

Africa Business Forum

2022

FIFTH AFRICAN BUSINESS FORUM, 2022

PROGRAMME DOCUMENT



Theme: “Investing in multimodal transport infrastructure to optimize the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area: a focus on air transport and tourism”

Sponsors



United Nations
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9–10 a.m.	Virtual and in-person arrival of participants
10–10.30 a.m.	<p>Welcome and opening remarks Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lerato Mbele, moderator <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vera Songwe, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) • H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission
10.30–10.35 a.m.	<p>Video message from a Head of State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mohamed Bazoum, President, Niger
10.35–10.45 a.m.	<p>Keynote address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President, Sierra Leone <p>Virtual address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mokgweetsi E.K Masisi, President, Botswana
10. 45–10.50 a.m.	<p>Introductory address Honourable Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad, Gambia</p>
10.50–11.50 a.m.	High-level dialogue on multimodal transport in support of the African Continental Free Trade Area

Session description: Adequate and efficient infrastructure and services across all modes of transport and tourism are critical to reaping the full benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area and economic growth. Moreover, the transport sector contributes significantly to job creation and the gross domestic product of African countries. Participants in the high-level dialogue will explore opportunities and challenges for investing in transport and tourism in the context of the Area during a moderated discussion. The high-level dialogue will end with a call to action.

Panellists:

- H.E. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson for the African Union Commission
- Professor Benedict Oramah, President of the African Export & Import Bank
- Mr Esayas Woldemariam, Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Ethiopian Airlines
- Mr Allan Kilavuka, Chief Executive Officer, Kenyan Airways (virtual)

	Question and answer session
	Wrap-up
11.50–11.55 a.m.	<p>Video message Sundar Pichai, Chief Executive Officer, Google</p>
11.55 a.m.–12 p.m.	Group Photo
12–1 p.m.	High-level panel on investment requirements and options in the African transport sector



Session description: It is envisaged that the African Continental Free Trade Area will lead to significant growth in freight across all modes of transport – road, rail, air and maritime transport. The panel will discuss the investment opportunities provided by increased demand for transport infrastructure and services, with a focus on air transport.

Speaker:

H.E. Albert Muchanga, Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining, African Union (virtual)

Panellists:

- Abderahmane Berthe, Secretary-General, African Airlines Association (virtual)
- Busera Awol, Group Vice-President for Strategic Planning and Alliances, Ethiopian Airlines
- Yacine Fal, Acting Vice-President, African Development Bank Group
- Selim Bora, Chairman, Summa International Construction Group (virtual)
- Angeline Simana, Interim Secretary-General, African Civil Aviation Commission (virtual)
- Ms. Beatrice Chaytor, secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area (virtual)
- Hany Abdelkawi, Head of Travel Sales, International Growth, Google (virtual)
- Samaila Zubairu, President & Chief Executive Office, Africa Finance Corporation (virtual)
- Sidi Ould Tah, Director -General, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (virtual)

Question and answer session

1–1.45 p.m.

Policy directions and way forward

Panellists:

- Stephen Karingi, Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA
- Robert Lisinge, Chief, Energy, Infrastructure and Services Section, Private Sector Development and Finance Division, ECA
- Geoffrey Manyara, Economic Affairs Officer, Subregional Office for Eastern Africa, ECA
- Walter Mzembi, Chairman, World Tourism Network Africa, former Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Zimbabwe (virtual)

Question and answer session

1.45–2 p.m.

Summary of key takeaways and closing remarks

Closing remarks:

Vera Songwe, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ECA

Lunch



