

**The West Africa Business Forum**  
**Empowering Women and Youths to Spur Africa's Transformation Agenda**

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**21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

**The Lagos Continental Hotel, Lagos, Nigeria**  
**Federal Republic of Nigeria**

<b>Morning Session</b>	<b>Day 1, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021.</b>
9.00 – 9.30	<b>Registration/ VIP and Guests arrival (Physical and virtual)</b>
9.35 – 10.00	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Comperere/Moderator Mrs. Dayo Benjamins -Laniyi  <b>National Anthem</b>
<b>Opening Ceremony</b>	
10.00 – 10.30	<b>Welcome Remarks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr. Vera Songwe, Under Secretary General and ECA Executive Secretary</b></li>   <li>- <b>ECOWAS, Commissioner for Trade, Customs and Free Movement</b></li> </ul>

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Partners:



Association of Nigerian Women Business Network

10.35 – 11.00	<p><b>Goodwill Message, and Official opening of the Regional Business Forum</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Edward Kallon, UN Resident Coordinator, Nigeria</b></p> <p><b>H.E Zeinab Ahmed, Minister of Finance, The Federal Republic of Nigeria</b></p>
11.00 – 11.40	<p>Tea/coffee break - Group pictures, Short Press Interviews &amp; VIP Tour of Made In Africa Exhibition</p>
11.45 – 12.00	<p><b>Keynote Address:</b>  <b>Mr. Abdoulaye Koné, Regional Chief Operating Officer, Afreximbank</b></p>
12.05 – 12.20	<p><b>Session 1: Setting the context: Why empowering Women, and Youths matters in spurring the socio-economic transformation of West Africa?</b></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Mrs. Ngoné Diop - Sub Regional Director for West Africa Office – UN Economic Commission for Africa</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mrs. Tokunbo Chiedu – CEO, Compass Global</p>
12. 25 – 1.40	<p><b>Panel Discussion/Interactive Session/Q&amp;A with the Audience.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr John E, Odah - Executive Secretary Organization of Trade Unions in West Africa</li> <li>• Mrs. Toki Mabogunje President Lagos Chamber of Commerce &amp; Industry, Nigeria</li> <li>• Amb. William-Ologun Oluwaseun - Executive</li> </ul>



	<p>Chairperson, West Africa Youth Council, Sierra Leone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Larissa Nguetcho Talla Mafokou President Junior Chamber International (JCI) Cameroon</li> </ul>
1.40 – 2.35	<b>LUNCH/ NETWORKING &amp; EXHIBITION</b>
<b>Afternoon Session</b>	
2.40 – 2.55	<p><b>Session 2: Understanding the barriers to Women’s and Youth Businesses</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Bakary Dosso, Chief, Demographic Dynamics for Development Section, ECA-SRO-WA</b></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Vanessa Phala, Director of the International Labour Office – Abuja</p>
3.00 – 4.20	<p><b>Panel Discussion/Interactive &amp; Q&amp;A Session with the Audience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Chinyere Almona Director-General, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI)</li> <li>Engr. Gbenga Eyiolawi CEO Titan Farms, Nigeria &amp; UAE</li> <li>Amadou Diouf, Chief, Sub-regional Initiatives Section, ECA, SRO-WA</li> <li>Professor Richard Black Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of College of Social Sciences</li> </ul>



4.20 – 4.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Theresa S. Bentacourt, ScD, MA Salem Professor in Global Practice, Boston College</li> </ul> <p>Wrap – up/takeaways by the Moderator Vote of thanks</p>
	<b>Day 2, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021</b>
9.00 – 9.15	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Introductions. VIPs and Guests (Physical and Virtual)</b> Compere/Moderator Mrs. Dayo Benjamins -Laniyi</p>
9.20 – 9.40	<p><b>Presentation: Building towards Regional Integration – Connecting the dots through trade</b> Mr. Olusegun Awolowo, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC)/ President of the ECOWAS Trade Promotion Organizations Network</p>
9.40 – 9.55	<p><b>Sector Champion Commendation Speeches:</b> Mr. Aliko Dagote – GCON Chairman and CEO of Dangote Group (TBC)</p>
9.55 – 10.15	<p>Mrs. Mosunmola Abudu CEO of EbonyLife Media &amp; EbonyLife Place (TBC)</p>
	<b>Session 1: Blueprints for effective Women, and Youth empowerment through Entrepreneurship – Case Studies.</b>



<p>10.15 – 10.30</p>	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Mrs. Tokunbo Chiedu – CEO, Compass Global.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Ferdinand Adimefe – Founder, Magic Carpet &amp; Imaginarium Ltd, Nigeria.</p>
<p>10.35 – 11.55</p>	<p><b>Panel Discussion/Interactive &amp; Q&amp;A Session with the Audience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Modupe Oyekunle - National Coordinator Association of Nigerian Women Business Network (ANWBN)</li> <li>• Vanessa Phala, Director of the International Labour Office – Abuja</li> <li>• Zainab Maidah, Founder and Director Niger Lait, Niger</li> <li>• Jeph Acheampong Co-founder of Blossom Academy Ghana</li> <li>• Mohamed Kanneh West African Youth Network, Sierra Leone</li> </ul>
<p>11.55 – 12.25</p>	<p>Tea/coffee break - Group pictures; Short press interviews &amp; VIP Tour of Made In Africa Exhibition</p>



<p>12.30 – 12.45</p> <p>12:45 – 1.10</p>	<p><b>Session 2: The AfCFTA as an Anchor to boosting Women and the Youth Businesses &amp; Trade, in the Covid-19 context</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Stephen Karingi, Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA</p> <p><b>Presenter</b> – Aissatou Diallo Senior Coordinator, AfCFTA and LDCs Office for Africa - Division of Country Programmes</p> <p><b>Panel Discussion/Interactive &amp; Q&amp;A Session with the Audience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Sherif Ghali Abdulai, CEO Ghana Chamber of Young Entrepreneurs / Secretary General, AfCFTA Young Entrepreneurs Federation.</li> <li>• Tokini Peterside, Founder and director of Art x Lagos</li> <li>• Louis Aful, AFcFTA Policy Network</li> <li>• Mohamed L. DIABY, CEO Zatwa Impex Trading Company, Ivory Coast</li> <li>• Professor Stanley Okolo Director-General of West Africa Health Organisation.</li> </ul>
<p>1.15 – 2.10</p>	<p><b>LUNCH/EXHIBITION &amp; NETWORKING</b></p>



<p>2.15 – 2.30</p> <p>2.35 – 4.00</p> <p>4.05 – 4.20</p>	<p><b>Session 3: The importance of Digital transformation, and the role of Innovation, Education and Skills in boosting women’s and youth businesses</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Jean Paul Adam, Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division, ECA.</b></p> <p><b>Presenter: Juliet Ehimuan, Director, Google West Africa.</b></p> <p><b>Panel Discussion/Interactive &amp; Q&amp;A Session with the Audience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Mamadou Gouro Sidibé, Founder &amp; CEO Linali, Mali/President Mali Start up Association.</li> <li>• Amanda Obidike, Founder STEMI MAKERS AFRICA, Nigeria.</li> <li>• Vivian Opondoh, CEO/Co-Founder Farmula, Kenya.</li> <li>• Mactar Seck, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA.</li> </ul> <p>Wrap – up/takeaways &amp; Vote of thanks by the Moderator.</p>
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	<b>Day 3, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.</b>
9.00 – 9.15	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions– VIP and Guests (Physical and virtual)</b>
9.15 – 9.55	<b>Champion Case Studies Featuring Mali, Ghana, Kenya &amp; Cameroon</b>
10.00 – 10.15	<b>Sector Champion Commendation Speech Mr. Tony Elumelu CEO, Heirs Holdings (TBC)</b>
9.30 – 10.00	Welcome & Introductions. VIPs and Guests (Physical and Virtual)  <b>Sectoral Engagements with Sector Champions, Youth Organisations &amp; Women Networks from the Region</b>
	Feedback/ Presentations/Panel Discussions & Interactive Sessions
10.15 11.00	Video Presentations: (5mins footage per Sector)
11.00 – 11.45	<b>Panel Sessions 1 - Agribusiness, Agro Processing Beauty Products Manufacturing.</b>
11.45 – 12.15	<b>Panel Session 2 - Food &amp; Beverage Processing</b>
12.15– 1.00	Tea/coffee break - Group pictures; Short press interviews  <b>Panel Session 3- ICT &amp; Digital Economy</b>





11.00 - 2.00	<b>LUNCH/ NETWORKING &amp; EXHIBITION</b>
	<b>Afternoon Session</b>
2.00 - 2.45	<p><b>Panel Session 4 - Creative &amp; Cultural Industry: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Film, Photography</li> <li>- Graphics Design/Animation, Media &amp; Printing</li> <li>- Fashion Design &amp; Apparel, Textiles,</li> <li>- Art &amp; Crafts, Leather Goods &amp; Accessories.</li> </ul>
2.45 – 3.50	<p><b>Panel Session 5:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services Sector i.e.</li> <li>- Finance</li> <li>- Education</li> <li>- Training/ Consulting Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logistics</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Real Estate &amp; Construction</li> </ul>
4.00 – 4.20	<p>Wrap – up/takeaways</p> <p>Vote of thanks Mrs. Ngoné Diop – Director, ECA, Sub-Regional Office for West Africa Office</p> <p>Mrs. Tokunbo Chiedu CEO, Compass Global.</p>

