



African Union Summit

On February 5th & 6th, 2022, the Heads of State and Governments met in Addis Ababa for the 35th Ordinary Summit of the African Union (AU).

Some of the main items on the agenda included:

- Handover of the chairmanship of the AU to H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal.
- African response to COVID-19 and future health challenges: the chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Mr Moussa Faki, identified the African Medicine Agency (AMA) and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to be in the forefront to promote Africa's public health strategies. The Summit also decided that the Africa CDC will be an independent institution of the AU.
- African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): among other important topic, a strategy for the inclusion of the private sector has been presented and the development of a facility for the automotive sector has been discussed.
- Adoption of the AU Interoperability Framework for Digital ID have been adopted: the AU Commissioner Abou-Zeid said that the framework will "promote the issuance of digital IDs to all Africans" and could "facilitate movement" within Africa.
- AUDA-NEPAD new CEO: Mrs Nardos Bekele-Thomas has been appointed CEO of the African Union Development Agency on February 3rd. She should take office in the coming weeks.
- The AU annual theme for 2022 is "Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African Continent: Strengthening Agro-Food Systems, Health and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development". A draft concept note on the theme can be found [here](#).

A press release of the Summit can be found on the website of the African Union [here](#).



35th

ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE AU ASSEMBLY
05th - 06th February 2022

CHANGE OF COMMISSIONER AND NAME OF AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION



H.E. Professor Mohamed Belhocine

The AU Commission for Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) became the Commission for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI).

The new Commissioner is H.E. Professor Mohamed Belhocine who was elected in October 2021.

EUROPEAN AFRICAN BUSINESS FORUM

The 7th EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF) took place from 16th - 17th February 2022 in a hybrid format. Co-organised by the African Union Commission, the European Commission, and African business organisations and key institutions, the event brought together political and business leaders from the Africa Union (AU) and European Union (EU) with the aim of increasing opportunities for sustainable economic partnerships

There were twelve high-level panels and numerous online workshops prior to the EABF. These workshops provided insights into the key themes of Africa-EU business, trade, and investment relations. They also drafted valuable proposals for their respective areas. The urgent need to respond to emerging issues like the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of poverty consolidated a fruitful exchange of views on several issues. Discussions were held around the theme “Building stronger value chains for sustainable growth and decent jobs”. From these discussions a Joint Declaration of the Business Organisations emerged.

7TH EABF EU-AFRICA BUSINESS FORUM 2022

African
Union



The following are highlights from the declaration:

- EU/AU support, specifically to promote all cutting-edge intercontinental business ties with a multi stakeholder approach, is of fundamental importance for this partnership.
- More innovative financing mechanisms for the private sector are essential.
- Promoting a healthy and stable business environment favourable to private sector investment is crucial.
- Promote the integration of EU and African value chains by addressing non-tariff barriers and modernising the frameworks governing EU-African trade, considering the Pan-African Investment Code and the AfCFTA, with the goal of transitioning to a continent-to-continent free trade agreement
- Reinforce the public private dialogue and enhance the long-term dialogue structures between African and European business organisations/associations.
- Strengthen the AU-EU bilateral relations and look forward to continuing our business-to-business and business-to-government cooperation and dialogue in the most efficient and constructive manner

Find the complete declaration and other reports [here](#).

6TH SUMMIT OF THE AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN UNION



On February 17th and 18th, the African and European Union held their 6th Summit in Brussels, the capital of the EU.

The leaders of the two Unions discussed to renew their partnership in various areas. Seven roundtables were organized on the following topics:

1. Financing for sustainable and inclusive growth
2. Climate change and energy transition, digital and transport
3. Peace. Security and Governance
4. Private sector support and economic integration
5. Education, culture and vocational training, migration and mobility
6. Agriculture and sustainable development
7. Health systems and vaccine production

On the topic of labour migration, no new agreement was reached but the heads of state and governments addressed the need to invest in the youth and women to face the challenge of brain drain through technical and vocational education and training support.

The joint declaration [“A joint vision for 2030”](#) covers in details the results of the Summit.

You can find a full report of the Summit on the webpage of the [European Council](#).

IOE WORKSHOP FOR EASTERN AFRICA



Employer and Government representatives at the workshop

On the 22nd – 23rd February 2022, the International Organization of Employers (IOE) in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) hosted an East African Workshop that sought to gain the business perspectives on skills mobility from employers.

The workshop took place in an interactive hybrid format with the following objectives:

- 1.To strengthen the employers' position and role in migration policy shaping
- 2.To identify concrete obstacles within national legislations or regional frameworks which hinder employers to have access to skills from abroad
- 3.To identify solutions to be implemented in cooperation with employers and governments to ease the movement of workers where/when needed in the labour market

Representatives from Business Africa Employers' Confederation (BUSINESSAfrica) and Employer and Business Member Organizations (EBMOs) across East Africa from the following countries were represented all through the two-day workshop, Chad Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The goal being to share the outcomes in an African Employers Declaration which will be submitted at the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in May 2022.

Overall, the following were the takeaways of the entire two-day workshop:

- Employers and Governments have a common interest in ensuring an effective migration legal framework, which responds to skills shortages or skills mismatches, ensures job creation, transition to formal economies, increase investment, and contributes to sustainable development and African growth. Governments and employers need to work hand in hand.
- While most of the migration flows happen within Africa, Employers call for effective regional frameworks that allow free movement of labour.
- Employers call for formal institutional mechanisms to facilitate meaningful engagement with governments to ensure the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration

The next regional workshop within Africa on the same topic will be held on 5th and 6th of April in Abidjan, Ivory Coast and 21st -22nd of April in Johannesburg South Africa.

EMPLOYERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

On March 3rd and 4th, BUSINESSAfrica and the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) organized the Employers' Annual Conference 2022 in Mombasa, Kenya and via the platform Zoom. The theme of the conference was "Adapting to the changing labour market" and it featured high-level speakers to address the topics relevant to all employers across Africa.

After the opening ceremony by the cabinet secretary of the Ministry of Labour in Kenya, Hon. Simon Chelugui; our President, Mrs. Saida Neghza; our Secretary General, Mrs. Jacqueline Mugo; Mr. Roberto Suarez, Secretary General of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), among others.

The conference was organized into five panels:

- Advancing the Abidjan Declaration 2019 in the face of the pandemic, and strategies for enterprises responsiveness in the changing labour market
- Business opportunities in AfCFTA and the role of employers' organisations
- The role of TVET in strengthening industry performance
- Unleashing labour migration for Africa's prosperity
- Supporting gender equality and women advancement in the changing labour market



EMPLOYERS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2022

The conference came up with Resolutions for follow-up actions presented by Mrs. Jacqueline Mugo. The full report of the Employers' Annual Conference 2022 will be shared in our next Newsletter Edition.



group photo at the ceremony to present the wishes of the Beninese private sector

The Conseil National du Patronat du Benin (CNP-Benin) shared with us the publication of the ceremony they had in January to present the priorities of the private sector for 2022.

We are pleased to share with you an extract below and we invite you to read the full article [here](#):

“The President of the National Council of Employers of Benin (CNP-Benin), the President of the National Chamber of Agriculture of Benin (CAB), the President of the National Confederation of Employers of Benin (CONEB), and the representative of the President of the Council of Private Investors in Benin (CIPB) took part in this important ceremony.

The President of the CCI Benin, Mr. Imali Hermann DJETTA President of the Chamber of Agriculture of Benin (CAB) spoke on behalf of the Bureau of the National Chamber of Agriculture of Benin. He continued to outline the ambitions of the Government of Benin through its Government Action Program (GAP) 2nd generation. The aim is to achieve double-digit growth in five years, namely 10.2 by injecting twelve thousand billion CFA francs. While public resources represent 48% of this investment, the private sector is expected to contribute 52%. This, he said, is a challenge that the private sector must meet with success.”



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