



AFRICA CEO FORUM

ANNUAL SUMMIT

ABIDJAN
5 & 6 JUNE 2023

NAVIGATING THE CRISES

From 300 to 3000: How to deliver the next generation of African champions

In recent years, the world has faced unprecedented crises, from bank failures and surging inflation to energy shortages and the concerns around the rapid development of AI. These disruptions have upended the world and led to fundamental shifts in global relations, with protectionism on the rise and global stability under threat.

Why should African leaders have to sit back and watch while foreign crises wreak havoc on their currencies and wider economies?

Since the AFRICA CEO FORUM was founded a decade ago, the notion that the private sector should be the engine of African growth has been firmly anchored in the minds of policy makers. With the continent's share of global FDI tripling over that period, the massive flows into logistics, infrastructure, agribusiness, financial services, real estate, and many other high-performing sectors have unleashed African business champions; there are now over 300 African companies with billion-dollar turnovers.

“As the world’s most advanced economies have proved, economic sovereignty requires the promotion of the continent’s most ambitious companies.”

These regional and continental champions must now learn to adapt to the global ‘polycrisis’ and endure its wide-ranging consequences, as key actors in Africa’s development and prosperity creation. African leaders have already taken steps to strengthen economic resilience, develop employment and accelerate onshoring, but empowering the continent’s largest businesses is essential to bolster sovereignty and grow Africa’s share of global value chains. As the world’s most advanced economies have shown with their legions of multinationals, economic sovereignty also demands a favorable environment for the continent’s largest companies.

On 5 and 6 June in Abidjan, the AFRICA CEO FORUM will convene 1,800 participants to tackle the ambitious challenge of how to turn crisis into advantage, urgently and sustainably:

- From food systems to the industrial opportunities of the green energy transition... which industries must Africa prioritize in its search for strategic autonomy?
- How can Africa 10x the number of billion dollar companies? Which public policies are required to transform family businesses into regional champions?
- What role will the nascent tech and AI scene play in this transformation, and how can Africa build the local talent pool needed in science and engineering to achieve these ambitions?
- Sustainability, finance and trade: What is the clout of the African private sector in major global debates?

During this two-day event, filled with debates, discussions and workshops, influential business leaders, investors and political decision-makers from across the continent will address the challenge of a resilient, competitive and sovereign Africa.



How to design a fair and effective energy transition for the African context?



Made in Africa: how manufacturing can adapt to new realities



Pharma for Africa: ensuring supply through local vaccine production



Translating the AI revolution to economic growth



Advancing continent’s business interests: rise of the new African CEO



Purchasing power pressures: solutions to a cost of living crisis



AfCFTA: How to create multi-modal transport systems and boost cross border trading



ESG: building shared value through inclusive mining



Geopolitics of food security: securing continental agricultural value chains

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