



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



# UNIDO Brussels REPORT

UNIDO's  
engagement  
with the  
EUROPEAN  
UNION in June  
2022

UNIDO-EU Photography  
Exhibition

European Development Days

EU-Africa Business Summit

# UNIDO-EU PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

## 14 June 2022



UNIDO and the European Union (EU) organized a photography exhibition entitled **“Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development: a boost to youth employment”**, in Brussels in June 2022. The exhibition showcased **20 projects** around the world implemented by UNIDO in partnership with the EU, which contribute to empowering youth and creating jobs towards a more sustainable future. These stories highlight the impact of the collaboration between UNIDO and the EU in achieving the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals - in particular SDG 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” - , in transforming people’s lives, and in leaving no youth behind.

It was open to the public in front of the European Parliament from the 8th to 17 June 2022, and was then accessible at the [European Development Days 2022](#), Europe’s leading annual forum on development. This exhibit was organized in the framework of the [European Year of Youth 2022](#), in partnership with Chrysoula Zacharapoulou, former French Member of the European Parliament, and new French Secretary of State for Development, Francophonie, and International Partnerships.

A **launch celebration** took place outside the European Parliament on **14 June** at 5:30 p.m., aiming to showcase how common priorities between UNIDO and the EU translate into tangible cooperation through technical assistance projects in over 100 countries in Africa and around the world. They create jobs and reduce poverty, hunger, and inequality while contributing to resource efficiency, clean energy, and reduction of emissions and pollution.

Striving for progress by innovation, our joint initiatives are fit for the digital age and contribute to a global green deal. **The exhibition is available online [here](#).**



**Master of Ceremony:** Mr. Patrick Gilibert, UNIDO Representative in Brussels

#### **High-level Speakers:**

- Ms. Fatou Haidara, Managing Director, Directorate of Corporate Management and Operations and Special Representative for Africa, UNIDO (Opening speech)
- Mr. Markus Ferber, Member of the European Parliament (MEP)
- Mr. Malte Gallée, Member of the European Parliament (MEP)
- H.E. Ambassador of Uganda Mirjam Blaak Sow
- H.E. Ambassador of the Philippines Eduardo José A. de Vega
- Ambassador Fortuna Dibaco Cizare, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Ethiopia
- Mr. Jedidiah Reuben Adogla, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Ghana
- Mrs. Cécile Billaux, Head of Unit, Micro-economic Analysis, Investment Climate, Private Sector, Trade and Employment, DG INTPA
- Mr. Mathieu Bousquet, Acting Director, Thematic Support, Coordination of Policy and Financial Instruments, DG NEAR
- Ms. Camilla Brückner, Director, UN Office in Brussels (Closing remarks)

In her opening speech, **Fatou Haidara, UNIDO Managing Director of the Directorate of Corporate Management and Operations and Special Representative for Africa**, reminded the audience of the smiles on the faces of the people pictured and how they were the reason for the work done by UNIDO. MEP Markus Ferber highlighted the cooperation between UNIDO and the

EU, calling it “meaningful and powerful” while also talking about the importance of sustainable development. MEP Malte Gallée called the audience to remember that it is common engagement that brings us forward. This engagement should be encouraged in order to push exchanges and offer everyone the same chances of participation regarding economic growth and inclusivity.

**H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda Mirjam Blaak Sow** explained that while development is important, Uganda is also looking to attract foreign investment in Africa where, as she said, “the sky is the limit”. Industrialization, according to her, is the key for a successful integration into international markets and into a sustainable future. H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines Eduardo José A. de Vega underlined the importance of sustainable growth and increasing employment opportunities for stability and social integration in the Philippines.

**Ambassador Fortuna Dibaco Cizare, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia** praised the pilot projects implemented in her home country as great examples of success. They enhanced the absorbing capacity of Ethiopian economy and increased the willingness to develop more and better solutions in the agro-industry, one of Ethiopia’s leading sectors.

**Mr. Jedidiah Reuben Adogla, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Republic of Ghana** underlined that “through partnership, we can make changes”, showing the commitment to the development projects and to the policy solutions that the government worked on in partnership with the EU and UNIDO.

**Mrs. Cécile Billaux, Head of Unit of the department Micro-economic Analysis, Investment Climate, Private Sector, Trade and Employment at DG INTPA**, praised the visual representation of the partnership. She explained that the European Union, as the first contributor to UNIDO, is very involved in these projects, and that she is proud of the close partnership with UNIDO.

**Mr. Mathieu Bousquet, Acting Director of Thematic Support, Coordination of Policy and Financial Instruments at DG NEAR** reiterated that these projects are about the people that they touch. The Green Deal is seen as a joint ambition. It is supported through the creation of sustainable growth and the solution to have a successful implementation is innovation. Green transition, he said, is part of the development and as such, part of the future.

**Ms. Camilla Brückner, Director of the UN Office in Brussels**, concluded the speeches with the unemployment rates young people are facing. Especially young women, she explained, are carrying this burden. Nonetheless, they take risks to improve their lives and these projects can support them on this journey. What will shape the future is the hope and strength of the young generation.

These speeches were followed by a **guided tour** of the exhibition in a thematic order, an offer that was used by most participants. The tour offered an overview of the projects implemented in different African countries and of the projects in Cambodia, Cuba, the MENA region, Palestine, Philippines and Eastern Neighbourhood countries.

More information on the EU-UNIDO projects, can be found in the State of the International Partnership 2021 Report, (trailer video [here](#)).

See [News](#) on UNIDO's website.



**Mathieu Bousquet** @MBousquetEU · Jun 15

In front of  Parliament, a photo exhibition celebrates  funded UNIDO projects making a difference on green transition & inclusive growth & innovation, delivering tangible benefits for people. Good to see these pictures with smiling faces and pride! 



# EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS

21-22 June 2022

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The European Development Days (EDDs) were held on 21 and 22 June 2022 in Brussels, Belgium. Over these two days, about 4.000 people visited the in-person event, with another 3.500 joining online. Overall, 79 sessions (totaling more than 59 hours) with speakers from all over the world were held. The event featured 83 stands and 9 exhibitions in the conference venue. Watch the wrap-up video [here](#).

## Opening Ceremony

Tuesday, 21 June 2022, 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. CET



The Opening Ceremony was the high-profile launch for the EDD 2022. It laid the foundations for the debates to come, and set the tone for the event. Heads of State and Government as well as Heads of International Organizations delivered keynote speeches outlining how they see the Global Gateway in the international and domestic contexts. It was opened by European Commission **President Ursula von der Leyen**. During the ceremony, European and African leaders warmly welcomed the Global Gateway initiative and applauded for enabling the co-designing of solutions to the climate crisis which would contribute to a fairer and more equitable world. With EU support, African nations can become climate resilient and compete on the global economic stage by becoming leaders in renewable energy production. Vaccine inequality was also discussed, in addition to the war in Ukraine and current efforts to work towards food security.

## List of high-level speakers

- Ursula VON DER LEYEN, President of the European Commission
- Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians, UN SDG Advocate
- King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho
- Charles MICHEL, President of the European Council
- Nana ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO, President of Ghana
- Mohamed OULD CHEIKH EL GHAZOUANI, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- José Maria Perreira NEVES, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde
- Saara KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia
- John BRICEÑO, Prime Minister of Belize
- Anatole Collinet MAKOSSO, Prime Minister of the Republic of the Congo
- Aziz AKHANNOUCH, Head of Government of Kingdom of Morocco
- Werner HOYER, President of European Investment Bank
- Odile RENAUD-BASSO, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Jutta URPILAINEN, European Commissioner for International Partnerships

## Summary of statements related to UNIDO's priorities

**President von der Leyen** opened the EDDs formally and welcomed all participants to the event. In her speech she noted that the world needs positive investment in clean energy, infrastructure such as roads and bridges, and in constructions that can withstand heat waves, since “the future generation depends on the quality and quantity of our infrastructure investment today.” She summarized three goals that Europe and its partners can achieve together and which are key to sustainable development:

1. Resilience, where a local production and self-sufficiency can be key
2. Sustainability, for which renewable energy such as clean hydrogen can play an important role to power Africa's rising industrial sector; and
3. Cooperation with neighbors and like-minded governments to generate economic integration that encourages trade.

**Charles Michel, President of the EU Council** shared three messages with the audience:

1. It is the EU's job to join forces and to build peace, prosperity and stability by working together;
2. We must commit to humanitarian support, politically and bilaterally, to boost resilience; and
3. We must change the paradigm and must now assess what is happening and learn lessons from our past in order to work well in future.

Michel also highlighted the importance of circular economy and acknowledged “data being the oil of tomorrow” while referencing the digital transformation.

The **President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania** highlighted that green hydrogen makes up a significant part of the national development programme and can offer the region clean energy, which is the country's basis for the EU partnership. Furthermore, a ministerial department on digitalization has recently been established, underpinning the importance of digitalization for the country.

In her statement, **Ms. Saara KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA, Prime Minister of Namibia**, pointed out that there is a particular interest for investments in renewable energy, such as hydrogen. The country intends to transition to sustainable sources of energy and to reduce its carbon emissions by 2030, making investments in green hydrogen even more important. What Namibia is seeking is the development of its green hydrogen industry and its national development plan maximizes opportunities presented by green hydrogen. The country so far signed several Memorandums of understandings for the production and distribution of green hydrogen with solar and wind energy sources and engages with the EU on a similar dialogue at the moment. The objective is to develop and support green hydrogen related industries as it is believed to make Namibia one of the most competitive countries in the world to produce green hydrogen.



# High-Level Panel “Contribution of digital to Africa’s green growth and progress”

Tuesday, 21 June 2022, 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. CET



## Context

The High-Level Panel discussion on the “Contribution of digital to Africa’s green growth and progress” took place on the first day of the European Development Days (EDDs) in a hybrid format including speakers on stage and online. Organizers were the European Commission, African Union, Agence Française de Développement, Expertise France, GIZ and UNIDO. Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento represented UNIDO in this panel discussion, which explored how the digital and green twin transitions support economy, boost innovation, and help Africa meet SDG targets. A replay of the session is available [here](#).

## Speakers



Mr. Junior TAGNE, Data Engineer, Je M'engage pour l'Afrique



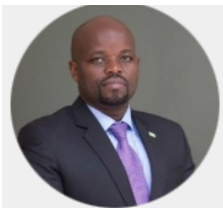
Mr. Jérémie PELLET, Director General, Expertise France



Ms. Nanko MADU, Director of Programmes, AfriLabs



Ms. Tanja GÖNNER, Chair of the Management Board, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)



Mr. Jean Philbert NSENGIMANA, Honorary Chairperson, Alliance for Affordable Internet



Ms. Caroline KAMAITHA, Vice-President Africa, SES



Mr. Bernardo CALZADILLA-SARMIENTO, Managing Director, UNIDO

## Panel discussion

This panel discussion was organized within the thematic area of “digital and data economies” and aligned to the overall topic of this 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the EDDs, namely the Global Gateway initiative. The Global Gateway and the launch of the Digital4Development (D4D Hub) highlight the EU's ambition to support partner countries' digital transition. Questions that guided this panel

discussion were, inter alia: What are the prerequisites for "meaningful connectivity" in Africa? And, what opportunities lie within the twin transition for young entrepreneurs and SMEs?

The panel was composed of speakers from diverse public and private backgrounds, who discussed different implications of Africa's journey towards a digital and green future. Key issues discussed were the role the EU plays in deepening ties with African partners to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Private sector speakers representing small and big enterprises on both continents focused on infrastructure, green business models, and decentralized growth; and civil society and youth leaders put an emphasis on human-centric digital transformation and what the twin transition means for the next generations.

The event started with an introduction of all speakers and panelists by the moderator Mr. Vilas DHAR. **Mr. Jérémie PELLET** then delivered a key note speech on the potential of digital in Africa. He highlighted that digital is a cross-cutting issue to achieve the SDGs, but there are two main challenges: affordability and capital. Mr. Pellet noted that solutions, such as for example, generating funding to support SMEs and creating value in the field of digital, need to be green. What remains essential in order to move forward is cooperation and the establishment of concrete partnerships between the EU and Africa. **Ms. Tanja Gönner** from GIZ addressed the audience virtually and outlined the variety of transformations that society is facing, she further proposed that a holistic approach can help take on this challenge. GIZ supports the EU in various initiatives and programmes to link and advance D4D hubs. Ms. Gönner emphasized that infrastructure development is important and can enable leap frogging the area.

The panel discussion focused on sustainable digitalization efforts in Africa and the need for connectivity. **Mr. Jean Philbert NSENGIMANA** outlined that meaningful connectivity is needed and that "we cannot accept the way connectivity is measured today." Most of the population still cannot afford the cost of going online in central Africa. Affordability is a major issue in this region. Inclusivity is another main problem. The cost of excluding women is enormous and also remote communities are not well connected yet.

**Ms. Caroline KAMAITHA** agreed on the fact that connectivity is not at a level it should be at, especially when looking at remote areas, islands and harsh terrain where fiber and infrastructure is challenging to install. She proposed the following solutions:

1. Policies by regulators and governments that ensure accessibility.
2. Technologies that advance connectivity; and
3. Partnerships that put training and skills development to install infrastructure on the agenda

The latter can also close the gap of digital illiteracy, which remains in the area.

**Mr. Bernardo CALZADILLA-SARMIENTO** underlined that digitalization is a cross cutting topic. He presented several initiatives that UNIDO is leading in the areas of energy transition and decarbonization of industry as well as digital skills development. He emphasized that especially

women have no access to trainings and cannot gain digital skills. Also affordability and accessibility are issues recognized by UNIDO.

Mr. Calzadilla-Sarmiento noted to forge digital transformation it requires innovative investments and funding. This can be achieved through partnerships and a focus on capacity building and trainings, which may in return attract investment.

It is about bridging the gaps,  
connecting the dots,  
articulate better the  
stakeholders.

**Bernardo CALZADILLA-SARMIENTO**  
Directeur de la Numérisation at UNIDO

**Ms. Nanko MADU** focused on how the digital transformation takes over the world, even more so by the COVID pandemic. Their key to success is to consistently put in place right ecosystems to allow stakeholders to thrive and they will continue to build right platforms to allow and expand the value for a digital ecosystem. Ms. MADU recognizes the interlinkages between energy, environment and digital transformations and described how renewable energy can be used to empower telecom sources, but systematic environmental impact assessments have to be made and applied before rolling out digital infrastructure. He also introduced the importance of keeping people's dignity and privacy in the digital transformation.

**Ms. KAMAITHA** shared from her experience that the demand for connectivity and innovation can be met by building partnerships that enables creating a shareable infrastructure. This way services can be delivered effectively and efficiently. What is still needed is access to capital that allows innovation to happen on the ground.

**Ms. Nanko MADU** described a "net zero initiative" which has been launched and which supports a move towards using green energy during the digital transformation, however a lack of reliable power sources remains an issue in Africa. She emphasized that entrepreneurship needs to be enabled and supported. She added that what has proven successful in her experience was decentralizing SME ecosystems whereas innovation can reach remote communities. She organizes and holds workshops to support SMEs where minorities and communities are prioritized and innovators without digital presence are supported. Through coaching and mentorship, green digital transformation is possible, also in remote areas.

**Mr. Calzadilla-Sarmiento** mentioned examples from UNIDO projects where AI and digital innovations were used to optimize agribusiness in Africa and at the same time tackled environmental issues that were threatening biodiversity and water supply in the region. This example again outlined that technologies need to be applied in a holistic manner and can be essential for development.

**Mr. Junior TAGNE** underpinned the issue of accessibility once more and highlighted that rural areas suffer the most. He being a young entrepreneur in Africa himself knows that access to financing is important to move forward. Two questions remained, are we doing enough to help young entrepreneurs; and do we have a strategic plan with governments to support people in this digital transformation? **Ms. KAMAITHA** agreed that we can do more. **Mr. NSENGIMANA**

suggested that more internship and training opportunities in the area can make a difference, especially for the young generation.

In conclusion, panelists agreed that the digital and green twin transitions are essential to Africa's growth and development, but there are several obstacles, including low (digital) literacy, low participation in rural areas and a lack of affordability.

To support growth, people have to be meaningfully connected to the internet through regular access, appropriate devices and unlimited broadband at 4G-like speeds. Governments should also make use of their convening powers and create partnerships between regulators and telecom providers to build shared infrastructure that minimizes costs.

We must think about an inclusive digital strategy.

**Junior TAGNE**  
Data Engineer, Je M'engage pour l'Afrique

## After-event at the D4D Hub Stand



After the panel, the organizers from the European Commission (DG CNECT) invited all panelists to continue the discussions in an informal setting at the [Digital4Development \(D4D\)](#) Hub stand. They further exchanged views on digital cooperation opportunities, Team Europe initiatives, and the role of the twin transition to achieve development challenges including gender equality, sustainable agriculture, or access to health services.

# Bilateral meetings during the EDDs



MD Calzadilla-Sarmiento and UNIDO Representative in Brussels Patrick Gilabert held various bilateral meetings at the EDDs, including with:

- Jérémie Pellet, Director General of Expertise France
- Thierry Barbé, Head of Unit Science Technology Innovation and Digitalisation at the Directorate General for International Partnerships of the European Commission (INTPA)
- Caroline Kamaitha, Vice President for Fixed Data Africa, Société Européenne des Satellites (SES)

## UNIDO at the United Nations Stand



UNIDO contributed to the United Nations Stand, in a One UN Spirit. It engaged with a variety of actors on the work of the UN family and advocated for a stronger UN-EU cooperation to scale up efforts towards achieving Agenda 2030 in synergy with the EU Global Gateway. MD Calzadilla-Sarmiento met with the UN Director in Brussels, Ms. Camilla Bruckner, and used the stand to deliver a [video message](#) on the role of the UN and UNIDO to achieve digital transformation for a “connected world for people, planet and prosperity”. More details on the work of the UN Team in Brussels can be found [here](#).

## Closing Ceremony of the UNIDO-EU PHOTO EXHIBITION -"Inclusive and sustainable industrial development: a boost to youth employment"



The UNIDO photo exhibition was set-up in front of the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium between 7 and 18 June and successfully attracted a wide audience. The exhibition was then relocated and presented during the EDDs on 21 and 22 June, whereas a formal closing ceremony was held in the evening of the first day.

The master of ceremony, **UNIDO Representative in Brussels, Patrick Gilabert**, welcomed the audience to this event and introduced all speakers, namely:

- Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Managing Director, Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-Business, and Director, Department of Digitalization, Technology and Innovation, UNIDO
- Mr. Escipion Oliveira Gomez, Assistant Secretary General, Sustainable Economic Transformation and Trade, OACPS
- Mr. Malte Gallée, Member of the European Parliament
- H.E. Ambassador of Cambodia Nong Sakal
- Mr. Junior Tagne, EDD Young Leader, entrepreneur and representative of “Je m’engage pour l’Afrique”

**Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento** commended the exhibition and excellent showcasing of joint projects between UNIDO and the EU. He pointed out some of the projects presented and named some of UNIDO’s activities in sustainable fisheries. Mr. Calzadilla-Sarmiento highlighted the importance of skills development and employment for youth, since “it is up to the young generation how they wish to change the world and we can help them change it for the better.”

**Escipion Oliveira Gomez** pronounced his gratefulness for the partnership between OACPS and UNIDO, especially on the implementation of projects in LDCs and commended UNIDO’s great support.

**Malte Gallée**, being one of the youngest members of the European Parliament, welcomed the theme of this exhibition focusing on youth. He emphasized that the European year of youth is now drawing more focus on what the young generation wants and what kind of industrial development youth is supporting. He pointed out that industrial development needs to move towards climate neutrality and that our focus should be and stay on sustainable development efforts.

**H.E. Ambassador Nong Sakal** spoke on the importance of partnerships to foster economic growth and development. Cambodia benefits largely from UNIDO and also EU projects, which help to transform people’s lives and help to achieve the 2030 Agenda. He commended the close and successful work with UNIDO and highlighted the fishery projects which enabled Cambodian industry to become more competitive, increase export capacity, establish food safety and create employment and income.

**Junior Tagne** was the last speaker during this closing ceremony and stated that this exhibition was an excellent opportunity to understand what UNIDO is doing and how it impacts lives all around the world. He finished his statement by highlighting the importance of inclusivity when it



comes to development and the importance of sustainability as it is essential to “Think sustainable in everything—even in digital.”

The ceremony concluded with a reception, where speakers and audience could once more enjoy the photos and learn more about EU-UNIDO projects and their impact.



# EU-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT

23 June 2022

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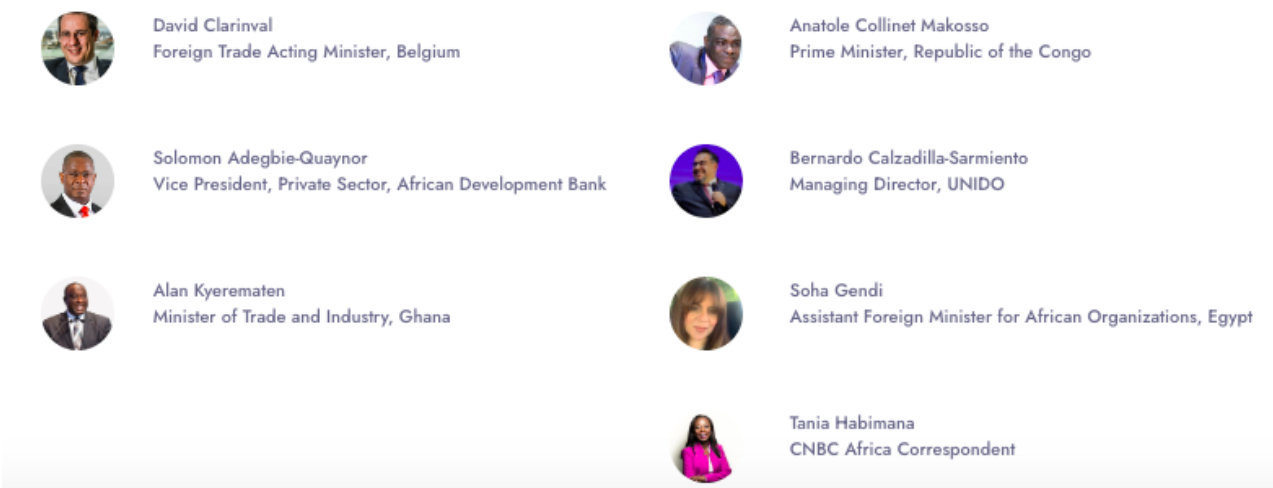


The [EU-Africa Business Summit](#) is a high-level event for business actors to promote the voices of enterprises in Europe and Africa and discuss the future of the economic relations between the EU and Africa. This event is organized by the European Commission and the African Union. For its 5th edition, the EU-Africa Business Summit was hosted in Brussels, Belgium with around 100 physical guests and over 3.000 online participants.

# Roundtable discussion: Investment climate and trade within EU-Africa relations



The business sector is ready to scale up and facilitate investment in critical areas, support productivity and competitiveness to create prosperity, if the right policy environment is in place. Moreover, manufacturing should be among the priority sectors for viable business initiatives and to create more and better jobs, especially for young people. The session, co-hosted by the Acting Minister of Foreign Trade of Belgium, tackled current investment opportunities and priorities based on different best practices as shared by the diverse selection of panelists:



During his introductory remarks, **Mr. David Clarinval** summarized two most pressing challenges to be the recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the food crisis which results from the

current war in Europe. **Mr. Solomon Adegbie-Quaynor** agreed and provided five concrete steps to respond to these challenges.

- 1) Developing the agro industry in order to minimize dependencies
- 2) Supporting the textile and garments industry
- 3) Fostering the gas sector, which supports industries and food production
- 4) Welcoming the 4th industrial revolution
- 5) Setting-up a pharmaceutical industry to ensure minimum supply security

All five steps remain priorities to the African development bank for increasing foreign trade with African countries with the ultimate goal to create a market for industrialization – not consumption.

Another opportunity to create value chains as presented by **Mr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento** is digitalization, which makes industries more resilient. Resilience remains necessary in these challenging times and more obstacles may present themselves through the new due diligence laws where only large enterprises may be able to comply. UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership creates a coalition of stakeholders and supports governments to implement such policies. It is designed to leverage additional investment in selected priority sectors. As such, it is a model that facilitates the mobilization of partners and resources to achieve larger development impact and provides a great opportunity to the partner countries.

**Mr. Alan Kyerematen** agreed that dynamic partnerships can drive development and what is needed are frameworks that allow partnerships to thrive and investments to create industrial transformation. Egypt is a good example where investment opportunities enabled economic growth even during COVID according to Ms. Soha Gendi.

The round table discussion concluded that ultimately, an improved climate for investment by both European and African investors will contribute to progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Conversation: the “Global Gateway”, a new strategy to support infrastructure around the world



An essential part of the “Global Gateway” strategy unveiled in 2021 is the Africa-Europe Investment Package aiming to support Africa for a strong, inclusive, green and digital recovery and transformation. The session was a dialogue between Ms. Tania Habimana, CNBC Africa Correspondent and **Ms. Cécile Billaux, Head of Unit, Micro-economic analysis, investment climate and private sector & employment, DG INTPA.**

Throughout this conversation, DG INTPA presented an overview of the main goals and challenges of Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package according to its five priority areas: accelerating the green transition, accelerating the digital transition, accelerating sustainable growth and decent job creation, strengthening health systems, and improving education and training. This investment package will strengthen the relations between the two continents and expand the private sector for it to contribute to Africa’s growth and economic transformation.

To learn more about the EU Global Gateway, visit [this page](#).

## UNIDO MD Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento bilateral engagements



UNIDO Managing Director Calzadilla-Sarmiento had several opportunities in the framework of the summit to engage with partners including:

- Alan Kyerematen, Minister of Trade and Industry of Ghana
- David Clarinval, Foreign trade acting minister, Belgium
- Janusz Wojciechowski, EU Commissioner for Agriculture
- Solomon Adegbe-Quaynor, Vice President, African development Bank
- Arnaud Thysen, Director of the European Business Summits
- Mr. Cecile Billaux from DG INTPA

He also held an interview with Euronews, one of the European's leading TV news channels.

# Digital Transformation, Youth and Women entrepreneurship



The graphic is a blue-themed promotional poster for a panel discussion. On the left, it features the text 'EU-Africa Business Summit' in large white letters, followed by 'Panel Discussion' in a smaller font. Below this, the topic 'DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, YOUTH AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP' is written in bold white capital letters. At the bottom left, the date and time '23 June 2022 | 11:00 - 12:00' are listed, along with a 'Register now' link: 'live.eu-africasummit.eu'. On the right side, under the heading 'CONFIRMED SPEAKERS', there are four circular headshots of the panelists. Each headshot is accompanied by the speaker's name and title in white text.

**EU-Africa Business Summit**  
*Panel Discussion*

**DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, YOUTH AND WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

23 June 2022 | 11:00 - 12:00

Register now  
[live.eu-africasummit.eu](https://live.eu-africasummit.eu)

**CONFIRMED SPEAKERS**

**AMR TALAAT**  
Minister for CIT, Egypt

**GEORGE ASAMANI**  
Business Development Lead Africa, PMI

**KAREN KANEZA**  
Vice-President, ADEPT Platform

**DAVE KEATING**  
Brussels Correspondent, France24

Digitalization – the use of digital technologies, data, and interconnection to change existing activities or create new ones – is well underway in all five African regions. This session was guided by the question on how digitalization empowers youth and women.

The session was moderated by Dave Keating, Brussels Correspondent, France24 and composed of the following panel:

- Amr Talaat, Minister for CIT, Egypt
- George Asamani, Business Development Lead Africa, PMI
- Karen Kaneza, Vice-President, ADEPT Platform

Digitalization allows us to rethink the ways we approach finance, healthcare, rural access, or access to public services, and education. Information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructures have developed steadily, and prospects for new projects remain robust. Yet, Internet connectivity in Africa remains a challenge, and there is an urgent need to accelerate digitalization and create better digital infrastructure. Moreover, the age of the Internet and e-commerce has created numerous business opportunities for women. This will contribute both to their economic empowerment and greater gender equality.

# A business case for the private sector in the new EU talent partnership

**EU-Africa Business Summit**  
*Panel Discussion*

**A BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE NEW EU TALENT PARTNERSHIPS**

23 June 2022 | 12:00 - 13:00

Register now  
[live.eu-africasummit.eu](https://live.eu-africasummit.eu)

**CONFIRMED SPEAKERS**

- JOHANNES LUCHNER**  
Deputy Director General, DG HOME, European Commission
- MICHAEL SPINDELEGER**  
Director-General, ICMPD
- DAWIT DAME**  
Senior Advisor, Ministry of Labour and Skill, Ethiopia
- EDEN ALEMAYEHU**  
INSPIRE Project Manager, ICMPD
- MANTE MALINAUSKAITE**  
Co-Founder of AfriKo
- JENNIFER TANGNEY**  
Senior Project Manager, Migration Partnership Facility, ICMPD

The Talent Partnerships announced by the European Commission will see investment in skills for the benefit of the labour market in Europe and for the benefit of the labour market in partner countries, with more skilled workers being made available to both. Ms. Jennifer Tangney, Senior Project Manager, MPF (Migration Partnership Facility), ICMPD led a discussion around this topic with the following participants:

- Johannes Luchner, Deputy-Director General, European Commission, DG HOME
- Eden Alemayehu, INSPIRE Project Manager, ICMPD
- Dawit Dame, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Labour and Skill, Ethiopia
- Mante Makauskaite, Digital Explorers Project Lead (Co-founder of AfriKo)

The private sector – as the user of labour – is an essential voice in identifying the sectors, the skills, and the profiles of the candidates they seek. For the Talent Partnership to function they must therefore address the needs of employers – sectoral, technically and in terms of facilitating timely access to labour. This session elaborated on the private sector’s motivation to engage in the Talent Partnerships through an interactive multi-stakeholder forum.



# Diversifying the energy supply for a resilient international market: focusing on the role of hydrogen



**EU-Africa Business Summit**  
*Panel Discussion*  
**DIVERSIFYING THE ENERGY SUPPLY TOWARDS THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL ENERGY MARKET: FOCUS ON THE ROLE OF HYDROGEN**  
23 June 2022 | 15:00 - 16:00  
Register now  
[live.eu-africasummit.eu](https://live.eu-africasummit.eu)

**CONFIRMED SPEAKERS**

**ALFONSO MEDINILLA**  
Head of Climate Change and Green Energy Transition, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)

**HANANE MOURCHID**  
Executive Director Sustainability & Green Industrial Development, OCP Group

**LUCA GIANSANTI**  
SVP European Government Affairs, ENI

**RONALD KATO**  
AfricaNews Correspondent

## Speakers:

- Luca Giansanti, SVP European Government Affairs, ENI
- Alfonso Medinilla, Head of Climate Change and Green Energy Transition at the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)
- Hanane Mourchid, Executive Director Sustainability & Green Industrial Development, OCP Grou

Moderator: Ronald Kato, AfricaNews Correspondent

The session on hydrogen discussed the perspectives in both Africa and the EU regarding green transition. Building a hydrogen economy through the creation of an international market would benefit the international community and unlock business opportunities for energy intensive industries. Moreover, strengthening the energy market is one of the main objectives of the EU Global Gateway's Investment Package for Africa, aiming at making the two continents equal partners.

Luca Giansanti highlighted the importance of local communities. From the side of the EU, climate diplomacy is key as hydrogen is a relevant geopolitical tool. On the question which results are needed in order to create a climate and economic development strategy, Alfonso Medinilla explains that recommendations on both the African and the EU level are crucial. Looking at hydrogen based sectors, lasting and secure approaches are important in order to achieve some

necessary industrialization. From a business perspective, the biggest potential to support a transition in the EU and in Africa, according to Giansanti, comes from the regulatory market framework. The supply is still marginal, so what is needed now is to set-up the dynamics in order to create blue and green hydrogen. Another question in the transport sector. Biofuels can offer solutions by adhering to economic, social and sustainable goals. For Giansanti, biofuels are crucial. “Especially those that are not in competition with other sources of green energy. They bring a lot of opportunities: job creation, decarbonisation and diversifying energy sources.” he says. Hanane Mourchid, Executive Director of the OCP Group, underlines the importance of ammonia production. Wind and solar are complementary to the production of green hydrogen and green ammonia in order to integrate green resources. Mourchid also mentions two other aspects, a decarbonized transportation sector and the electrification of Africa as a tool to reach carbon neutrality.

Medinilla explained how with a clear commitment to hydrogen on the EU level, the greener partnership can be achieved. He cites the example of Germany who are establishing a future hydrogen trade. But amidst these positive perspectives, he is also cautious, saying “There is a hydrogen fever now. But we need to also consider the pitfalls on how it can be developed and make use of opportunities to prepare the economy for a hydrogen based sector.” He warns that the developing countries should not carry the burden of paying for the infrastructure.

Giansanti explained how bioenergy can also contribute to the efforts of the countries to have a carbon-free 2050. Biorefinery projects realized by ENI in Italy in 2013 and 2019 have been successful and will be replicated in Kenya, creating 300 jobs, and through biofuel also change the industrial possibilities in Kenya. Mourchid adds that if the future is hydrogen, then industrialization has to follow and become green. One of the main goals should be the electrification of Africa to make power more accessible and affordable.

According to Giansanti, in order to make this transition a reality in Africa and in the EU, the EU needs to focus on a just transition in Africa. There is also a need for streamlined funding possibilities and a business to government dialogue.

# Cross-sector collaboration to strengthen health systems and ensure their resilience



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**CONFIRMED SPEAKERS**

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**MARIA SORAYA RODRIGUEZ RAMOS**  
MEP, Chair of the Committee for the Relations with the Pan-African Government
-   
**MAR MARTINEZ**  
Programme Manager, Unit for Social Inclusion and Protection, Health and Demography, DG INTPA
-   
**OXANA DOMENTI**  
WHO Representative to the EU
-   
**BERNT BIEBER**  
SVP Direct Export Sales, Siemens Healthineers
-   
**STEVE MURIGI**  
Head of Programmes and Strategic Partnerships, Amref Health Africa UK
-   
**DR. MOHAMED EL SAHILI**  
Chief Visionary Officer, Medland Hospital
-   
**FLORENCE RANSON**  
EU Correspondent and Founder of REDComms

## Speakers:

- María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the committee for the Relations with the Pan-African Government
- Bernt Bieber, SVP Direct Export Sales, Siemens Healthineers
- Dr. Mohamed El Sahili, Chief Visionary Officer, Medland Hospital
- Mar Martinez, Programme Manager, Unit for Social Inclusion and Protection, Health and Demography, DG INTPA
- Steve Murigi, Head of Programmes and Strategic Partnerships, Amref Health Africa UK

Moderator: Florence Ranson, EU Correspondent and Founder of REDComms

The Covid-19 pandemic has outlined once again the necessity of investing in global healthcare and finding innovative ways to support health systems both in the EU and Africa. Moreover, healthcare should be at the heart of the EU-Africa relations, with the aim of moving beyond the donor-recipient approach. Not only vaccine deployment, but also establishing new partnerships with service providers on the ground and strengthening infrastructure and local production capacities will be crucial to build resilient health systems. The panel tackled the growing impact of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Financing healthcare in Africa and providing technical assistance requires a multistakeholder approach in order to ensure a common and

sustainable strategy among Member States, the private sector, and academia, able to benefit the communities in the long term.

MEP Rodriguez called for a closer partnership. The EU has launched various measures, with a 24M euro budget and an unprecedented mobility of resources. Bieber added a business perspective, explaining that the pandemic has shown that a virus does not stop at borders. He also warned not to forget about other diseases (cardiovascular, cancer etc.) that affect a growing middle-class in Africa. He gave an example of cooperation with the Charité in Berlin who works with hospitals in Mali and Morocco together with the GIZ who organize monthly tumor boards and exchanges on breast cancer. El Sahili talked about the experience on the ground. First, he highlighted the need for an integrated approach that would create a cross-sector collaboration. It is a player in the market that creates a federation to have one voice. Secondly, he insisted on the importance of transfer of talents and knowledge. Murigi expanded on the collaboration aspect when looking at health. It is necessary to also include other partners, especially in the public and private sector. Eventually, the alignment of policies is important. Martinez, programme manager at DG INTPA highlighted that collaboration and innovation start in organizations. Collaboration across actors is a primary sector, including a newly developed and significant partnership with vaccine manufacturers in Africa and in Latin America.

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