

Globalization, Trade Openness, and Economic Growth in Africa: The Moderating Role of Global Integration

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Abstract: This paper explores the impact of globalization and trade openness on economic growth in Africa, a continent with both opportunities and significant structural vulnerabilities. Despite maintaining an average growth rate of 4% over the last two decades, Africa remains poorly integrated into global trade, raising doubts about globalization's ability to drive sustainable development. The study uses econometric panel data analysis on a sample of 40 African countries from 2010 to 2024, employing fixed and random effects models, robustness tests, and an interaction variable to assess the moderating effect of trade openness. The results indicate that globalization, on its own, does not significantly affect economic growth, whereas trade openness has a direct positive impact. Furthermore, the interaction between globalization and trade openness demonstrates an amplifying effect, with the most open African countries benefiting the most from global integration in terms of investment, technology transfer, and productive diversification. These findings emphasize the importance of African policymakers enhancing trade facilitation policies, improving logistics infrastructure, and expediting the implementation of the AfCFTA to leverage openness and globalization for inclusive and sustainable growth.

Keywords: Globalization, Trade Openness, Economic Growth, Africa, AfCFTA, Global Integration, Panel Data