



LANGUE VIVANTE I

ANGLAIS

Economic Slowdown in Africa

At the opening of a two-day conference in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned today about a slowdown of the African economic growth to 3.25% in 2009, half the growth rate it previously thought. The slump in commodity prices and the credit squeeze are at the basis of this fact, the IMF said.

The conference, hosted by the Republic of Tanzania and the IMF, was called with the objective of discussing the external support that the IMF and other Western donors may be able to provide to help mitigate the impact of the crisis on Africa.

The financial crisis has slowly reached the continent but its impacts will soon be severe. This is what the IMF calls "third wave" of the crisis, which is hitting low-income countries and is expected to depress economic growth, put budgets under strain, and weaken external accounts. The risk for millions of Africans is to be pulled back into poverty.

"We must ensure that the voices of the poor are heard. We must ensure that Africa is not left out. This is not only about protecting economic growth and household incomes – it is also about containing the threat of civil unrest, perhaps even of war. It is about people and their futures," said IMF managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

"Africa is already facing the impact of climate change and food insecurity and will be heavily impacted by the economic meltdown. Immediate steps must be taken to allow African countries to have access to a large increase in financial flows. Africa must be part of the solution to the global economic crisis," said Kofi Annan at the conference.

The low growth predictions mean that the conditions of millions of Africans living in poverty are likely to become even worse than now. The IMF confirmed that many countries will not have the funds to protect the poor from the effects of the downturn and may need external assistance. "While African policymakers are rising to this unexpected challenge, donors must also play their part. They must maintain their commitments and scale up, not scale back their support," it said.

The IMF will ask for substantial increase in its funding at the next G20 meeting in April. Whether it will succeed in that, is going to be a chapter of further analysis.

Giulia de Robert, adapted. March 10, 2009. <http://www.suite101.com>

I. COMPREHENSION (08 marks)

A- Matching: Match the words in column A with their equivalents in the text in column B

(0.5 x 3 = 1.5 marks)

Column A	Column B
1) Aid
2) Social troubles
3) substantial decrease
4) Catastrophic decrease

B- Complete the following paragraph meaningfully with words or groups of words taken from the text.

(0.5 x 3 = 1.5 marks)

Once the IMF noticed that African economies were growing slower than expected, a conference was called in Tanzania with a view to (5) Africa with external (6) in order to mitigate the impact of the crisis. But it is said that a (7) to this crisis cannot be effective without Africans' own commitment.

C) Referencing: What do the underlined words refer to in the text?

(0.5 x 3 = 1.5 marks)

8) This fact:

9) This unexpected challenge:

LANGUE VIVANTE I

D) True or False: Say whether the following sentences are true or false and justify your answer with specific quotations from the text. (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

- 10) According to the IMF, African economic growth should have reached 6.5% in 2009
- 11) The reason why the conference was organized was to give African nations more courage to rely on themselves for their economic growth
- 12) Africa has been one of the first victims of the world financial crisis
- 13) The economic crisis is the only current problem of Africa

E) Read the text and complete this IMF chart about African economic slowdown (0.5 x 3 = 1.5 marks)

Main causes	- Lower commodity prices (14)
Main consequences	- Depress economic growth - Put budget under strain (15)
Main solution	(16)

II. LINGUISTIC AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (6 marks)

F) Dialogue: Complete this dialogue accurately and meaningfully (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

- A-....., isn't it ? (17)
- B- Yes, you're right! Africa is not only facing an unprecedented crisis but it is also suffering from political instability.
- A- According to IMF,..... ? (18)
- B- Millions of Africans are.
- A- I wish those Africans (19)
- B- We all regret that, indeed.
- A- ? (20)
- B- Yes, of course! The IMF, proposed an urgent solution to the crisis.

G) Match each sentence with the notion it expresses from the list below. One does not apply ! (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

Recommendation – Concession – Regret – Paradox – Deduction

- 21) Western donors are providing Africa with funds whereas African leaders' concern is how to use that money for personal purposes. =
- 22) Africa's economic slowdown must be the result of political mismanagement. =
- 23) It is urgent that Africa find solutions to her financial crisis. =
- 24) Africans should have laid more emphasis on agriculture to better tackle poverty =

H) Fill in the blanks with the right words derived from those in brackets (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

- 25) Contrary to the IMF's African economic growth was 3.25% in 2009. (expect)
- 26) The global recession continues to African economies. (threat)
- 27) Africa is by the IMF to cope with its financial crisis. (assistance)
- 28) An important financial must be made on agriculture to reach food self-sufficiency. (invest)

III. WRITING Choose one topic and write about 150-200 words (6 marks)

Topic 1: Africa is depending too much on Western aid to solve its financial crisis. Do you favour this strategy ? Give your reasons.

Topic 2: You live in a country where the rate of unemployment is gradually increasing. Youngsters are the most vulnerable people in that situation. Write a letter to the local authorities to denounce that fact and propose solutions.