

● ● UONGOZI
● Institute



7TH AFRICAN LEADERSHIP FORUM



25 - 26 MAY, 2023
ACCRA, GHANA




PROMOTING INTRA-AFRICA TRADE TO UNLOCK
AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL IN AFRICA

UONGOZI Institute

UONGOZI Institute is a public organisation under the Office of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, seeking to promote the recognition of the important role of leadership in sustainable development in Tanzania and the wider continent.

The Institute applies a holistic and mutually reinforcing approach to capacity development which recognises that leadership competencies are developed through a continuous, lifelong learning process. Its two strategic pillars – leadership and sustainable development – are addressed through four main areas: executive education, policy dialogues, action-oriented research, and technical support.

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AfCFTA Secretariat

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. It is a high ambition trade agreement, with a comprehensive scope that includes critical areas of Africa's economy, such as digital trade and investment protection, amongst other areas.

By eliminating barriers to trade in Africa, the objective of the AfCFTA is to significantly boost intra-Africa trade, particularly trade in value-added production and trade across all sectors of Africa's economy.

www.au-afcfta.org

-  AfCFTA
-  African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat
-  African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat
-  afcftasecretariat

Contents.

- 01 | 7th African Leadership Forum
- 02 | Programme
- 03 | Convenors
- 04 | Former Heads of State and Government
- 05 | Presenters
- 06 | Moderators

Take part in the online conversation: #ALF2023

7th African Leadership Forum



GUEST OF HONOUR

H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo
President of the Republic of Ghana

Welcome to the seventh African Leadership Forum (ALF), convened by H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, ALF Patron and fourth President of the United Republic of Tanzania; and H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat.

The theme is “Promoting intra-Africa trade to unlock agricultural potential in Africa”.

H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, will attend as a guest of honour.

The delegates include former heads of state and government, as well as other distinguished leaders from all parts of the continent – and from a range of professions in government, business, academia and civil society.

The forum features an opening plenary session and three closed thematic sessions on: (i) Unlocking agricultural potentials in Africa, (ii) Market as a driver for fostering agricultural productivity in Africa, and (iii) The role of Africa’s partners to support the success of the AfCFTA.

The closed sessions will be held under Chatham House Rules to encourage frank, open and in-depth discussion.

OBJECTIVE

The forum seeks to provide a space to share experiences and insights to facilitating a successful agricultural trade among African countries. The key objectives are to:

- 1 Highlight Africa’s agricultural potentials and opportunities emerging from climate change.
- 2 Share experiences and lessons on the obstacles (internal and international) in maximising agricultural potential in Africa.
- 3 Discuss the potential and obstacles to, as well as practical and realistic requirements for implementing AfCFTA within Africa’s agriculture context.
- 4 Identify priorities and roadmap for implementation of the agricultural trade perspective under the AfCFTA in order to realise its transformative economic objective.

"We in Africa must with a sense of urgency work together to guarantee the economic security and secure the prosperity of our people. To accomplish this shared objective, African political and business leaders, as well as other strategic stakeholders should use the opportunities presented by the AfCFTA agreement to boost intra-African trade to enhance the productive capacity and strengthen its resilience to external shocks."

H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo
President of the Republic of Ghana

Programme

Day 1 | Thursday 25 May, 2023

8:00 - 10:00AM	ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION AND TEA
8:00 - 9:30AM	Special Leaders' Breakfast
10:00 - 10:05AM	NATIONAL AND AU ANTHEMS
10:05 - 10:20AM	OPENING REMARKS H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, ALF Patron and Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania
10:20 - 10:40AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General, AfCFTA Secretariat
10:40 - 10:45AM	ENTERTAINMENT
10:45 - 11:15	OFFICIAL OPENING H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana
11:15 - 12:30PM	PLENARY SESSION Promoting intra-Africa trade to unlock agricultural potential in Africa <i>Panellists</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana • H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria • H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, ALF Patron and Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania • H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe, Former Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia • H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General, AfCFTA Secretariat • Mr. Abdulmajid Nsekela, Group CEO and Managing Director, CRDB Bank Plc <i>Moderator</i> Dr. Julie Gichuru, Head of Public Affairs and Communications, Mastercard Foundation

12:30 - 13:45PM	GROUP PHOTO, LUNCH BREAK AND BUSINESS LEADERS' MEETING
13:45 - 15:15PM	SESSION I Unlocking agricultural potential in Africa <i>Presenter</i> Dr. Anselme Vodounhessi, Programme Coordinator (The Common African Agro-Parks), The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa Africa <i>Panellists</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Mohamed Moncef Marzouki, Former President of the Republic of Tunisia • H.E. Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria • Mr. Ally Gugu, Former Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Tanzania • Dr. Agness Kalibata, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa <i>Moderator</i> Mr. Jerry Adjololo, Managing Director, Domotale Africa
15:15 - 15:30PM	BREAK
15:30 - 17:00PM	SESSION II Market as a Driver for Fostering Agricultural Productivity in Africa <i>Presenter</i> Dr. Frannie Léautier, Senior Partner and CEO, Southbridge Investments <i>Panellists</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Thomas Boni Yayi, Former President of the Republic of Benin • H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, Former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone • Hon. Dr. Bryan Acheampong, Minister of Food and Agriculture, Ghana • Mr. Alex Dadey, Executive Chairman, KGL Group <i>Moderator</i> Mr. Jerry Adjololo, Managing Director, Domotale Africa
19:30 - 22:00PM	GALA DINNER AND AWARD CEREMONY

Gala Dinner and Award Ceremony | Thursday 25 May, 2023

19:30 - 19:50PM	ARRIVAL Invited guests
19:50 - 20:00PM	Former Heads of State and Government, and the President of the Republic of Ghana
20:00 - 20:05PM	NATIONAL ANTHEM
20:05 - 20:10PM	OPENING REMARKS H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, ALF Patron and Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania
20:10 - 20:15PM	BRIEF ADDRESS H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana
20:15 - 21:15PM	DINNER AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE
21:15 - 21:45PM	AWARD CEREMONY FOR WINNERS OF THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COMPETITION 2023 21:15 - 20:20 Introducing the winners of the competition: Mr. Kadari Singo, CEO of UONGOZI Institute 21:20 – 21:25 Awarding the 4th – 1st runners-up: Former heads of state and government 21:25 – 21:30 Awarding the overall winner: President Akufo-Addo 21:30 – 21:35 A group photo of President Akufo-Addo, Former Presidents, Secretary-General of the AfCFTA Secretariat, and competition winners 21:35 – 20:45 A presentation of the winning essay: Ms. Faizah Atu Mohammad, Overall Winner of the Youth Leadership Competition
21:45 – 22:00PM	AWARD CEREMONY FOR ALF 2023 SPONSORS H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, ALF Patron and Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania
22:00PM	DEPARTURE

Day 2 | Friday 26 May, 2023

9:00 - 10:00AM	ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION AND TEA
10:00 – 12:30PM	SESSION III Mobilising African stakeholders to ensure a successful implementation of the AfCFTA <i>Presenter</i> Mr. Prudence Sebahizi, Director, Institutional Matters and Programmes Coordination, AfCFTA Secretariat <i>Panellists</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former President of the Republic of Liberia • H.E. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, Former President of the Republic of Kenya • Hon. Kobina Tahiru Hammond, Minister of Trade and Industry, Ghana <i>Moderator</i> Dr. Julie Gichuru, Head of Public Affairs and Communications, Mastercard Foundation
12:30 – 12:45PM	STATEMENT OF THE FORUM Dr. Emmanuel Maliti, Economist, iReview Ltd.
12:45 – 13:00PM	CLOSING REMARKS H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe, Former Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia
13:00PM	LUNCH
16:00 – 17:00PM	TREE-PLANTING EVENT Kofi Annan International Peace Training Centre - Peace Garden <i>All Leaders</i>

Convenors



H.E. DR. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE
ALF Patron and Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania

H.E. Dr. Kikwete served as President of the United Republic of Tanzania from 2005 – 2015. Prior to becoming president, he held several ministerial portfolios, including Minister of Finance, Minister of Water, Energy and Natural Resources, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Throughout his public service career and even post-career, H.E. Dr. Kikwete has worked to strengthen democracy and promote development in Africa and around the world. He is well known for his efforts to increase the Tanzania’s openness to international trade and investment, and to bring peace to the African Great Lakes region. He also played pivotal roles in regional cooperation, including as Chairperson of the African Union (2008 – 2009), and Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Troika on Peace, Defense and Security (2012 – 2013).

Following his retirement, he started his own foundation, the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation, where he now serves as Chairman. The Foundation’s mission is to work with governments and other stakeholders to bring about progressive change and transform the quality of people’s lives across Africa.

H.E. Dr. Kikwete also serves as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Global Partnership for Education. He holds a number of other international roles, including Co-Chair of the UNFPA High Level Commission on the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, Co-Chair of the Refugee Council, Member of the High-Level Panel on Every Woman, Every Child and Every Adolescent, Member of the High-Level Panel on Scaling Up Nutrition, Member of the End Malaria Council, and a Board Member of the Nutrition International. On the African continent, he is a Member of the Board of the Alliance for the Green Revolution in Africa and Chair of the Board of the Global Water Partnership for Africa and Southern Africa.



H.E. WAMKELE MENE
Secretary-General, AfCFTA Secretariat

H.E. Mene was elected as the first Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat in February 2019 at the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the African Union.

Prior to the appointment, he served as Chief Director (Africa Economic Relations) at the Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa. In this role, he was South Africa’s chief trade negotiator in the AfCFTA and Tripartite FTA negotiations. During his tenure as chief negotiator, South Africa ratified both the AfCFTA and Tripartite FTAs agreements, providing new export markets in fast growing and dynamic markets in

East and West Africa. He also served as Director (International Trade Law and Investment Law) at the Department.

Prior to joining the government, H.E. Mene worked for the law firms Simpson Thacher and Bartlett LLP in London; and Milbank, Tweed, Hadley and McCloy LLP in Hong Kong.

Between 2010 and 2015, he represented South Africa at the World Trade Organisation in Geneva, where he was nominated by over 130 governments as Chairman of the Committee on International Trade in Financial Services. The Committee comprised of trade negotiators, financial regulators and financial policy makers from over 160 countries.

H.E. Mene holds a LLB in law from the Rhodes University in South Africa; a MA in international studies and diplomacy (with specialisation in international economics) from the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London; and an LLM in banking law and financial regulation from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

He has written and lectured internationally on international trade law, international investment law and international business law.

In 2022, he was nominated one of the 100 most influential Africans by New Africa Magazine.

Former Heads of State and Government



H.E. OLUSEGUN OBASANJO
Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

H.E. Obasanjo served as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 1999 – 2007. He oversaw his country's first democratic handover of power and administrative reforms that accelerated economic growth.

H.E. Obasanjo has played a pivotal role in the regeneration and repositioning of the African Union, including helping to establish the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), designed to promote democracy and good governance. He has consistently supported the deepening and widening of regional cooperation through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Co-prosperity Alliance Zone incorporating Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo. He has served as chairman of the Group of 77, chairman of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and chairman of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee.

He has also been involved in international mediation efforts in Angola, Burundi, Namibia, Mozambique and South Africa. In 2008, the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, appointed him as his Special Envoy to the Great Lakes region, where he has played an integral part in mediation efforts in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.



H.E. DR. MOHAMED MONCEF MARZOUKI
Former President of the Republic of Tunisia

H.E. Dr. Marzouki was the first democratically elected president of Tunisia after the January 14th Revolution in 2011, a seminal moment in modern Arab history which heralded the onset of multiple popular revolutions throughout the Arab World. Elected to the presidency by the Tunisian National Constituent Assembly, H.E. Dr. Marzouki is Tunisia's first president in modern history to arrive at his position through fair and transparent elections.

Upon the assumption of the presidency, he embarked on mission to "open the doors" of the presidential palace through campaigns of transparency, participative democracy, and by encouraging a safe public space for civil organisations to flourish.

During his mandate, he was a voice of social and revolutionary activism, calling for civilian rights, curtailment of the security apparatus, and economic sovereignty, and transformed the presidency into a position of service to the Tunisian public. Occupying a middle ground between secularist and Islamist political standpoints, H.E. Dr. Marzouki was instrumental in creating a dialogue between all political, social, and religious tendencies in Tunisia, clearing the ground for an inclusive, stable, and consensus-based Tunisian democracy to take root.

In 2019 after being defeated in the presidential elections, which saw the victory of the current President (H.E. Kais Saïd), he announced that he would retire from politics unless democracy was threatened in Tunisia.

He was the first to denounce the constitutional putsch of Saïd who abrogated the democratic constitution of 2014 and seized all powers. Sentenced in absentia to four years in prison for high treason, he lives again in exile in Paris where he continues to fight for the return of democracy in his country and in the entire Arab world.



H.E. DR. GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN
Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

H.E. Dr. Jonathan served as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 2010 – 2015. During his administration, he promoted democratisation through the observance of the rule of law, enactment of the Freedom of Information Act, electoral reforms, and non-interference in electoral outcomes. At the regional level, he worked tirelessly to strengthen the capacity of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to respond to several challenges and personally led efforts that resolved the political crises in Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Benin, and Togo.

In 2015, after a keenly contested presidential campaign, he conceded victory as an incumbent to General Muhammadu Buhari of the All Progressives Congress even before the final tally and formal announcement by the Independent National Electoral Commission. Through this, he demonstrated commitment to peace and electoral transparency giving significance to one of his most repeated mantras – “nobody’s political ambition is worth the blood of any Nigerian”. He presided over the first-ever peaceful transfer of political power from a ruling party to an opposition party in Nigeria.

As Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Dr. Jonathan notably worked with the late President Yar’ Adua and South-South leaders to develop a response to the militancy in the region that culminated in the widely acclaimed Niger Delta Amnesty Program, which brought peace and stability to the region.

Since leaving office, he has embarked on several International Election Observation and Mediation Missions to several African countries and is currently the ECOWAS Mediator providing support in the efforts to restore stability and constitutional order in Mali.

He has received several local and global awards in recognition of his exceptional public service. He is committed to continuing to promote peace, democracy, and development in Africa through the Goodluck Jonathan Foundation where he serves as Chairman.



H.E. THOMAS BONI YAYI
Former President of the Republic of Benin

The 2006 election, considered to be the first completely free election in Benin, saw H.E. Yayi winning over 70% of the vote. During his two presidential terms (2006 – 2016), he implemented policies to improve governance, stimulate the private sector, boost educational opportunities for women, and modernise the agricultural sector.

H.E. Yayi was also known for building and maintaining relationships with neighbouring countries. He played essential roles in regional cooperation, including as President of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) from 2008 – 2009, President of the African Union from 2012 – 2013, and President of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) in 2013.

Furthermore, he was elected as President of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Coordination Office from 2013 – 2015. Between 2010 – 2015, he was involved in resolving several hotbeds of tension and electoral crises in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, and Burundi.

Prior to his political career, he excelled in the banking sector. He worked in several banks, including the West African Development Bank where he served as a president.

H.E. Yayi has received various distinctions and awards, including Grand Master of the National Order of Benin, Grand Cross of the National Order of Chad, Grand Cross of the National Order of Mali, Officer of the National Order of Burkina Faso, Commander of the National Order of Niger, Commander of the National Order of the Lion of Senegal, and Grand Cross of Legion of Honour of France.



H.E. ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
Former President of the Republic of Liberia

H.E. Sirleaf served as President of the Republic of Liberia from 2006 – 2018. As Africa's first democratically elected female head of state, she led Liberia through reconciliation and recovery following the nation's decade-long civil war, as well as the Ebola crisis, winning international acclaim for achieving economic, social, and political change.

Recognised as a global leader for women's empowerment, H.E. Sirleaf was awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize for Peace in 2011. She is the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom — the United States' highest civilian award, and the Grand Croix of the Légion d'Honneur — France's highest public distinction — for her personal courage and unwavering commitment to expanding freedom and improving the lives of Africans.

In May 2012, she was appointed Co-Chair of the United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, tasked with crafting a roadmap for global recovery and the Sustainable Development Goals. In June 2016, she was elected the first female Chairperson of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for a 12-month term.

Prior to her presidency, she served as Assistant Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and as Director of its Regional Bureau for Africa, with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, a post she resigned to contest the 1997 presidential elections. She was the first African woman Vice President of Citibank assigned to the Nairobi, Kenya office.



H.E. HAILEMARIAM DESALEGN BOSHE
Former Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

H.E. Boshe was the second Executive Prime Minister of Ethiopia who served from August 2012 following the death of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi until his resignation and handover to his successor Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed in April 2018. He is the first leader in Modern Ethiopian history to step down voluntarily setting stage for sweeping reform. With annual economic growth rates averaging over 10% during his tenure as Prime Minister, he viewed his resignation as vital in the bid to conduct reforms that would lead to sustainable peace and democracy.

His previous roles before becoming Prime Minister included Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs Minister and Government Chief-Whip Minister, under Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. He also served as Governor of the Southern Regional State for six years.

After leaving office, Hailemariam co-founded the Hailemariam and Roman Foundation, of which he is chairperson. The foundation focuses on mother and child healthcare, prevention of non-communicable diseases, nutrition and climate smart agriculture and conservation-based ecotourism. He also serves as board member and chairperson of various local, regional and international organisations such as Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Tourism Ethiopia, African Parks Network (APN), The Brenthurst Foundation, African Wildlife Foundation, The Africa Protected Areas Congress, The AeTrade Group, The Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa, The Global Steering Committee for the Campaign for Nature and others. He also engages in giving public lectures on domestic and worldwide pressing issues.



H.E. DR. ERNEST BAI KOROMA
Former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

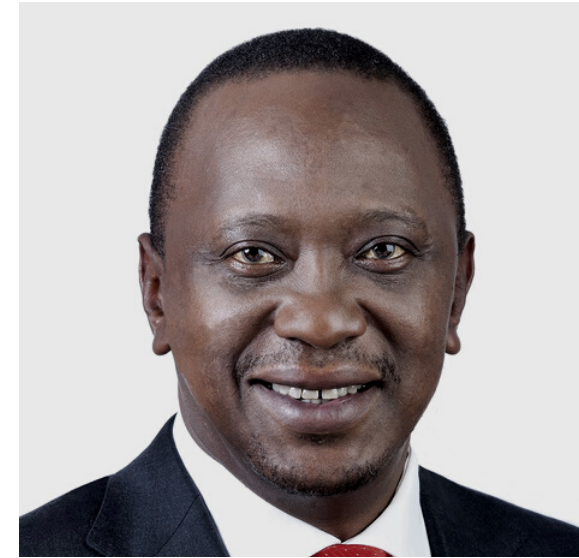
H.E. Dr. Koroma was democratically elected for two consecutive terms from 2007 – 2018. During his tenure, he implemented far-reaching democratic reforms, which resulted in the remarkable transformation of Sierra Leone.

His legacy for the people of Sierra Leone includes, but is not limited to, the consolidation of peace, a massive rebuilding of roads, pipe-borne water, and energy infrastructure, all of which were severely destroyed during the 11 years of civil war. Owing to his peacebuilding and peace consolidation efforts, the UN described Sierra Leone as a storehouse of lessons on post conflict reconstruction. H.E. Koroma was then decorated

with the UN Peace Beret by then U.N. Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon. When he was leaving office, Sierra Leone was ranked as the third most peaceful country in Africa. The country was also recognised by several international benchmarks, including the Mo Ibrahim Good Governance Index, as one of the most reformed countries in Africa.

On the international stage, he chaired the African Union Committee of Ten for the Reform of The United Nations, which advocates for Africa to have two permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council and for more African representation at the United Nations. During his tenure, President Koroma chaired the AU Peace Council for three consecutive years and led the efforts to brokering peace in Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, and The Gambia.

Since his retirement, H.E. Koroma has dedicated himself to issues that are fundamental to peace, democracy, the environment, women, and youth empowerment. He has led election observation missions to Namibia, Zambia, Togo, Benin, The Gambia, Kenya, and Nigeria under the auspices of the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and one to Somaliland. Frequently referred to as the “Apostle of Peace”, he has received multiple distinguished recognitions including one by the President of Zambia, ‘Order of the Eagle of Zambia’ 1st division for the promotion of Democracy and Good Governance the United States Black Legislative Caucus for his legacy in upholding Democratic principles and maintaining the hard-earned Peace in Sierra Leone, the African Bar Association Award for Promoting Good Governance, Democracy, and the Rule of Law while in Office.



H.E. UHURU MUIGAI KENYATTA
Former President of the Republic of Kenya

H.E. Kenyatta served as President of the Republic of Kenya from 2013 – 2022. His presidency has been underpinned by a commitment to economic and social transformation, national unity, good governance, regional integration, and intra-Africa trade.

Under his leadership, Kenya became one of the fastest-growing economies in sub-Saharan Africa and ranked among the top three African countries on the ease of doing business.

The country consolidated its position as a leader on issues such as climate change, the blue economy and digital technologies and Nairobi emerged as a regional hub for major international organisations and corporations. In January 2021, Kenya started its two-year term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

At the regional level, H.E. Kenyatta has championed regional integration, intra-Africa trade and a stronger role of the African continent on the global stage. He has been at the forefront in promoting peace and security efforts in the region and has brokered peace agreements in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

H.E. Kenyatta also served as the Chair of the African Union Peace and Security Council, Chair of the Summit of East Africa Community Heads of State, and also Chair of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) a coalition of African Union Heads of State and Government to drive accountability and action for results against Malaria, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and nutrition.

Presenters



DR. ANSELME VODOUNHESSI
CAAPs Programme Coordinator, The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

Dr. Vodounhessi is the custodian of the Common African Agro-Parks (CAAPs) Programme, an African Union initiative championed by Ambassador Josefa Sacko, and jointly coordinated by African Union Commission (AUC), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, Afreximbank and AfCFTA.

Assigned as the Coordinator of the CAAPs Programme in 2019, he has been leading the structural design, institutional development, and partnerships building processes of the programme. The CAAPs are trans-boundary mega industrial corridors for food production to support free trade of agricultural goods produced in Africa, in the context of the AfCFTA. The CAAPs was endorsed by the AU Agriculture Ministers in October 2019 at their Specialised Technical Committee (STC), and submitted during the February 2023 AU Summit as a flagship programme of the next 10 years implementation of the AU Agenda 2063.

Dr. Vodounhessi most exciting experience includes his 8 years (2010 – 2018) at the AUC, where he revolutionised the sectorial monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for reporting country performances to the highest political level. He then got credit for establishing innovative systems using Country Scorecard to hold African governments to account in terms of their commitments to the AU Assembly in the agriculture and water sectors.

He has capitalised more than 20 years in programmes preparation, management, and M&E. He has played managerial roles in several intergovernmental organisations, particularly in agriculture and water sectors, with funding from African member states and development partners such as the World Bank, the German BMZ, the European Commission, the Swedish SIDA, the Switzerland SDC, French Development Agency, and the USAID.



DR. FRANNIE LÉAUTIER
Senior Partner and CEO, Southbridge Investments

Dr. Léautier is a highly experienced and well-known finance and development expert, with long-standing global experience leading and transforming organisations in the private, public and non-for-profit spheres. She had an illustrious career at the World Bank Group (WBG), where during her 15-year tenure, she held senior financial positions across the Group including as Chief of Staff to the President, and Vice-President. She was Infrastructure Director and played a critical role in the strategic work around the joint World Bank/IFC infrastructure products and played a crucial role in developing the WBG's infrastructure strategy. At the WBG, she won several awards for her outstanding support and contributions.

She was Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the African Development Bank (AfDB) and chaired the AfDB Board for much of the time she was there. Dr. Léautier also held senior leadership roles at The Trade and Development Bank Group.

She is known for her skills in operational management, transformational leadership, resource mobilisation, working with complex multi-constituency governance structures, and engaging with the highest levels of government. She has founded several companies.

In addition to her extensive career, she holds advisory and governance roles on several boards, including the UN Foundation, Orca Energy Group, Norsad Finance Ltd, AZA Finance, Overseas Development Institute, CFAO Group, Les Eaux Minérales d'Oulmes, Financial Sector Deepening (FSD) Africa and FSD Africa Investments, World Resources Institute, World Economic Forum, Africa Culture Fund Great Green Wall Organization Foundation, MIT, OCP Group, African Economic Research Consortium, Institute for Security Studies, King Badouin Foundation US, and Nelson Mandela Institute for Science and Technology.

Dr. Léautier has authored several books including "Leadership in a Globalized World: Complexity, Dynamics and Risk". She was distinguished professor at Sciences Po Paris, and has lectured at MIT where she developed a course on infrastructure systems. She has also been invited to lecture at Harvard and the University of Tokyo. She holds a PhD in engineering from MIT. She holds a doctorate in humane letters from North Central College and a doctorate in law from Lancaster University, honoris causa.



MR. PRUDENCE SEBAHIZI
Director, Institutional Matters
and Programmes Coordination,
AfCFTA Secretariat

As the Director for Institutional Matters and Programmes Coordination at the AfCFTA Secretariat, Mr. Sebahizi provides technical and strategic advice to the Secretary-General and to the AfCFTA Institutions by supporting all technical directorates. His priority is to develop and strengthen the Secretariat's institutional capacity to ensure full implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.

He was the Chief Technical Advisor on AfCFTA and Head of the AfCFTA Unit/Interim Secretariat, from August 2016 where he provided technical and strategic advice to the AfCFTA Negotiating Institutions.

As the overall coordinator of AfCFTA negotiations, he led a team of experts that provided technical assistance and strategic guidance to strengthen the capacity of the African Union Commission (AUC), to more effectively drive the AfCFTA preparatory process since 2015.

Mr. Sebahizi worked with the Government of Rwanda for more than 10 years in the areas of international trade and regional integration, and as Rwanda's Chief Negotiator to the negotiations of the East African Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol since 2006. He was at the center of Rwanda's accession to the EAC and he advised the government of Rwanda on regional integration while working with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Office of the President and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, respectively.

He was also a member of the team of Experts appointed by EAC Summit to advise Heads of State on the way forward for EAC Political Integration. He was awarded a certificate of recognition by EAC Heads of State for contributing to the successful negotiations and conclusion of the EAC Common Market Protocol.

Mr. Sebahizi holds a master's degree in international development policy from Seoul National University, South Korea.

Moderators



DR. JULIE GICHURU
Head of Public Affairs and Communications,
Mastercard Foundation



MR. JERRY ADJOLOLO
Managing Director, Domotale Africa

Partners.



