

To achieve this, the project will adopt a multidisciplinary approach, drawing on economics, management sciences, political science, international relations, geopolitics and on related disciplines (sociology, history, geography, law, etc.). The goal is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the geo-economic challenges shaping Africa's economic and managerial future in a globalized world.

3. Structure of the project

This project is transversal by nature, involving multiple research disciplines. We invite national and international researchers, experts in international relations, political economy, international trade, and management, as well as diplomats and international officials with expertise in Africa's economic development and economic diplomacy, to submit proposals in the following themes:

THEME 1: THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Axis 1: Geopolitics and International Trade

1. The geopolitical approach and its relevance in economic processes
2. Economic globalization and international trade: Issues and dynamics
3. Africa's role in global geopolitical and trade strategies

Axis 2: The Economic Theories of International Trade that Applied to Africa

1. Classical and critical approaches: Imperialism, realism, liberalism, dependency theory, solidarity
2. Postmodern and Afro-centric perspectives: Neo-Pan-Africanism, nationalism, transnationalism
3. Theoretical foundations of international trade and production internationalization
4. Strategic trade policies and regional integration in Africa

THEME 2: AFRICA AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC ACTORS

Axis 3: Africa as an Actor and Beneficiary of International Trade

1. Natural resources and their strategic role
2. Emerging African economies and their global trade weight
3. Foreign investments in Africa
4. Multinational corporations in Africa
5. Development partners and economic diplomacy

Axis 4: The Influence of Global Economic Powers and International Organizations on Africa

1. Global powers and their relations with Africa
2. Regional powers and their trade strategies in Africa
3. The role of multilateral and regional economic organizations (WTO, IMF, World Bank, AfCFTA, ECOWAS, SADC, CEEAC, COMESA, UMA, AES)
4. Informal and subversive actors impacting Africa's trade dynamics

THEME 3: AFRICA IN THE NEW GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Axis 5: Geopolitical Context and Recent Systemic Shocks: Impacts and Africa's Role

1. Africa's strategic role in global issues
2. Africa's positioning in recent global shocks and current geo-economic realities
3. The repercussions of global shocks on investments, trade, currency, and socio-political stability in Africa

Axis 6: Africa as a New Battleground for Power Rivalries

1. Africa's geopolitical, geostrategic, and geo-economic stakes
2. Rivalries and foreign powers' interests
3. Regional rivalries and dynamics
4. Africa's strategies for asserting itself in global geopolitics

THEME 4: THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER FOR AFRICA

Axis 7: Sustainable Development Challenges

1. The impact of great powers rivalries on peace and security
2. The environmental and social consequences of resources exploitation and foreign investments
3. The African Union's Agenda of 2063

Axis 8: Africa's Challenges in Global Competition

1. The Structural weaknesses of African economies
2. Dependences on raw material exports
3. Over-regulation, currency depreciation, and capital flight
4. African enterprises and the challenges of import substitution in export-oriented economies
5. Economic disparities and inequalities
6. Natural resource governance
7. Necessary trade and institutional reforms for enhanced competitiveness

Axis 9. Emerging trends and challenges:

1. Digital Transformation: The African integration into the global tech economy, e-commerce, and fintech.
2. Youth Empowerment: Leveraging African young workforce as a competitive advantage in global trade.
3. Health Diplomacy: African role in pharmaceutical trade and lessons from global health crises.
4. Cultural Diplomacy: Using Africans' rich heritage to strengthen international trade relations.

Axis 10. Economic Development Opportunities

1. Diversification, technological, industrial development and digital transformation
2. The rise of intra-African trade through AFCFTA: Economic and social impacts
3. Access to global markets and Africa's integration into global value chains
4. Foreign investment attractiveness
5. Diaspora role in Africa economic development
6. Emerging trade routes and Africa opportunities

THEME 5: FUTURE PERSPECTIVES FOR AFRICA IN THE GEOPOLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Axis 11. Policies for African Better Integration into Global Trade

1. Strengthening regional integration, local industries and diversification of trade partnerships
2. Implementing ambitious commercial diplomacy in Africa's international economic relations
3. Addressing global challenges (energy transition, digital economy, and sustainability)

Axis 12: Africa's Trade Prospects by 2050

1. Strengthening resilience and adaptation capacities: Food self-sufficiency, infrastructure, and industrial capabilities
2. Leadership in innovation, digital transformation, and Artificial Intelligence
3. Joint ventures, strategic partnerships, and alliances in Africa

4. Submission Guidelines

Abstracts (max. 500 words) in English or French must specify the theme and axis, author(s) name, specialty, and Institution. Subject line: "AGIT Submission". Email of submission: ouvrage.agci@gmail.com

5. Submission Calendar

- Launch: **March 10, 2025**
- Abstract deadline: **April 30, 2025**
- Full chapter submission: **August 31, 2025**
- Publication: **January 2026**