



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

# UNIDO Brussels REPORT

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UNIDO AT EU  
AFRICA  
BUSINESS  
FORUM 2022





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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

7<sup>TH</sup> EABF EU-AFRICA  
BUSINESS FORUM 2022  
African Union European Union

Africa-Europe Week  
14-18 Feb. 2022  
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#### Acknowledgements

This report was prepared under the overall guidance of Patrick J. Gilabert, Head of the UNIDO Liaison Office and Representative to the European Union Institutions and OACPS secretariat, by the UNIDO Brussels Office.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The [\*\*7th EU-Africa Business Forum \(EABF22\)\*\*](#) took place from 14-18 February 2022 in a hybrid format. Co-organised by the European Commission (INTPA E2), the African Union Commission, as well as EU and African business organisations and key institutions, the event brought together political and business leaders from the EU and Africa to increase opportunities for sustainable economic partnerships.

EABF22 happened during the Africa Europe Week of Partnerships and back-to-back with the **AU-EU Summit** and other stakeholder events, including civil society and youth. Initially scheduled for October 2020, the sixth EU-AU summit took place in Brussels on 17 and 18 February 2022.

It was unique opportunity to exchange with African and European Heads of States and Governments. Twelve High Level Panels gathered top-level policy makers from the European Union and the African Union, and senior business leaders working to enhance the EU-Africa trade and investment relationship. In addition to the High-Level Panels, numerous **online or hybrid workshops and conferences** provided participants with precious insights into all relevant aspects of the EU-Africa economic relations.

The online track of the EABF also allowed participants to join a **trade fair** gathering dynamic players of the African and European private sector – a chance to network and explore partnership opportunities across borders.

UNIDO was selected as one official partner of EABF to co-organize with the African Union an **online workshop on February 14**: “Industrializing Africa and the EU Global Gateway: Are partnerships for investments up to the challenge?”

UNIDO also participated in 4 workshops in the framework of EABF22.

**This report describes UNIDO's overall participation in EABF22.**



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# Side event: "Industrializing Africa and the EU Global Gateway: Are partnerships for investments up to the challenge?"

14 February 2022, 11:30 – 12:15 (CET)

Organised by UNIDO and the African Union



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## "Industrializing Africa and the EU Global Gateway: Are partnerships for investments up to the challenge?"

UNIDO-AU Brussels Workshop at the EU-Africa Business Forum 2022

14 February 2022, 11.30 – 12.15 (CET) online

Moderator

Meabh Mc Mahon, European affairs correspondent, Euronews

Opening Remarks

Hiroshi Kuniyoshi, Deputy to the Director General, UNIDO

H.E. Albert M. Muchanga, Commissioner, Trade and Industry, African Union

Experts

Monde Nyambe, Public Private Partnership Investment Officer, African Development Bank

Christian Yoka, Director, Africa department, Agence Française de Développement

Paolo Ciccarelli, Head of Unit INTPA F.4, European Commission

Mor Talla Kane, President, Confédération Nationale des Employeurs de Sénégal

Africa-Europe Week  
14-18 Feb. 2022



Speakers from:



AFD  
AGENCE FRANÇAISE  
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT



CNES

## CONTEXT

This event was a **follow-up discussion** to the conference "[New forms of investments as drivers for a sustained post-COVID-19 recovery](#)" on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021, during UNIDO General Conference. The discussion focused on how developing countries can better harness quality Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and impact investing to achieve their inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). It also explored the actionable steps that developing countries should consider in a post COVID scenario to catalyze such investments and how public and private partnerships should be leveraged to this effect.

In the context of the EABF, which main theme is "Building stronger value chains for sustainable growth and decent jobs", the topic of **investments and access to finance** is cross-cutting to all domains of activity: digital innovation, entrepreneurship, sustainable energy, local value creation, sustainable



agri-food systems, etc. Innovative mechanisms such as blended finance or impact investing are critical to attract FDI and mobilize private investments for ISID.

Bringing in experts from the public, the private and the development sector, the workshop explored further how Public-Private-Development-Partnerships (PPDP) can leverage investments for sustainable and inclusive industrial development in Africa.

Objectives:

- Gather African and European experts to raise awareness of the role of Public-Private-Development Partnerships in leveraging investments for inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in Africa
- Share good practices and concrete examples of innovative financing mechanisms which contribute to the strengthening of African value chains
- Explore the social, environmental and economic implications of the new EU roadmap for investments: the EU Global Gateway.

## AGENDA

**Date:** 14 February 2022

**Co-organizers:** UNIDO and the African Union (AU)

**Moderated by** Meabh Mc Mahon, European affairs correspondent, Euronews

1) Welcome remarks and introduction

**Hiroshi Kuniyoshi**, Deputy to the Director General, UNIDO

**H.E. Albert M. Muchanga**, Commissioner, Trade and Industry, African Union Commission

2) Panelists' Interventions

**Monde Nyambe**, Principal Public Private Partnership Investment Officer, African Development Bank (AfDB)

**Christian Yoka**, Director Africa department, Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

**Paolo Ciccarelli**, Head of Unit "Sustainable Transport and Urban Development", European Commission (INTPA)

3) Q&A session

4) Conclusion

**Meabh Mc Mahon**, European affairs correspondent, Euronews



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**UNIDO** is committed to its partnership with the EU, the AU and its member states, for investments in, among others, agro-industrial activities, improved digital cooperation and energy, and in supporting vaccine production in Africa. We look forward to cooperating on the Global Gateway strategy.

**Hiroshi Kuniyoshi**  
Deputy to the Director General  
UNIDO



"Industrializing Africa and the EU Global Gateway: Are partnerships for investments up to the challenge?"



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Africa welcomes partnerships in her industrialization effort. The universal one is the Third United Nations Industrial Development Decade (2016-2025)(IDDAIII). UNIDO and Team Europe, through the Global Gateway are strategic partners in realizing the objectives of IDDAIII.

**H.E. Albert M. Muchanga**  
Commissioner, Trade and Industry  
African Union



"Industrializing Africa and the EU Global Gateway: Are partnerships for investments up to the challenge?"



## DIALOGUE PROCESS

### Opening remarks:

The event began with opening remarks and contextualisation by the moderator, Meabh Mc mahon.

Hiroshi Kuniyoshi, Deputy to the Director General at UNIDO, then officially opened the session by thanking the organisers and participants. He expressed his delight at the co-organisation with the African Union (AU) of an event in the framework of the EABF22 : *"It has been a pleasure, as always, to collaborate with our African Union partners to organize this timely discussion on the role of international partnerships and investments for the inclusive and sustainable industrial development of Africa".*

In the context of the EU-US summit, Hiroshi Kuniyoshi recalled UNIDO's strong commitment to sustainable and inclusive industrialization (ISID) in Africa and the need to increase investment for a sustainable recovery on the continent: *« The transformational shift of the African industries to green, digital, and resilient future will require massive investment to strengthen education, energy, digital infrastructure, and enabling regulations »*. He highlighted the drop off in global FDI since the pandemic began (42 per cent in 2020, according to UNCTAD figures) and preached for cooperation to resolve the challenges: *"The EU, the AU and UNIDO share important priorities to address these challenges and opportunities for the benefit of African countries. This convergence has translated into numerous concrete projects on the ground"*.

Hiroshi Kuniyoshi concluded his speech by welcoming the EU Global Gateway initiative and expressed his willingness to continue strengthening UNIDO's partnerships with the AU and EU: *"UNIDO is committed to its partnership with the EU, the AU and its member states, particularly for investment in agro-value chain development and agro-industrial activities, improved digital cooperation and energy, and in supporting vaccine production in Africa. We look forward to expanding our cooperation aligned with the Team Europe approach and the Global Gateway strategy"*.

H.E. Albert M. Muchanga then addressed the meeting and praised the joint efforts to restore growth in Africa. He highlighted the major challenges facing the continent and called for a mobilisation of actors: *"Africa welcomes partnerships in its industrialization effort. The universal one is the Third United Nations Industrial Development Decade (2016-2025)(IDDAIII). UNIDO and Team Europe, through the Global Gateway are strategic partners in realizing the objectives of IDDAIII."*

### Discussion

The discussion among the panelists began with a question addressed to Monde Nyambe: *" how do you assess the importance of these partnerships and what role do they play in leveraging investments to foster sustainable and inclusive industrial development in Africa and to ensure a sustained post-COVID-19 recovery?"*

Monde Nyambe highlighted the global infrastructure gap in Africa. She then stated that public private partnerships are the key to reducing this gap: *"Infrastructure needs to be low-carbon and climate resilient, as climate change is increasing the pressure on the continent. PPs are important, they are long-term investments, and they allow for public oversight and private financing, which is the best of both worlds. They free up public funds for other investments. They can narrow the gap between infrastructure needs."*



The floor was then given to Christian Yoka, who answered the question: “*what is the position of the AFD regarding the EU Global Gateway initiative?*”

Christian Yoka said that AFD warmly welcomes this initiative carried by the European Union and implemented with its partners of which AFD is a part: “*AFD is fully aligned with the priorities of the EU Global Gateway for Africa and notably to improve governance, transparency and quality standards.*”

Since 2008, more than 2.8 billion dollars have been entrusted to AFD to implement more than 200 projects responding to 5 priorities aligned with the Global Gateway: digitalization, transport, climate, education and health. Christian Yoka sees the initiative as a strong message of solidarity between Europe and Africa and said he is ready to work on the Team Europe Initiatives<sup>1</sup>. He ended his speech by stressing the major role that public-private partnerships must play in order to meet the technical challenges of industrialisation in Africa and achieve the objectives of the EU Global Gateway on the continent.

The floor was then given to Paolo Ciccarelli who answered the question: “*what importance does the EU Global Gateway give to Public-Private-Development-Partnerships to foster sustainable and inclusive industrial development in Africa?*”

He recalled what the initiative contains and its general orientations, knowing that at the moment, few details have been provided on this initiative. It will aim to promote an inclusive, green, digital and sustainable transformation in Africa by

- Accelerating the green transition;
- Accelerating the digital transition;
- Accelerating growth and the creation of decent jobs;
- Improving training and education.

He recalled that although the amount of €300 billion is often mentioned, in reality the part dedicated to development in Africa is much lower and falls within the European Commission's programming budgets for 2021-2027.

However, the European Commission's objective is to mobilise €150 of investment to promote this transformation. This will involve important partnerships with donors, the private sector, development agencies and others. He mentioned in particular the cooperation with UN agencies in the implementation of the initiative.

A main question was then asked to all participants: “*In view of the EU-AU summit that will take place here in Brussels in three days' time, what are your expectations, or hopes?*”

Pour Paolo Ciccarelli, “*we must continue to build prosperity with a social and human objective, I hope that the summit will focus first on a human centric vision*”.

Christian Yoka encouraged stakeholders to cooperate and be transparent.

For Monde Nyambe, “*we need to promote technical assistance, funding and above all the role of public-private partnerships and knowledge transfer that Africa needs for a sustainable and green recovery*”.

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<sup>1</sup> [Team Europe](#) consists of the European Union, the EU Member States including their implementing agencies and public development banks, as well as the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).



## BIOGRAPHIES

Moderator	
<b>Meabh Mc mahon,</b> European affairs correspondent, <b>Euronews</b> 	Méabh Mc Mahon is a Brussels-based reporter & European affairs correspondent for the international television channel Euronews. Originally from Ireland, she has over ten years of experience of live TV and radio broadcasting in a range of European languages, as well as hosting conferences and other live events.
Opening statements	
<b>H.E. Albert M. Muchanga</b> Commissioner Trade and Industry African Union Commission 	H.E. Albert M. Muchanga, is the Commissioner for Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission. Mr. Muchanga was the Permanent Secretary in the Cabinet Office in charge of Parliamentary Affairs in Zambia. H.E. Muchanga was also a former Ambassador to Ethiopia with extra accreditation to the African Union. He has both at home and abroad dealt with issues broadly related to international economic policy analysis and implementation as well as regional integration, foreign policy analysis and implementation.
<b>Hiroshi Kuniyoshi</b> Deputy to the Director General UNIDO 	Hiroshi Kuniyoshi is the Deputy to the Director General and the Managing Director of External Relations and Policy Research at UNIDO. He was previously Head of the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) in Tokyo, Japan, where he worked closely with Japanese industries in areas related to technology transfer and investments to developing countries.
Speakers	
<b>Christian Yoka</b> Director Africa department AFD	Regional Director for East Africa since August 2018, Christian Yoka has extensive field experience on the African continent. Prior to heading this regional directorate, which includes ten countries, he was Regional Director for Cameroon, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea between 2016 and 2018 and before that Regional Director for Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia from 2013 to 2016. He was also director of the AFD agency in the DRC from 2009 to 2013. A lawyer by training, Christian Yoka holds a postgraduate degree in law and taxation from the University of



	<p>Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne and a master's degree in banking and financial law from Boston University.</p>
<p><b>Monde Nyambe</b> Principal Public Private Partnership Investment Officer  AfDB</p> 	<p>Monde Nyambe is a seasoned financial services professional with 19+ years Pan-African experience working in the private sector and the African Development Bank. Her experience stems across multiple disciplines from infrastructure finance (early-stage project development to financial close), agriculture finance and rural infrastructure development, agro-industry park development, project and corporate financing, corporate and investment banking, resource mobilization and fund/asset/investment management. Monde has direct and substantial experience in global markets, emerging markets, and mutual funds. Monde currently works as a Principal Public Private Partnerships Investment Officer in the Agriculture Finance and Rural Infrastructure Development Department of the African Development Bank Group Headquarters in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.</p>
<p><b>Paolo Ciccarelli</b> Head of Unit INTPA F.4 European Commission</p> 	<p>Paolo Ciccarelli is an Architect who has specialised in development cooperation in both the private and public sector. He has more than 35 years of experience in managing a broad range of infrastructure projects in Europe and Africa. His experience of living and working in Somalia, and in EU Delegations in Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia enable him to work in a multicultural and multidisciplinary environment. He has spent more than 25 years with The European Commission where he has gained experience in policy and strategy negotiation in international forums as well as knowledge of project appraisal and implementation in many sectors, particularly in the urban development, water and transport sectors. He now works at DG INTPA F.5 as Head of the Unit <a href="#">Sustainable Transport and Urban Development</a>, at the directorate "Green Deal, Digital agenda"</p>



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## Side event: “How to support the EU-MED-Africa private sector to build strong value chains?”

14 February 2022, 10:00 – 11:30 CET

Organised by BUSINESSMED with the participation of Neila Amara from UNIDO



## CONTEXT

BUSINESSMED, as a Partner of the EU Africa Business Forum and major actor involved in the EU-MED-AFRICA relations, organized a conference on the value chains between Africa, the Mediterranean and Europe entitled "**How to support the EU-MED-AFRICA private sector to build strong value chains**".

This conference, with a diversified panel composed of all the actors of the ecosystem (Private Sector, Funders, International Organization ...), was an opportunity to highlight:

- The EU-MED-AFRICA private sector engagement and participation in enhancing the business environment.
- The obstacles for the development of value chains between the two continents
- How the European and African continents can already benefit from intense economic relations and steer the development of strategic partnership for EU-MED-AFRICA value chains.
- The role of the Mediterranean as a gateway for the EU-AFRICA relationship



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## Objectives:

- Creating an enabling EU-MED-AFRICA framework for the private business and public sector to discuss the creation and the reinforcement of value chains between Europe and Africa.
- Raising awareness on the importance of creating strong value chains between the two continents especially given the disruption of global value chains by the effects of the COVID 19 measures. This highlights an important opportunity for reshoring and nearshoring businesses on the Southern Mediterranean shores and sub-Saharan Africa, also following the implementation of the African Free Trade Agreement.
- Sharing information, experiences and initiatives that are being implemented to strengthen the connection between the two continents

## AGENDA

**Date:** 14 February 2022

**Organizer:** BUSINESSMED

**Moderated by Jihen BOUTIBA**, Secretary General, Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises – BUSINESSMED

### 1) Welcome remarks and introduction

**Dr. Tarek TAWFIK**, Vice President of BUSINESSMED, Federation of Egyptian Industries, FEI- EGYPT

**Ingrid SCHWAIGER**, Deputy Head of Regional Co-operation in the Southern Neighbourhood, DG NEAR (Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) of the European Union

### 2) Panelists' Interventions

**Amadou SAKO**, External Adviser for Africa, IOE

**Frank CINQUE**, CEO, E4Impact Foundation

**Frederick MUIA**, Co-Founder and Secretary General, JOBS For Africa

**Anna DORANGRICCHIA**, Project Manager Social and Civil Affairs Division, UFM &

**Neila Amara**, Program Manager, UNIDO

### 3) Q&A session

### 4) Conclusion

**Jihen BOUTIBA**, Secretary General, Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises – BUSINESSMED



## DIALOGUE PROCESS

### OPENING REMARKS

#### The Mediterranean as a gateway for building the EU-AFRICA value chains

Dr. Tarek TAWFIK, Vice President of BUSINESSMED, Federation of Egyptian Industries, FEI- Egypt

**Q1: Ms. Ingrid, the Eu Africa summit is an opportunity for our two continents to build strong bridges, this year's themes highlight a very important opportunity, strengthened also by the implementation of the African Free trade Agreement, what is Europe's vision for the African continent in this regard?**

**Q2: Ms. Ingrid, How the EU is contributing positively in the development of the value chains between Africa, the Mediterranean and Europe.**

#### THE UE role in contributing positively in the development of the value chains between Africa, the Mediterranean and Europe.

Ingrid SCHWAIGER, Deputy Head of Regional Co-operation in the Southern Neighbourhood, DG NEAR (Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) of the European Union

**Q3: Mr. Amadou, could you highlight what opportunity lie for the private sector on the African continent? And how the establishment of strong value chains across our continents can benefit the economic development?**

#### The needs of the private sector to contribute efficiently in building the value chains

Amadou SAKO, External Adviser for Africa, IOE

**Q4: Mr Frank, i want your point of view of the different barriers that faced the enterprises in Africa and how the value chains can be a great opportunity for them?**

#### How the Covid 19 can be a game changer for the private sector to rebuild a stronger value chain between EUROPE & AFRICA?

Frank CINQUE, CEO, E4Impact Foundation

**Q5: Mr Frederick, i want to ask you How Building stronger value chains can lead to job creation?**

#### How Building stronger value chains can lead to job creation

Frederick MUIA, Co-Founder and Secretary General, JOBS For Africa

**Q6: We are very happy to have with us Two of our major partners, UFM and UNIDO represented by Anna DORANGRICCHIA, Project Manager Social and Civil Affairs Division, UFM & Neila**



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**Amara, Program Manager, UNIDO to present the Gender-sensitive value chain development and women's economic empowerment: UNIDO/UfM approach to support women entrepreneurs in the MENA region**

**Gender-sensitive value chain development and women's economic empowerment: UNIDO/UfM approach to support women entrepreneurs in the MENA region**

**Anna DORANGRICCHIA**, Project Manager Social and Civil Affairs Division, UFM & **Neila Amara**, Program Manager, UNIDO

**Q&A**

**Main Conclusions & Closing Remarks**

**Jihen BOUTIBA**, Secretary General, Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises – BUSINESSMED



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# High-level Dialogue : “Towards a commodity-based greener industrialization under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”

14 February, 13:00 - 14.30 CET

Organized by the African Union Commission with the participation of Dejene Tezera from UNIDO

## CONTEXT

The session sought to inform policymakers on opportunities of a commodity-driven industrialization as an engine of growth for the continent with a view to reducing its marginalization in the global economy and enhancing its resilience to shocks. The session aimed to expose opportunities for local production of industrial goods and trade to neighbors along value chains. The objective of the high-level session was to discuss how trade and the AfCFTA can be used to support regional value chains development, overall industrialization and regional integration in the post-COVID era in Africa.

## AGENDA

Date: 14 February 2022

Organizer: African Union Commission

Moderated by Ron Osman, Senior Policy Officer Industry and Dr. Patrick NDZANA OLOMO, Economist, AUC

### 1) Welcome remarks and introduction

**H.E. Amb. Albert Muchanga**, Commissioner ETIM, AUC

**Frank Dixon Mugyenyi**, Interim Coordinator, African Minerals Development Centre-AMDC

### 2) Panelists' Interventions

**Ngone Diop**, Director ECA Sub Regional Office West Africa, UNECA

**Amine Idriss Adoum**, COO/Senior Executive, Public and Private Sector, AUDA-NEPAD

**Desta Mebratu**, Professor, Stellenbosch University

**Dejene Tezera**, Director, Agribusiness Department, UNIDO

**Frederico Bonaglia**, Deputy Director, OECD Development Center

**Chiza Charles Chiumya**, Ag. Director Economic Development and Trade, AUC

### 3) Q&A session

### 4) Conclusion

**Patrick NDZANA OLOMO**, Economist



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# High Level Event: “EU-Africa Partnership: SEZs accelerating industrial value chain development and sustainability”

16 February, 13:15 - 14.30 CET

With the presence of Mr. Marco Kamiya, Chief, The Division Innovation and Digitalization, UNIDO



The High Level Event was organized by the African Economic Zones Organization (AEZO) and focused on 4 priorities on SEZ Development:

1. Infrastructure development
2. Green and resilient investment
3. Digitalization and connectivity
4. Sustainable industrialization

To address these adequately and effectively, the AU-EU partnership should put special focus on building up local production capacity and industrial value chain development. All of these priorities entail a regional dimension, which the partnership should help to foster, in particular by actively supporting the transformative agenda of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which provides the political and economic momentum to develop SEZ and enhance investment and trade performance.



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## Side Event: “The Open Internet for Inclusive and Human-Centered Digital Partnerships”

17 February, 9:00 - 11.00 CET

Organized by the UN Brussels Digital Task Force, ([link to event](#))



*Maria-Francesca Spadolisano speaking during the event*

### Speakers

Name	Position	Company/organization
<b>Rolake Akinkugbe-Filani</b>	Moderator	
<b>H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid</b>	Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy	African Union Commission
<b>Doreen Bogdan-Martin</b>	Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau	International Telecommunication Union
<b>Wim Degezelle</b>	Internet policy consultant	Stantec
<b>Hafedh Yahmadi</b>	Internet governance consultant	Stantec
<b>Dawit Bekele</b>	Regional Vice President	Africa Internet Society
<b>Mirja Kühlewind</b>	IETF IAB Chair	Ericsson Research
<b>Ângelo Gama</b>	CEO	Angola Cables
<b>Alessandro Gropelli</b>	Deputy Director-General and Director for Strategy and Communications	European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association
<b>Henri Verdier</b>	Ambassador for Digital Affairs	French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs



<b>Paula Ingabire</b>	Minister of Information and Communications Technology and Innovation	Government of Rwanda
<b>Tawfik Jelassi</b>	Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information	UNESCO
<b>Yankhoba Diatara</b>	Minister of Digital Economy and Telecommunications	Government of Senegal
<b>Maria-Francesca Spatolisano</b>	Acting Secretary-General's, Envoy on Technology	United Nations
<b>Pearse O'Donohue</b>	Director for the Future Networks Directorate	DG Connect, European Commission
<b>Kim Jørgensen</b>	Head of Cabinet, Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager	European Commission

## Opening Remarks<sup>2</sup>

From Pearse O'Donohue, Director of the Future Networks Directorate at DG connect: Our goal is to achieve an open internet, and this can be achieved as the European Union and the African continent share a common vision of what the digital strategy should be. One of the priorities now is to work on harmonization, legislation and access to the internet for all while **respecting the sovereignty of African countries**. All this will be supported by the Global Gateway for Inclusive Digital Connectivity.

From Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy at the African Union Commission: The key question is how to ensure that everyone has access to this technology. This is all the more important as digitalization can be implemented in various sectors (climate, agriculture, education, etc.). While **only 30% of the continent has access to the internet**, for some of these 30%, the connection speed is very low and the price very high, therefore much work remains to be done. To succeed, partnerships and a harmonized framework between countries to promote digitalization in all sectors are very important.

Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau at the International Telecommunication Union: Bridging the digital divide is key to advancing global development and getting back on track to achieving the SDGs. The Global Gateway is the perfect example of how to do this. Africa is the next big growth market and digital is increasingly needed in the continent. It is already starting to produce its own business successes that illustrate this potential. Yet Africa remains the least connected continent, with a lack of cellular reception in many parts of Africa and a large gender gap in access to digital tools, with women less able to connect to the world. To ensure effective action it may be essential to **develop e-government solutions** as an important aspect of digitalization.

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<sup>2</sup> Opening Remarks and all further analysis are key takeaways and do not reflect the entire position of the speakers



## Key takeaways of the discussion

About the Global Gateway Communication: [Investment in digital infrastructure] will also be linked with standards and protocols that support network security and resilience, interoperability, and an open, plural and secure internet. The EU will also promote access to the Open Internet, given its role as a key driver of innovation, socio-political, economic, and cultural development.

- This reveals a strong commitment and belief in the Open Internet as:
  - A technology fit for the future constantly evolving to meet new challenges
  - A driver for growth
  - A multistakeholder participation
  - A tool to empower local communities
    - No dependency on third parties or central authority to be connected
    - Freedom to adapt the internal working to the local needs
    - Opportunity for local innovations
- To ensure an ethical approach of Internet some rules need to be applied:
  - Democratic rules and principles to ensure that the technology work for the people's interests and a human-centric development
  - To avoid monopoly over digital technologies
  - To ensure data privacy



Survey to the public attending the event

Furthermore, the economic benefits of achieving universal internet access in sub-Saharan Africa could cost \$97 billion for a benefit of \$1,549 billion. This gives a trend for the entire African



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continent. Currently, 33% of the population use the internet and are mainly concentrated in the young and urban population (40% of 15-24 year olds use the internet and 50% of the urban population).

## Africa's Internet economy

	iGDP (billions)	iGDP as % of GDP	GDP (billions)
2019	\$100	3.9%	\$2,580
2020	\$115	4.5%	\$2,554
2025	\$180	5.2%	\$3,446
2050	\$712	8.5%	\$8,342

Source: Accenture, "Africa iGDP Forecast, Africa," September 2020.

- In 2012, Africa's Internet economy was estimated at 1.1% of its GDP.
- In 2019, iGDP was 3.9%
- Accenture found that iGDP will be 4.5% in 2025 and 8.5% in 2050
- High disparity. In 2020, iGDP of Kenya was 7.7% and that of Ethiopia was 1.27%

*Slide presented during the event by Dawit Bekele*



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