

EPREUVE ORALE D'ANGLAIS

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8. African Youth Migration and Development

Economic migration from Africa to Europe driven by poverty could double in the next decade unless urgent investment is made in job creation for young people in rural areas. The global population is forecast to reach 9.9 billion in 2050; a 29% increase with most of that growth in Africa, where the population is expected to double to 2.6 billion.

Gilbert Hougbo, the president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, said that with 60% of Africa's young people living in rural areas, global leaders need to prioritize investment in their futures to curb forced migration, feed a growing population and help smallholder farmers who are facing the added burden of climate change become not only self-sufficient but profitable. He said: "Investment in sustainable farming is essential for the livelihoods of those in rural communities and for food security but it is not enough to engage the younger generations. That is why we need to look at the bigger picture. The priorities are decent schools, potable water and basic healthcare. I also consider access to whatsapp to be a basic service. Young people need access to modern technology."

He said developing renewable energy would also be a consideration as some local grids are not up to the job. "If you cannot charge your cellphone or laptop, it's difficult to do business." Action is needed by national governments, the development community and private sector partners to create the right conditions to make this possible. Investment in trading and empowering women in rural areas is also vital to the transformation of rural economies. Research has shown that if women were to have the same access to agricultural resources as men, about 150 million fewer people would go hungry.

Adapted from The Guardian, 5th December 2018.
