Africa’s remarkable growth trajectory is projected to remain above 5% in 2014, with West Africa the fastest-growing sub-region. Such momentum is a welcome and necessary boon to a region whose youthful population offers the prospect of a significant demographic dividend fuelled by growth in consumer industries, manufacturing and business process outsourcing.

To ensure that economic activity translates into job creation, reduced poverty and lowered inequality, the continent’s pan-African institutions are continuing on a reform path, extending cooperation, implementing innovative policies, strengthening institutions and scaling up investments to deliver sustained growth and development. The channelling of revenues from natural resource extraction towards human capital development, particularly in education and health, continues to be needed to support this transformation.

Private events programme
All private events at the World Economic Forum on Africa are by invitation only. If you are interested in a particular event, please contact your partnership manager, who will determine if an invitation can be arranged. Participation in private events is limited to registered participants. We ask for your understanding if a particular event is closed due to lack of space or other constraints.

Private events currently planned include:
1. Free to Travel
2. Enabling Trade
3. African Strategic Infrastructure Initiative
4. Africa Energy Outlook
5. The Future of Electricity in Africa
6. Forging Inclusive Growth with Africa’s Resource Wealth
7. Responsible Mineral Development Initiative Africa
8. Financial Inclusion Summit
9. Investing in Africa
10. Financing Africa’s Infrastructure
11. Developing Local Capital Markets in Africa
12. Consumer Industries and Civil Society: A Conversation
13. Leapfrogging with Digital Infrastructure and Applications
14. Technology for Humanity
15. New Vision for Education
16. Health Systems Leapfrogging in Emerging Economies
17. Achieving Net Zero Deforestation in Supply Chains
18. Grow Africa Investment Forum
19. Risk and Resilience in Africa
20. Industrialization through Competitiveness
21. Faith and Conflict Transformation
22. Civil Society and Inclusive Growth
23. Unlocking Africa’s Greatest Asset
24. Africa Skills Initiative
25. Gender Parity: From Momentum to Practice
26. The Future of Women’s Leadership in Africa
27. The Business Case for Developments Partnerships
28. Redesigning Development Finance

The sessions are described below.
- Free to Travel
  Removing barriers to travel in Africa could create millions of jobs for the continent over the next 10 years. How can a common visa and border policy be implemented to stimulate inclusive growth and enhance talent mobility in Africa?
This session will focus on:
1. Harmonizing policies to facilitate travel flows
2. Enabling the free movement of people to achieve long-term growth
3. Learning from success stories from other regions

- **Enabling Trade**
  Since the WTO accord in Bali, there has been significant business and government interest in the rapid implementation of trade facilitation reforms. Much of Africa, and notably Nigeria, has been taking steps to ease global, regional and domestic supply chains. This is crucial to attract investment and to support local business and consumers. Participants will discuss how government and business from different sectors can accelerate change.

- **African Strategic Infrastructure Initiative**
  In 2012, international and African business leaders endorsed an Africa-focused, business-driven initiative to accelerate implementation of the Programme for the Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Priority Action Plan. The result was a joint initiative of the World Economic Forum with the African Development Bank, the Africa Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency. The initiative has been recognized by the African Union Commission as a key driver to increase private sector involvement while accelerating the project preparation process to deliver strategic infrastructure assets. In this session, heads of state and top leaders from multilateral organizations and the private sector will discuss the progress of the second phase of the initiative and deliberate next steps.

- **Africa Energy Outlook**
  Participants in this lunch session will debate energy trends and developments shaping sub-Saharan Africa’s energy outlook. The session will be part of the International Energy Agency (IEA) consultation process as it plans a special focus on Africa in the 2014 edition of its flagship publication, the *World Energy Outlook*.

  1. Which policies and business strategies have had the most impact on Africa’s energy sector?
  2. Market trends are showing a shift in the oil and gas trade from the Atlantic basin to the Asia-Pacific region. What are the implications for African resource development and export?
  3. What key questions related to Africa should the IEA focus on in the next *World Energy Outlook*?

- **The Future of Electricity in Africa**
  New models for electricity provision are needed in sub-Saharan Africa, where electrification rates hover at 31%. How will technological, regulatory, financial and geopolitical factors change the game, and what success stories for energy access can be replicated? This session takes a candid look at Nigeria’s recent power sector privatization, providing a contemporary case study on electricity reform in Africa.

  1. What possible geopolitical game changers could affect the development of the region’s power infrastructure?
  2. What are new solutions in power technology to which Africa’s power infrastructure can “leapfrog”? What will it take to de-risk investment in new business models?
  3. What regulatory models or lessons does Nigeria’s power sector reform offer the region at large?

- **Forging Inclusive Growth with Africa’s Resource Wealth**
  Sub-Saharan Africa’s oil and gas industry has underpinned much of the region’s economic growth, but challenges with governance, instability and capacity in execution, among other issues, inhibit the sector from realizing its full potential in a sustainable manner. For many countries in the region, resource wealth has not brought the expected results in terms of improved living standards, energy access, job creation and overall welfare. Policy-makers, top industry executives and leaders from civil society will address the following questions:

  1. What are the roadblocks to improving the region’s business environment and how successful are efforts to address them?
  2. What can emerging oil and gas producers in Africa learn about governance models from their more established peers?
  3. How can stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa’s oil and gas sector collaboratively work towards achieving inclusive economic development?

- **Responsible Mineral Development Initiative Africa**
  This session will focus on ways of scaling up the Responsible Mineral Development Initiative (RMDI) in Africa, with emphasis on inter-African collaboration and knowledge exchange. Participants will examine the role of regional partners such as the African Union, the UN Economic Commission on Africa (UNECA) and...
- **Investing in Africa**
  With a youthful population that is expected to pass that of China by 2030, the investment landscape of Africa offers significant opportunity. The challenge has long been how to invest in a continent with 50+ countries and vast cultural, political and economic differences between countries and regions. Leading government officials, investors, financial services practitioners and policy experts will share insights into what differentiates each region and what it means for those seeking to invest in Africa.

- **Financing Africa’s Infrastructure**
  Infrastructure is a building block for any region’s economic progress and Africa is no exception. Historically, overcoming the mismatch between the long-term tenure of developing infrastructure and the volatility associated with Africa’s diverse range of economies and policies has prevented the level of investment necessary for Africa to reach its potential. In recent years, new and innovative models seeking to overcome such circumstances have blossomed across the globe.

  Leading policy-makers, investors and operational experts will discuss which models African countries can use to jump-start new infrastructure investment. The session will draw from and help to advance the Forum’s Strategic Infrastructure Initiative, which includes the Infrastructure Investment Blueprint, a framework for governments on the most critical policies to attract private capital to infrastructure, and the African Early Stage Project Financing Facility, a potential model to help governments attract resources for early-stage project development.

- **Developing Local Capital Markets**
  The creation of robust domestic capital markets is critical to the ability of a nation to further its economic development. Nations that can efficiently allocate capital within a society and between domestic and international markets are well positioned to prosper, while those without strong markets struggle to grow in the long term. Creating markets is no easy feat. Some nations have begun efforts to develop markets, only to discover that sustaining them requires close coordination among policy-makers, investors, the financial services community, academics and regulators, both domestically and internationally. This session will bring together these stakeholders to identify ways in which countries can develop and deepen both their capital markets and connections to their neighbours in Africa.

- **Consumer Industries and Civil Society: A Conversation**
  This session will bring together regional executives from the consumer industries (agriculture, food, beverage, retail, consumer goods sectors) and civil society to:

  1. Share and better understand each other’s objectives
  2. Build trust among stakeholders
  3. Explore ways of working together
  4. Identify areas of potential collaboration

- **Digital Infrastructure and Applications**
  Disruptive technologies and innovative business models are driving economic and societal transformation. Communication service providers will be at the heart of this transformation as healthcare, education and job creation are all redefined. However, the telecom sector faces substantial barriers. Many operators struggle to justify investments in new infrastructure due to eroding profit margins, fragmented markets and restrictive regulations. Nowhere is this felt more strongly than in Africa. How can stakeholders collectively take action to overcome these hurdles and provide ubiquitous, reliable and affordable access as a basis to accelerate economic and societal transformation?

- **Technology for Humanity**
  The global ICT platform has evolved into a key enabler for the public, private and humanitarian sectors, particularly in Africa. But more needs to be done to ensure that the transformational opportunities continue.

  1. How can technology be leveraged to strengthen human rights, prepare for disasters and maximize developmental aid?
  2. What can be done for those at the bottom of the pyramid?
  3. How can technology help people make informed decisions and empower citizens by
making governments open and accountable?

4. How are countries leveraging technology and data to enhance national competitiveness?

- **New Vision for Education**
  As the world’s second largest and second most populous continent, Africa holds the lowest rankings on education indexes and international test scores. The lack of financing and infrastructure further widens the education and skill gaps in the region. As new school models and distribution platforms have emerged worldwide to disrupt the status quo of education, the opportunity to improve access and shrink the gap has topped the regional agenda. To continue the multistakeholder dialogue started at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2014 in Davos on the vision of future elementary and secondary education, this session will discuss how to reshape education for Africa’s sustainable long-term growth and competitiveness.

The session will focus on exploring approaches to:

1. Define the education-employment gap
2. Determine effective distribution infrastructure
3. Deliver education with accreditation through technology
4. Fund education for growth

- **Health Systems Leapfrogging in Emerging Economies**
  Champions of leapfrogging initiatives across Africa will discuss their successes and challenges in implementation. Public and private stakeholders, including select health and finance ministers, will discuss overcoming barriers and scaling up opportunities across the continent.

- **Achieving Net Zero Deforestation in Supply Chains**
  With a loss of 55.7% of its primary forests between 2000 and 2005, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) classified Nigeria as the country with the highest rate of deforestation in the world since 2005. As with similar regions, the main driver for deforestation is logging, timber export, subsistence agriculture and notably fuel wood, which remains a core problem in western Africa, as kerosene prices are too high for the rural population.

In 2011, the Nigerian government launched the Agricultural Transformation Agenda, with the goal of adding 20 million metric tons of food to the domestic supply by 2015 and creating 3.5 million jobs in agriculture and food-related industries. Key stakeholders from public and private sectors and civil society will discuss the following questions:

1. How can leading companies be attracted to key markets to achieve cleaner growth based on agriculture?
2. How can governments and leading companies promote and measure traceable supply chains to allow progress in ending deforestation?
3. What public or corporate commitments can be initiated in time for the UN Climate Summit in September 2014?

- **Grow Africa Investment Forum**
  Participants from all stakeholder groups will engage in a highly interactive programme to review private-sector investment commitments and opportunities in member countries, share best practices to address cross-cutting issues such as finance, infrastructure, sustainability and empowering smallholder farmers, and reaffirm the shared agenda and leadership commitment of Grow Africa partners and stakeholders.

- **Risk and Resilience in Africa**
  Accelerating change in the 21st century has bound countries, economies and businesses more tightly together through better infrastructure, faster and more efficient communication systems, and closer trade and investment links, creating new opportunities and lifting millions of people out of poverty. Yet the same dynamic that lies behind these gains also threatens to undermine them –2013 alone saw a fiscal crisis in the United States, popular protests in emerging countries, and extreme weather such as Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. The severe drought in the Horn of Africa in 2011 and labour unrest in South Africa are just some regional manifestations of global risks.

In this context, the Global Risks 2014 report highlights the importance of long-term thinking and collaborative action to anticipate and mitigate risks in the economic, societal, environmental, technological and geopolitical realms.

- **Industrialization through Competitiveness**
  Talk of an African economic renaissance continues in view of the continent’s impressive growth rates of more than 5% over the past decade. The African experience is reminiscent of the experience of developing Asia a few decades ago. The question is if, and how, Africa will translate this impressive economic growth into higher value-added growth, as Asia has done. Currently, sources of growth remain insufficiently diversified: mineral exports make up more than half of the region’s exports, and the share of GDP held by the manufacturing sector has remained at a low level since the 1970s. Africa is at a crossroads and decisions and actions taken today will have a strong bearing on whether it places itself on a path similar to that of other regions, such as developing Asia, by developing a sound industrial base.

- **Faith and Conflict Transformation**
  Religion is often a factor in conflict. While it is rarely the principal cause of strife, many conflicts in the region and worldwide have religious dimensions. At the same time, religion and faith actors can be invaluable in promoting understanding and reconciliation, and represent a powerful force for conflict prevention, management and resolution. In this informal roundtable,
participants will explore new forms of dialogue to advance the conflict transformation policy agenda in the region.

- **Civil Society and Inclusive Growth**
  Participants from across sectors will explore the changing contextual environment for civil society in Africa, and how new models for engagement between civil society, business and government can create inclusive growth, accessible healthcare and education in environmentally sustainable ways. They will also examine innovative strategies and partnerships, successes and barriers to collaborative efforts and what lessons can be drawn from African experiences.

- **Unlocking Africa’s Greatest Asset**
  There is a need to rethink how Africa’s human capital endowment is invested in and leveraged for social and economic prosperity and stability. Like all challenges where existing systems, structures and formal institutions no longer suffice, education, skills and jobs in Africa needs to be readdressed.

  1. What are new methods or existing best practices in delivering, designing and financing education?
  2. What are the potential new roles of business, government, academic institutions and others?
  3. What are the projected workforce needs of African economies, and what incentives can governments create?
  4. What are the mechanisms that can match demand and supply, and what kind of technologies and collaborations between sectors and stakeholders might serve as best practices?

- **Africa Skills Initiative**
  The African Skills Initiative works to provide a unique framework and platform which connects and catalyses business, government, academia and civil society to create jobs and scale-up skills for youth in Africa. Participants will discuss the initiative’s work to:

  1. Promote “smart localization” through vocational training, apprenticeships and internships.
  2. Facilitate dialogue between the private sector and policy-makers at the regional, sub-regional and national level to shape the agenda and policies on youth education, entrepreneurship and employment, and enhance labour productivity and mobility.
  3. Transform attitudes of youth towards skills development, technical vocations and productivity through promoting positive role models.

- **Gender Parity: From Momentum to Practice**
  This session will address how multinational and national companies can collaborate with government to close the economic gender gap. It will explore how companies can move from practice to implementation and set new standards in their industry.

- **The Future of Women’s Leadership in Africa**
  Although national contexts vary greatly, women holding highly skilled leadership positions in Africa face similar challenges. In this session, African women leaders and their international peers will discuss the leadership experiences of African women leaders and define priorities for closing the economic gender gap in the region.

- **The Business Case for Development Partnerships**
  Recognizing that businesses are critical to advancing social progress, this session will explore development opportunities and tangible models of how government, business and civil society can collaborate. Within the African context, the workshop aims to identify untapped potential, as well as confront ongoing challenges, for cross-sector partnerships. The resulting ideas, actions, and commitments will contribute to the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and post-2015 development framework agendas.

- **Redesigning Development Finance**
  This session will inform the project steering group and stakeholders of progress on the Re-Designing Development Finance initiative, advance the discussion as it relates to Africa and offer concrete opportunities for investment. It will also highlight investment opportunities from relevant Forum portfolios such as Grow Africa and African Infrastructure.