AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

World Bank Group Support to **Fostering Regional Integration**
PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REDUCING CONFLICTS ARE PRIMARY MOTIVATIONS TO FOSTER REGIONAL INTEGRATION

1. Development issues transcend borders
2. Promising pathways to cross-border integration exist
3. Multilateral Institutions’ mandate supports fostering role

RI promotes economic growth  \(\Rightarrow\)  RI reduces conflicts and violence

Source: IEG, WBG, literature review
THREE PATHWAYS TO FOSTERING REGIONAL INTEGRATION REINFORCE EACH OTHER

CONNECTIVITY
- Transport infrastructure
- Telecom and ICT
- Financial Systems

INSTITUTIONS
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- National Agencies

PUBLIC GOODS
- Transboundary water resources
- Pandemic Crisis Facilities

RI IS NOT WITHOUT COSTS, E.G. BORDER ISSUES, MIGRATION, CEDING INTERESTS.

YET NET BENEFITS ARE POSITIVE, E.G. ASEAN
FOSTERING RI CAN HAVE BOTH DIRECT AND INDIRECT LINKAGES TO SDG 2030 AGENDA

Source: IEG
THE WORLD BANK GROUP COMMITMENTS TO FOSTER REGIONAL INTEGRATION ARE FOCUSED ON THE AFRICA REGION
EFFICIENT FRONTIER ANALYSIS SUGGESTS UNTAPPED POTENTIAL IN SUB-REGIONS LIKE NORTHERN AFRICA AND CENTRAL AFRICA
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SDG17 IS THE FINAL FRONTIER AND REQUIRES CONVENING POWER + PATIENCE CAPITAL

IEG Report recommends that if the World Bank Group wants to foster RI, then

- Intensify Traditional and Non-Traditional Partnerships and
- Emphasize regional public goods
“AT THE BOTTOM OF PATIENCE, ONE FINDS HEAVEN”

- AFRICAN PROVERB