

Overview

The Africa Competitiveness Report 2013 comes out at a time of growing international attention focused on Africa as an investment destination and mounting talk of an African economic renaissance. This increased optimism is being spurred on by a decade of historically strong growth, with many countries in Africa relatively unscathed by the global economic crisis, thanks to prudent macroeconomic management.¹ However,

Box 1: Data used in this Report

The Executive Opinion Survey

The Executive Opinion Survey (the Survey) conducted annually by the World Economic Forum captures the perceptions of leading business executives on numerous dimensions of the economy from a cross-section of firms representing its main sectors. The Survey compiles data in the following areas: infrastructure, financial environment, innovation and technology, foreign trade and investment, domestic competition, company operations and strategy, government and public institutions, education and human capital, corruption, ethics and social responsibility, Travel & Tourism, environment, and health. All these areas feed into the 12 pillars of the Global Competitiveness Index. In the Survey, business leaders are asked to assess specific aspects of the business environment in the country in which they operate. For each question, respondents are asked to give their opinion about the situation in their country of residence, compared with a global norm.

The Survey gauges the current condition of a given economy's business climate. The data generated from the Survey comprise the core qualitative ingredient of the Global Competitiveness Index as well as a number of other development-related studies and indexes carried out by the Forum and other institutions. The most recent Survey data cover a record 144 economies, with responses of

and broader ties to the global economy are putting additional pressure on the need for African economies to invest more in infrastructure. Developing adequate

