



African Economic Platform

MAURITIUS, 20-22 MARCH 2017

Background

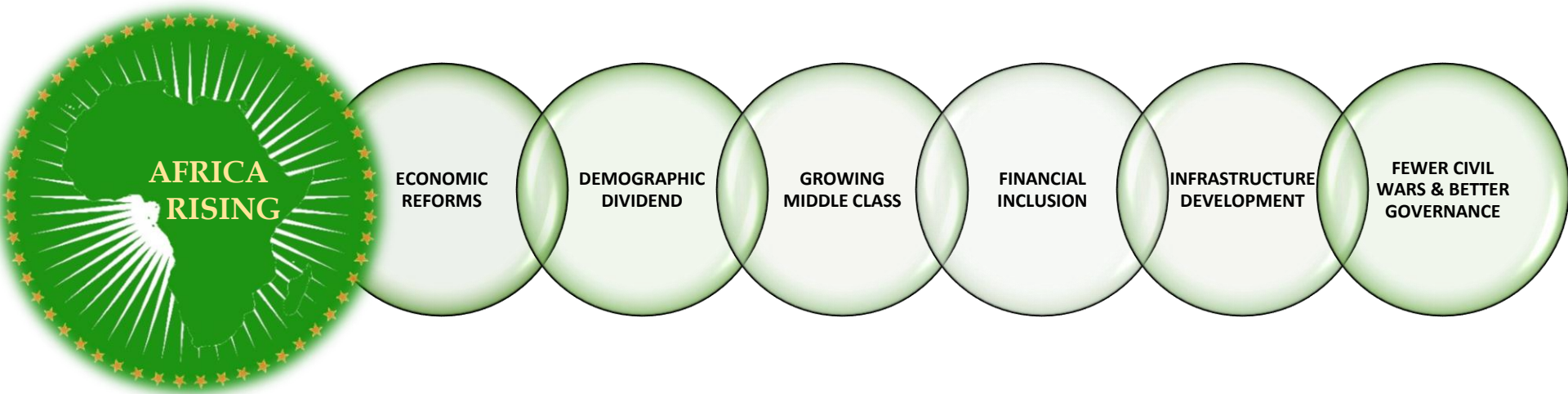
- The idea for an afro-centric, Africa focused economic platform originated from concerns about:-
 1. African leaders, from policy makers to regional business leaders assembling annually at various global forums to discuss business opportunities and economic development issues which may not of necessity prioritise Africa's drive for development and growth
 2. The employment challenge arising from the skills gap witnessed by the disconnect between Africa's industry requirements for economic growth and the output from academia
 3. The need to develop an integrated African economy for the continent to realise its potential for stronger competitiveness in the global economy

- The African Economic Platform was mooted as an annual multi-stakeholder forum to bring together African leaders from all spheres of society to reflect on how to accelerate Africa's economic transformation through the implementation of Agenda 2063

- The goal of the AEP is therefore to facilitate a meeting of great minds by bringing together the African political leadership, business leaders from the private sector , civil society and academia to **discuss issues affecting Africa and how the continent can harness its vast resources to enhance the development of the African people.**

Why Launch the African Economic Platform Now?

The AEP comes at the right time given the continent's growth and development trajectory driving by several factors which include.....



Objectives of the African Economic Platform



The inaugural AEP scheduled for **20-22 March 2017**, is organised by the African Union Foundation (AUF) and will be graced by Heads of African States, Corporate Leaders of National and Regional Private Sector firms that are key players in African industry and whose leadership have been recognized as driving innovative growth and development in their sectors of operation, Leaders of Academia and Academic Think-tank's and Civil Society leaders.

1. Undertake constructive multi stakeholder dialogues around common themes for Africa led by Africans and to influence continental policy by engaging directly with African leaders on matters of mutual interest
2. Establish multi-country, multi-sector priorities and plans for common action with clear mechanisms for follow up.
3. Work with African leaders to remove policy obstacles for doing business in Africa, increasing the investment attractiveness of the continent, the implementation of strategies for economic diversification and industrialization, and domestic and other resource mobilization.
4. To advocate for the removal of Barriers that hamper communication and the flow of goods, people and services across the continent
5. Create common platforms for articulating common African positions on global affairs and increase global awareness of Africa's emerging role in world affairs
6. Leverage the potential of the African Diaspora to participate and advocate for Africa's integration and development.
7. Drive the implementation of policies for inclusive growth.

The AEP will host senior level officials namely:

➤ **Heads of State & Government (HOSG)**

- President or Prime Minister or Vice President or Deputy Prime Minister) + 2

➤ **C-Suite Level Executive from Private Sector**

- CEO or Chairperson of the Board of a company

➤ **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)**

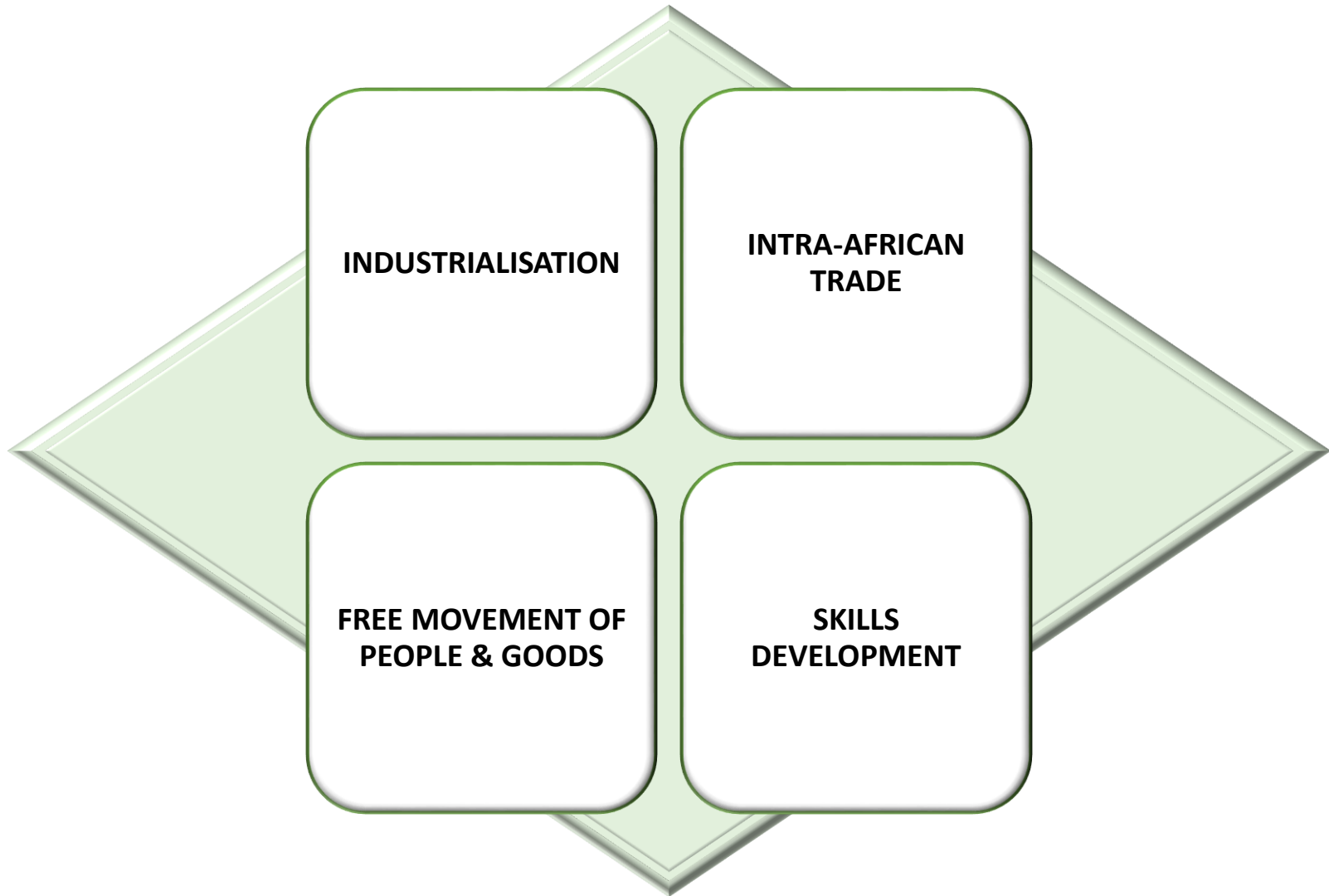
- Executive Secretary

➤ **Academia**

- Vice Chancellor or Dean of Faculty

➤ **Elected Officials of the AU Commission**

To meet the stated objectives, the inaugural AEP will focus on 4 Key Thematic Areas



The Thematic Areas will be debated during 4 plenary sessions moderated by African Heads of States



PLENARY 1:

MADE IN AFRICA, THROUGH REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS

- Promoting Industrialization through value addition, processing and beneficiation of Africa's commodities
- Promoting the establishment of Regional Manufacturing and Processing

PLENARY 2:

THE CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREAS: EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTRA AFRICAN TRADE, BUSINESS AND INVESTMENTS

- Status of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) integration and how to unblock obstacles and challenges; Promotion of cross border movement of Factors of Production, Promoting cross border Regional Investment, and Mergers and Acquisitions that are more important than FDI; Movement of peoples for business, tourism, education, employment, etc.

PLENARY 3:

COMPETITIVENESS OF THE AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR. BUILDING PAN AFRICAN ENTERPRISES

- How to ensure a competitive private sector across Africa that will be an engine of sustainable economic growth, employment and poverty reduction on the continent in the next decade and beyond.

PLENARY 4:

AFRICAN SKILLS REVOLUTION AND REAPING ITS DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND. EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR EMPLOYMENT, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- How will Africa reap its demographic dividend by taking innovative and revolutionary steps towards youth skills development that are not only relevant, but also inclusive of the continents multi-sectoral economic and social needs

What can delegates expect from attending the AEP



- An unprecedented opportunity to interact directly with the utmost key policy makers at National Government level
- Networking: Engage with C-Suite leaders and peers from various sectors to establish linkages for future collaboration
- A chance to share your views and play a central role in defining the agenda for Africa's future
- An opportunity to gain perspective and learn about the real issues affecting Africa's development agenda

The Platform will take place in a retreat setting, with informal discussions which are strictly aligned to Chatham House Rules wherein the outcome will be a joint Communique outlining agreed actions. The outcomes of the AEP shall be endorsed through an African Union Summit decision.

Other Activities & Events taking place at the AEP

- **Corporate Sponsored Sectoral Breakfast Meetings (Daily)**
- **Networking Sessions (Daily)**
- **AEP Golf Day 22nd March**
- **AEP spouses tour – organised by the host country – Mauritius Ministry of Tourism**
 - Recreational activities including tour of the island's popular sites.



AEP GOLF DAY 22ND MARCH 2017



- **An opportunity to relax and play alongside the elite of African Leadership in this sport for leaders.**
- **Fundraising: Funds raised from the Golf Event will be used to support the work of the African Union Foundation**
- **80 players, Two (2) tee start, Tee-off from 08h30 – 10h06, On-course networking session, Golf clinics for non-golfers**



Programme of Events 20-22 March 2017

SUNDAY, 19 MARCH 2017, PORT LOUIS

Arrival and Registration

MONDAY, 20 MARCH 2017, PORT LOUIS

08:00	Breakfast
	AEP Opening Session
09:30	Welcome by the Government of Mauritius Remarks by Business representative Opening remarks by Chairperson of the African Union
10:00	Official Photograph
10:30	Setting the scene: Keynote address by the Chairperson of the AU Commission
10:45	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>
	Plenary Panel 1
11:15	MADE IN AFRICA, THROUGH REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
	Plenary Panel 2
15:00	THE CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA: EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTRA AFRICAN TRADE AND INVESTMENTS
	NETWORKING SESSIONS
17:00	B2G, B2B, A2B AND A2G
19:00	Official Welcome dinner

TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2017

07:30	Sponsored Sectoral Breakfast meetings
	Plenary Panel 3
	COMPETITIVENESS OF THE AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR. BUILDING PAN AFRICAN ENTERPRISES
09:15	
11:15	<i>Tea/Coffee</i>
11:30	Plenary Panel 4
	AFRICAN SKILLS REVOLUTION. EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR EMPLOYMENT, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
13.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	NETWORKING SESSIONS
15:00	B2G, B2B, A2B AND A2G
	CLOSING CEREMONY
17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Platform Conclusions • Launch of the African Passport for Business • Vote of Thanks – Representative of Academics • Closing remarks – AU Chairperson
18:00	AEP Joint Press conference
18:30	NETWORKING DINNER

Programme of Events 20-22 March 2017



WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2017

08:30

AU Foundation Golf Day

15:00

Departures

About the African Union Foundation



The African Union Foundation (AUF) was established by the African Union as part of promoting domestic resource mobilisation for African development. The Foundation was officially launched on Friday, 30 January 2015 during the 24th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Foundation aims to engage Africa's private sector, African citizens, communities, and leading African philanthropists to generate resources and provide valuable insight on ways in which their success can accelerate Africa's development.

The AUF is supported by an experienced board and council is made up of Africans from different sectors and regions of the continent, as well as representatives from the African Diaspora.

- Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma is an undisputed trailblazer in the upliftment and empowerment of women across the African continent. Dlamini Zuma was elected chairperson of the African Union Commission by the heads of state in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2012.

Dr Nkosazana
Dlamini Zuma



- Luísa Diogo is the former prime minister of Mozambique. She served in the position from 2004 to 2010. Her career has spanned work in the public, private and NGO sectors.

Luisa Diogo
Deputy Chairperson
of the AU Foundation



- A Co-founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GoodWorks International, LLC, an global agency dedicated to economic development and progress of Africa and the Caribbean, Ambassador Masters will be responsible for mobilising resources on behalf of the AU Foundation from within the continent, Diaspora and the United States.

Ambassador
Carl Masters



AU FOUNDATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

• Chris Kirubi is a leading Kenyan entrepreneur with investments in the media, manufacturing, property management, insurance and investment sectors. He is the chairperson of the Haco Tiger Brands Kenya, International House Limited, Smart Applications International Limited, Nairobi Bottlers and DHL Worldwide Express Limited, among others.

Dr Chris Kirubi



• Dr Amany Asfour is a medical doctor and entrepreneur who has contributed immensely to the empowerment of women in business during her career. She is the president of the Egyptian Business Women Association.

Dr Amany Asfour



• Professor Alpha Oumar Konaré served as president of Mali from 1992 to 2002. At the end of his second term as Malian president, Konaré went on to chair the African Union Commission from 2003 until 2008.

Prof Alpha Oumar Konaré



• Dr Ntombifuthi Mtoba is president and founder of TEACH South Africa, an organisation recruiting skilled teachers in the areas of Maths, Science, Technology and English for underprivileged schools.

Dr Ntombifuthi Mtoba



• Most Honourable PJ Patterson is a former prime minister of Jamaica. He served an unprecedented four terms, from 1992 until 2006. He is a member of the Global Leadership Foundation.

Most Hon. PJ Patterson



• Dr Charles Chinedu Okeahalam is a Nigerian economist and businessman. He co-founded the investment firm AGH Capital Group in 2002.

Dr Charles Chinedu Okeahalam



• Cheryl Carolus is the executive chair of Peotona Group Holdings, a women-owned company with assets in resources and infrastructure feeder industries.

Cheryl Carolus



• Author, researcher and thought leader Dr Bhekinkosi Moyo is the chief executive of the Southern African Trust, an organisation that supports deeper policy engagements in regional integration.

Dr Bheki Moyo



• Dr Clément Mouamba is the prime minister of the Republic of the Congo. Mouamba is a former finance minister, having served from 1992 until 1993.

Dr Clément Mouamba



• André Pienaar is a private investor in specialist areas of technology. He is a founder of C5 Capital Limited. He is a trustee of several African charities.

André Pienaar



For Additional Information

AFRICAN UNION FOUNDATION

1258 LEVER ROAD HEADWAY HILL MIDRAND, 1685

JOHANNESBURG

TELEPHONE: +27 (0)11 313 5105

AUF Website www.africaunionfoundation.org

Email: CEO@AFRICAUNION.ORG

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

ROOSVELT STREET (OLD AIRPORT AREA) | W21K19

ADDIS ABABA

TEL: (251) 11 551 2558

Twitter [@_AfricanUnion](https://twitter.com/_AfricanUnion)

Facebook [AfricanUnionCommission](https://www.facebook.com/AfricanUnionCommission)

African Union Website: www.au.int

Email: dic@africa-union.org