

World Economic Forum on Africa Then and Now: Reimagining Africa's Future

Cape Town, South Africa 3-5 June 2015

Key Facts & Numbers on the World Economic Forum on Africa

Meeting Co-Chairs



Antony Jenkins
Group Chief Executive,
Barclays, United Kingdom



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Undersecretary-General and
Executive Director, United
Nations Entity for Gender
Equality and the
Empowerment of Women
(UN WOMEN), New York



Patrice Motsepe
Founder and Executive
Chairman, African Rainbow
Minerals, South Africa



Paul Polman
Chief Executive Officer,
Unilever, United Kingdom



Sir Michael Rake
Chairman, BT Group, United
Kingdom

The Meeting in Numbers

- **Over 1,150 participants** from more than **75 countries** and **600 organizations**
- More than **500 business leaders**
- **3 heads of state/government** and more than **85 government leaders, heads of international and regional organizations, and other public figures** (*please see separate document for the full list of registered public figures*)
- More than **270 women leaders**
- **60 media leaders**
- Over **40 academic leaders**
- Over **25 Social Entrepreneurs**
- Over **100 Young Global Leaders** from 31 countries and **78 Global Shapers** from 39 countries

Official Documents

- [Programme](#)
- [List of Registered Participants](#)
- [List of Registered Public Figures](#)

Then and Now: Reimagining Africa's Future

In 2015, the World Economic Forum on Africa will mark 25 years of change in Africa. Over the past decade and a half, Africa has demonstrated a remarkable economic turnaround, growing two to three percentage points faster than global GDP. Regional growth is projected to remain stable above 5% in 2015, buoyed by rising foreign direct investment, particularly in the natural resources sector; increased public investment in infrastructure; and higher agricultural production.

With the world's largest youth demographic, Africa's working-age population is expected to double to 1 billion in the next 25 years, surpassing both China and India. The year 2015 is also significant for Africa, as it marks the end of global, regional and local efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals aimed at eradicating poverty.

Double-digit growth is now needed for sustainable development, and the onus is on leaders to address systemic structural changes that can boost investment, enhance competitiveness, strengthen risk resilience and harness opportunities arising from technology adoption in all sectors. This growth is also necessary to diminish vulnerability to commodity price fluctuations, capital market volatility, mounting public debt, climate change and persistent development challenges.

Highlights of the World Economic Forum on Africa

The meeting's programme is built around seven of the [ten global challenges](#) of the World Economic Forum and their regional aspects and impact.

Infrastructure and Long Term Investing and Development and

Challenge 1: Agriculture and Food Security

Grow Africa Investment Forum

The Grow Africa Investment Forum represents the largest gathering of public- and private-sector investors in African agriculture, aligned on a common goal of strengthening multistakeholder partnerships and platforms to accelerate inclusive investment in the sector. Over 350 leaders of business, government, civil society, international organizations and farmer associations will come together at this invitation-only event to:

- Progress existing value chain projects and incubate new ventures
- Discover and promote new investment opportunities and find new project partners
- Source expertise, learn from and share best practice
- Set a collective agenda for improving the enabling environment for implementing private-sector investments

Challenge 6: Infrastructure, Long Term Investing and Development

Overcoming Constraints to Infrastructure Financing in Africa

Africa needs approximately \$94 billion per annum of backbone infrastructure over the next 10 years, including the provision of at least 7,000 MW in power per year just to keep pace with growing demand. While public players like the African Development Bank, International Finance Corporation and European Investment Bank have increased their infrastructure focus, they mostly come into a deal at financial close and primarily with debt financing. This does not address many of the constraints limiting quality delivery of infrastructure for the continent. Fragmentation of priority projects, disjointed strategic infrastructure planning, project identification, fund allocation and development between governments and private sector reduce the critical mass and partnerships to deliver the scale of investment necessary to mobilize institutional money. During the meeting, participants will discuss amendments to project financing in Africa, from concept to operation.

Challenge 5: International Trade and Investment

Africa Competitiveness Report 2015

The fifth edition published this year under the theme Transforming Africa's Economies, is a biannual study that combines data from the Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2014-2015 with chapters and insight from the African Development Bank, OECD and World Bank. Areas of insight include driving productivity in the agricultural sector, boosting Africa's services industries and increasing the role of African economies in global value chains.

Employment, Skills and Human Capital

Challenge 3: Employment, Skills & Human Capital

Leveraging Africa's Talent

How can Africa leverage its human capital and talent and what role can business play? Building on the work of the Employment, Skills and Human Capital Global Challenge Initiative, participants will examine Africa's present situation, explore future trends and developments, and identify potential solutions for strategic, game changing interventions. The results of the discussion will feed into the Africa Skills Initiative.

Health Systems Leapfrogging: Accelerating towards a Sustainable Future

Health systems sustainability has become an escalating challenge for emerging economies. This challenge limits their ability to provide quality care, allocate resources effectively, invest in the well-being of citizens and grow their economies. The Forum has launched a three-year initiative to help emerging economies transform health systems and move them towards a sustainable future. The meeting will bring together champions of leapfrogging initiatives from around the globe to discuss the successes and challenges of implementation.

Public and private stakeholders will explore how to overcome barriers and scale up opportunities to help partners take action.

Challenge 2: Economic Growth and Social Inclusion Managing the Risk and Impact of Future Epidemics

The unprecedented challenges of the Ebola outbreak brought home the urgent need to put in place a governance system that builds resilience and allows for rapid and well organized response in the event of future pandemics. The World Economic Forum's health team will launch a report in Cape Town that captures instances during the outbreak where the public and private sectors were able to collaborate successfully and innovatively, and uses these experiences to make solid recommendations that could manage the risk and impact of epidemics in the future.

Challenge 9: Gender Parity Nudging the Business Gender Gap

Although national contexts vary, women in leadership positions in Africa face similar challenges. The emerging influence of women on the economy is changing how businesses recruit and retain talent, their leadership and governance, and how they engage clients and customers, interact with their value chains and demonstrate social responsibility. Yet there are vast differences between industries on their employment profile when it comes to female talent, sometimes more pronounced than the differences between cultures and geographies. The Forum on Africa will bring together African women leaders and their international peers to share leadership experiences and discuss relevant cultural and societal trends as well as how to leverage their experience and influence to close the economic gender gap.

Environment and Resource Security and Long Term Investing and Development

Challenge 6: Infrastructure, Long Term Investing and Development Energy for Economic Growth

Energy is a critical factor for Africa's economic growth, acting as an inhibitor in places struggling with energy poverty or as a stimulus to boost industry. Various African countries have recently undertaken energy reforms and are seeing increased levels of foreign investment, but more is needed to transcend political cycles and create competitive energy markets, bolstered by public-private partnerships. Building on insights from the World Economic Forum's Energy Architecture Performance Index, the meeting will bring together key energy stakeholders.

Challenge 4: Environment and Resource Security Accelerating Water-Enabled Growth in G77 Countries

By 2030, an estimated 57% of global GDP is projected to be driven by developing countries, presenting tremendous economic opportunities over the next 15 years. Yet, with water ranked as the number one global risk of highest impact in the next 10 years, will it also become the limiting factor to achieving this growth potential? The Government of South Africa – as Chair of the G77 in 2015 – has initiated the Davos-G77 Water Initiative, a high-level group of private sector and other actors mobilized as a network of water champions to partner with G77 country governments and support the implementation of a water and sanitation SDG. The Forum on Africa will convene leading partners of this new initiative together with interested stakeholders to shape the strategic direction and explore top opportunities to transform water from global risk to catalyst of growth and opportunity.

Communities

African Social Entrepreneurs

Hilde Schwab, Co-Founder and Chairperson of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship will award this year's Africa Social Entrepreneurs of the Year during the opening plenary session at the World Economic Forum on Africa. Since its inception in 1998, the Foundation has been identifying the world's leading social entrepreneurs and involves the community of 320 award winners in advancing the field of social innovation in collaboration with corporate, government and academic stakeholders.

To learn more about the Social Entrepreneurship program contact Micol Lucchi at mcu@weforum.org. Read more about the Foundation here: www.schwabfound.org

Young Global Leaders at the World Economic Forum on Africa

The World Economic Forum on Africa 2015 will bring together more than 100 World Economic Forum Young Global Leaders (YGL). These YGLs come from 31 different countries and are making an impact on regional

issues across different sectors. They will contribute to the discussions on critical challenges and their sessions will focus on the new type of leadership that the region requires.

To learn more about the Young Global Leaders participating in the World Economic Forum on Africa, contact Maxwell Hall at maxwell.hall@weforum.org.

Global Shapers from Africa

Young people are greatly under-represented in global affairs, despite making up 50% of the world's population. They deserve a seat at the table. During the meeting, Global Shapers – the Forum's "under 30" community – from across Africa will come together to discuss the best ways to scale up their initiatives, collaborate, garner financial support and have a greater impact on issues they care about. Fifty Shapers will take part in the World Economic Forum on Africa.

If you wish to arrange an interview and discover more about the projects the Shapers are working on, please contact di.dai@weforum.org. Read more at www.globalshapers.org.

Useful Links for the World Economic Forum on Africa

- Follow the World Economic Forum on Africa at <http://wef.ch/af15>
- Download Meeting app <https://toplink.weforum.org/apps>
- View the best Forum Flickr photos at <http://wef.ch/pix>
- Watch live webcasts of sessions at <http://wef.ch/live>
- Become a Facebook fan at <http://wef.ch/facebook>
- Follow us on Twitter at <http://wef.ch/twitter> and <http://wef.ch/livetweet>
- Follow us on Google+ at <http://wef.ch/gplus>
- Read our Blogs at <http://wef.ch/agenda>
- Subscribe to our news releases at <http://wef.ch/news>

About the World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum is an international institution committed to improving the state of the world through public-private cooperation in the spirit of global citizenship. It engages with business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Incorporated as a not-for-profit foundation in 1971 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the Forum is independent, impartial and not tied to any interests. It cooperates closely with all leading international organizations (www.weforum.org).

- Affiliate offices in New York, Beijing and Tokyo
- More than 600 staff members of 56 nationalities; nearly 60% of the staff are women

For more information, please contact:

- **For African media, special coverage:** Oliver Cann, Director, mobile: +41 79 799 3450, onsite number: +27 82 774 1985 (as of 01 June), e-mail: oliver.cann@weforum.org
- **For host broadcasters and other questions:** Maxwell Hall, Senior Media Manager, mobile: +41 79 329 3500, onsite number: +27 72 566 9065 (as of 01 June), e-mail: maxwell.hall@weforum.org
- **For accreditation, reporting press, visa related questions:** Rita Yang, Media Associate, mobile: +86 138 1095 4951, onsite number : +27 72 602 2522 (as of 01 June), e-mail: Rita.Yang@weforum.org
- **For interviews and press releases:** Alem Tedeneke, Media Manager, mobile +1 646 204 9191, onsite number: +27 82 773 9204 (as of 01 June), email: ated@weforum.org