



Golden
Business
Forum

Creating African Wealth Under the AfCFTA

16-17 AUGUST 2023 | KIGALI, RWANDA

HOST



[GOLDENBUSINESSFORUM.COM](https://goldenbusinessforum.com)



BACKGROUND

The **"Golden Business Forum" (GBF)** was established in 2019 as an annual high-level business platform and channel for business development in Africa and beyond. The aim of GBF is to serve as a catalyst for business development in Africa, between Africa and the world. All activities associated with GBF are focused on bringing sustainable and innovative solutions to ongoing structural and long-term economic challenges that impede the growth of the African continent. GBF was honoured to be launched by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, who graciously accepted to be its patron moving forward.



CONTEXT

Despite the ongoing economic challenges globally, Africa's economies, referred to as "Lions on the move," continue to exhibit remarkable progress. According to the International Monetary Fund, Africa has remained the second fastest growing economy in the world, following East Asia. Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa) was experiencing growth at a rate of 4.2%, with East Africa leading at 6.3%.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on countries worldwide and has affected over 50 million people. Governments have been operating in an environment of uncertainty and have been faced with difficult decisions in addressing the health, economic, and social challenges presented by the pandemic. The economic crisis triggered by the pandemic is widely recognized as the most severe since World War II.

In efforts to curb the spread of the virus, numerous nations implemented strict lockdown measures, which resulted in the closure of businesses and limitations on movement. As a result, economic activity has seen a significant decline, with notable impacts including

- A decrease in public revenues through reduced tax collection, - a decrease in global gross domestic product for some economies, up to 7.8%,
- Depression of formal and informal economic activities,
- And an increase in unemployment rates across the globe.
- Additionally, remittances to sub-Saharan Africa have decreased by approximately 25%, resulting in an increase in extreme poverty, particularly in low-income nations.
- There has also been a significant reduction in energy access reported in 2020, as well as an increase in food insecurity.

The impact of the pandemic is severe and has further exacerbated existing chronic economic challenges such as a scattered private sector, high unemployment, underinvestment, unsustainable debt, governance issues, and climate change, which were structural challenges that predate the pandemic. Additionally, the continent is facing shortages of essential goods due to limited continental production as a result of the pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Recognizing these challenges, many governments are seeking to bounce back and accelerate economic growth, which requires active participation from

businesses operating on the continent as well as potential investors and development partners. The Golden Business Forum (GBF) provides a platform for all partners, including businesses, to reflect, commit and collaborate towards the economic development of the African continent.

The theme for this year's Golden Business Forum is **“Creating African Wealth under the AfCFTA.”**



OBJECTIVES OF THE GBF:

The objectives of the Forum include:

- Creating a platform and providing a voice for business operators and investors to engage in structured and responsive dialogue with senior business executives, policy makers, and other stakeholders.
- Identifying and facilitating business opportunities across Africa and promoting engagement between developers, investors, and financiers.
- Sharing experiences, thoughts, knowledge, unique ideas, and other useful information to enhance skills, capabilities, and technologies among the business communities globally.

GOLDEN BUSINESS FORUM 2023

Every entrepreneurial endeavor begins with a dream - to create something new, better or more meaningful, to leave a legacy for future generations, to give back to a community, or to positively impact the world. Regardless of your business aspirations, GBF aims to empower your journey by providing a unique, impactful experience through connectivity, inspiration, learning, resources, and more.

Trade is a powerful driver of growth that creates jobs, reduces poverty, and increases economic opportunities. Recent research indicates that trade liberalization can increase economic growth by an average of 1.0 to 1.5 percentage points, resulting in 10 to 20 percent higher income after a decade. Since 1990, trade has increased incomes by 24 percent globally and 50 percent for the poorest 40 percent of the population. As a result, over one billion people have moved out of poverty because of economic growth supported by improved trade practices.

Given this, it is crucial to strengthen global trading systems to promote inclusiveness

and assist Africa in addressing trade-related constraints to growth. The forum offers a great opportunity to provide 2 successful days of diversified and focused activities through plenary and dedicated cluster meetings. The cluster meetings will be structured as follows:

AGRICULTURE CLUSTER



This cluster brings together high-level policy makers, industry leaders, investors, supply chain operators, development partners, innovators, and academia involved in the development of agriculture and livestock to address structural and ongoing challenges. The outcome will be to advocate for the elimination of identified barriers,

promote entrepreneurship, and create a conducive business environment for the benefit of the people of Africa.

MANUFACTURING CLUSTER



This cluster forum targets high-level industry leaders and partners in the manufacturing ecosystem to address Africa's challenges. The goal is to transform the continent into a manufacturing hub to add value to exported raw materials and resources.

SERVICES CLUSTER

The services sector has provided steady support to Africa's economic growth over the years. The cluster forum will analyse the potential growth of the services sector on the continent and suggest a set of policy reforms to make the sector more effective.

GOVERNANCE CLUSTER



This cluster brings together high-level policy makers, development partners, industry leaders, investors, and private sector leaders to take advantage of the opportunities under the AfCFTA by supporting the timely implementation of the RECs and AfCFTA protocols as enablers to achieve the desired outcome for Africa. The private sector, united, recognizes, accepts, and promotes a Private Sector Bill of Rights for an Enabling Business Environment in Africa as a complementary instrument to the AfCFTA that would best serve the interest of trade and investment, propelling economic development in fulfilment of the AU Agenda 2063.

BEYOND GBF 2023

Our collective pledge beyond GBF 2023 should be: Uniting the private sector for the common good of business to lead the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIR).

Creating a healthy and vibrant business climate in Africa under the AfCFTA with the adoption of the Private Sector Bill of Rights to accelerate the FIR.

Designing and facilitating a credit system that works to support:

- A. Food security in Africa within three years.
- B. Accelerating the FIR.
- C. An education system that meets the skills demand of the FIR.

In addition to these meetings, plenary sessions will be organized for cross-cutting topics and other engagements. All cluster meetings will serve as a marketplace where private sector players can pitch for equity, grants, and forge business partnerships with their peers from around the world.

THE EVENT SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

TUESDAY 15TH AUGUST

Arrival, accreditation and collections of badges;

WEDNESDAY 16TH AUGUST

Attend the planned GBF Forum sessions at the Kigali Conference and Exhibition Village (KCEV);

THURSDAY 17TH AUGUST

Attend the Golden Business Forum at Kigali Conference and Exhibition Village (KCEV);

SIDE EVENTS

B2B

Exhibition

Fashion Show

Golf tournament

VISIT RWANDA tourism activities



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Programme

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Wednesday 16th August, 2023

TIME	ACTIVITIES			
PLENARY SESSIONS				
08:00 – 9:30	Arrival, Accreditation & B2B session			
9:30 – 10:00	Opening Session			
10:10 – 11:30	Creating African Wealth under the AfCFTA			
11:40 – 1:00	Reducing inequalities: The Africa we want			
1:00 – 2:00	Networking Lunch			
CLUSTER / PANEL MEETINGS				
	MANUFACTURING	AGRICULTURE	GOVERNANCE	SERVICES
2:30 – 3:30	Building an effective and sustainable manufacturing ecosystem in Africa	Preparing Africa's Agriculture for the future: Growing what we Eat in 5 years	Access to Finance for African Business Growth Agenda: New Innovative initiatives	Shape the future of logistics in Africa: What can be done?
3:35 – 3:50	Networking coffee break			
4:00 – 5:00	Global zero-emission transport Revolution: Can Africa lead?	Building competitiveness in Africa's agriculture: the role of commercial farming	Boosting Africa's free and effective trade: possibility to shift from 33 to a single currency	Re-imagining the Education ecosystem in Africa towards Private Sector Skills demands
5:00 – 6:00	Exhibition Park, B2Bs, individual business networks			
6:30- 9:00	Decolonizing Fashion and Textile show: "Africa our Heritage through fashion design and textile under the AfCFTA"			

Thursday 17th August, 2023

TIME	ACTIVITIES								
08:00 – 08:45	Registration								
CLUSTER / PANEL MEETINGS									
9:00 – 10:00	Exhibition Park, B2Bs, individual business networks								
9:00 – 11:00	Strengthening the voice of the Private Sector across Africa: The role of Employers Organization and Chambers of Commerce <i>The session to be attended only by Chairperson or their CEOs</i>								
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10:00 – 11:10									
PLENARY SESSIONS									
11:30 – 12:30	Power of Inclusion: Guide - Fund – Care for Businesses for Women, Youth and People with disabilities								
12:30 – 1:30	Networking Lunch								
1:30 – 2:30	Building Ecosystem for Manufacturing and Production of Medicines, Vaccines and other health products in Africa								
3:00 – 4:00	Africa Head of States Big Conversations The future of Africa: Think big, Connected, Healthy & Wealthy								
4:10	Wrap up								
4:25	Closing Remarks								
	Photo Session								
	Networking								



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GOLDEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

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PSF SERVICES



PSF CLUSTERS

 AGRICULTURE

 INDUSTRY

 TRADE

 SERVICE

 SPECIALIZED



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