



# AT THE TABLE OR ON THE MENU? A CRITICAL MOMENT TO SHAPE A NEW FUTURE FOR AFRICA

After a quarter-century of favourable macroeconomic conditions for Africa, marked by easy money, commodity booms and relative political stability, the landscape has shifted dramatically. Geopolitical fault lines have deepened in the past year, creating a multi-regional world, beset with climate, AI and sovereignty challenges, in which global forces are competing viciously over capital, critical resources and the industries of the future.

As we enter a new and uncertain era, Africa stands at a pivotal juncture which will determine its future.

Africa's ability to secure **"a place at the table"** and command respect in global dialogues faces threats from widespread governance crises and a noticeable disregard for continental leadership, as evidenced by Africa's modest outcomes from COP28.

Moreover, we're entering an era shaped by climate and AI disruptions, where complacency risks landing us **"on the menu"** in the global economic contest.

The time to chart the course to **a new future for Africa** is now. A future in which the African private sector will be empowered to capitalise on the continent's diverse comparative advantages; from consumer markets buoyed by strong demographic growth to leveraging its natural resources to become a pillar of the global energy transition, or even to feeding the growing appetite for African entertainment, whether in movies, music or sports.

On 16 and 17 May in Kigali, for its 11th annual summit, the Africa CEO Forum will call on its community of 2,000 business leaders, CEOs, investors, heads of state and ministers to seize this critical moment to shape this new future and to set in motion four key transformative agendas.

## A LEADERSHIP AGENDA

With imminent transitions at the AU and AfDB, which governance model can unify Africa's voice on the global stage? In the face of mounting economic and social complexities, how can we usher in a new era of 'best-in-class', business-friendly public policies across the continent?

## A DIGITAL AGENDA

How can Africa keep pace in the global AI race? What investments are necessary to face the surge of cyberattacks targeting corporate Africa? How can we strengthen our tech ecosystems and infrastructure to position Africa as a global hub for innovation and talent?

## AN INTEGRATION AGENDA

What must national leaders do to effectively establish the Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a robust common market? Can pan-African business champions challenge trade obstacles through action and catalyse integration with cross-border projects?

## A FINANCING AGENDA

How can Africa's financial sector seize the opportunity presented by the retreat of international finance? Can creative financing instruments unlock funds without raising the debt burden? Will investors, both local and foreign, take on the necessary risk to fuel Africa's growth?

**The time for action is now.  
Join us in Kigali to shape a new future for Africa.**

FOUNDER



HOST COUNTRY



CO-HOST



Creating Markets, Creating Opportunities



# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Over 2 days and more than 60 panel discussions, public-private workshops and closed-door roundtables, we will explore a new future for Africa, addressing critical topics such as:

| PILLARS                | SELECTED TOPICS INCLUDE   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Leadership</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair Climate Transition: Africa's Stance in a Post-COP28 World</li> <li>• Food Security: Building Climate-Resilient Agriculture Systems in Africa</li> <li>• Family Businesses and Entrepreneurship: Secrets to Continuity</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Digital Future</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Big Tech &amp; Telcos: Splitting the Bill on Digital Infrastructure</li> <li>• Finding the Perfect Balance: Achieving Innovation-Friendly Regulation</li> <li>• Can Africa Become a Champion of Artificial Intelligence?</li> <li>• Could AI be a Decarbonisation Gamechanger for African Business?</li> </ul> |
| <b>Integration</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AfCFTA: Scaling Intra-African Trade in a Decisive Decade</li> <li>• African Airlines: Could Mega-Alliances Help Profits Take Off?</li> <li>• Harmonising Standards for Sustainable African Trade</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Finance</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon Markets: How Can Africa Build its Own Market Value Chain?</li> <li>• Unlocking Climate Finance: Private Sector and DFI Collaboration</li> <li>• The Silent P: Adding Philanthropy to Public-Private Partnerships</li> </ul>   |
| <b>New on the menu</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring the Business of Sports in Africa</li> <li>• Tourism, Hospitality and Hotels: How to Flaunt Africa</li> <li>• Pharmaceuticals: Boosting Production Through Regional Hubs</li> <li>• Educating Generation Alpha: How Technology Can Future-Proof African Youth</li> </ul>                              |
| <b>Infrastructure</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transmission Mission: Structuring Projects to Power Africa</li> <li>• How Mining Infrastructure Can Unlock Economic Growth</li> <li>• Supporting Infrastructure Investments in High-Risk Countries</li> </ul>  |