



Africa Business forum 2021

Innovative Finance: Building Forward to the SDGs



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Sponsored by:



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

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

At its fourth session, 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

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 online and will focus on the challenges and opportunities facing African economies and societies with regard to innovative financing for growth in Africa. In the throes 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: innovative financing to harness technology; and 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

Vera Songwe, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

Moderator: 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 information and communications technology for the well-being of citizens and the economy, and also 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 and harness technology and financial inclusion for the continent's development.

Keynote address by His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya

Conversation with:

- Crescence Elodie Nonga, Founder of Women in Entrepreneurship and Technology (WETECH)
- Awa Caba, Co-founder and CEO of Soreetul
- Dominic Salvio Wambugu, Co-founder of Mkulima Bora
- Alexandre Coster, Founder and CEO of Baobab

Moderator: Zain Verjee, former CNN anchor and State Department correspondent, and CEO of Zain Verjee Group

Q&A with the audience

3.50 – 4.50 p.m

Innovative financing in energy for economic diversification

The resource-rich Democratic Republic of the Congo is currently spearheading an economic diversification strategy to boost economic growth and reduce poverty, accelerate value addition and deepen the country's participation in value chains, and also to improve access to energy for its people. Public-private partnerships will be essential in that undertaking. This round table will discuss what it will take for the Democratic Republic of the Congo to realize its full development potential, from creating the right environment, improving the business climate across sectors, and ensuring the better targeting of investments. A critical question to be answered is how the country can use its massive endowments in battery minerals such as cobalt (70 per cent of global production) and copper (13 per cent of global production) to maximize wealth creation from the battery and electric car value chain, estimated to grow to \$8.8 trillion per year by 2050.


Scene setting by Antonio Pedro, Director of the sub-regional office of Central Africa, ECA

Conversation with:

- Benedict Oramah, President of Afreximbank
- Alain Ebobissé, CEO of Africa50
- Rolake Akinkugbe-Filani, Chief Commercial Officer, Mixta Africa / Advisory Board Member, Africa Energy Chamber
- Bubacar Diallo, Founder and CEO of Benoo Energies

Moderated by: Amadou Mahtar Ba.

Q&A with the audience



4.50 - 5.15 p.m

Team Energy

- NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber & CEO of pan-African corporate law conglomerate Centurion Law Group
- Linus Mofor, Environmental Affairs Officer, ECA

5.15 -5.20 p.m

Closing

Register at this link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eHi4J2L5SRmP6n4wcoDomw

