



# Africa Business forum 2021

Innovative Finance: Building Forward to the SDGs



**Unique gathering of African Heads of States, private sector executives and young ICT leaders and innovators**

**Invaluable opportunity to be part of a dialogue on business and development in Africa**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Africa Business Forum will focus on accelerating the role of the private sector through innovative financing to build forward towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The Africa Business Forum, hosted by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and partners, is an annual event held on the margins of the ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union. It brings together Heads of State and Government, policymakers, industry leaders, civil society representatives, academics, thought leaders, youth representatives and private business executives to discuss pressing development topics, including the role of the private sector in the development of Africa; cutting-edge and innovative ideas for financing sustainable development in Africa; and forging partnerships between African private and public sectors.

This year the Africa Business Forum will be held virtually and will focus on the challenges and opportunities facing African economies and societies with regards to innovative financing for Africa's growth. In the wake of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Africa is facing an unprecedented threat to the hard-earned growth that it achieved over the last decade. The pandemic is global, but the resilience of the African region depends on the strategies and policies that countries adopt now, building on recent initiatives to accelerate economic growth to meet national development aspirations in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 of the African Union, and to do so in a financially and environmentally sustainable manner.

The Forum will focus on two areas, namely: (i) Innovative financing to harness technology; and (ii) Innovative financing in energy for economic diversification.



## East African Time

2.00-2.30 p.m

**Virtual arrival of guests**

2.30-2.45 p.m

**Welcome remarks**

**Dr. Vera Songwe, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa**

Moderator: Mr. Amadou Mahtar Ba, Co-Founder and Executive Chairman of AllAfrica Global Media Inc

2.45-3.50 p.m

**Innovative financing to harness technology**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted both the strategic importance and centrality of ICTs for the well-being of citizens and the economy, as well as the challenge to ensure inclusion, not just of broadband coverage, but affordability, digital skills, and jobs. This round table will discuss what it will take for the public and private sector to push the continent into the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and harness technology and financial inclusion for Africa's development.

This segment will feature a keynote address by a Head of State who will thereafter have a conversation with 5 young successful innovators/ entrepreneurs who will discuss opportunities, challenges and offer their recommendations on harnessing technology and financial inclusion for Africa's youth.

**Moderated by:** Zain Verjee former CNN anchor and State Department correspondent, and CEO of Zain Verjee Group

**Q&A with the audience (15 mins)**

3.50 – 4.50 p.m

**Innovative financing in energy for economic diversification**

The resource- rich Democratic Republic of Congo is currently spearheading an economic diversification strategy to increase economic growth and reduce poverty, accelerate value addition and deepen DRC's participation in value chains, as well as improve access to energy for its people. Public-private partnerships will be essential. This round table will discuss what it will take for DRC to realize its full development potential, from creating the right eco-system, improving the business climate across sectors, and better targeting of investments. A critical question to be answered is how can the country use its massive endowments in battery minerals such as cobalt (70% of global production) and copper (13% of global production) to maximize wealth creation from the battery and electric car value chain estimated to grow to 8.8338 US\$ trillion/year by 2050?

This segment will feature a keynote address by a Head of State who will thereafter have a conversation with CEOs on what it would take to localize the of the battery and electric vehicle value chain in Africa, the sort of eco-system that would be required and opportunities for crowding in domestic finance.

**Moderated by:** Mr. Amadou Mahtar Ba, Co-Founder and Executive Chairman of AllAfrica Global Media Inc

**Q&A with the audience**



**4.50 - 5.15 p.m**

**Launch of Team Energy**

Team-Energy Africa brings together Africa's private sector and investors in clean energy to join forces and work with member States, development partners, and the international private sector to mobilize the needed finance for Africa's energy transformation.

**5.15 -5.20 p.m**

**Take Aways**

**5.20 -5.30 p.m**

**Closing Remarks**

Ms. Vera Songwe, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

