

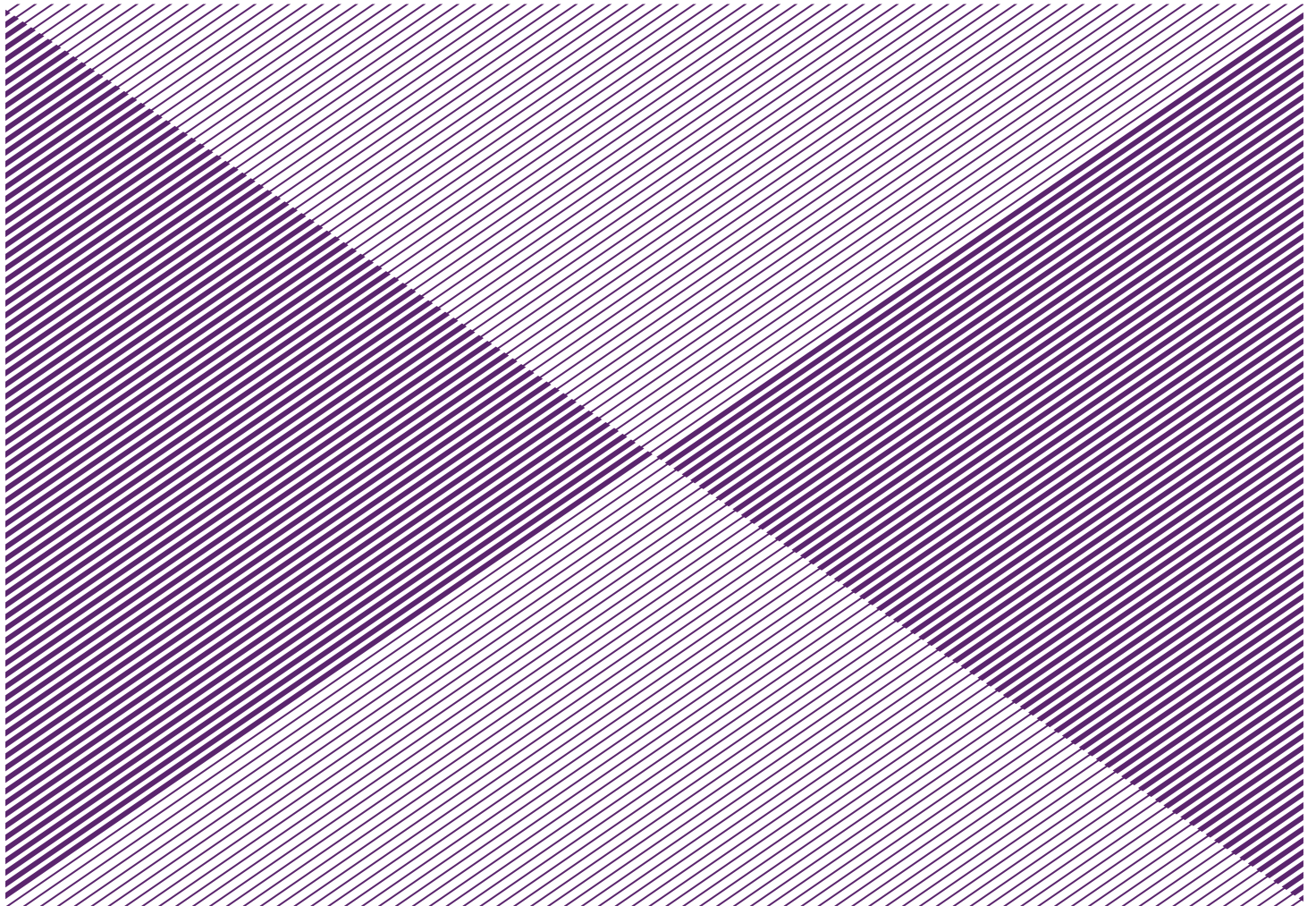
Regional Agenda

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# World Economic Forum on Africa Overview

Durban, South Africa 3-5 May 2017

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# Achieving Inclusive Growth

Africa is facing a mixed outlook for growth. The economic growth forecast for the continent over the coming year is expected to be lower than the 5% average of the past decade. This is largely due to the dip in commodity prices and the economic slowdown in China. That said, a number of countries are growing above 6% per annum and foreign direct investment inflows continue to rise. Overall, the divergence of Africa's economies makes it imperative to address the challenges posed by a growing unemployed youth population and climate change, among others.

The impact of the headwinds for commodity-dependent countries has refocused attention on the urgency of economic diversification, revitalization of manufacturing and harnessing of human innovation in order to weather the economic storm. The Fourth Industrial Revolution offers new opportunities to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth by fast-tracking market integration in Africa through industrial corridors.

In partnership with the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the World Economic Forum on Africa will be held in Durban, South Africa, on 3-5 May 2017. The meeting will convene regional and global leaders from business, government and civil society to explore solutions to create economic opportunities for all.

The host country – the only African G20 economy – is championing reforms to eradicate extreme poverty and promote shared growth nationally, regionally and globally. The host city, Durban, which has the busiest industrial port in sub-Saharan Africa, offers insight into how trade in regionally manufactured goods can strengthen economic resilience and create jobs.

## Co-Chairs

**Winnie Byanyima**, Executive Director, Oxfam International, United Kingdom

**Siyabonga Gama**, Group Chief Executive Officer, Transnet, South Africa

**Frédéric Lemoine**, Chairman of the Executive Board, Wendel, France

**Rich Lesser**, Global Chief Executive Officer and President, Boston Consulting Group, USA

**Ulrich Spiesshofer**, President and Chief Executive Officer, ABB, Switzerland

# Programme Overview

The World Economic Forum was recognized in 2015 as the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation by the Federal Council of Switzerland. Therefore, we offer our organizational capacity – including convening power, community management excellence, insight generation and platform technology – for the benefit of all actors in Africa by responding to challenges related to the following System Initiatives:

Shaping the Future of Digital Economy and Society  
Shaping the Future of Economic Growth and Social Inclusion  
Shaping the Future of Education, Gender and Work  
Shaping the Future of Energy  
Shaping the Future of Environment and Natural Resource Security  
Shaping the Future of Financial and Monetary Systems  
Shaping the Future of Food Security and Agriculture  
Shaping the Future of Health and Healthcare  
Shaping the Future of International Trade and Investment  
Shaping the Future of Long-Term Investing, Infrastructure and Development  
Shaping the Future of Production

Under the theme *Achieving Inclusive Growth*, the meeting will convene regional and global leaders from business, government and civil society to explore solutions to create economic opportunities for all.

Participants will explore challenges and opportunities, deepen insights and foster coalitions around instruments that could be used to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth. For example, the Fourth Industrial Revolution offers new opportunities to fast-track market integration in Africa through industrial corridors by connecting markets, revitalizing manufacturing and integrating innovation. In this context, the 27th World Economic Forum on Africa will address the following topics that underpin the programme:

## Connecting Markets

*The increased prioritization of investment in infrastructure over the past decade has boosted trade in Africa. Transport corridors are an increasingly common approach to accelerating cross-border investments. Nonetheless, the infrastructure financing gap is daunting, particularly for transnational projects. Further, in order to boost the development impact, it is necessary to take a holistic approach that ensures that regional arteries connect rural communities and local industries to markets.*

African nations have adopted sub-regional economic blocs as a stepping stone towards a unified continent, but levels of market integration vary significantly. Drawing lessons

from other regional groups like the EU, the Pacific Alliance and ASEAN, how can alternative approaches fast-track economic unification in Africa?

According to the UNECA, transport costs for 12 landlocked countries in sub-Saharan Africa account for more than 70% of the value of goods exports. Transnational transport corridors have proven to be successful at lowering such costs, but funding remains a challenge. How can blended finance accelerate investments in transport corridors?

Africa's expansive geography makes it challenging to reach scattered rural communities cost-effectively and affordably. How can broadband access by satellite close the continental digital divide?

According to the International Air Transport Association, if 12 African economies liberalize access to their skies for each other, an additional 155,000 jobs could be created and \$1.3 billion added to GDP. How can the continent fast-track the establishment of a single African air transport market together with continental visa openness?

Almost 90% of Africa's international trade is conducted by sea, yet port delays account for about 10% of import costs. How can investment in regional shipping hubs boost trade efficiency?

Investors cite the lack of harmonized regional rules and regulations as a barrier for deepening and expanding financial services. How can Africa advance regional financial integration?

Regional electricity markets have been cited as a means of attracting higher investment in generation by creating larger pools of demand. How can the continent fast-track the implementation of cross-border power pools?

The African e-commerce market is creating new opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses. Yet, according to the World Bank, varying trade requirements make intra-Africa trade costs almost 50% higher than in East Asia. How can African countries reduce payment, shipping and customs costs?

## Revitalizing Manufacturing

*According to the African Development Bank, the continent's manufacturing exports doubled between 2005 and 2014 to more than \$100 billion, with the share of intra-African trade rising from 20% to 34% over the same period. However, Africa's share of global manufacturing exports remains less than 1%, compared with over 16% for East Asia. Fortunately, regional demand is growing and has resulted*

*in manufacturing production growth at 3.5% annually in real terms – faster than the global growth rate – over the past decade.*

With the region lagging as the least-competitive globally, concerted steps need to be taken to boost productivity. Fortunately, there are regional clusters of global manufacturing excellence. How can regional value chains foster more African value addition in global supply chains?

Despite the growing potential of renewable energy to electrify Africa, currency mismatch is emerging as a barrier to investment in countries with underdeveloped financial markets. How can countries create regional investment risk-mitigation vehicles?

Infrastructure investments and growth in African retail markets are transforming the logistics industry in Africa. How can new technologies, like drones, drive high growth in the continent's logistics industry?

Building on the success of mobile money and the emergence of new technologies like blockchain, fintech is fast banking the unbanked in Africa. How can regionalization accelerate the establishment of universal digital financial services?

In January 2016, the African Space Policy and Strategy was adopted in Addis Ababa as a stepping stone to the attainment of the African Outer Space Programme. How can Africa's leaders fast-track the development of a globally competitive nano-satellite industry?

Pharmaceutical manufacturing is expanding rapidly across the continent, building on the continental Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa. How can regional safety and marketing regulations advance the industry?

It is estimated that Africa's current net food-import bill is \$35 billion per annum. With Africa's fast-growing youth population, how can regional food manufacturing transform to meet rising consumer needs regionally and globally?

According to the African Development Bank, textile and clothing is the second-largest sector in the developing world after agriculture, and estimated to be worth \$1.3 trillion in Africa. How can buyer-driven commodity chains upgrade the fashion and textile industries?

## **Integrating Innovation**

*Technological innovation is rapidly evolving under the Fourth Industrial Revolution. As such, significant investment is required to strengthen the continent's skills base, particularly in applied sciences and engineering. Currently in Africa, the overall shortage of engineers is estimated at above 1 million. In addition, more efforts are required to reverse the widening gender digital divide.*

Human-centred design is crucial in inspiring innovative solutions that are relevant to African consumers, the majority

of whom are poor and engaged in the informal sector. How can Africa's leaders scale the impact of social innovations on poverty?

Globally, efforts to strengthen intellectual property rights are gaining momentum. While patents can be filed in the Africa, global IP systems are difficult to enforce. How can regional IP regimes be strengthened to fast-track African innovators?

The continent currently contributes less than 1% of the world's scientific papers. Dedicated long-term funding is needed to support the training of world-class scientists and researchers, and research environments. How can regional and global collaboration finance Africa's science agenda?

Women are increasingly underrepresented in technology-based industries. This widening gap is due to a variety of reasons, ranging from cultural stigmas against girls learning mathematics and sciences to hostile work environments for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). How can Africa's leaders reduce gender barriers while promoting the pursuit of careers in STEM for all?

To fully integrate into the global digital economy, Africa needs to significantly expand its e-skills agenda by closing the deficit of ICT skills. How can the continent's educational institutions reinvent their systems to transform regional learning?

Establishing world-class training centres of excellence requires heavy investment and takes time. Artificial intelligence and gamification are rapidly transforming education delivery. How can Africa leverage education technology to deliver marketable skills regionally?

The World Bank estimates that there are 117 technology hubs across the continent, although the turnover rate is relatively high. These technology hubs face substantial challenges in transitioning from start-up to sustainable businesses. How can government and business leaders foster viable pan-African innovation ecosystems?

Several African start-ups are on the verge of attaining the global distinction of being "unicorns" with a \$1 billion valuation mark. Accordingly, venture capital investments are taking off across the continent, particularly in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. How can Africa excel at commercializing innovation?

# Meeting Information

**Plenary Sessions** feature senior government officials and business leaders, and cover broad issues on the meeting's theme. These sessions provide the conceptual framework for further discussions. The **Closing Plenary** highlights the outcomes of the meeting and maps out the future engagement of the main stakeholders.

**Televised Sessions** are developed in collaboration with media partners and aired by the partner hosting the debate, either live or later. They feature headline topics and raise awareness of important trends by broadcasting the discussion to a global audience.

**Interactive Sessions** are designed to raise awareness on a range of important and emerging issues, and provide strategic insight on current affairs. Most of these sessions are conducted as a lively discussion among the panellists with no prepared remarks or speeches.

**WorkStudios** are facilitated group discussions focusing on a compelling challenge or complex issue. The aim of these sessions is to allow maximum interaction among participants. They are designed with specific tasks and objectives and provide the highest level of interaction between participants and discussion leaders. **Workshop** sessions share similar goals but participants are seated at tables.

**Issue Briefings** go in depth with experts on the latest economic, geopolitical and scientific topics that are poised to make headlines.

**Pop-up Stories** are informal discussions that focus on sharing "unknown" African stories.

# FAQs

## Where will the meeting take place?

The meeting will take place at the International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa.

## Where will I stay?

PublicisLive, the Forum's operations and logistics provider, will arrange accommodation at the Hilton Hotel and Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani Hotel. You will receive a hotel booking form upon confirmation of your registration.

## What does registration include?

Registration covers all meeting activities and documentation, but does not include travel or accommodation.

## What is the working language of the meeting?

The official language of the meeting is English. Simultaneous interpretation in French will be available in some sessions.

## By when do I need to register?

The deadline for registration is Monday 3 April 2017. We therefore recommend you register before this date.

## Do I need a visa?

Please check with the South African embassy or consulate nearest you for visa requirements. The World Economic Forum is not responsible for providing visas.

## Where do I find additional information about the programme?

When you register, you will receive access to TopLink, the Forum's online collaboration and interaction platform, where you will find the latest information about the programme.

## Who do I contact for more information?

Participant Services Team  
Tel.: +41 (0)22 869 1315  
Fax: +41 (0)22 594 8119  
Email: [Africa@weforum.org](mailto:Africa@weforum.org)

# Programme at a Glance

## Wednesday 3 May

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12.00 - 20.00 **Registration**

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16.30 - 17.30 **Interactive Session**

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17.30 - 18.30 **Welcome Reception**

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## Thursday 4 May

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09.00 - 10.00 **Interactive Session**

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09.00 - 10.30 **Workshop**

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10.15 - 10.45 **Community Break**

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11.00 - 12.15 **Plenary Session**

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12.00 - 13.30 **Regional Lunches**

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13.30 - 14.30 **Interactive Session**

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13.30 - 15.00 **Workshop**

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15.00 - 15.30 **Community Break**

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15.30 - 16.30 **Interactive Session**

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15.30 - 17.00 **Workshop**

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17.00 - 17.30 **Community Break**

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17.30 - 18.30 **Interactive Session/  
Workshop**

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19.00 - 21.00 **Cultural Soirée**

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## Friday 5 May

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09.00 - 10.00 **Interactive Session**

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09.00 - 10.30 **Workshop**

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10.30 - 11.00 **Community Break**

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11.00 - 12.00 **Closing Plenary**

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12.00 - 13.30 **Farewell Reception**

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IMPROVING THE STATE  
OF THE WORLD

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The World Economic Forum – committed to improving the state of the world – is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

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