

# BUSINESS AFRICA

**NEWSLETTER**

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Leaders from IOE, BUSINESSAfrica, & Employer Organisations at the joint IOE-CGECI Summit on World Economic Formalisation in Abidjan, Ivor Coast

## HIGHLIGHTS

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# THE WORLD SUMMIT ON ECONOMIC FORMALISATION



The World Summit on Economic Formalisation whose theme was ‘Innovative Strategies for Inclusive Prosperity’ took place on 05th February at the Maison de l’Entreprise.

The opening ceremony of the Summit featured important speeches from Ms. Jacqueline MUGO, President of the IOE and President Ahmed CISSE of General Confederation of Ivory Coast Companies (CGECI).

They highlighted the good cooperation between the various stakeholders, based on joint initiatives aimed at strengthening decent work and promoting the development of small informal units.

The summit Organised by the

International Organisation of Employers (IOE) in partnership with the CGECI and the European Union (EU) served as a platform for the Employers’ Group to prepare the general discussion on informality that will take place at the International Labour Conference (ILC) scheduled to take place in June 2025.

The discussions during the meeting brought together high-level experts, including Ministers.

The high-level meeting also explored successful initiatives and innovations, highlighting the key role of businesses, digital technologies and financial institutions in the transition to formality.

Several representatives from member organisations, including Mr Mossadeck BALLY, President of the National Council of Employers of Mali (CNPM), and Mr. Adewale Oyerinde Executive Director for Nigeria Employers Consultative Forum (NECA) enriched the discussions during themed panels.

**“Employers are critical drivers of economic growth and social progress. They generate jobs, spur innovation, and contribute to the well-being of communities.”**

**Ms. Jacqueline Mugo**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS



12 February, BUSINESSAfrica Employers' Confederation participated in a high-level event organized by the International Organisation of Employers (IOE). This important event gathered leaders from businesses, employers' organisations, governments and trade unions to explore current and upcoming trends in industrial relations with a focus on how social partners can navigate an evolving regulatory landscape.

Keynote addresses from key speakers highlighted the importance of strong, inclusive, and effective industrial relations to tackle current trends and social and labour issues affecting the world of work.

The opening panel on social partner engagement emphasized the crucial role of social dialogue in shaping fair, inclusive, and effective labour regulations. Speakers stressed that freedom of association is the cornerstone of meaningful dialogue, allowing workers and employers to negotiate solutions together.

Other panels of the conference featured deep dives into:

- Conflict resolution and industrial relations, exploring mechanisms to prevent and address labour disputes.
- Diverse forms of work, examining how

innovation can drive labour inclusion while balancing new workforce demands

The event underscored that strong industrial relations are more important than ever.

### BUSINESSAfrica Strengthens Global Partnerships at the Business at OECD Annual General Meeting



BUSINESSAfrica Employers' Confederation (BUSINESSAfrica) made a significant mark at the Annual General Meeting for Business at OECD, held on February 17, 2025. This gathering of influential business leaders and policymakers provided BUSINESSAfrica with a strategic platform to voice Africa's business priorities and strengthen collaboration with global partners.

Mr. Lionel Omondi, Coordinator BUSINESSAfrica represented Ms. Jacqueline Mugo, Secretary-General of BUSINESSAfrica during the meeting.

of BUSINESSAfrica during the meeting. He emphasized the importance of fostering inclusive economic policies, supporting private sector engagement, and creating sustainable business opportunities across Africa.

BUSINESSAfrica took the opportunity to thank the OECD in reaching out to formalize partnership with Business at OECD through signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the B20 Summit in Brazil in 2024.

During the meeting, BUSINESSAfrica also outlined key areas of cooperation between BUSINESSAfrica

and Business at OECD as follows:

1. Enhancing Africa-OECD Engagement
2. Exchanging Best Practices between Africa and OECD economies.
3. Joint Policy and Capacity-Building Initiatives
4. Advocacy for African Business Priorities
5. Responsible Business Conduct

BUSINESSAfrica's participation in the Business at OECD Annual General Meeting marked a pivotal step in its mission to champion the interests of African employers, promote investment-friendly policies, and enhance Africa's competitiveness in the global market.

## B20 SUMMIT LAUNCH IN SOUTH AFRICA

BUSINESSAfrica Employers' Confederation member, Business Unity South Africa is proud to host this year's B20 Summit in South Africa together with the G20 global business community. This historic event marks the first time the B20 is being hosted on the African continent, bringing together business and government leaders to shape global economic policies. This marks a significant milestone for Africa and Global South.

During the launch the launch in Cape Town on 24th to 25th February 2025, Mr. Mxolisi Mgojo the newly appointed president of BUSA and the B20 South Africa Co-Chair said in his statement, "how can we collaborate for a better future and how can we use this platform to hold global leaders accountable?"

The B20 Summit which will takes place on 1st December 2025, will bring together business representatives from across the G20 countries, invited countries, and global organisations. The delegates will meet to deliberate on global economic issues and business on sustainability, digital transformation, and equitable growth.

The following insightful discussions featured during the event launch:

- Sustainability & Green Growth – Strategies for a more resilient and sustainable future.



- Digital Transformation – Leveraging technology to drive innovation and economic growth.
- Trade & Investment – Strengthening global trade relationships for shared prosperity.
- Inclusive Economic Growth – Creating opportunities for emerging markets and the Global South
- Education & Skills Development – Ensuring access to quality education and lifelong learning to drive sustainable economic growth

As one of the leading Employer organisations in Africa, BUSINESSAfrica has a vital place in these discussions, aligning with our vision to drive the future of work, business, ethical leadership, and economic transformation. Our commitment to sustainability, digitalisation, education, and global collaboration ensures that professional businesses remain at the forefront of shaping policies that support economic growth, business resilience, and financial inclusion across Africa and beyond.

# Members' SPOT

## MALAWI

## EMPLOYERS URGED TO ADDRESS WORKPLACE HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION



Employers Consultative Association of Malawi-ECAM urges all employers both small and big organisations to consider training their employees as one way to prevent harassment and discrimination to foster productivity and decent work in the workplace.

In a statement made by ECAM Executive Director George Khaki says it is quite unfortunate that decent work is not thriving as it

should in some workplaces as individuals choose to harass and discriminate against other workers.

“In the workplace, people can be targeted due to their circumstances and face harassment or discrimination in form of sexual orientation, marital status, union membership, disability or pregnancy, said Khaki

Khaki said ECAM encourages all employers to continue considering in-house training for employees to be able to understand, recognize and report when such issues happen in the workplace.

Khaki added that diversity training for key personnel and regularly reviewing company policies and monitoring employee interactions to ensure compliance is crucial.

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