



Third Africa Business Forum “Investing in People, Planet and Prosperity”

11 February 2020, Sheraton Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

A unique gathering of African Heads of States and Senior Executives.

An invaluable opportunity to be part of dialogues on business and development in Africa.

Our third Africa Business Forum will focus on investing in People, Planet and Prosperity.

The Africa Business Forum, hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and partners, is an annual event held on the margins of the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa. It brings together Heads of States and Governments, policymakers, industry leaders, thinkers and private businesses to discuss the role of private sector in Africa’s development; cutting edge and innovative ideas for financing sustainable development in Africa; and partnerships between African private and public sectors.

The Africa Business Forum focuses on the issues, challenges and opportunities that are most relevant for African economies and societies, and provides a unique networking environment for policymakers, private sector, financiers, academia and civil society.



Draft Agenda

8:30 AM

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9:00 AM

WELCOME REMARKS – INVESTING IN PEOPLE, PLANET AND PROSPERITY

By UNECA and Partners

9:00 AM

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10:00 AM

PRESIDENTIAL PANEL ON INNOVATIVE FINANCING IN ENERGY IN AFRICA

This panel discussion will feature insights from African presidents and leading business and investment executives on financing needs associated with the development of renewable energy programs in African countries as well as opportunities to develop and implement innovative financing mechanisms on the continent.

Energy demand in Africa is increasing and will increase even dramatically owing to various factors, including population growth, a growing middle class, industrialization, trade, urbanization and climate change. These factors, coupled with the abundance of various forms of renewable energy resources across Africa and the fact that the continent remains one of the key regions in the world for transformative clean energy deployment, make a compelling investment case from the private sector if the enabling policy and regulatory environment exist. This is particularly important at a time when public resources are becoming increasingly constrained with competing demands from other sectors such as health and education. New innovative approaches – particularly through instruments that support clean energy investments - are thus needed urgently to mobilize the financing needed for Africa's energy transformation.

In Conversation: African Presidents and Private Sector Executives

10:00 AM

Coffee Break – Networking

10:30 AM

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11:30 AM

ROUNDTABLE 1 – INNOVATIVE FINANCE AND HEALTH

An AfCFTA-anchored Pharma Initiative for Private Sector Engagement for inclusive and sustainable financing for development

The positive but slow improvements in health outcomes in Africa over the last 15 years present some recurring challenge of an over stretched health financing scheme with out of pocket expenditure representing a continental average of 36 percent of total expenditure and an annual total health financing gap of \$66 billion. The sustainability of health financing systems is further exacerbated by increasing population growth, urbanization and expanding middle class as well as the changing life patterns resulting in the rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and associated increasing demands and cost for medicines.



The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) provides a critical and promising market for the engagement of the private sector in the health sector. By 2030, business opportunities in the health and wellness sector are projected to be worth \$259 billion with the potential to create 16 million jobs, illustrating a ready market to operationalize the AfCFTA and create a large enough market to induce investment in manufacturing across the continent. This provides a strong business case for the private sector - currently representing about 30% of health service delivery facilities - to play its significant role in shaping health markets and to contribute towards the improvement of healthcare in Africa. Furthermore, innovative financing is a key determinant for private sector stakeholders' capacity to address the increasingly complex health challenges and bridge the gap in the direct provision of health care as a vital input towards inclusive and sustainable development.

Convening platforms for public private dialogue and sharing of information is a crucial enabler towards the successful implementation of the AfCFTA-anchored Pharma Initiative. This roundtable discussion is part of the ongoing efforts towards enhanced advocacy and engagement of key stakeholders following the 21 November 2019 Launch of the Initiative with the aim of sharing and discussing preliminary findings of the feasibility elements of its implementation.

In Conversation: African Presidents and Private Sector Executives

11:30 AM

COMMITMENT SIGNING CEREMONY

12:30 PM

SDG 7 INITIATIVE FOR AFRICA

The SDG7 Initiative for Africa, as conceived by the UN Economic Commission for Africa, is an initiative that combines scale, speed, sustainability and access; to crowd-in financing from the private sector for accelerated clean energy deployment to address Africa's increasing need for energy, while contributing to climate action through enhanced nationally determined contributions to climate action (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

AFCTA -ANCHORED PHARMA INITIATIVE

In an effort to maximize opportunities arising from the AfCFTA, and in order to realize the objectives of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, an AfCFTA-anchored Pharmaceutical Initiative was jointly commissioned by IGAD and Seychelles in collaboration with AUC, NEPAD -AUDA and UN agencies and is being piloted in select African countries. These include Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan. Anchored on the AfCFTA principles, the Initiative is expected to contribute towards improved and economically sustainable access to safe and affordable medicines through enhanced local manufacturing and pooled procurement. Particular focus will be on select pharmaceutical products for the



improvement of reproductive and child health. Ultimately, the aim of the Initiative is to embrace the entire continent.

12:30 PM Networking Lunch

14:00 PM

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15:00 PM

ROUNDTABLE 2 – FINANCING RISKS AND CHALLENGES FOR ENERGY TRANSITION IN AFRICA

By 2030, Africa has committed to achieving universal access to electricity through affordable and sustainable energy supply. Towards this end, Africa's energy system will need to absorb a diversified source of clean energy sources. The energy system of Africa will also have to address climate commitments member States have made, further putting Africa on a path to sustainable energy transition and development. Natural gas is an attractive transition fuel, supplementing investments in wind, solar and other sustainable energy sources. Africa's share of natural gas in electricity generation has increased from 14% in 1990 to 33% in 2010, and 40% by 2017.

While energy system transition is taking hold in Africa, there are regional variations, where the integration of gas is relatively minimal in Eastern and Southern Africa. Africa's natural gas production since 2010 grew by more than 85%, and natural gas imports by over 1,600%. This calls for closer look at natural gas market integration in Africa, as much of the continent is yet to benefit from a natural gas transition. Infrastructure, logistics, energy policy and plans, and an overall space for private sector investment in natural gas remain critical issues. Most importantly, financing energy systems transition and development remains a critical challenge requiring innovative solutions.

The roundtable will discuss financing risks and challenges related to energy transition in Africa, particularly the role of natural gas in Africa's energy sector.

In Conversation: African Policy Makers and Private Sector

15:00 PM

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16:00 PM

ROUNDTABLE 3 – HARNESSING TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS IN AFRICA

Fostering the African Private Sector in Harnessing Big Data in Health and Energy Sectors

By 2020, every person will be expected to generate 1.7 megabytes in just a second. On the other hand, Gartner reported that there were 14.2 billion connected things in use in 2019 and it is projected that there will be 25 billion connected things by 2025. By 2021, mobile data traffic will exceed 48 exabytes (EB) worldwide per month, a sevenfold increase from 2016, according to Cisco's Visual Networking Index (VNI). Big data has therefore become a multi- billion dollar industry in itself with the global big data and business analytics revenues reaching USD\$ 189.1 billion in 2019.



Digitalization and transfer of advanced technology is essential for economic development and it has shown significant positive impact on health outcomes. Big data in health sector contributes to evidence-based policy development, transparency, maximizes efficiencies gains and the safety/quality of procurement and supply of medicines and products. The Big data evolution has the potential to bring myriad positive changes in sectors such as health care, finance, transportation, logistics, education, energy etc. Big Data has three main value chain components, namely, data generation and collection; storage, transmission and security; and analytics. The benefits associated with Big Data are enormous ranging from better, fact-based and fast decision making to improved customer experience, increased sales, new product innovations, reduced risk, more efficient operations and enhanced quality of products and services.

However, in most African Countries, Big Data are not produced on time, infrequently produced, lacks proper handling and management and are of poor quality and sometimes inaccurate, are not shared among sectors such health and energy. The roundtable will discuss on how to build a foundation that ensures that Big Data in the health and energy sectors bring to bear better standards of lives in Africa.

In Conversation: African Policy Makers and Private Sector

16:00 PM **Coffee Break**

16:30 PM **Closing Ceremony**

17:00 PM - **UNECA and Partners**