

[Africa: Open for Business Summit](#)

United Nations

Wednesday September 26, 2018

5:30pm to 7:00pm

Draft Concept Note

Introduction

The African Renaissance and Diaspora Network (ARDN), the UN Senior Africans Group, and the African Union Commission, and the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Global Partnerships Forum (GPF), with support from the United Nations Department of Public Information, will host the **Africa: Open for Business Forum** at the United Nations during the high-level debate in September to showcase the leadership of the African continent in addressing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Agenda 2063.

This paper provides some thoughts for the Africa: Open for Business Forum, including insights on engaging the public and private sectors to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Africa's Development

Africa's economy, built on agriculture, trade, and industry, has seen steady growth over the last decade. The continent and over 1 billion people were fortunate to escape the financial crisis. However, Africa still remains the poorest continent, and its states' combined GDP is less than 1/3 of the United States.

While Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be challenged in the economic and social sectors, Africa is now the fastest growing continent, growing at 5-7% annually. Africa's infrastructure, agriculture and labour force is improving through African Union initiatives such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, and its commitment to employment and skills development. The UN, IMF, and World Bank see continued improvement in the welfare of the African people. By 2025, these institutions predict most countries to reach middle-income status. Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, is expected to reach a GDP of \$29 trillion by 2050.

In order to benefit their people for the next 50 years, in 2015 African leaders adopted Agenda 2063 as the continent's new long-term vision to optimize resource usage. The vision of Agenda 2063 is linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted later that year at the UN.



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Leadership of Africa at the United Nations

Africa, including Senior Africans at the United Nations, has played a pivotal role in creating the UN's blueprint for action for the SDGs. Mrs. Amina Mohammed, Deputy-Secretary-General of the United Nations and former Minister of Environment of Nigeria, alongside H.E. Mr. Kamau Macharia, who served as Co-Facilitator of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who served on the High-level Panel of the Post-2015 Development Agenda for both the UN and AU, and Minister Sam Kutesa, the 69th President of the UN General Assembly, was instrumental in bringing about the creation of the 2030 Agenda which is also fully aligned with Africa's Agenda 2063. In her current role, she focuses on implementing this Agenda, with a particular focus on education, global health, climate change, migration, women's empowerment and financing for effective development.

A number of organizations in the UN System are focused on efforts to address the social gaps on the African continent. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa garners international support through advocacy, analyses and coordination of UN System support. The UN's work includes highlighting opportunities for investing in Africa and developing innovative solutions that can be implemented across the UN family, especially through ECA, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, UNCTAD, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, WHO and many others.

Role of the Private Sector

The private sector has been influential in the development of Africa's economy, particularly in regard to the Sustainable Development Goals. Private equity players invested \$3.8 billion in 145 deals across Africa in 2016, supporting initiatives ranging from agriculture and energy to healthcare and financial sectors. Many investment monoliths point out that investing in "social good" creates an even bigger return. Investing in Africa, as many have already realized, creates social good and financial return – the goal of impact investing.

Looking ahead

Agricultural growth and open opportunities for quality education are crucial to the success of Africa's economy. Agriculture accounts for 1/4 of GDP and 2/3 of employment in Sub-Saharan Africa. Currently, Africa's agricultural productivity is half of the global average. In order to cultivate food in a sustainable way, Africa needs increased private investment and technological innovations. Using more innovation and private equity to fund infrastructure development, whether it be roads or hospitals, will help Africa rise past its current economic position. Given Africa's current trajectory, UNICEF predicts that Africa's population will reach 2.5 billion by 2050, the vast majority being under the age of 35. In order to provide for this growing continent, Africa requires open business with the international community.

Due regard must also be given to the effects of climate change and desertification, and the need for clean water, in relation to agriculture and economic development. There is also need to further explore human capital investments and population dynamics, being mindful of the need for women and youth-led harnessing of the demographic dividend of the continent



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Education touches all disciplines, all realms of social activity, quality of life, and all aspects of entrepreneurship. It strengthens every one of the SDGs. When a strong system of education is put in place, one that is inclusive and creatively tailored to regional needs and values, a true African Renaissance is inevitable.

Africa: Open for Business Summit and the Africa-Diaspora SDGs Summit

The Africa Open for Business Summit Is a two-part Initiative, starting with the New York launch in September 2018, followed by the First Africa-Diaspora SDGs Summit, to be held later in Banjul, The Gambia.

The Africa-Diaspora SDGs Summit will convene mayors and elected officials, youth international intergovernmental organization officials, educators, artists and intellectuals, the private sector and civil society, with a view towards *Achieving Public Understanding of the SDGs and Africa Agenda 2063 through Education*, building on the outcomes of the Africa: Open for Business Summit.

Africa: Open for Business Summit - Recognizing Pioneers

The Africa: Open for Business Forum will bring together leaders from governments, private sector, and civil society to recognize the important role of African business, innovation, and entrepreneurship for social good.

Innovation is thriving in many African nations, our opportunity is to foster the roots that have already appeared. There are many new initiatives and ideas coming out of Africa, including from social entrepreneurs, investors and the business community, focused on addressing social challenges. The African Diaspora is also playing a key role in bringing new investments and ideas to the region. Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics (STEM) are paramount in solving traditional problems, including poverty, education, health, energy, environment, etc. At the same time, gender equality and women's empowerment are key to ensuring that the 50% of the population benefits from the growth opportunities in the region.

The Forum will highlight some emerging ideas and solutions that are solving the SDGs to encourage scaling and replication.

Summit Format

This event will take place from 3:00-6:00 pm, followed by an awards reception from 6:00-7:30 pm to recognize leaders, philanthropists, innovators and pioneers. The event will showcase stories of those who have made significant progress on the SDGs, as well as highlight the work of young entrepreneurs and innovators. Each person/organisation will be given 3 minutes to present their work.



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Elements of the draft programme

Welcoming Remarks

The session will include brief welcoming remarks (5 at 2 minutes each) by the hosts, followed by two 8-minute keynote speeches by VIPs (names to be announced)

Pitch@UN

This 90-minute session will consist of 3-minute presentations by companies, foundations, young entrepreneurs who are focused on concrete solutions to address the SDGs in Africa or initiatives that support Agenda 2063. The session will allow time for Q&A as well as discussion on partnership opportunities with the presenters.

High Level Panel

High-level panel to comment on the Pitch@UN presentations and contrast and compare them to existing initiatives in Africa that lend themselves for investments and/or replication. This will be in the form of a short, sharp, 30-minute panel discussion, followed by 15 minutes of Q&A from the attendees. Written descriptions of what is to be presented will be distributed ahead of time to contrast and compare.

Looking Ahead – The Road to Banjul

Summation of the event, outcomes achieved, and plans for the Africa-Diaspora SDGs Summit in Banjul, The Gambia.

Reception and Awards

The reception will consist of invited VIP guests (150-200 guests). The evening will include an awards ceremony to recognize global leaders and changemakers.

High-Level Speakers

The following is a tentative initial list of VIP speakers at the Africa: Open for Business Summit:

States & Governments

- H.E. Mr. Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of the Gambia
- H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda & Current Chair of the African Union
- H.E. Mr. Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea & Immediate Past Chair of the African Union
- H.E. Mr. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana and Co-Chair, SDG Advocates
- H.E. Mr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- H.E. Mr. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway and Co-Chair, SDG Advocates
- H.E. Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa
- H.E. Mr. Andrew Holness, ON, MP, Prime Minister of Jamaica



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- H.E. Mr. Joseph Muscat, MP, KUOM, Prime Minister of Malta
- H.E. Ms. Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General of Expo 2020, UAE
- H.E. Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia

United Nations

- H.E. Mrs. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy-Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Mr. Adama Dieng, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, and Co-Chair, UN Senior Africans Group
- Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, and Co-Chair, UN Senior Africans Group
- Ms. Bience Gawanas, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General
- Ms. Vera Songwe, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Ms. Alison Smale, Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, United Nations Department of Public Information

African Union

- H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairman of the African Union Commission

Private Sector & Civil Society

- Mr. Aliko Dangote, GCON, President & Chief Executive of the Dangote Group
- Ms. Fatma Samba Diouf Samoura, Secretary General of FIFA
- Mr. Darren Walker, President of the Ford Foundation
- Ms. Peggy Dulany, Executive Chair of Synergos
- Rev. Jesse Jackson, American civil rights leader, Baptist minister and politician

Communications and Outreach

Pre-Event: Announcement of event, speakers, participants.

Event Strategy: Tweeting select quotes, photos, activities. The synthesis of the presentations of Pitch@UN will be tweeted and shown on the screen. In addition, the entire event can be shared live via UNTV, Facebook Live or Periscope and incoming tweets screened and posted on large screens in the room as they occur.

Post-Event: Placement of photo-captioned releases through networks in Africa and the African diaspora.

SDG Media Zone

The Summit will also work with the SDG Media Zone, an initiative of the Department of Public Information and the PVBLIC Foundation, to host media interviews and announce summit outcomes.



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Participants

The Africa: Open for Business Summit is an invitation only event. Participants will consist of Heads of State and Government, CEOs from businesses and civil society, philanthropists, and entrepreneurs.

Summit Leadership Team

- H.E. Mr. Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of the Gambia
- H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda & Current Chair of the African Union
- H.E. Mr. Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea & Immediate Past Chair of the African Union

- H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations

- Mr. Adama Dieng, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, and Co-Chair, UN Senior Africans Group
- Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, and Co-Chair, UN Senior Africans Group

- Mr. Nelson Muffuh, Head of Office, Office of the United Nations Deputy-Secretary-General
- Dr. Djibril Diallo, President & CEO, African Renaissance and Diaspora Network, and Executive Director, UN Senior Africans Group
- Mr. Victor Kisob, Director, Learning, Development & Human Resources Division, United Nations
- Mr. Amir Dossal, President and CEO, Global Partnerships Forum

Summit Partners/Supporters

The Summit will an opportunity for a select group of companies and organizations to partner with and sponsor the Africa: Open for Business Summit, with the aim of collaborating on concrete SDG projects and initiatives in Africa.



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