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Analysis of Impact of Financial Integration on Economic Activity, Trade Openness and Macroeconomic Volatility: The Case of African Pre-Emerging and Low Income Countries

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we review some of the macroeconomic impacts of the international financial integration of emerging and developing countries. It is acknowledged that financial globalization and international financial integration affect several aspects of economic performance, particularly increase in the investment rate, technology transfers, trade openness, development of the domestic financial system and long-term economic growth. Similarly, financial globalization is recognized as a potential source of macroeconomic instability.

The results of empirical analysis in the case of African pre-emerging and low income countries show that the impact of external capital flows on growth seems to depend mainly on the initial conditions and policies implemented in the country under consideration to stabilize foreign investment, boost domestic investment, productivity, trade, development of the domestic financial system and other actions aimed at stimulating growth and reducing poverty.

The analysis also shows that financial instability was particularly severe as from the 90s, whereas many developing countries (including African economies) had only recently liberalized their capital accounts. The instability was more pronounced in the case of portfolio investments than in foreign direct investments because of the longer-term relationship established by the latter. Similarly, trends in official capital flows were less unstable than in private capital flows. Finally, the most severe instability of capital flows observed in financially more “open” countries was accompanied by greater macroeconomic instability.

Keywords: International financial integration, Trade openness, Economic activity, Volatility, Africa.

Contribution of Study

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this study is to provide an empirical analysis of some of the impacts of international financial integration on economic activity and macro-economic volatility in the case of African pre-emerging and low-income countries. While dominant economic theory suggests that capital account liberalization has a more or less significant impact on economic growth, there are also a number of works that call into question the existence of capital mobility-related benefits.

Dominant economic theory suggests that financial globalization and international financial integration may foster more efficient resource allocation, facilitate risk diversification, increase specialization in production, create technological spin-offs, contribute to the development of the financial system, improve investment rates and boost growth (refer, in particular, to IMF (2001); Edison, Klein, Ricci and Sløk (2002a and 2000b); Henry (2000); King and Levine 1993); Mougani (2001 and 2006); Obstfeld (1994); Prasad et al. (2003); and Stulz (1999). In acknowledging the existence of these potential impacts, the industrialized countries have been committed to capital account liberalization policies for over a quarter of a century. According to these authors, many of the positive impacts observed in these countries are largely due to increased investment opportunities and financial development induced by greater openness of capital markets.

Many studies and international financial institutions² publications have naturally proposed that less developed countries should adopt economic policies aimed at fostering greater international financial integration. However, others who, in particular, note that fluctuations in capital flows related to capital account liberalization are likely to cause and spread financial crises have criticized this approach³. These new stances were mainly developed after the crises of the 1990s. Institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and some authors thus emphasized that while financial openness is desirable, it is essential for such liberalization to be gradual and prudent (IMF 2001).

The concepts of financial globalization and international financial integration are closely linked. Financial globalization is a broad concept that refers to the strong expansion of transnational financial flows (Prasad *et al.* 2003). According to the World Bank, 'financial globalization' or 'globalization of financial markets' can be defined as "as the integration of a country's local financial system with international financial markets and institutions" (World Bank, *Global Development Finance*, 2010). The concept of international financial integration (or financial integration) refers to the specific links of a country with international capital markets (Prasad *et al.* 2003). In other words, international financial integration can be likened to the opening of domestic financial systems, such as financial markets and institutions and banking systems, to the rest of the world and the internationalization of financial assets and liabilities managed by resident entities. It is also comparable to the concepts of financial liberalization and financial openness. In the remainder of this paper, the terms financial liberalization, financial openness, and international financial integration are used interchangeably.

The first section provides a literature review on the relationship between financial integration and economic growth in developing countries by distinguishing between works implying the existence of a positive relationship between financial integration and economic growth, and those that question or reject such a relationship. The second section presents an overview of economic literature on the relationship between financial integration and macroeconomic volatility. The third section is devoted to an empirical analysis of the relationship between financial integration and growth. Lastly, the fourth section considers the impact of financial integration on macroeconomic volatility from an empirical standpoint.

2. Review of Literature on Relationship between International Financial Integration and Economic Growth

Many academic studies have attempted to consider the relationship between capital account liberalization⁴ and growth by incorporating an indicator of such liberalization into the classic growth model. The results of these studies are mixed, since some of them found a significant positive impact of capital account liberalization on growth while others were unable to establish such a relationship (refer to

² Refer, in particular to IMF (2001); Summers (1999); Klein and Olivei (2000); Baillu (2000); Borensztein, De Gregorio, and Lee (1998).

³ Analyses of the financial crises of the 90s are to be found, in particular, in the October 2001, May 1999 and May 1998 issues of the International Monetary Fund's *World Economic Outlook* (2001), 1999 and 1998), the *Techniques financières et Développement* (issues 53-54, December 1998 - March, 1999), Philippe D'Arvisenet and Jean-Pierre Petit's book [1999], studies by Prasad et al (2003), Rogoff (1999), Cartapanis (2003), Calvo and Reinhart (1996) and Jeanne O. (2004).

⁴ Financial account based on the 5th edition of the Balance of Payments Manual BOPM5.

Table 1). We will present some of those works that imply a positive relationship between financial integration and economic growth and some of those that refute such a relationship.

2.1. Works Implying a Positive Relationship between International Financial Integration and Economic Growth

One of the foremost studies to highlight a positive relationship between capital account liberalization and growth was by Quinn (1997). Klein and Olivei (2000) also showed that capital account liberalization had a positive impact on growth in the case of developed countries. However, these two authors did not identify any positive link between capital account liberalization and economic growth in the case of non-industrialized countries. Baillu (2000) also finds that capital account liberalization boosts economic growth. The argument that the growth impacts of capital account liberalization depend on the level of economic development is defended by Edwards (1990 and 2001). He shows that the level of financial liberalization is positively linked to strong GDP per capita growth.

Arteta, Eichengreen, and Wyplosz (2001) suggested that the results obtained by Edwards (2001) could be sensitive to a number of factors, and concluded that there was evidence that the impacts of opening the capital account on growth are more favorable in rich and middle-income countries than in developing countries. Bekaert, Harvey and Lundblad (2001) examined the impact of stock market liberalization on economic growth. Overall, they show that financial liberalization leads to a one point increase in per capita GDP growth after a five-year period and that the impact is statistically significant. By analyzing the link between foreign direct investment (FDI) flows and per capita income in some Sub-Saharan African pre-emerging and low income countries, Fotso (2003) concludes that FDI-related technology transfers impact positively on growth. Delechat, Ramirez, Wagh and Wakeman-Linn (2009) also find, using a sample of 44 Sub-Saharan Africa countries, that net capital flows are positively correlated to the growth rate.

Some authors have analyzed this relationship through the impact of financial integration on trade openness as one of the more important channels towards economic growth (see Box 1).

Box-1. Analysis of the Impact of Financial Integration on Trade Openness

With the progress of globalization, the relationship between trade integration (measured by the ratio of exports and imports of goods to GDP) and financial integration raises important questions: is there complementarity between trade openness and financial openness? If so, is this relationship bilaterally positive? What are the measures for strengthening this relationship? (Shin and Yong Yang, 2006). Though not directly linked, it has been proved that countries, which are more open to trade, are also more open financially (Lane (2000); Heathcote and Perri (2004)). Feeney (1994) also concludes that the relationship between international capital markets and international trade in goods is complementary. Shin and Yong Yang have shown that the directional impact of trade in goods towards financial transactions is much more significant. Lane and Milesi-Ferretti (2004), by analyzing bilateral trade flows and the flow of goods, conclude that merchandise trade flows are strongly biased in favor of trade in financial assets. In the case of Asia, ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) member countries have focused their regional integration not only through trade integration but also through FDI. However, other financial flows have remained fairly low.

2.2. Works Rejecting the Existence of a Positive Relationship between International Financial Integration and Economic Growth

Many of the studies reviewed could not demonstrate any correlation between the degree of financial openness and economic growth or at best they concluded on a mixed impact of financial integration on growth. In the nineties, Alesina, Grilli and Milesi-Ferreti (1994) on the one hand, and Grilli and Milesi-Ferreti (1995) on the other, have revealed the absence of linkages between the degree of financial liberalization and economic growth. Rodrik (1998) also raises doubts as to the existence of any influence of the degree of financial liberalization on economic growth. Nor does Kraay (1998) find any significant relationship between the degree of capital account liberalization and growth. O'Donnell (2001) also shows that capital account liberalization does not seem to accelerate economic growth. Like some studies, he finds that the benefits of financial liberalization vary according to the country. This difference in the significance of the impact of capital account liberalization is also highlighted by Chanda (2000).

Similarly, Edison *et al.* (2002) show that the estimated impact of the opening of the capital account or stock market liberalization on economic growth is mixed. However, these authors find some support for a positive effect of capital account liberalization on growth, especially for developing countries. Edwards (2001) shows that, in the case of developing countries, the degree of capital account liberalization has no impact on economic growth. The approach adopted by Reisen and Soto (2001) consisted in examining different types of capital flows; they showed that only FDI and portfolio investments in stocks were positively correlated with the growth rate. Mougani (2006) found that the empirical analysis do not support the view that international financial integration accelerates economic growth, even under particular economic and financial conditions.

2.3. Synthesis and Critical Analysis of Works on Relationship between International Financial Integration and Economic Growth

This section presents a synthesis and critical analysis of the different studies on the relationship between the degree of financial integration and economic growth (see Table 1 below). Overall, this table shows that the number of studies reaching a negative conclusion or mixed conclusions based on the relationship between the two variables is slightly higher. The wide disparities in results are due to a number of differences among these studies. Firstly, the sampling of countries under consideration varies by author, with some focusing their analysis on developed countries and others on developing countries, and yet others on both categories of countries. Secondly, the observation periods do not always coincide, which also explains the disparities between the results obtained. Thirdly, some works are confined to an analysis of the influence of the degree of financial integration on economic growth without considering other variables, whereas others analyze this influence by factoring it into the interaction of other variables. Finally, the econometric approaches differ.

Many studies have emphasized that these divergent results do not necessarily result from a difference in capital intensity ratios, but that such divergences stem mainly from differences in factor productivity which, in turn, may be explained by factors such as the quality of such social infrastructure as governance, compliance with the principles of law and private ownership⁵. Under these conditions, although financial integration provides the economy with additional capital from abroad, this does not in itself significantly boost growth. As underscored by Prasad *et al.* (2003), if governance is sufficiently weak, financial integration may lead to capital outflows and, consequently, low growth rates despite external capital inflows. This is illustrated by Senhadji (2000) who showed that, over the 1960-1994 periods, average per capita GDP for the Sub-Saharan-African group of countries was the lowest among the different regions of developing countries. Other studies have attempted to explain the difficulty of finding a causality link between financial integration and growth by highlighting the negative effects of financial crises associated with the external financial openness⁶. Such crises are often associated with sharp falls in the growth rate, social consequences and increased poverty. In addition, for developing countries, most of the studies have, in fact, neglected the impact of other factors in the development of poor countries that are highly sensitive to internal and external shocks (such as drought, socio-political unrest, volatility of world commodity prices). However, it should be acknowledged that such factors are not easily factored into an empirical analysis.

Table-1. Classification of Selected Studies on Relationship between Financial Integration and Growth

Studies Implying a Positive Relationship between Financial Integration and Economic Growth		Studies Rejecting the Existence of a Positive Relationship between Financial Integration and Economic Growth or a Supporting a Mixed Effect	
Study	Impact on Growth	Study	Impact on Growth
Quinn (1997)	Positive	Alesina, Grilli and Milesi-Ferretti (1994)	No Impact
Klein et Olivei (2000)	Positive (for developed countries)	Grilli and Milesi-Ferretti (1995)	No Impact
			<i>Continue</i>

⁵ Refer, in particular, to Hall and Jones (1999); Senhadji (2000); Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson (2001); King and Levine (1993); and Rogoff (2002).

⁶ Refer, in particular, to Kaminsky and Reinhart (1999); Ishi *et al.* (2002).

Baillu (2000)	Positive	Kraay (1998)	No impact or, at best, mixed
Edwards (1990 and 2001)	Positive	Rodrik (1998)	No Impact
Arteta, Eichengreen, and Wyplosz (2001)	Positive (for rich and middle-income countries)	Chanda (2000)	No Impact or at best, mixed
Bekaert, Harvey and Lundblad (2001)	Positive	Klein et Olivei (2000)	No Impact (for developing countries)
Fotso Ndefo (2003)	Positive	Arteta, Eichengreen and Wyplosz (2001)	Mixed
Deléchat, Ramirez, Wagh, and Wakeman-Linn (2009)	Positive	Edwards (2001)	No Impact (for developing countries)
		O'Donnell (2001)	No Impact or at best, mixed
		Reisen and Soto (2001)	Mixed
		Edison, Klein, Ricci and Sløk (2002)	Mixed
		Edison, Levine, Ricci and Sløk (2002)	No Impact
		Mougani (2006)	No impact or, at best, mixed

3. Overview of Economic Literature on Relationship between International Financial Integration and Macroeconomic Volatility

The negative impact of financial instability on economic growth and the other macroeconomic and financial indicators has been the subject of considerable literature, especially in the wake of the Mexican and Asian crises in 1994 and 1997. As emphasized by the IMF, instability was particularly severe in the 1990s, whereas many developing countries (including African pre-emerging and low income countries) had only then liberalized their capital accounts. This instability was more pronounced in the case of portfolio investments than in direct investments because of the longer-term relationship established by the latter. The most severe instability of capital flows recorded in that decade was also accompanied by slightly weaker growth (IMF, 2001). Indeed, the 1990s witnessed many foreign exchange and financial system crises, often accompanied by a strong contraction in activity⁷. Barro (2001) also revealed that financial instability leads to drops in economic growth. This weak growth is the result of excessive capital inflows and outflows and, more generally, the instability of net financial flows (Prasad *et al.*, 2003; World Bank, 2000) and IMF, 2001).

The forecasts made by the IMF in the wake of the 1997 East Asian financial crises, which broke out in East Asia in 1997, anticipated a highly significant short-term slowdown in economic growth rates (IMF, 1998). As pointed out by Calvo and others (1996), in most cases, the financial crises were due to excessive capital inflows, which were especially volatile in the form of portfolio investments that were not efficiently allocated to the most productive investments. According to the IMF, these negative results were largely due to the limited capacities of the financial markets in many developing countries, the fact that lending agencies were less inclined to carry out deeper analysis of projects against a backdrop of abundant financial flows, and imbalances created by attempts to finance long-term projects with short-term capital (IMF, 2001).

The macroeconomic volatility in developing countries is also worsened by the international contagion phenomenon (Jeanne, 2004). The World Bank has shown that financial instability can also impact on the poverty level and have other consequences for the social situation (World Bank, 2000). In conclusion, liberalization can also be associated with more severe macro-economic instability and more frequent crises, which may generate social costs and an increase in poverty.

⁷ Reviews of the 1990s financial crises were carried out in particular, in the October 2001, May 1999 and May 1998 issues of the IMF's *World Economic Outlook*, the *Techniques financières et Développement* (issues 53-54, December 1998-March 1999), D'Arvisenet and Petit (1999), Prasad *et al.* (2003), Cartapanis (2003), Jeanne (2004); Lelart (1999); Berthelemy (1999) and Calvo *et al.* (1996).

4. Empirical Analysis of Impact of International Financial Integration on Economic Growth

The overall empirical approach of this paper is as follows. Firstly, we develop a graphical approach (section 4.1). We also follow the literature in carrying out an econometric analysis based on a cross-sectional regression on the periods under investigation and in running a generalized method of moment (GMM) dynamic panel estimation, which is a more developed econometric approach (section 4.2).

4.1. The Graphical Approach

Firstly, the impact of globalization on growth is estimated on the basis of a simple mapping between two variables: the degree of financial integration (Infi) and the real GDP growth rate. Two alternative financial integration measurements are used: the ratio of net capital flows to GDP (Infi1) and the ratio of FDI flows to GDP (Infi2). Indeed, for most African pre-emerging and low-income countries, the difference between net and gross flows is not significant. Annexes 1 and 2 present a classification between financially “open” and “closed” countries according to the openness criteria selected. The analysis of the impact of financial integration on growth is also complemented by the study on the impact of financial integration transmission channels on growth. Four channels have been retained: domestic investment, financial development, trade integration and institutional development.

Annex 3 presents the different charts illustrating these relationships. A comparison of data relating to the degree of financial integration and GDP per capita growth seems to support the idea that there has been a strong correlation between the degree of financial integration and economic growth from the 1990s. Analysis of the empirical data in the case of African pre-emerging and low income countries between 1970 and 2006 shows that, on average, the most financially open countries have higher investment rates than closed economies and recorded the highest trade openness rates and “ease of doing business index”. But, the impact of financial integration on financial development is mixed. Empirical data also show that African pre-emerging and low-income countries were not spared by the intensification and instability of international capital flows. The instability of capital flows was more severe in countries more “open” to external capital flows. The instability was more pronounced in the case of portfolio investments than in foreign direct investments because of the longer-term relationship established by the latter. Similarly, trends in official capital flows were less unstable than in private capital flows. Finally, the volatility of capital flows observed in financially “open” and “closed” countries was accompanied by moderate macroeconomic instability.

We are aware that the use of charts is not a robust methodology to analyze the relationship between financial integration and growth. We therefore move to an econometric analysis.

4.2. Econometric Analysis

4.2.1. Econometric Analysis of the Relationship between Financial Integration and Economic Growth

4.2.1.1. Methodology and Data

Following the literature analyzing the relationship between financial integration and economic growth, we use two different econometric approaches. Firstly, we use a simple cross-sectional regression on the period under investigation (1976-2009) for both “open” and “closed” countries. This approach is also used by Quinn (1997), Rodrik (1998), Kraay (1998), Klein and Olivei (2000), Arteta, Eichengreen and Wyplosz (2001), Schularick and Steger (2006). Secondly, we also refer to Schularick and Steger (2006) by running a generalized method of moment (GMM) dynamic panel estimation, which is a more developed econometric approach.

The cross-sectional regression, which is estimated with heteroskedasticity robust standard errors, takes the following form:

$$y_{it} = \alpha_{i0} + \alpha_{i1}npcf_{it} + \mu_{it} \quad (1)$$

$$y_{it} = \alpha_{i0} + \alpha_{i1}nfdi_{it} + \mu_{it} \quad (2)$$

Where y_i , the dependent variable, is the growth of real GDP per capita, $npcfi$ denotes the average ratio of net private capital inflow to GDP (proxy for financial integration) over the period under study, $nfdi_i$ denotes the average ratio of net FDI inflow to GDP (proxy for financial integration); μ_i represents a stochastic term, and subscript i indicates the country classification (open or closed), respectively. We also use a variant of the first equations (1) and (2) to include in the analysis of other macroeconomic variables

that may influence growth. More specifically, we also examine the following regression equations where, X_{it} is a vector of control variables.

$$y_{it} = \alpha_{i0} + \alpha_{i1}npcf_{it} + \alpha_{it} x_{it} + \mu_{it} \tag{3}$$

$$y_{it} = \alpha_{i0} + \alpha_{i1}nfdi_{it} + \alpha_{it} x_{it} + \mu_{it} \tag{4}$$

The vector of control variables includes the logarithm of investment ratio (inv) (indicator of economic policy), the logarithm of credit to private sector ratio (cps) (proxy of financial development) and the logarithm of exports and imports of goods and services ratio (trade) (proxy of trade openness). Unfortunately, we could not analyze the impact of institutional development due to insufficient data.

The GMM dynamic panel estimation improves over the cross-section regression for a number of reasons. It uses both the cross-sectional, time dimension of the data, increases the number of observations, controls for country-fixed effects and allows us to take the potential endogeneity of the regressors into account. We use the following dynamic panel regression models for both financial integration measures (the equations are formulated in first differences):

$$y_{it} - y_{it-1} = \alpha_{i0}(y_{it-1} - y_{it-2}) + \alpha_{i1}(npcf_{it} - npc_{f_{it-1}}) + \alpha_{it}(x_{it} - x_{it-1}) + (\mu_{it} - \mu_{it-1}) \tag{5}$$

$$y_{it} - y_{it-1} = \alpha_{i0}(y_{it-1} - y_{it-2}) + \alpha_{i1}(nfdi_{it} - nfdi_{it-1}) + \alpha_{it}(x_{it} - x_{it-1}) + (\mu_{it} - \mu_{it-1}) \tag{6}$$

Our data, which have an annual frequency, are drawn from World Bank publications (World Development Indicators and Global Development Finance, 2011). Countries are classified into two categories: open and closed (Appendices 1 and 2). The summary statistics of open countries and closed countries are presented in Table 2 and Table 3.

Table-2. Summary Statistics (open countries)

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
1976-2009					
Growth (y)	34	2.062886	3.237811	-2.928926	13.67303
Financial integration 1 (npcf)	34	5.435394	4.260058	1.599195	17.69514
Financial integration 2 (nfdi)	34	6.824539	4.056335	1.270073	15.37204
Investment (inv)	34	11.4934	2.646051	8.690034	19.8679
Credit to private sector (cps)	34	20.17222	2.70487	13.67443	26.71676
Trade openness (trade)	34	86.95549	15.05937	65.60313	114.263

Table-3. Summary Statistics (closed countries)

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
1976-2009					
Growth (y)	34	.6001488	1.481603	-2.637752	3.044272
Financial integration 1 (npcf)	34	1.284575	1.037456	-.4466755	4.042594
Financial integration 2 (nfdi)	34	.9201531	.638936	.6510897	2.366241
Investment (inv)	34	11.57032	2.794269	8.690034	19.8679
Credit to private sector (cps)	34	20.3226	2.03426	16.55055	25.82795
Trade openness (trade)	34	58.51574	7.173498	43.53829	71.16619

4.2.1.2. Results for Open Countries

For this first stage analysis, we turn to the cross-sectional analysis. Table 4 displays the results for the classified open countries according to both financial integration measure (private financial flows and FDI). In regressions (1) and (3), there appears to be a significantly positive growth impact of international financial integration, measured via private capital inflows to GDP and FDI (FDI) inflows to GDP respectively. These results lend little support to the idea of an effect of financial openness on growth and show that the estimated effect on economic growth of financial integration is larger with the second financial integration measure (FDI flows) than those obtained with the first financial integration measure (private financial flows). These results are consistent with the findings of previous analysis above (Section 2) and consistent with much of the recent literature.

Adding the identified control variables in regressions (2) and (4), it seems impossible to identify a significantly positive influence of financial integration on economic growth during the years 1976-2009. Financial integration no longer enters the equation positively. However, the control variables keep the ‘right’ signs.

Table-4. Cross-sectional analysis using OLS regressions estimation, (Open countries), 1976-2009

Dependent variable (endogenous) : growth rate of real GDP per capita				
Financial integration measure	Net Private Capital Flows		Net FDI Flows	
	Model (1)	Model (3)	Model (2)	Model (4)
Empirical specification				
Financial integration 1 (npcf)	0.267** (0.126)	0.0457 (0.167)		
Investment (inv)		0.210 (0.209)		0.177 (0.208)
Credit to private sector (cps)		0.0886 (0.210)		0.115 (0.199)
Trade openness (trade)		0.0821* (0.0463)		0.0611 (0.0473)
Financial integration 2 (nfdi)			0.349*** (0.127)	0.160 (0.177)
Constant	0.612 (0.864)	-9.520* (5.535)	-0.318 (1.004)	-8.695* (5.031)
Observations	34	34	34	34
R-squared	0.123	0.256	0.191	0.275

Note: OLS with heteroskedasticity robust standard errors; t-values in brackets; * denotes statistical significance at the 10%, ** at the 5%, *** at the 1%-level.

However, as noted by Schularick and Steger (2006), a cross-sectional analysis using OLS regressions could be biased if capital inflows were endogenous, i.e. determined by the growth rate of an economy. We therefore consider these results with caution and analyze results obtained via the dynamic panel method for more conclusive evidence. The results are presented in Table 5. They are consistent with the results offered by Alesina, Grilli and Milesi-Ferreti (1994), Grilli and Milesi-Ferreti (1995), Rodrik (1998), Edwards (2001), Edison, Levine, Ricci and Sløk (2002) as they lend to support to the idea of a nonexistence of impact of financial openness on growth. Financial integration no longer enters the equation positively. Regression (5) eventually confirms that it seems impossible to identify a significantly positive influence of financial integration (measured by the net private capital flows ratio to GDP) on economic growth during the years 1976-2009. Moreover, adding control variables in regression (6) the sign of the financial integration variable (measured by the net FDI ratio to GDP) turns ‘wrong’.

Table-5. System GMM dynamic panel estimation (Open countries), 1976-2009

Dependent variable:	growth rate of real GDP per capita	
Regression		
Empirical specification	Model (5)	Model (6)
Financial integration (npcf)	0.00221 (0.0382)	
Investment (inv)	0.155*** (0.0479)	0.259*** (0.0511)
Credit to private sector (cps)	-0.0449* (0.0253)	-0.0379 (0.0359)
Trade openness (trade)	0.00224 (0.0187)	0.00641 (0.0239)
Financial integration (nfdi)		-0.263 (0.222)
Constant	0.212 (1.902)	-0.497 (2.262)
Observations	168	201
Number of id	10	10

Note: Arellano-Bond dynamic panel estimation, robust one-step system GMM results; t-values in brackets; * denotes statistical significance at the 10%, ** at the 5%, *** at the 1%-level.

4.2.1.3. Results for Closed Countries

According to both financial integration measures (private financial flows and foreign direct investment), the results for closed countries are presented in Table 6. In regressions (1) and (3), there

appears to be a significantly positive growth impact of financial integration, measured by the net private capital inflows ratio to GDP and the net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows ratio to GDP respectively. Adding the identified control variables in regressions (2) and (4), it seems impossible to identify a significantly positive influence of financial integration on economic growth during the years 1976-2009. Moreover, in adding control variables in regression (2), the sign of the financial integration variable (measured by the net private capital inflows ratio to GDP) turns 'wrong'. Financial integration no longer enters the equation positively. With the exception of credit to the private sector, in regressions (2) and (4), the control variables keep the 'right' signs. According to these results, in the period under investigation, countries that are more financially integrated did not, on average, grow faster than closed economies.

Table-6. A cross-sectional analysis using OLS regressions estimation (closed countries), 1976-2009

Dependent variable (endogenous) : growth rate of real GDP per capita				
Financial integration measure	Net Private Capital Flows		Net FDI Flows	
Empirical specification	Model (1)	Model (3)	Model (2)	Model (4)
Financial integration 1 (npcf)	0.871** (0.380)	-0.260 (0.488)		
Investment (inv)		0.305*** (0.101)		0.258** (0.112)
Credit to private sector (cps)		-0.0852 (0.113)		-0.115 (0.153)
Trade openness (trade)		0.130*** (0.0435)		0.0999 (0.0648)
Financial integration 2 (nfdi)			0.667*** (0.223)	0.135 (0.517)
Constant	-0.201 (0.424)	-8.593** (3.453)	-0.257 (0.366)	-6.068 (6.231)
Observations	34	34	34	34
R-squared	0.141	0.386	0.218	0.381

Note: OLS with heteroskedasticity robust standard errors; t-values in brackets; * denotes statistical significance at the 10%, ** at the 5%, *** at the 1%-level.

We also analyze results for open countries obtained via the dynamic panel method for more conclusive evidence. The results are presented in Table 7. They are mixed as they lend support to the idea of a positive and significant influence of financial integration (measured by the net private capital flows ratio to GDP) on economic growth during the years 1976-2009 and the idea of a non-existence of impact of financial openness (measured by the net foreign direct investment flows ratio to GDP) on growth during the same period.

Table-7. System GMM dynamic panel estimation (Closed countries), 1976-2009

Dependent variable:	growth rate of real GDP per capita	
Regression	Model (5)	Model (6)
Financial integration 1 (npcf)	0.175*** (0.0638)	
Investment (inv)	0.145*** (0.0365)	0.164*** (0.0363)
Domestic credit to private sector (cps)	-0.0101 (0.0105)	-0.0140 (0.0111)
Trade	-0.00304 (0.00784)	0.00911 (0.00866)
Financial integration 2 (nfdi)		0.00252 (0.0197)
Constant	-0.327 (0.623)	-1.318** (0.668)
Observations	772	830
Number of id	34	36

Note: Arellano-Bond dynamic panel estimation, robust one-step system GMM results; t-values in brackets; * denotes statistical significance at the 10%, ** at the 5%, *** at the 1%-level.

In contrast to the evidence of a positive and significant relationship between financial integration and growth obtained via a cross-sectional analysis, the GMM dynamic panel estimation revealed the absence of linkages between the degree of financial liberalization and economic growth or at best concluded on a mixed impact of financial integration on growth. As a cross-sectional analysis using OLS regressions could be biased if discrete time-series data are used, the results obtained using the GMM dynamic panel estimation are preferred. In addition, the econometric analysis suggests that financial integration does not accelerate economic growth, even taking into consideration the impact of certain transmission channels (such as domestic investment, financial development and trade openness). We will now analyze the impact of financial integration on macroeconomic volatility.

4.2.2. Econometric Analysis of the Volatility of Net Capital Flows and Growth

We follow the World Bank's analysis of risks associated with financial openness (World Bank, 2000). The vulnerability classification is based on our estimates of volatility in private capital flows (FDI and portfolio investment flows) and growth, based on the following equations:

$$nfdi_{it} = \alpha_i + \beta_i nfdi_{it-1} + \mu_{it} \quad (7)$$

$$npif_{it} = \alpha_i + \beta_i npif_{it-1} + \mu_{it} \quad (8)$$

$$y_{it} = \alpha_i + \beta_i y_{it-1} + \mu_{it} \quad (9)$$

where :

$nfdi_{it}$, is the net FDI flows ratio to GDP for country i in year t ;

$npif_{it}$ is the net portfolio investment flows ratio to GDP for country i in year t ;

y_{it} is the growth rate of real GDP per capita for country i in year t ; and

U_{it} denotes the error term.

The index of volatility in country i is defined as

$$V_i = S(u_{it}) / GDP_{i, 2009} \quad (10)$$

Where $S(u_{it})$ is the ordinary least squares estimate of the standard error of the residuals in equation (7) using time series data from 1970 to 2009.

We follow the classification of countries by degree of volatility established by the World bank (2000) (see table 7). The classification of African pre-emerging and low-income countries by degree of volatility to net FDI flows, net portfolio investment flows and rate of real GDP per capita are presented in tables 8.1 to 8.3 respectively.

The results show that instability was more pronounced in the case of portfolio investments than in direct investments because of the longer-term relationship established by the latter. Moreover, FDI and portfolio investment flows were more volatile in open countries. These results are consistent with the findings of previous analysis (Section 2) and with much of the recent literature. Lastly, the volatility of capital flows observed in financially more 'open' and 'closed' countries was accompanied by moderate instability of economic growth.

5. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

The study shows considerable divergences on the impact of financial integration on economic growth. In studying this relationship, the paper examines the case of African pre-emerging and low-income countries classified between "open" and "closed" countries for the 1976-2009 periods. The data do not support the view that international financial integration accelerates economic growth, even under particular economic and financial conditions. In addition, the significant private external capital inflows to the continent are a fairly recent phenomenon. In view of the inconclusive nature of the empirical evidence on links between growth and capital inflows, it seems too early to expect sound and strong econometric results in the case of African pre-emerging and low-income countries. These divergences do not necessarily call into question the theoretical underpinnings of a significant and strong relationship between financial integration and economic growth. This relationship could be analyzed on a long-term basis.

An additional explanation of these results can be offered. The significant and strong nature of this relationship is also closely linked to the existence of prerequisites such as the quality of public institutions and governance, the quality of governance of private institutions and enterprises, the level of transparency of government activities, the level of corruption, and the effectiveness of the legal and judicial frameworks (Kose *et al.*, 2009; Bekaert *et al.*, 2001 and Chanda, 2001). In contrast, Quinn and Toyoda (2008) and Kraay (1998), did not discover these effects.

Moreover, we found that instability was more pronounced for open countries than closed countries and in the case of portfolio investments than in direct investments. African pre-emerging and low-income countries have not been spared the volatility of international capital flows observed in recent times. However, the volatility of capital flows observed in “open” and “closed” countries was accompanied by moderate instability of economic growth.

5.1. Policy Recommendations

For *researchers*, financial globalization is captivating not only because of its fascinating policy relevance, but because of the huge variation of methodologies and experiences across countries. Most of the studies on the economic impact of financial globalization in developing economies were mainly devoted to emerging countries and shifted from the low-income countries, especially those in Africa. First, it is imperative to extend the research on measuring financial integration degree, further work on constructing additional measures of financial integration would be extremely useful. Secondly, understanding the specific channels through which different types of inflows affect long-run growth would also be an important step in evaluating their comparative benefits.

For *policymakers* in African pre-emerging and low income countries, the topic is practical and relevant, since most of African pre-emerging and low income countries are still very much in the early stages of financial integration, and face various ongoing decisions about the speed and depth of financial account liberalization, the types of external capital flows (FDI, portfolio investments, etc.). What is clear is that financial openness puts a greater burden on other policies and structural features of the economy. For African pre-emerging and low-income countries, financial integration can play a catalytic role in stimulating an array of collateral benefits that boost long-run growth and prosperity. Furthermore, some of the collateral benefits generated by financial integration, including macroeconomic discipline and financial system development and soundness, could also reduce volatility. But the existence of threshold conditions can generate perverse effects. Capital account liberalization in the absence of fundamental supporting conditions can vitiate the realization of any benefits, while making a country more vulnerable to financial crisis. Thus, it is not surprising that evidence on the impact of financial integration is so mixed.

In conclusion, the impact of external capital flows on growth seems to depend primarily on the initial conditions and policies implemented in the country under consideration to stabilize foreign investment, boost domestic investment, productivity and other actions aimed at boosting growth and reducing poverty.

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Annex-1. Africa: Classification of Countries According to the Degree of Financial Integration (measured by private capital flows) 1/

	1970-79		1980-89		1990-99		2000-09		1970-2009	
Open countries	Algeria Congo, Rep. Egypt, Arab Rep. Liberia Libya	Morocco Nigeria Sierra Leone South Africa Tunisia	Angola Botswana Egypt, Arab Rep. Equatorial Guinea Liberia	Libya Morocco Nigeria South Africa Tunisia	Angola Congo, Rep. Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Gambia, The Lesotho Liberia	Mauritania Nigeria Seychelles Swaziland Tunisia Zambia	Angola Cape Verde Chad Congo, Rep. Equatorial Guinea Gambia, The	Lesotho Liberia Mauritania Seychelles Sudan Tunisia	Angola Botswana Cape Verde Congo, Rep. Djibouti Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Gambia, The	Lesotho Liberia Nigeria Sao Tome and Principe Seychelles Tunisia Zambia
Closed countries	Angola Benin Botswana Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroun Cape Verde Central African Republic Chad Comoros Congo, Dem. Rep. Cote d'Ivoire Djibouti Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Ethiopia Gabon Gambia, The Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau	Kenya Lesotho Madagascar Malawi Malawi Mali Mauritania Mozambique Niger Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Cote d'Ivoire Seychelles Somalia Sudan Swaziland Tanzania Togo Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe	Algeria Benin Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroun Cape Verde Central African Republic Chad Comoros Congo, Dem. Rep. Cote d'Ivoire Djibouti Eritrea Ethiopia Gabon Gambia, The Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Kenya	Lesotho Madagascar Malawi Mali Mauritania Mauritius Mozambique Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Seychelles Sierra Leone Somalia Sudan Swaziland Tanzania Togo Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe	Algeria Benin Botswana Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroun Cape Verde Central African Republic Chad Comoros Congo, Dem. Rep. Cote d'Ivoire Djibouti Egypt, Arab Rep. South Africa Sudan Tanzania Togo Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe	Libya Madagascar Malawi Mali Mali Mauritius Morocco Mozambique Niger Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Sierra Leone Somalia South Africa Sudan Tanzania Togo Uganda Zimbabwe	Algeria Benin Botswana Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroun Cote d'Ivoire Congo, Dem. Rep. Djibouti Egypt, Arab Rep. Guinea-Bissau Libya	Madagascar Mali Mali Mauritius Morocco Mozambique Niger Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Sierra Leone Somalia South Africa Swaziland Tanzania Togo Uganda Zimbabwe	Algeria Benin Burkina Faso Cameroun Chad Comoros Cote d'Ivoire Egypt, Arab Rep. Ethiopia Guinea-Bissau Kenya Liberia Madagascar Mali	Mauritania Mauritius Morocco Mozambique Nambia Nigeria Rwanda Senegal Sierra Leone Somalia South Africa Sudan Tanzania Togo Uganda Zimbabwe

Source: Author's calculations.

1/ According to the net private capital flows (in percent of GDP). A country is defined as open when its openness measure exceeds the average value for the specified sample period. The remaining countries are defined as closed.

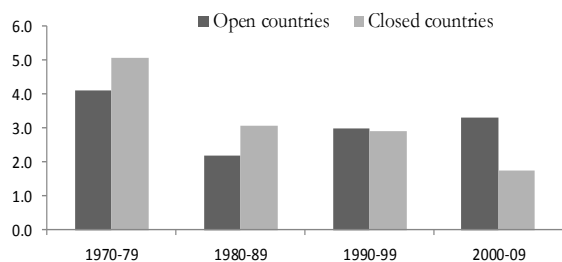
Annex-2. Africa: Classification of Countries According to the Degree of Financial Integration (measured by FDI Flows) 1/

	1970-79		1980-89		1990-99		2000-09		1970-2009	
Open countries	Botswana Congo, Rep. Gabon Gambia, The Liberia	Malawi Seychelles Swaziland	Angola Botswana Comoros Congo, Rep. Egypt, Arab Rep. Equatorial Guinea Gabon	Lesotho Liberia Nigeria Seychelles Swaziland Tunisia Zambia	Angola Congo, Rep. Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Gambia, The Lesotho	Liberia Nigeria Seychelles Swaziland Zambia	Angola Cape Verde Chad Congo, Dem. Rep. Congo, Rep. Equatorial Guinea Gambia, The	Lesotho Liberia Mauritania Mozambique Seychelles Sudan	Angola Botswana Cape Verde Chad Congo, Rep. Djibouti Equatorial Guinea Eritrea	Gambia, The Lesotho Liberia Mauritania Sao Tome and Principe Seychelles Swaziland Zambia
Closed countries	Algeria Angola Benin Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroun Cape Verde Central African Republic Chad Comoros Congo, Dem. Rep. Cote d'Ivoire Djibouti Egypt, Arab Rep. Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Ethiopia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Kenya Lesotho	Libya Madagascar Mali Mauritania Mozambique Niger Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Sierra Leone Somalia South Africa Sudan Tanzania Togo Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe	Algeria Benin Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroun Cape Verde Central African Republic Chad Comoros Congo, Dem. Rep. Cote d'Ivoire Djibouti Eritrea Ethiopia Gambia, The Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Kenya Liberia Madagascar	Malawi Mali Mauritania Mauritius Morocco Mozambique Niger Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Sierra Leone Somalia South Africa Sudan Tanzania Togo Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe	Algeria Benin Botswana Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroun Cape Verde Central African Republic Chad Comoros Congo, Dem. Rep. Cote d'Ivoire Djibouti Egypt, Arab Rep. South Africa Sudan Tanzania Togo Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe	Kenya Libya Madagascar Malawi Mali Mauritania Mauritius Morocco Mozambique Niger Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Sierra Leone Somalia South Africa Sudan Tanzania Togo Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe	Algeria Benin Botswana Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroun Central African Republic Comoros Cote d'Ivoire Djibouti Egypt, Arab Rep. Guinea-Bissau Libya Madagascar	Malawi Mali Mali Mauritius Morocco Niger Nigeria Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Sierra Leone Somalia South Africa Swaziland Tanzania Togo Tunisia Uganda Zambia Zimbabwe	Algeria Benin Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroun Cote d'Ivoire Congo, Dem. Rep. Cote d'Ivoire Egypt, Arab Rep. Ethiopia Gabon Ghana Guinea-Bissau Kenya Liberia Madagascar Mali	Mali Mauritius Morocco Mozambique Nambia Nigeria Rwanda Senegal Sierra Leone Somalia South Africa Sudan Tanzania Togo Tunisia Uganda Zimbabwe

Source: Author's calculations.

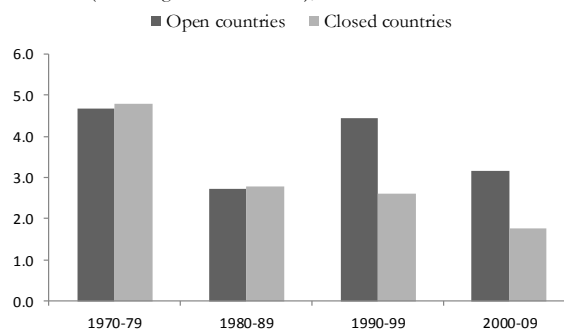
Annex-3.

Figure 2a. Africa: Growth by Financial Integration (according to the private flows), 1970-2009



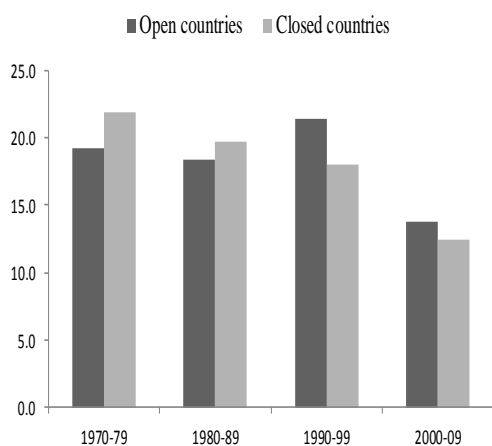
Source: World Bank (2011a)

Figure 6.2b. Africa: Growth by Financial Integration (according to the FDI flows), 1970-2009



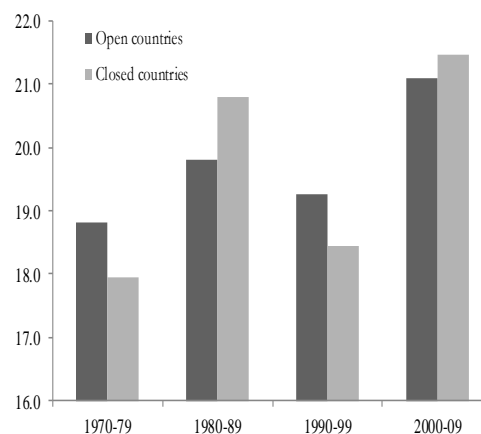
Sources: World Bank (2011a) and UNCTAD (2000-2010)

Figure 3. Africa: Gross fixed capital formation by Financial Integration (according to the net Private flows) (In percent of GDP), 1970-2009



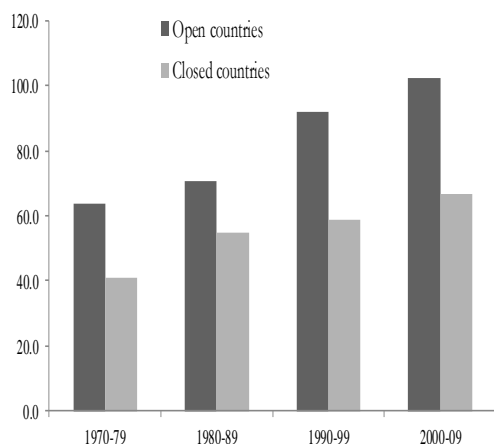
Sources: World Bank (2011a and 2011b)

Figure 4. Africa: Domestic Credit to Private Sector (as % of GDP) by Financial Integration (according to the net private flows), 1970-2009



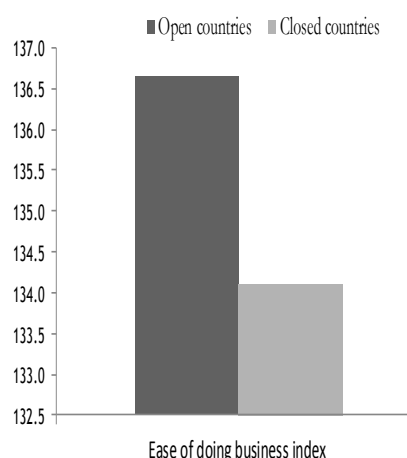
Sources: World Bank (2011a and 2011b)

Figure 5. Africa: Trade openness degree by Financial Integration degree (as % of GDP), 1970-2009



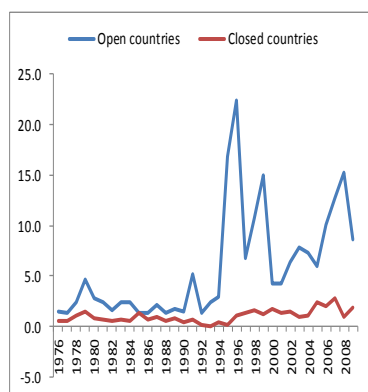
Sources: World Bank (2011a and 2011b)

Figure 6. Africa: Institutional development, Financial integration and Growth, 2000-09 (Average)

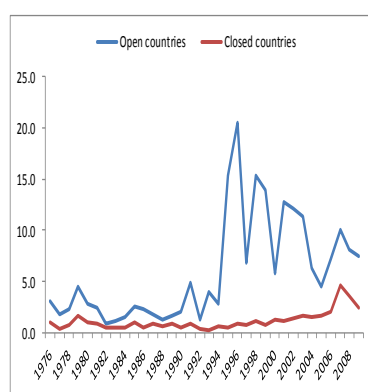


Sources: World Bank (2010)

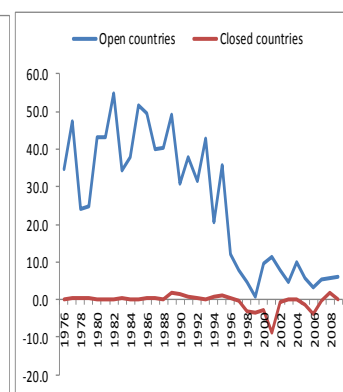
Net Private Capital Flows



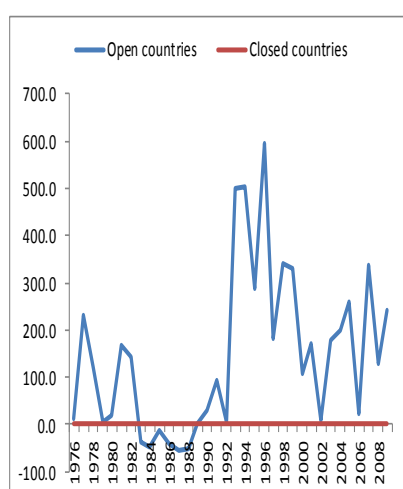
Net FDI Flows



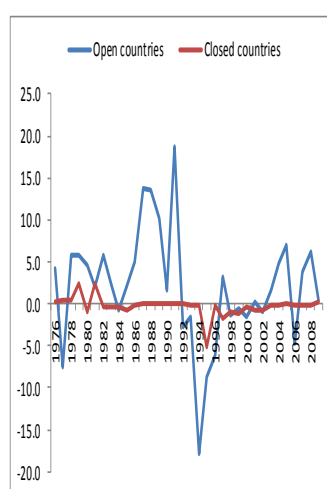
Net Official Capital Flows



Net Portfolio Investment Flows



Net Banking Flows



GDP Growth

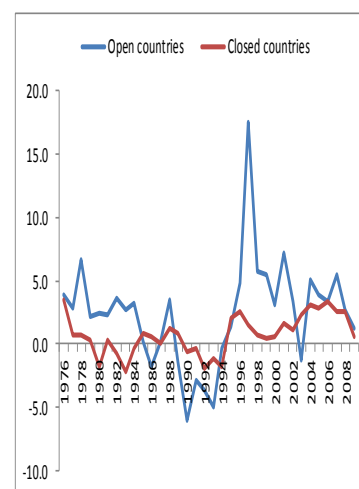


Figure-7. Africa Financial Openness, Volatility of Net Capital Flows and Growth, 1970-2006

Sources: World Bank, Global Development Finance and IMF, International Financial Statistics.

Table-8.1. African Countries Classified by Degree of Volatility to Net Foreign District Investment Flows

Highly volatile (Index > 1,54)			Volatile (1,00 < Index < 1,54)		Moderately volatile (0,64 < Index < 0,99)			Least volatile (Index < 0,64)			
Country	Index	Category	Country	Index	Category	Country	Index	Category	Country	Index	Category
Seychelles	21.59	Open	Guinea Bissau	1.53	Closed	Congo. Rep.	0.99	Open	Egypt	0.56	Closed
Eritrea	10.78	Open	Tunisia	1.44	Open	Côte d'Ivoire	0.98	Closed	Mauritius	0.55	Closed
Equatorial Guinea	9.70	Open	Djibouti	1.41	Open	Ghana	0.92	Closed	Morocco	0.50	Closed
São Tomé & Príncipe	4.06	Open	Rwanda	1.39	Closed	Tanzania	0.89	Closed	Malawi	0.31	Closed
Lesotho	3.05	Open	Burundi	1.37	Closed	Nigeria	0.80	Open	Ethiopia	0.16	Closed
Burkina Faso	2.55	Closed	Libya	1.31	Closed	Mozambique	0.67	Closed	Zimbabwe	0.13	Closed
Togo	2.48	Closed	Mali	1.26	Closed	Uganda	0.62	Closed	Namibia	-0.06	Closed
Sierra Leone	2.30	Closed	Gambia	1.22	Open				Madagascar	-0.14	Closed
Benin	2.04	Closed	Zambia	1.17	Open				Mauritania	-0.28	Closed
Sudan	1.82	Closed						Niger	-0.29	Closed	
Algeria	1.82	Closed						Chad	-0.35	Closed	
Cape Verde	1.60	Open						Gabon	-0.41	Closed	
								Botswana	-0.46	Open	
								South Africa	-0.54	Closed	
								Guinea	-0.91	Closed	
								Comoros	-1.34	Closed	
								Senegal	-2.92	Closed	
								Swaziland	-4.23	Closed	
								Cameroon	-6.82	Closed	
								Central African R.	-7.03	Closed	
								Angola	-13.78	Open	
								Liberia	-33.27	Open	
								Kenya	-44.02	Closed	

Source: author's computations from World Bank (2011a and b).

Table-8.2. African Countries Classified by growth rate of real GDP per capita

<i>Highly volatile</i> (Index > 1,54)			<i>Volatile</i> (1,00 < Index < 1,54)			<i>Mostly volatile</i> (0,64 < Index < 0,99)			<i>Least volatile</i> (Index < 0,64)		
Country	Index	Category	Country	Index	Category	Country	Index	Category	Country	Index	Category
Congo, Dem. Rep.	12.98	Closed	Eritrea	1.34	Open	Togo	0.99	Closed	Tunisia	0.64	Open
Libya	4.68	Closed	Benin	1.31	Closed	Sudan	0.86	Closed	Lesotho	0.63	Open
Seychelles	4.22	Open	Guinea Bissau	1.20	Closed	Mali	0.85	Closed	São Tomé & Príncipe	0.60	Open
Burkina Faso	2.59	Closed	Rwanda	1.18	Closed	Equatorial Guinea	0.84	Open	Côte d'Ivoire	0.56	Closed
Algeria	2.00	Closed	Sierra Leone	1.16	Closed				Cape Verde	0.52	Open
Burundi	1.72	Closed							Mauritius	0.51	Closed
									Ghana	0.50	Closed
									Tanzania	0.40	Closed
									Gambia	0.35	Open
									Uganda	0.33	Closed
									Mozambique	0.32	Closed
									Morocco	0.32	Closed
									Djibouti	0.31	Open
									Zambia	0.28	Open
									Nigeria	0.27	Open
									Malawi	0.26	Closed
									Congo, Rep.	0.25	Open
									Egypt	0.25	Closed
									Ethiopia	0.19	Closed
									Zimbabwe	0.17	Closed
									Madagascar	-0.13	Closed
									Niger	-0.21	Closed
									Botswana	-0.24	Open
									Chad	-0.27	Closed
									Mauritania	-0.29	Closed
									Gabon	-0.33	Closed
									South Africa	-0.41	Closed
									Namibia	-0.41	Closed
									Guinea	-0.47	Closed
									Swaziland	-1.11	Closed
									Comoros	-1.19	Closed
									Senegal	-2.24	Closed
									Angola	-2.76	Open
									Liberia	-3.65	Open
									Cameroon	-5.18	Closed
									Central African Republic	-5.33	Closed
									Kenya	-43.67	Closed

Source: author's computations from World Bank (2011a and b).