



Draft Concept Note

High-Level Africa Private Sector Forum

Theme: *The Role of the Private Sector in Realizing Africa's 2063 Development Agenda*

Date: 13 February 2026

Venue: African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

1. Background and Rationale

The Agenda 2063 is the African Union's blueprint for inclusive and sustainable development and recognizes the private sector, SMEs, and startups as vital engines in achieving these ambitions, particularly Aspiration 1, "A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development," and Aspiration 6, "An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially women and youth, and caring for children."

Africa stands at a pivotal crossroads in its journey toward economic transformation. With a population projected to reach 2.5 billion by 2050, Africa possesses abundant natural resources, youthful human capital, and a rapidly growing consumer market. Yet, the continent continues to export up to 90% of its raw materials without value addition, limiting opportunities for industrialization, job creation, SME growth, and private-sector-led wealth retention.

The continent is rich in minerals critical for high-tech industries and hosts significant renewable energy potential. Africa's vast arable land offers opportunities for agro-industrialization, while the growing startup ecosystem and SMEs provide innovative solutions to address structural challenges. Mobilizing private investment, including from African billionaires, centi-millionaires, and global investors, is critical to channel capital into sectors that build productive capacity, create jobs, and add value.

The Forum is designed to bridge these gaps by convening African Heads of State, leading CEOs, institutional investors, and regional institutions to align capital, policy, and political will around high-impact value chains under Agenda 2063.

2. Theme and Strategic Focus

Theme: "The Role of the Private Sector in Realizing Africa's 2063 Development Agenda".

The Forum will prioritize transformative sectors with untapped comparative advantage and potential for private-sector investment, SME development, and startup engagement:

- a) Mineral Resources and Value Addition: Linking mining to refining, manufacturing, and regional industrial ecosystems; mobilizing private capital, PPPs, and startup innovation.
- b) Agriculture and Agro-processing: Industrial-scale agro-processing and regional food brands to capture value, enable SME growth, and attract investment in food systems.
- c) Textiles and Garments: Integrated cotton-to-garment value chains, industrial parks, and “Made in Africa” brands to generate youth and women employment, supported by private-sector and SME investment.
- d) Renewable Energy and Green Industry: Scaling solar, wind, hydro, and industrial power solutions; leveraging private-sector finance and startups to drive sustainable industrialization.
- e) Health Industry and Pharmaceutical Sovereignty: Local production of generics, vaccines, and medical devices, supported by private-sector investment and PPPs, ensuring industrial growth and health security.

3. What Sets This Forum Apart

This is a decision-level platform focused on execution, not a general conference.

- For the private sector, SMEs, and startups, it provides direct engagement with Presidents, investment-ready pipelines, and PPP opportunities.
- For political leadership, it creates space to mobilize large-scale private capital, test reforms with investors, and coordinate continental value chains.

4. Objectives

1. Position the private sector, SMEs, and startups as strategic drivers of Agenda 2063.
2. Promote investment in infrastructure, logistics, and renewable energy as enablers of industrialization.
3. Showcase economic potential of value chains in minerals, agriculture, manufacturing, and health.
4. Align private capital with Agenda 2063 priorities at scale.
5. Engage Heads of State and policymakers on reforms to improve the business environment.
6. Facilitate partnerships, trade deals, and investment commitments through public-private dialogue.
7. Enable direct deal-making between governments, private sector leaders, and SMEs

5. Format and Structure

The Forum will be compact, high-level, and results-driven:

- Opening Session: Strategic direction from AU and business leadership.

- Presidential Dialogue: Heads of State and CEOs discuss competitiveness, reforms, and investment.
- CEO–President Engagement: Sector-focused, deal-oriented discussions.
- Investment Showcases: Flagship projects and regional pipelines for private sector and SME engagement.
- B2G and B2B Engagements: Curated matchmaking for concrete outcomes.

6. Target Participants

- African Heads of State and Government
- Ministers responsible for Finance, Industry, Trade, Energy, Health, and Mining
- CEOs, Chairpersons, and institutional investors
- African Youth Startups and African Women in Processing
- Sovereign wealth funds and development finance institutions
- Regional Economic Communities and business associations
- Diaspora investors and global partners

7. Expected Outcomes

- Presidential-level policy and investment commitments
- Private Sector–AU Action Framework for Agenda 2063
- Concrete steps to reduce dependence on raw material exports
- Increased investor confidence in Africa as a competitive industrial destination
- Establishment of a standing Africa Private Sector–Presidential Dialogue mechanism to sustain SME, startup, and private-sector engagement

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