



Draft Agenda – Day 1 (29 June 2021)

Time	Sessions	Speakers
10:00-10:05 Venue: Main Conference Room	Moderator’s Opening Remarks	
10:00-11:00 Venue: Country Presentation Room	Country Presentation 1	
10:05-10:30 Venue: Main Conference Room	<p>Keynote Address – Africa Unlocked: Innovation & Sustainability as the Drivers of Economic Growth</p> <p><i>FDI in Africa was focused on the extraction and export of raw materials. However, for the past few years, the investment flow in Africa is not only for its raw materials but its people. Africa is becoming a big player in the global market. Economic Stability and the rise of technology have been the key contributing factors for the RISE of AFRICA.</i></p> <p><i>We will have leaders from various international and multilateral organizations share their perspectives on what drives Africa. They will also highlight the role of innovation and sustainability in the growth of Africa.</i></p>	
10:40-11:00 Venue: Main Conference Room	<p>Africa’s Economic Response to the COVID Crisis – An Expert Overview</p> <p><i>The session highlights the African government’s economic response, where Africa stands now and what is in store for the future.</i></p>	
11:10-12:00 Venue: Main Conference Room	<p>Game Changer: African Continental Free Trade Area – Roundtable Discussion</p> <p><i>African Continental Free Trade Area is the largest free trade area globally, with 54 out of 55 nations of the African Union – started trading on 1 January 2021, creating a market of 1.2</i></p>	



	<p><i>billion people and the eighth economic bloc in the world with a \$3-trillion combined GDP, that is expected to more than double by 2050. This will positively impact Africa's growth, resulting in welfare gains for citizens, facilitating trade growth and improving Africa's trade deficit.</i></p> <p><i>In this session, we will have Ministers and International Organizations discuss what are going to be the future challenges and what can be expected with the signing of this landmark agreement.</i></p>	
11:10-12:10 Venue: Country Presentation Room	Country Presentation 2	
12:10-13:00 Venue: Main Conference Room	Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) Session: The Key Role IPA's Need to Play to Attract Sustainable Investment <i>Attracting FDI is a vital tool for countries to achieve their set investment targets, and IPAs play an essential role in attracting and facilitating investment in their country. Many countries have set sustainability targets, and this has led to a focus on attracting sustainable investment. In this session, we will have leading IPAs from Africa discuss how they achieve their sustainability target and the hurdles they face in the current economic situation.</i>	
12:20-13:20 Venue: Country Presentation Room	Country Presentation 3	
13:00-14:00	Networking Break	
14:00-14:30 Venue: Main Conference Room	AIM Inspirational Talk: Interview with a Prolific African Business Leader <i>An Inspirational Talk with a leading business leader from Africa, talking about the current economic situation in Africa and what can we expect from Future Africa.</i>	
14:00-15:00	Country Presentation 4	



Venue: Country Presentation Room		
14:00-16:00 Venue: Investment Roundtable Room	Investment Roundtable - Trade	
14:40-15:30 Venue: Main Conference Room	Unlocking Africa's ESG Investments <i>Adoption of ESG is increasing in Africa. Africa's capital markets are in the early stages of the sustainability theme, and shares in companies that make ESG a strategic imperative and risk-management tool are expected to benefit from strong investor demand in the years ahead. However, the challenge for ESG investors in Africa is the dominance of extractive industries. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to some of the world's largest oil and gas reserves, coal, and metals and minerals. While investors in developed economies are increasingly excluding new investments into fossil fuels businesses, these sectors are sizeable contributors to GDP and export earnings.</i>	
15:10-16:10 Venue: Country Presentation Room	Country Presentation 5	
15:40-16:30 Venue: Main Conference Room	Women in Investment: Investing in the Future of Africa <i>Leading investors talking about the rising prominence of women investors in Africa and how this can be further encouraged. The session will also talk about investing in women-run businesses in Africa. Women make up 58% of African's self-employed population. Yet, there are still significant imbalances between opportunities to scale, access to funding and training between men and women-led businesses on the continent. How is technology helping women-run companies ease their access to finance, and how the women investors bring about change in their portfolio to support women-led businesses?</i>	
16:40-17:00 Venue: Main Conference Room	Chinese Investment in Africa – Outlook	



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	<i>Understand the impacts of Chinese investments on structural transformation in Africa, especially in job creation, skills and technology transfer, and local business development.</i>	
17:00	Close of Conference Day 1	



Draft Agenda – Day 2 (30 June 2021)

Time	Sessions	Speakers
10:00-10:30 Venue: Main Conference Room	<p>MNCs making substantial investments in Africa – The Experience</p> <p><i>The emerging market of Africa is garnering support from multinational corporations. This “full of potential” land has low manufacturing costs, and hence MNCs enjoy sustained profit from the African region. There have been significant changes in the policies as well. This session will give overall feedback regarding establishment, entry, operations, pricing & distribution policy, marketing, organization, government policies & subsidies etc., before MNCs consider venturing into this growing market.</i></p>	
10:00-11:00 Venue: Country Presentation Room	<p>Country Presentation 6</p>	
10:40-11:10 Venue: Main Conference Room	<p><i>Interview</i></p> <p>Race to become a “Unicorn”</p> <p><i>Potential required to achieve this much-coveted position and the Challenges faced</i></p>	
11:10-12:10 Venue: Country Presentation Room	<p>Country Presentation 7</p>	
11:20-12:10 Venue: Main Conference Room	<p><i>Panel Discussion - SMEs</i></p> <p>De-risking the establishment of SMEs through Credit & Finance</p> <p><i>International Trade Centre (ITC) refers to SMEs as “the missing link” in inclusive growth. SMEs have the capacity to tap into the vast untapped market of the region and bring a shift in the toppling economy. This stands true for an emerging market like Africa. The African population is growing at the rate of 2 per cent annually, and 80 per cent of the population are employed in SMEs. Hence, this growing population will need access to services and jobs.</i></p>	



	<p><i>The more significant challenge is always the credit for the growth and sustainability of these micro, small and medium enterprises that can cater to the growing needs of the economy. This session will discuss the determinants for access to finance by SMEs.</i></p>	
12:20-13:20 Venue: Country Presentation Room	Country Presentation 8	
12:20-13:10 Venue: Main Conference Room	<p><i>Panel Discussion - Startups</i></p> Startup Finance for Inclusive Economic Development <p><i>The Startup funding fell dramatically in the first half of 2020, though it picked gradually in the second half. Startups play an essential role in the social and economic development of the country. They also help in generating employment. It is projected that by 2035, Africa will create more employment opportunities than the rest of the world combined. Hence, it is prudent for them to have access to secure financing options, resources and expertise. This session will discuss the challenges faced by the Startups in Africa to have the proper funding, the criterias' required to secure these funds, grants and subsidies by the government, and the role of incubators and accelerators in reducing this financing gap and helping maintain the cash flow and financial sustainability for the Startups.</i></p>	
13:10-14:00	Networking Break	
14:00-14:50 Venue: Main Conference Room	<p><i>Panel Discussion – Future Cities</i></p> High-Tech Urbanization of the overpopulated African Metropolis – The Future Possibilities <p><i>Africa is undergoing impressive urbanization. By 2030, it is projected that 6 of the world's 41 megacities will be African. Hence, to enhance mobility, the residents will need access to clean water & sanitation, public transport & infrastructure, a healthcare system, and safety issues. This session will discuss the future possibilities related to the urbanization of Africa. How are investments by private sectors & other MNCs and policy advisories to cope-up with the structural challenges arising out of growing urbanization laying the foundation blocks for economic development?</i></p>	



14:00-15:00 Venue: Country Presentation Room	Country Presentation 9	
14:00-16:00 Venue: Investment Roundtable Room	Investment Roundtable – Healthcare Sector	
15:00-15:50 Venue: Main Conference Room	<p><i>Panel Discussion – Startups</i> Spotlighting the possibilities of Foreign Investment in Africa to support the Startups</p> <p><i>The emerging businesses in Africa are overwhelming. They are playing a transformational role in globalization. The opportunities presented are fueling the economy. However, navigating the obstacles faced with investment and starting a business in Africa is a burdensome endeavour. This session is designed to highlight the points before stepping into this untapped market and discuss the limitations and solutions regarding infrastructure, changing policies & regulations, cross-border payments, etc.</i></p>	
15:10-16:10 Venue: Country Presentation Room	Country Presentation 10	
16:00-16:50 Venue: Main Conference Room	<p><i>Panel Discussion - SMEs</i> Institutional Imperfections impacting the growth of SMEs in the African continent</p> <p><i>Challenging business conditions like political instability, practices by informal sectors, changing regulations, cultural gap, lack of enforcement of the rule of law, etc., are factors impacting the long-term successes of these small businesses. This session will focus on finding the missing link between the country-specific business models & resolutions that can help them hold their ground in the region and the role of technology in building this gap.</i></p>	
16:50-17:00	Close of Conference with Closing Remarks	