



**13th Africa Private Sector Forum
23-25 July 2022 in Lusaka, Zambia**

Recommendations

1. We, representatives of the business and economic communities from Africa applaud the 13th African Private Sector Forum organized by the African Union Commission in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry in Zambia and Africa Business Council under the theme ***“The Role of Private Sector towards Increasing Investment in Energy and Agribusiness to Upscale Productive Capacities and Industrialization Drive in Africa”*** from 23-25 July 2022 in Lusaka, Zambia.
2. We, witness with great pleasure the presence of H.E Hon. Felix Mutate, Minister of Science and Technology in Zambia, H.E Amb. Albert M. Muchanga, Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals, African Union Commission and Dr. Amany Asfour, President of the African Business Council which reaffirm their endeavor to support the Socio-Economic development in Africa.
3. We also acknowledged the presence of African Business Associations, Private sector organizations, Chambers of Commerce, Business Councils, Union of Industries Manufacturers Associations, Financial Institutions, Women and Youth Entrepreneurs, African SMEs, private sector stakeholders' and academia.
4. We are grateful to the Government of the Republic of Zambia and its People for their warm and friendly hospitality accorded to the entire delegation.
5. Having deliberated on Public-Private sector Dialogue on the role of Stakeholders in empowering the African Private Sector in scaling up Value

addition, promotion of Made in Africa products including SMEs, Women and Youth through industrialization, Technology, Energy, Digital Economy Capacity building and Public Procurement amidst covid19 pandemic; Africa's multi-stakeholders innovative strategy: driving the African private transformation, regional and global value chains towards a more inclusive development agenda; The role of stakeholders in boosting agribusiness: Promoting the use of agro-technologies to improve production and productivity throughout the agricultural value chains; Developing innovative technological solutions for enhancing value addition and developing the mineral sector of Africa; African Tourism Strategy: Linking the untapped potential of the tourism sector to the African Socio-Economic transformation agenda (highlighting modern and innovative strategies to promote tourism in order to transform African economies); Promoting intra Africa Trade in Agricultural Value added products towards realization of the African Single Market and How Access to Renewable Energy for African Women and Youth translates to increased productivity in Agribusiness and Economic Empowerment'

6. We agreed on the following Recommendations:

- I. **Public-Private sector Dialogue on the role of Stakeholders in empowering the African Private Sector in scaling up Value addition, promotion of Made in Africa products including SMEs, Women and Youth through industrialization, Technology, Energy, Digital Economy Capacity building and Public Procurement amidst covid19 pandemic**
- i. African Union Member States are encouraged to reform energy policy in order to tap into additional private capital for investment in the energy infrastructure. This can be done through adoption of energy policies that are transparent, consistent and investor friendly.
- ii. AUC and its Member States should partner with the private Sector actors and develop comprehensive strategy that seeks to provide affordable energy.
- iii. Need to develop mechanisms that ensure the provision of adequate and affordable credit facilities for SMEs and rural farmers within the agribusiness value chain in Africa.

- iv. AUC should partner with the private Sector actors to spearhead the creation of SMEs networking platforms that can help in identifying potential opportunities and work together to build their own capacities and upscale their competitiveness on the global stage.

II. Africa's multi-stakeholders innovative strategy: driving the African private transformation, regional and global value chains towards a more inclusive development agenda.

Recommendations:

- i. Develop innovative and non-collateral financing instruments (crowd funding, electronic banking credit systems, crypto currency investment platforms, blended financing, private and public guarantee funds) to ease access to capital for startups created by up by youth and women innovators in Africa.
- ii. Call upon AU Member States to create an enabling business and investment climate upon ensuring access to credit is affordable (low-interests rate and reasonable grace period) for startups and entrepreneurs championed by youths and women in Africa.
- iii. Need for Member States and Financial Institutions to strengthen existing digital payment systems (mobile money, inter-bank, crypto currency, and central bank digital currency) through the construction of adequate digital communications infrastructure to guarantee financial inclusion for youths and women in Africa.
- iv. Need for AUC to create adequate incubation facilities to strengthen the technical capacity of startups and businesses on financial and project management skills in order to facilitate access to credit for African youth and female entrepreneurs.
- v. Ensure private sector startups and entrepreneurs are aggregated into sector-based associations in order ease facilitate access to technical capacity building and financing to their respective members.
- vi. Advocate for the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa to develop flagship programs to effectively finance and integrate youth and women driven entrepreneurial agenda in their respective regions.

III. The role of stakeholders in boosting agribusiness: Promoting the use of agro-technologies to improve production and productivity throughout the agricultural value chains.

Recommendations:

- i. Need to strengthen the existing framework of the African Union Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) to develop specific Regional Value Chains (RVCs) financing instruments for specific crops towards achieving food security, and to export the surplus abroad by 2040.
- ii. Member States are called upon to develop storage silos facilities for farmers in Africa in order to reduce depletion and destruction of harvest by pests and harsh environmental conditions.
- iii. Need to foster the agricultural value chains in Africa with respect to the geo-economic comparative advantages of each African country.
- iv. Ensure farmers are aggregated into associations in order to ease access to technical skills and financing for their specific sectors, and to grant them the necessary bargaining power to negotiate loans with bankers.
- v. Strengthen the technical capacity of farmers on affordable solar-driven irrigation techniques, exportation certification standards, climate change safeguards and environmental hazards in order to effectively mitigate the effects of erosion, drought and climate change in Africa.
- vi. Hunger and food poverty should be remedied through reduction of post-harvest losses, lowering of import bills and enhancement of agro-processing activities; and
- vii. Africa's food security and nutrition security need to be addressed through concerted efforts to implement the CAADP pillars

IV. Developing innovative technological solutions for enhancing value addition and developing the mineral sector of Africa.

- i. There is need for the Private Sector to invest in a specific e-commerce websites for artisan miners and jewelry designers in Africa in order to ease trading with their prospective clients and to facilitate access to continental and Global Value Chains (GVCs).
- ii. Strengthen the technical capacity of artisan miners and jewelry designers on certification standards, financial and project management skills in order to give them a competitive edge within the continental and GVCs.
- iii. Member States are encouraged to develop innovative financing instruments to ease access to capital for artisan miners and jewelry designers in Africa. As well as develop necessary enabling fiscal incentives and measures to ease access towards transferring and procuring mining technologies for African artisan miners and mining corporations.
- iv. AUC in collaboration with Member States should integrate geological mapping technologies to assess the mining reserves and their respective economic viabilities in each African country.
- v. Guarantee safety standards should be put in place for mining workers upon ensuring artisan miners and mining companies integrate adequate

safety measures towards professional accidents, death, and also to mitigate climate change and negative environmental hazards.

V. African Tourism Strategy: Linking the untapped potential of the tourism sector to the African Socio-Economic transformation agenda (highlighting modern and innovative strategies to promote tourism in order to transform African economies).

- i. Member States are called upon to integrate digital technologies to market Africa as a world-class tourism destination upon creating attractive tourism online content for specific tourist attractions in Africa in order pull additional tourists to Africa.
- ii. Member States are encouraged to develop an adequate pandemic response mechanism towards mitigating disruptive effects of pandemics within the tourism value chains in Africa.
- iii. Member States are encouraged to facilitate travel between Africans, and between Africa and the rest of the world through simplified online visa formats.
- iv. There is need for strong political support for tourism at a high level in government and take the lead in creating an enabling environment. For example, participants strongly called for open border policy/visa free entry to encourage movement of tourists from one country to another.
- v. Need to develop an integrated infrastructure such as air, road, and railways networks for tourism promotion and development.
- vi. AUC in collaboration with Member States should put in place effective institutions and coordinating mechanisms to maintain a dialogue with all stakeholders to build a peaceful, stable and attractive environment for tourism development.
- vii. There is need for Member States to engage with donors and leveraging their capacity to assist the tourism sector in many vital areas, such as infrastructure, training, and pro-poor tourism.
- viii. Member States are called upon to facilitate access to finance, attractive tax regimes to foster tourism investments, upgrade tourism skills, address security, safety and high crime concerns.
- ix. Member States are called upon to promote eco-tourism to value Africa's endemic wildlife through creation of more products that can work as complements basing on potential segments such as the traditional products.

VI. Promoting intra Africa Trade in Agricultural Value added products towards realization of the African Single Market

- i. There is need for further engagement with policy makers so as to create a policy of ecosystem that supports growth in the agriculture sector and facilitates trade in Agricultural value added products.
- ii. Private sector as well as consumers are encouraged to engage with national and continental standards and quality bodies in improving the quality of their products and for meeting safety requirements and other regulatory
- iii. There is need to enhance research and dissemination in Agricultural value added products.
- iv. There is need to build capacity of various stakeholders in the Agricultural value chain including in product marketing, packaging and logistics.

VII. How Access to Renewable Energy for African Women and Youth translates to increased productivity in Agribusiness and Economic Empowerment

- i. Create an enterprise development fund to accompany private sector development in Africa towards easing access to renewable energy and relevant technical support
- ii. Enable access to renewable energy by Private Sector actors through fiscal incentives and technology transfer
- iii. Support women and youth including those that are living with disabilities on renewable energy to improve on labor intensity and to improve profitability and safety in their energy-intensive microenterprises

VIII. Crosscutting recommendations

- i. AUC in collaboration with Member States should strengthen publicity regarding innovative e-commerce platforms in Africa in order to position African businesses as champions within the continental and GVCs.
- ii. AUC should assist Member States in creating a collaboration mechanism to integrate the African diaspora as both investors and promoters of investments and trading within Africa within the GVC,

Acknowledgement

1. The Forum expressed its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Zambia for the warm hospitality extended to all delegation during the event; and
2. The Forum adopted the above Recommendations and commended the partnership between the African Union Commission and the African Business Council for successfully organizing this important event.

25 July 2022, Lusaka, Zambia