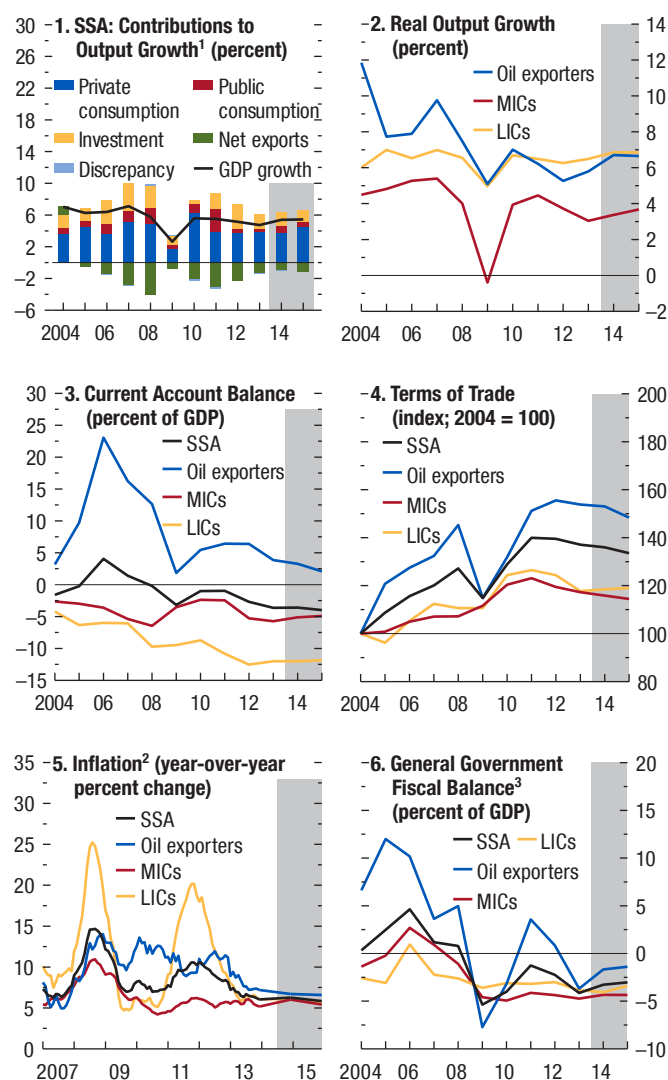


**Figure 2.9. Sub-Saharan Africa: Accelerating Growth**

In 2013, investments in natural resources and infrastructure and good harvests sustained robust growth in sub-Saharan Africa. Inflation continued to abate, but fiscal deficits widened, driven by increased expenditure on investment and wages, contributing to a worsening of current account balances. Growth is projected to accelerate in 2014, helped by improved domestic supply and a favorable global environment. In the face of significant domestic and external downside risks, countries in the region should improve their resilience to shocks by strengthening their fiscal balances and increasing their budget flexibility.



Sources: Haver Analytics; IMF, International Financial Statistics database; and IMF staff estimates.

Note: LIC = low-income country (SSA); MIC = middle-income country (SSA). SSA = sub-Saharan Africa. See Table 2.7 for country groupings and the Statistical Appendix for country group aggregation methodology.

<sup>1</sup>Liberia, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe are excluded because of data limitations.

<sup>2</sup>Because of data limitations, the following are excluded: South Sudan from oil exporters; Eritrea and Zimbabwe from LICs.

<sup>3</sup>General government includes the central government, state governments, local governments, and social security funds.