

AFRICA SPAIN

COOPERATION SUMMIT

MADRID 6, 7 and 8th - July 2023



Post Event Report

350

delegates

17

countries

68

speakers

+1k

b2b meetings

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



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PARTNERS

We would like to express our gratitude to our partners for their trust to organize the first-ever summit between Africa and Spain. We look forward to seeing you next year.



MEDIA PARTNERS



Bridging the gap between Africa and Spain

Bridging the gap between Africa and Spain, was effectively the main objective of this three-days meeting.

The forum gathered high-level government representatives to address the main challenges and opportunities for cooperation between Africa and Spain in the sectors such as sustainable development, food security, digitalization, women's empowerment, and climate change and also infrastructures and banking.

Moderated by The Gabonese journalist Naïke MBA NDONG and Jean Noel GEORGES, CEO JNG Expert, the forum panels were dispatched between two conference rooms and addressed a number of topics ranging from the need to take Africa Spain Cooperation to a new level to cooperation in key sectors like Infrastructures, urbanization, energy, agriculture, Ports development, digitalization, financing along with the prospects of the African free Trade Area and women empowerment issues.

M. Hassan Alaoui, after thanking the Spanish representatives explained that the platform he presides over is a space for open dialogue dedicated to African countries that allows the private and public sectors to exchange experiences, where African governments have learned from each other in order to favour integration. The Chairman highlighted the importance of this first Summit in Spain, a country that «contributed in the 1990s to the development of South America and that could now be replicated in Africa».

The president of One Africa Forums highlighted four reasons why Spain should support the African continent: «We want to fill the gap that exists between Spain and Africa,» he stressed, with the aim of creating a bridge that promotes collaboration with the south and the development of Africa.

The inaugural session began via video, with the words from China of Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations, who spoke of the relations between Spain and Africa and Europe and Africa, «a new pact must be made between Africans and Europeans, and Spain must play an important role in this task», he

assured.

Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner of the African Union of Ethiopia, then spoke, stressing that the Union is working for a united, prosperous continent and for the well-being of its peoples. In this regard, she stressed that Africa is the continent that is growing the fastest demographically, but also in terms of urbanisation and digitalisation, and how the world will depend on the continent in terms of energy, «in 2040 we will have the largest energy market in the world», she said.

For his part, Bruno Nabagné Kone, Côte d'Ivoire's Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, after praising the work of One Africa Forums and its president for allowing Africans to talk about the issues that concern them, defended the fact that «we must look at Africa as a place of opportunities». On his side, Lionel Zinsou, former Prime Minister of Benin, also spoke at the opening session as an audience attendee. He began by stressing that the problem is that «we do not know each other», hence the importance of establishing places where we can get to know each other, and gave as an example his country, Benin, which many people do not know where it is despite having 700 km of common border with Nigeria. As a second important aspect, the former Prime Minister stressed «having consideration for each other». For him, relations between Spain and Africa should be based on an egalitarian exchange, «not of aid or assistance», of the flow of capital, knowledge, green hydrogen as opposed to refined products.

He concluded by calling for the importance of the private sector and for Spanish companies to visit Africa.

The following session was about understanding the forces shaping Africa's positive prospects, moderated by Beatrice Grace OBADO, President AFRICA 2.0 Spain. In the panel, Mansan D. Diagou Epse Ehlie, CEO of Group Deputy NSIA Participations in Côte d'Ivoire, began by asking: Is enough being done to bring Africa into European cooperation and investment? Africa has what it takes to be the future of the world. The African continent has sustainable growth with countries whose growth rate is higher than the world average thanks to foreign investment

and diversification of the economy. Africa's economy will grow at 4% compared to 3.2% in the rest of the world in terms of GDP. Gold, bauxite and cobalt are the main attractions of European countries that serve to create the technology of the future.

Alicia Varela, Director of Business and Investment at the national trade secretariat in Spain urged that relations with Africa help to see Africa's profile in investment. Spain is a strategic partner because of the geographical situation. Exports with Spain have tripled in 20 years and represent 35% of exports. Imports are around 42 billion euros, which is 14% more than the previous year. Investments amount to almost 6,000, which is 1.2% of investments abroad.

Saad Bendidi, chairman and senior partner of Mediterranea Capital Partners, prioritised in his speech that Spanish investment is there and is helping to bring Europe and Africa closer together.

Taking Africa Spain Cooperation to a new level

Mimi Kalinda, CEO and co-founder of Africa Communications Media Group Marco in South Africa, explained the tasks of her company in the world of communication. «Our company is the first Spanish African communications company to manage reputation on the continent. In 2021 MARCO bought shares. We are a key example of what cooperation and partnership is, what it should be». Dhafer Saidane, professor of economics at SKEMA Business School in France pointed out «When talking about finance it is important to look at the history of finance. We are living a third phase of banking in Africa,» Dhafer Saidane.

The former prime minister of Benin, Mr. Lionel Zinsou, mentioned one important point, he recalled the advantage that Spain has not colonized them too much, «because there is a view of colonization that forced people to consider them as submissive, inferior, and there is very little of this in the relationship with Spain. that an Africa with an overflowing demography of young people, increasingly educated and trained, «is the solution for Europe», which is rightly rushing towards the massive ageing of the bulk of its citizens.

Africans say they are committed to

deepening their great ambitions, such as the creation of a free trade area, a desire that will require many intermediate steps and many readjustments.

Ensuring food security and the infrastructure challenges

Africa is not unaffected by the consequences of climate change and food security has become another of the great challenges facing the continent. Africa has more than 50% of the world's arable land and must take advantage of this challenge to develop innovative agricultural schemes, as several countries stand out as models for agricultural development. moderated by the journalist and director of Atalayar entre dos orillas, Javier Fernández Arribas, a panel was held in which representatives of different agents took part. The debate opened with a video of Josefa Correa Sacko, Commissioner of the African Union, who described food security as «a priority of the first order» and advocated joint work. Other important issues to ensure food security, according to the expert, are tackling climate change and its serious consequences with policies that, for example, conserve soils; and supporting and providing training and employment opportunities in the agricultural sector for young people. The debate was closed by David Garay, CEO of Indegate, Spain, who also highlighted the importance of these forums for African development.

Simultaneously, Jon Marks, the President of Cross-border Information, UK, moderated the panel on the need for infrastructure development and the opportunities for Spanish companies. Infrastructures are a fundamental sector for African countries and an area in which international investors have a place, although it is necessary to know the particularities of this continent. María Peña Mateos, CEO of ICEX Spain Trade and Investment, and Fernando Bernad, partner at Cuatrecasas were the panelists on this session. Fernando Bernad, from Cuatrecasas, pointed out that to the main legal challenges for companies investing in Africa based on the experience of his firms in several desalination plants and other renewable energy facilities across the continent.

The stimulating role of the AfCFTA and the financing of African economies

The next day opened up, with a panel on the Africa free trade area and what it means for Africa and Spain. In order to deliver both the infrastructure and the raw materials needed to lay the foundations for growth, it is important to provide import guarantees. The certainty that is sometimes lacking on the part of investors that Santiago Muelas spoke of. «The key is the guarantee of being able to establish good trade connections», because as he explained, «there are companies that withdraw because they do not have the necessary certainty of these exchanges, and that is why these links must be provided with security». All of these are indispensable elements in a road map that will lead Africa to a strong commercial position and, above all, allow it to encourage free trade and the free transit of people throughout the African continent. All the speakers agreed that it is important to help growth through development and training, not to give finished products..

From his experience in all these projects, Fernando Bernad, partner at Cuatrecasas pointed out that «providing financing for long-term infrastructure is very complicated, and not only in Africa, but also in European jurisdictions. “It’s not a question of development, it’s just that it’s complicated in itself. «with the rest of the continent, the approach is different, with a different perception of risk. You have to know the regulations, know who has the power, how things work. Also, establishing a link with Africa must be a two-way street. Taking advantage of the talent of the African continent must be one of the objectives of this cooperation, as Pere Navarro pointed out. All of these are indispensable elements in a road map that will lead Africa to a strong commercial position and, above all, allow it to encourage free trade and the free transit of people throughout the African continent.

To build strong infrastructures, it is impossible to not talk about the financing system.

Albert Alsina, Felix Edoh Kossi Amenounve, José Carlos García de Quevedo and Aldo Olcese were the panelists. Moderated by Dhafer Saidane, Professor of Finance, an interesting debate was held to analyse the opportunities and drawbacks that investors find in Africa, Financing for the progress of the African continent is a key issue, but it is necessary for reforms to take place, for greater importance to be given

to the private sector, for the requirements of African countries to be made more flexible, for there to be stability in the capital markets and for there to be more transparency and good governance.

Tackling energy issues and accelerating digital transformation

The Africa Spain Cooperation Summit was also an opportunity to tackle one of the most important issues in energy terms. The search for green energy sources is a pillar of development which, as has been stressed throughout various presentations at the Africa Spain Cooperation Summit, must always bear in mind the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). «The renewable energy sector and the environmental footprint». A round table moderated by Jon Marks and made up of Rafael Morales-Rodríguez, from Abengoa, David Garay, Indegate; Tamsir Ndiaye, general manager of ANE in Senegal; and Abdou Diop from Mazars. All of them focused on the importance of renewable energies, but at the same time on the help that the use of fossil fuels can provide in the search for green energy sources to take over from fossil fuels.

«renewable energies are at the top of any country’s priorities». In addition, according to Garay, Africa has a good starting point for a new energy structure centered on green energy, whereas in Europe the change is more costly. Abdou Diop focused his speech on how countries use the energy available to them. «we are looking at how to improve our carbon footprint» he added. initiatives are emerging in Africa that invite optimism and show that, in addition to being a priority for the continent, efforts are being made effectively and will have an impact on society sooner rather than later.

As said during all the sessions, digital is everywhere, in the infrastructure, for agriculture, in Finance, in ports and of course for renewable energy. As said by Giovanni Alessandrello, how can you have renewable energy if you don’t have smart grids? Indeed, digital is now everywhere and is changing the way African citizens are interacting with authorities, merchants, entities in their daily life. However, and according to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in a report published in 2019, it is necessary for the continent to invest in IT infrastructure to deliver internet to all citizens. This

investment of nearly 109 billion dollars will be used to deploy 250.000 4G antennas and 250.000km of fiber. This investment will provide in 2030 connectivity to the 1.5 billion African population. Then, it will be important to bring connectivity to the “last mile” meaning the rural part of the continent or the areas with few habitants. Mr. Didier Nkurikiyilfura, from Smart Africa, highlighted that thanks to Smart Africa and the efforts done by the different countries, the sovereignty of African nations to oversee their own voice, data and financial transactions’ traffic and reclaim associated benefits is under construction and in the correct direction. He also mentioned that it is urgent to educate new generation to digital and to sensitize the older generation to the digital to create a digital African continent without exclusion. The Smart Africa Digital Academy (SADA) is an answer to this challenge. Finally, Abdelkerim Koundougoumi, from Internet without borders, said that access to internet must be a kind of “human right”. It will be mandatory for the African countries to deliver connectivity to the population. More than 60% of the African are under 24 years old and digital should appear as a solution to unemployment.

Ports development and management is Key

The Africa Spain Cooperation Summit also included a round table dedicated to one of the key infrastructures of many African countries: the ports. The round table was moderated by the Gabonese journalist Naike Mba Ndong, with the participation of Abdoulaye Mamadou Ba, President of the Nouadhibou Free Zone Authority (Mauritania); Joris Albert Thys, Director of the Autonomous Port of Cotonou (Benin); Bernard Serge César Bouya, Deputy Director of the Autonomous Port of Pointe Noire (Republic of Congo); Nicolás Andi3n, Head of the Business Development Department of the Port of Algeciras; and Jean René Mva, of the Autonomous Port of Douala (Cameroon). According to Andi3n, the Port of Algeciras is among the five largest ports in Europe: «we are a very diversified port, with containers, liquid cargo, passenger ships. With Morocco we have an important cooperation activity. The Strait of Gibraltar is a good example of the cooperation between Spain and Morocco, because, as “ an African port, because we are 14 km from Africa, closer than Madrid. We know the

African context thanks to our cooperation with them, which has been, is and will be fundamental”.

The head of the Nouadhibou Free Zone in Djibouti is working on developing the zone and made it on an international level. There is so much to do in each and every one country. For his part, Kristof Van Der Branden, From the Port of Cotonou pointed out the particular form of management his Port, which since 2018 has been managed from the port authority of Bruges and Antwerp, as the Government of Benin considers its port to be very important for the country’s economy and decided that it was necessary to undertake these changes not only from within.

This management has modernised and digitalised the port, to cope with its needs. Bernard Serge César Bouya, director of the Autonomous Port of Pointe Noire, underlined that this is the only deep-water seaport in the Republic of Congo, serving a fairly large area comprising not only the country itself, but also the Central African Republic and part of Angola, and is very important for the process of economic integration of the countries of Central Africa.

Empowering African women

Finally, just before the closing ceremony, Jean Noel Georges JNG Expert, introduce the last but not least panel , the driving force behind the continent’s progress which is the empowerment of female entrepreneurship. The first Africa-Spain Cooperation Summit, held recently in Madrid, concluded with a compelling session focused on the pivotal role of women entrepreneurs in driving the African economy.

The meeting was opened by María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, who praised the title chosen for the panel «because women’s entrepreneurship is empowering African societies, generating development, well-being and peace. The commitment and generosity of women knows no bounds», she stressed. Despite violence or discrimination, De la Vega affirmed that «women are the driving force of the continent, the agent of development and the leaders of progress and advancement in African development». women play not only in families but also in the economies of the different African countries, a task that is not without its problems, as it became clear that the gender gap is still very high and

that, although they are very enterprising, they encounter great difficulties. the support in all senses that they need, not only in Spain, but throughout Europe, and the union of all women, «not only African women, but all of Africa, the commitment of some governments that have even created ministries for women, the support in all senses that they need not only from Spain, but from all of Europe, and the union of all women, «not only African, but from all over the world», but also with men.

The closing ceremony ended up with the award of Africa Entrepreneurship from the foundation Mujer por Africa to AKSAL, to the

Founder and Chairwomen, Mrs Salwa Idrissi Akhannouch. AKSAL is a Moroccan company specializing in retail, cosmetics, luxury goods and malls.

It was also the occasion for Khaled Kaim, Political Advisor to the Presidential Council, Libya, to express his congratulations to the organizers and the opportunity to brief about Libya's economic situation.

by Mrs. Naike Mba Ndong
and Jean Noel Georges

Key recommendations and conclusions

Key recommendations and conclusions from the Africa Spain Cooperation Summit included:

- Strengthening cooperation and investment between Spain and Africa, considering Africa as the future of the world and exploring opportunities for collaboration.
- Enhancing financial flows to Africa, addressing challenges related to debt payments and the cost of capital for projects, and making the investment environment more attractive for investors.
- Focusing on food security and innovative agricultural schemes to utilize Africa's vast arable land and address the challenges posed by climate change.
- Developing infrastructure projects in Africa, particularly in the areas of logistics, airports, railways, and water treatment. It was highlighted that financing long-term infrastructure projects is complex, and collaboration with local partners is crucial.
- Exploring the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) for Spain, Europe, and Africa, ensuring the establishment of good trade connections, and providing import guarantees to encourage trade.
- Promoting renewable energy sources and taking advantage of Spain's know-how in these fields. The importance of investing in green energy infrastructure and aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was emphasized.
- Recognizing the transformative role of digitalization in Africa and the need to invest in IT infrastructure to ensure internet connectivity for all citizens. Digital literacy and inclusion were highlighted as important factors for Africa's economic growth and tackling unemployment.
- Acknowledging the significance of ports as vital infrastructures for African countries and promoting cooperation between Spanish and African ports. The importance of trade connections, stability, and security in port operations was emphasized.
- Empowering female entrepreneurship and recognizing the role of women as drivers of African economies. It was emphasized that women face challenges and gender gaps that need to be addressed through support and collaboration.

Overall, the Africa Spain Cooperation Summit provided a platform for dialogue, partnership building, and knowledge exchange between Africa and Spain, with a focus on addressing challenges and exploring opportunities for mutual cooperation and development.

SUMMARY



The Africa-Spain Cooperation Summit provided a platform for discussing the advancement and strengthening of Spanish-African cooperation and business ties. Spanning over three days, the event encompassed plenary sessions, panel debates, sector workshops, and focused interviews. The ASCS underscored the pressing need for Spanish economic entities to earnestly consider Africa in their development strategies. The summit effectively highlighted the potential of key sectors such as infrastructure, digital technology, port development and management, urban planning, agriculture, and food security, which present lucrative opportunities for Spanish companies. Spain's well-established expertise in these domains positions it well to collaborate and share knowledge with African economies that have exhibited robust economic indicators and impressive growth rates over the past two decades.





SPEAKERS



Dr Amani Abou-Zeid
Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission



Lionel Zinsou
Former Prime Minister of Benin



María Teresa Fernández de la Vega
President of the Women for Africa Foundation, Permanent Member of the Council of State, Spain



Miguel Ángel Moratinos
High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, United Nations



Josefa Sacko
Commissioner, African Union, Ethiopia



Bruno N. Koné
Minister of Construction and Urban Planning Côte d'Ivoire



Jean Kacou Diagou
President, Fondateur NSIA



Salwa Idrissi Akhannouch
Founder & Chairwoman Aksal Group



Felix Edoh Kossi Amenounve
CEO, BRVM Côte d'Ivoire



Saad Bendidi
Chairman and Senior Partner Mediterranean Capital Partners



Rosa Cañadas
President Fundacion Tanja



María Peña Mateos
CEO ICEX Spain Trade and Investment



Helena Defelipe
President, Afaemme, Spain



Urquiola De Palacio
President, International Association of Lawyers, Spain



Mimi Kalinda
CEO and Co-founder Africa Communications Media Group Marco South Africa



Dr. Aldo Olcese
President, FinCorp Spain



Alicia Varela
General Director for Trade and Investment at the Secretariat of State for Trade, Spain



David Garay
CEO Indegate



Alouch Obado Beatrice Grace
President, AFRICA 2.0 Spain



Pere Navarro
Special Delegate of the State in the Consortium of the Zona Franca of Barcelona



Abdou Diop
Associate, Mazars Maroc



Habib Mbengue
CEO SHM Côte d'Ivoire



Inmaculada Riera i Reñé
Director General Chamber of Commerce Spain



Nicolás M. Andión
Jefe del Departamento de Desarrollo de Negocio Algeciras Port Algeciras



Marta Blanco
President de CEOE Internacional



José Carlos García de Quevedo
President, Instituto de Crédito Oficial



Dhafer Saidane
Full Professor of Finance SKEMA Business School France



Khaled Kaim
Political Advisor to the Presidential Council, Libya



Albert Alsina
Founder and CEO Mediterranean Capital Partners, Spain



Ramon Riera Torroba
President Europ, International Real Estate Federation FIABCI



Mariétou Coulibaly
Managing Director, Regional Consular Chamber Of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (CCR- UEMOA)



Peter Somers
Former CEO Emirates Post / Group CEO, Bob Eco



Rita Da Costa
Senior Counsellor and Head of Unit OECD Development



Marc Lopez Plana
Director Agenda Pública Spain



Santiago Muelas
Regional Director WAF Romeu Group Spain



Naïke Mba Ndong
Chairwomen Africa Spain Cooperation Summit

MORE THAN 80 SPEAKERS EXPECTED !

- EU Africa
- Spain Africa
- Digital
- Energy
- Infrastructure
- Food Security
- Free Trade
- Finance
- Women

BRVM Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières (BR...
82 771 abonnés
5 j · 🌐

Le Directeur Général de la Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières (#BRVM), Dr Edoh Kossi AMENOUNVE participe à l'Africa Spain Cooperation Summit 2023, les 6, 7 et 8 juillet 2023 à Madrid en Espagne.

Au cours de ce forum, le Directeur Général de la #BRVM interviendra dans le panel sur : « Emergence de l'Afrique : mieux appréhender les enjeux du financement et de l'investissement » qui aura lieu, le vendredi 6 juillet 2023.

Pour rappel, ce sommet organisé par One Africa Forums, a pour but de construire un pont entre l'#Afrique et l'#Espagne. Il constitue le premier sommet de coopération Afrique-Espagne permettant la rencontre des chefs d'États et de gouvernements, des ministres et des organisations du continent africain et leurs homologues espagnols pour discuter de questions bilatérales d'intérêt commun, de la sécurité au Sahel et au développement des affaires.



Dawson Shinnors · 3e et +
International Relations Student
2 j · Modifié · 🌐

A day after graduation, I had the opportunity to attend the three-day Africa-Spain Cooperation Summit with Dr. Grace Obado, President of Africa 2.0 (and my thesis advisor)! 🌟💖 There, I got to connect with incredible leaders and professionals from diverse backgrounds, including former Prime Minister of Benin, Lionel Zinsou, Commissioner of Infrastructure, Energy, and ICT for the African Union, Amani Abou-Zeid أماني أبو زيد, and CEO of Africa Communications Media Group, Mimi Kalinda. The conference highlighted the immense potential for cooperation between Africa and Spain, through topics of food security, digital growth, and female entrepreneurship.

I'm immensely grateful for the knowledge and connections gained at the Africa-Spain Cooperation Summit and look forward to collaborating with like-minded professionals who share the vision of advancing sustainable partnerships between Africa and Spain in the future.
#AfricaSpainCooperation

[Voir la traduction](#)



ZF Consorci de la Zona Franca de Barcelona
3 327 abonnés
4 j · 🌐

Ayer comenzó el Africa-Spain Cooperation Summit, un evento donde los Estados africanos buscan ampliar sus alianzas. 🇵🇸

Hoy ha participado en una sesión nuestro DEE, **Pere Navarro Morera**, donde ha destacado el importante papel de las #zonasfrancas en la industrialización de África. 🇵🇸

[Voir la traduction](#)



royal rhob · 3e et +
Customer Service Representative at ROYAL DCMA ENT.
2 j · 🌐

Journey of Cooperation ...The CHIM INTER attended the Africa-Spain Cooperation Summit held in Madrid, Spain ,July 7-8,2023 represented by HH. CEO YAMOUSSA COULIBALY , SPMUDA International Vice-President for Investment, Trade and Infrastructure.

[Voir la traduction](#)



BIP Spain
25 703 abonnés
4 h · 🌐

Giovanni Alessandrello, Socio y Managing Director de BIP Iberia - BIP Spain / BIP Portugal - ha participado en el Africa Spain Cooperation Summit en la ponencia "Digital is Changing Habits and favoring growth"

Durante el evento Giovanni Alessandrello comentó la importancia de la digitalización en el desarrollo de los diferentes sectores industriales, el impacto de la transformación digital en la sociedad, y las oportunidades de cooperación con España

#AfricaSpainCooperationSummit
#Empowerment #SustainableDevelopment #BIP #heretodare

Voir la traduction

Auguste Cesar Deza · 3e et +
Founder / Investor/CEO / Autor
4 j · 🌐

AFRICA SPAIN COOPERATION SUMMIT 2023 1st day . It's was amazing moment with Miguel Ángel Moratinos , Amani Abou-Zeid أماني أبو زيد , Bruno Nabagne KONE , Lionel Zinsou , Rita Da Costa , Alicia Varela , Mansan Dominique Diagou Epouse Ehilé , Mimi Kalinda , Dhafer Saidane . They are the speakers who has sharing experiences and expertiz , successful our 1st day amazing , Thank you Hind Sidqui

Voir la traduction

BRVM Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières (BR...
82 771 abonnés
4 j · Modifié · 🌐

Africa Spain Cooperation Summit 2023, le Directeur Général de la Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières (#BRVM), Dr Edoh Kossi AMENOUNVE a participé au panel sur « Emergence de l'Afrique : mieux appréhender les enjeux du financement et de l'investissement », ce vendredi 7 juillet 2023 à #Madrid en #Espagne.

Au cours de ce panel le Directeur Général de la #BRVM a mis en avant les points suivants :

- L'importance d'orienter les choix d'investissement en Afrique en fonction des facteurs qui influencent la soutenabilité de la croissance économique du Continent sur le long terme ;
- La nécessité d'une complémentarité entre les différentes sources de financement des économies, en faisant un focus sur le rôle déterminant des marchés de capitaux africains qui ont enregistré une bonne évolution sur les deux dernières décennies. Ces marchés ont également engagé des réformes pour faire face aux défis qui limitent leur développement.

Concernant les réformes, le Dr AMENOUNVE s'est attardé sur :

- La mise en place du projet d'interconnexion des bourses africaines (African Exchanges Linkage Project - AELP) qui vise à pallier la trop grande fragmentation des bourses africaines ;
- Les conditions de succès à implémenter pour permettre aux marchés de capitaux africains de jouer pleinement leurs rôles de financement à long terme des économies du Continent, qui, en majorité, aspirent à l'émergence au cours de la prochaine décennie. One Africa Forums BRVM TV

Mediterrania Capital Partners
9 058 abonnés
22 h · Modifié · 🌐

Thanks to Hassan Alaoui and the entire One Africa Forums team for inviting us to be part of the AFRICA SPAIN Cooperation Summit in Madrid (6-8 July) and share our insights and knowledge about the continent.

As a private equity firm specialising in African investments, we are convinced that building strong partnerships with governments, financial players and the private sector overall is key to continue to support Africa's economic and social development. Through strong collaborations, we are promoting responsible and sustainable practices and encouraging the implementation of women empowerment actions and climate mitigation policies, ensuring a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

Looking forward to our next encounter!

L-R: Albert Alsina (Mediterrania Capital Partners), Saïd Bendidi (Mediterrania Capital Partners) and Najwa El Iraki (AfricaDev Consulting)

#privateequity #responsibleinvesting #valuecreation #womenempowerment #africa

Voir la traduction



Peter Somers · 1er
Group Chief Executive Officer Bob Eco
1 j · Modifié · 🌐

Africa has successfully embraced the sustainable development model in recent years. Countries are rapidly switching to renewable energy to decarbonise their economies thanks to an improved legal framework.

It was therefore a very inspiring Africa-Spain Cooperation Summit organised by One Africa Forums in Madrid. Spain turned its attention to Africa to address the opportunities facing the continent. From economic development, employment and decarbonisation, poverty reduction to women's empowerment, migration management, peace and economic development, support for good governance and, of course, the renewable energy sector and carbon reduction.

Joined by inspiring panellists, Rafael Morales-Rodríguez of Abengoa, David Garay of Indegate Consulting, Tamsir Ndiaye of ANER, Abdou Diop of Mazars and moderator Jon Marks of Cross-border Information, we discussed possible obstacles and opportunities for continuous improvement to which we can all, including the Bob Eco | Bobcoin concept contribute to.

The summit brought together more than 400 government officials, experts, decision-makers and key stakeholders and provided a unique opportunity for high-level discussions, strategic partnerships and shaping the continent's future.

#africa #renewableenergy #electricbikes #carbonreduction #sdgs

Voir la traduction



Jonathan Offel-Ansah · 3e et +
Founder and Publisher, Africa Briefing Magazine
1 j · 🌐

Africa-Spain Summit highlights vital role of women entrepreneurs in African economy

Voir la traduction

Africa-Spain Summit highlights vital role of women entrepreneurs in African economy

africabriefing.com · Lecture de 3 min

Victor Castell Mora · 3e et +
Head of Spain & Corporate Director en MARCO
5 j · Modifié · 🌐

MARCO participation in AFRICA SPAIN COOPERATION SUMMIT with Mimi Kalinda as speaker.

MARCO and Africa Communications Media Group-MARCO are the first Communications agencies specialized in storytelling reputation management. According to Mimi's speech:

"We continually use the word "potential" when we talk about Africa and we need to start talking about our continent as a reality, with a present and palpable narrative.

African youth are an important asset to the continent, they are taking action for themselves, contributing to change that perception.

Why are we not investing in Country Branding and communication to convey this reality?
Let's start investing in Country Branding and stories to tell"

Voir la traduction

Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières · 2e
Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières
4 j · Modifié · 🌐

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Au cours de ce panel le Directeur Général de la #BRVM a mis en avant les points suivants :

- L'importance d'orienter les choix d'investissement en Afrique en fonction des facteurs qui influencent la soutenabilité de la croissance économique du Continent sur le long terme ;
- La nécessité d'une complémentarité entre les différentes sources de financement des économies, en faisant un focus sur le rôle déterminant des marchés de capitaux africains qui ont enregistré une bonne évolution sur les deux dernières décennies. Ces marchés ont également engagé des réformes pour faire face aux défis qui limitent leur développement.

Concernant les réformes, le Dr AMENOUNVE s'est attardé sur :

- La mise en place du projet d'interconnexion des bourses africaines (African Exchanges Linkage Project – AELP) qui vise à pallier la trop grande fragmentation des bourses africaines ;
- Les conditions de succès à implémenter pour permettre aux marchés de capitaux africains de jouer pleinement leurs rôles de financement à long terme des économies du Continent, qui, en majorité, aspirent à l'émergence au cours de la prochaine décennie. One Africa Forums BRVM TV



UIA Union Internationale des Avocats
10 k abonnés
- 1 | 🌐

Urquiola De Palacio, President of the UIA Union Internationale des Avocats I, addresses the AFRICA SPAIN COOPERATION SUMMIT to present the UIA, which has a strong presence in Europe and Africa. She emphasized the crucial role played by the legal profession in ensuring the legal security of transnational corporate operations, as well as in dispute resolution. One Africa Forums
#legal #europe #africa #legalprofession #uia4lawyers #uia4RuleofLaw



43 1 republication

womeninbusiness.ma
6 372 abonnés
17 h · 🌐

Salwa Idrissi Akhannouch, la pionnière marocaine et africaine du Retail et des Malls, vient de se voir décerner, lors du Africa Spain Cooperation Summit tenu à Madrid, le prix de l'Entrepreneuriat féminin en Afrique par María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, présidente de la fondation « Women for Africa »



Romeu
10 k abonnés
- 3 | 🌐

🇪🇺🇲🇦 ¡ROMEU a través de RSD participa en el AFRICA-SPAIN COOPERATION SUMMIT como patrocinador y ponente!

👉 Santiago Muelas Montero, representante de ROMEU, ha compartido su experiencia y conocimientos en este destacado evento que, organizado por One Africa Forums, busca impulsar la colaboración entre África y España. El encuentro se ha celebrado en Madrid del 6 al 8 de julio.

Los objetivos estratégicos del foro incluyen la paz y seguridad, el desarrollo sostenible, el crecimiento económico inclusivo, la cooperación institucional y la movilidad y migración.

Seguiremos trabajando para promover la cooperación y el crecimiento mutuo.
👏

Eric Malet
Gonzalo Lizana Manrique
Carlos Suria Palop
Martí Roig Guardiola
Hawa Paraiso
Amani Patrick Herve KONAN
Paco Sanz
José Romeu
Gema Argente Frias
JOSE MARIA MARTINEZ OCAÑA
Pelayo Gil

#AfricaSpainCooperationSummit #Colaboración #DesarrolloSostenible #Alianzas #Compromiso #ROMEU #paz #seguridad #crecimientoeconomicoinclusivo #cooperacióninstitucional #Migración #AFCFTA #OneAfricaForums



Dawson Shinnors · 3e et +
International Relations Student
- 4 | 🌐

A day after graduation, I had the opportunity to attend the three-day Africa-Spain Cooperation Summit with Dr. Grace Obado, President of Africa 2.0 (and my thesis advisor)! 🇪🇺🇲🇦 There, I got to connect with incredible leaders and professionals from diverse backgrounds, including former Prime Minister of Benin, Lionel Zinsou, Commissioner of Infrastructure, Energy, and ICT for the African Union, Amani Abou-Zeid أماني أبو زيد, and CEO of Africa Communications Media Group, Mimi Kalinda. The conference highlighted the immense potential for cooperation between Africa and Spain, through topics of food security, digital growth, and female entrepreneurship.

I'm immensely grateful for the knowledge and connections gained at the Africa-Spain Cooperation Summit and look forward to collaborating with like-minded professionals who share the vision of advancing sustainable partnerships between Africa and Spain in the future.
#AfricaSpainCooperation



24 2 commentaires

Port Autonome de Cotonou (PAC)
 23 702 abonnés
 5 j · Modifié ·

Le #Port Autonome de #Cotonou participe du 06 au 08 juillet 2023 au **AFRICA SPAIN COOPERATION SUMMIT** (Sommet de la Coopération Afrique-Espagne) qui se tient à #Madrid (#Espagne).

Cet évènement vise à stimuler la collaboration entre l'#Afrique et l'Espagne et s'inscrit dans le cadre de la stratégie Focus Africa 2023.

Les conférences et panels aborderont les questions d'intérêt mutuel, telles que la coopération entre l'Espagne et l'Afrique, les projets d'infrastructure, la sécurité alimentaire et ses défis, la manière dont l'Afrique peut contribuer à la souveraineté énergétique de l'Espagne, le programme European Global Gateway et sa relation avec le continent africain, la zone de libre-échange africaine, les énergies renouvelables, l'inclusion financière et la numérisation, ainsi que le rôle des femmes entrepreneurs.

Le PAC interviendra sur le panel : « Les ports, un enjeu de souveraineté pour le continent »

#LePortdeCotonouenMarche #AfricaSpainSummit #FutureIsCooperation #AfricaSpainCooperationSummit #Empowerment #SustainableDevelopment #MadridSummit #Transport #Logistique #Commerce #Trade

Port of Antwerp-Bruges International One Africa Forums ASCAME GROUPE NSIA INVEST IN GABON CEPICI Officiel CGEM Club de Exportadores e Inversores Españoles Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación SGTM-Maroc DATAPROTECT Morocco Now ADS Group - Africa Development Solutions Agence Nationale Pour Les Energies Renouvelables (ANER) Jeune Afrique ATALAYAR entre deux rives The Africa Report Africa 2.0 OECD-OCDE African Union Maryama Kadaoui Kristof Van den Branden



VIP Lounge



Mark-Anthony Johnson · 2e
 CEO at JIC Holdings
 · 5 j ·


Africa-Spain Cooperation Summit 2023, the impulse of "Afroptimism" It is generally agreed that #AFRICA is the world's last frontier for #growth and the continent of the #future. Africa is now open to expand its horizons beyond its traditional partners thanks to a #wealth of opportunities, including young, creative and energetic #populations, unprecedented growth potential and an exponentially growing middle class.

#Spain has adopted an ambitious strategic framework for its #foreignpolicy 'in and with Africa' at a time when other powers have taken a step backwards by partially withdrawing from the #continent. The first version of Spain's foreign policy, #AfricaForum2023, is organised around five strategic objectives: institutional #cooperation, #security, #sustainable development and growth for the benefit of all people.

To address the challenges facing the continent, such as economic #development, #decarbonisation, the fight against #poverty, women's empowerment, migration management, #peace and economic development, as well as the promotion of good governance, Spain has focused its attention on the African continent. As a result, Spain has been presented with a great opportunity to contribute significantly to African industries that are in high demand for infrastructure, social services, #information and #technology.
<https://lnkd.in/e4pZQGr2>

#AfricaSpainRelations

#TransformingAfrica #TheAfricaWeWant #BrandAfrica #AU #GDP #AfricaMeansBusiness #ThisIsAfrica #Diaspora #IT #OneAfrica #AUC #TransAfricanHighway #SMEs #AfCFTA #CreatingOneAfricanMarket #TheAfCFTAEffect #Trade #AI #AfricaRising #FDI #IntraAfricanTrade #Road #Tech #IFC #SMMEs #Future #Agenda2063 #Partnerships #AfCFTATV #WB #BuildBackBetter #InvestInAfrica #AfricanUnity #IMF #WTO #AfDB #TradeNotAid #MakeItInAfrica #Tariffs #IA #Growth #AfCFTATrading #TravelToAfrica #CFTA #SAATM #TradeInAfrica #TradeUnderAfCFTA #JoinAfCFTA #Roads #AfricaOnTheMove #Infrastructure #Tourism #VisitAfrica #RoadMap #MadeInAfrica #AfCFTAsecretariat #Investment #Invest #AfricanSolutionsToAfricanProblems #BetterAfricaBetterWorld #StrongerTogether #Africa #Afreximbank #TradeFair #Investors #PAPSS #ZLECAF #UnitedUnderAfCFTA #AfCFTA2023 #2023YearOfAfCFTA





Africa-Spain Cooperation Summit 2023, el impulso del “Afroptimismo”

Los Estados africanos buscan ampliar sus alianzas y relaciones porque “la cooperación no es solo una oportunidad, es nuestro futuro”

Es de consenso general que África es la última frontera del mundo para el crecimiento y el continente del futuro. África ahora está abierta a expandir sus horizontes más allá de sus socios tradicionales gracias a una gran cantidad de oportunidades, que incluyen poblaciones jóvenes, creativas y enérgicas, un potencial de crecimiento inaudito y una clase media que crece exponencialmente.

España ha aprobado un ambicioso marco estratégico para su política exterior “en y con África” en un momento en que otras potencias han dado un paso atrás retirándose parcialmente del continente. La primera versión de la política exterior de España, África Fórum 2023, se organiza en torno a cinco objetivos estratégicos: cooperación institucional, seguridad, desarrollo sostenible y crecimiento en beneficio de todas las personas.



Para abordar los problemas que afronta el continente, como el desarrollo económico, la descarbonización, la lucha contra la pobreza, el empoderamiento de la mujer, la gestión de la migración, la paz y el desarrollo económico, así como la promoción de la buena gobernanza, España ha centrado su atención en el continente africano. **Como resultado, a España se le ha presentado una gran oportunidad de contribuir de forma significativa a las industrias africanas quienes están muy solicitadas de infraestructura, servicios sociales, información y tecnología.**



Comprender las fuerzas que determinan las perspectivas positivas de África

Mansan D. Diagou Epse Ehlie, director general de Group Deputy NSIA Participations de Costa de Marfil, comenzó planteando: ¿Se hace lo suficiente para que África pueda incorporarse a la cooperación e inversión en Europa? África tiene lo necesario para ser el futuro del mundo. El continente africano tiene un crecimiento sostenible con países cuyo porcentaje de crecimiento es superior al de la media mundial gracias a que está nutrida de la inversión extranjera y la diversificación de la economía. La economía de África crecerá con 4% frente a 3,2% en el resto de mundo en lo que se refiere al PIB. El oro, la bauxita y el cobalto son los principales atractivos de los países europeos que sirven para la creación de tecnología del futuro.

Más de 400 millones de jóvenes, la organización rápida con una gran migración urbanística, en África esto genera mercados variados y estimula el crecimiento. Los más de 1.400 millones de africanos quieren acceder a la tecnología europea. Desde los años 60 se han hecho esfuerzos para favorecer la situación económica y social del continente. Se ansía por la creación de la moneda única africana.



Alicia Varela, directora de Negocios e Inversiones de la secretaría nacional de comercio en España instó a que las relaciones con África ayudan a ver el perfil de África en las inversiones. España es un socio estratégico por la situación geográfica. Es un paso prometedora que traerá mucha inversión para la integración que está respaldada por la UE para armonizar las tarifas y la reglamentación con respecto a certificados para que las empresas vean e interés de invertir en África porque pueden llegar a cualquier país.

Es un proyecto ambicioso. África puede conseguirlo y pasará a ser un pilar fundamental de las inversiones. En España se cree en la cooperación mediante negocios y alianzas económicas y empresariales. Las exportaciones con España se han triplicado en 20 años y representan el 35% de las mismas. Las importaciones están en torno a 42.000 millones de euros lo que supone un 14% más que el curso anterior. En lo referido a las inversiones ascienden a casi 6.000 lo que es un 1,2% de inversiones en el extranjero.



“Creemos que hay más potencial”, añadió. Para fomentarlo se lanzó en 2020 un plan estratégico llamado “Horizonte África” que se está actualizando. Principalmente consiste en un esfuerzo institucional que está aumentando las oficinas de las embajadas españolas en África, como en Etiopía y Camerún. Están centradas en contacto con las delegaciones de ambos países. La organización de foros empresariales es otro de los proyectos que se hacen para fortalecer los lazos.

En lo económico, COFIDE trabaja con lo público-privado de diferentes mercados. Con esto se otorga subsidio para ayudar a los países africanos a detectar proyectos interesantes. Los créditos blandos para desarrollar proyectos de interés mutuo. Las líneas del sector privado africano, animamos a que se mantenga porque de esta manera se reduce la carga de deuda de los países. En África el sector público-privado es dinámico por lo que se presenta “interesante”. El 34% de los fondos asignados fueron para África. La inversión en logística y tecnología aeroportuaria, ferroviaria, turismo y tratamiento del agua son las principales ayudas que España presta a África.



Saad Bendidi, presidente y socio principal de Mediterranea Capital Partners priorizó su intervención en que la inversión española está ahí y está ayudando al acercamiento de Europa y África. Ahora mismo la situación es más flexible en la inversión. “Hemos pasado de un exceso de optimismo a un exceso de pesimismo”. El tema más importante son las tendencias a largo plazo. El ministro de Costa de Marfil dijo que íbamos a tener 800 millones de población activa lo cual significa un gran reto para el continente.

El consumo de mercado es estrecho donde la integración regional y las aduanas hace que los mercados adecuados sean más importantes. Hay numerosos sectores que se benefician de ello. Las necesidades de la educación son muy difíciles que sea respondida en todos los segmentos y capas de la enseñanza. Además del esfuerzo público es necesario la formación de la infancia hasta las universidades. Esto ofrece retorno de la inversión interesante y gran rendimiento.



La salud desarrollo de una población que se envejece más por lo que necesita más apoyo sanitario. Es cierto que hay una salud pública necesitada de un sector privado. De forma modesta han hecho ganar dinero a los inversores.

En el sector financiero hay dos niveles: el primero es la bancarización, no se hace a través del modelo clásico porque la demanda de los créditos pide normas que pocas empresas pueden responder de manera permanente, por lo que hay una demanda subyacente informal que no responde a los mismos criterios. Nosotros hemos hecho inversión en el sector intermediario y hay demanda importante. Somos optimistas cuando vemos las oportunidades de inversión.

A veces es difícil por varias razones: ignorar la realidad africana, África compite con el sudeste asiático que es más modesto, pero, una vez más, son operaciones de medio largo plazo con gran beneficio y una dinámica a largo plazo para ir aprovechando las oportunidades, integración y estructuración de infraestructuras.



Mimi Kalinda, CEO y cofundadora de Africa Communications Media Group Marco en Sudáfrica, explicó las tareas de su empresa en el mundo de la comunicación. “Nuestra empresa es la primera empresa de comunicaciones africano española que gestiona la reputación en el continente. En 2021 MARCO compró acciones. Somos un ejemplo clave de lo que es la cooperación y asociación, de lo que debería ser”.

“Las narrativas llevan a percepciones y estas a comportamientos”, Mimi Kalinda.

África es grande y rico. “África tiene potencial, eso una realidad”, añadió. Hay que alejarse de términos del pasado. El idioma es importante. La juventud africana puede ser un activo o un pasivo. La mayoría quieren ser un activo y son dinámicos a lo largo de todo el continente. África ha pasado de ser el continente del pesimismo y sin esperanza en el año 2000 a tener una narrativa autosuficiente donde son los jóvenes son quienes cogen las riendas.

Es importante saber cómo tratamos las narrativas. ¿Por qué no se invierte en nuestros países y en lo que tenemos que ofrecer? En África hay lagunas comunicacionales que no están consiguiendo aumentar el branding que tiene impacto en el PIB, y la percepción global de África. Estamos reimaginando el continente para incorporarnos en el espacio geopolítico internacional.

“La responsabilidad de mejorar la narrativa e imagen del continente está en manos de cada uno. Las facilidades de la actualidad para informar y dar a conocer el continente tienen que ser una parte del motor que levante el continente. El afrooptimismo es el motor. El tren está ahí, la locomotora irá avanzando se suban o no, pero, bajo mi punto de vista, el futuro es nuestro”.



Dhafer Saidane, profesor de Economía en SKEMA Business School en Francia. “Los estereotipos no reflejan la realidad del continente, hay que ser afrorreasistas”. Según Saidane, la situación se puede resumir en “un salto de rana”. Nuestros hijos controlan todo. Hay una verdadera distancia entre los jóvenes, lo que es uno de nuestros principales objetivos. Hay una alta demanda en el aprendizaje de la economía. África encierra más de la mitad de las materias primas del mundo.

“Cuando se habla de finanzas es importante ver la historia de estas. Estamos viviendo una tercera fase de la banca en África”, Dhafer Saidane.

El continente confluye hacia estándares internacionales. Esta confluencia demuestra que somos buenos alumnos de las desgracias que ha sufrido el continente. Las particularidades del continente deben ser sabidas. Hay dos entornos jurídicos diferentes. Por un lado, el anglosajón, en el que si el Parlamento no autoriza no se puede hacer nada. Mientras que, en el segundo, el francófono, hay más flexibilidad institucional. Hay que transmitir a los jóvenes las nuevas características de las transición digital y sostenible.



Un sommet Afrique-Espagne du 6 au 8 juillet à Madrid

Un sommet de coopération Afrique-Espagne se tiendra à Madrid du 6 au 8 juillet 2023. Organisé par One Africa Forums, l’Africa Spain Cooperation Summit a pour objectif d’établir un pont de dialogue entre le pays ibérique et le continent africain. «Ce forum de haut niveau est l’opportunité pour l’Espagne de se rapprocher des réalités sociales et économiques du continent et d’envisager des pistes de coopération entre acteurs publics et privés», indiquent les organisateurs. Plus de 70 conférenciers y prendront part pour partager leurs expériences et leur expertise sur divers sujets d’intérêt commun avec plus de 500 représentants de gouvernements, d’organisations et d’entreprises en provenance de 30 pays africains.



Africa free trade area: el proyecto más grande de integración en África

La ponencia celebrada en el marco del Africa Spain Cooperation Summit aborda la importancia de un acuerdo de comercio único en todo el continente

África avanza a pasos agigantados en el fortalecimiento de un acuerdo que unifique el comercio en todo el continente. Tomando para ciertos aspectos al ejemplo de la Unión Europea, Africa free trade area pretende asentar las bases de una red de comercio que incentive el intercambio en todo el continente. Sin embargo, aún queda mucho camino por recorrer, pero lo que se tiene claro es que la cooperación con países extranjeros es vital para conseguir las metas. Es ahí donde la figura de España se presenta determinante para poder impulsar el crecimiento que está experimentando África y favorecer la evolución del acuerdo.



Es un paso en lo que todos los ponentes que formaban la mesa denominada "¿Qué significa el área africana de libre comercio para España y Europa?" estaban de acuerdo. Una ponencia

compuesta por Mariétou Coulibaly, de la Regional Consular Chamber of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (CCR-UEMOA), Jerónimo Falcón López, senior manager de Proexca, Pere Navarro de la compañía Zona Franca de Barcelona, Santiago Muelas, director regional del grupo Romeu España, y Abdou Diop, de la empresa Mazars. Era precisamente este último el que comenzaba asegurando que este proyecto es el "más grande de integración en África".

Diop destacaba las aduanas como una de las principales barreras que frenan el comercio entre los países africanos. Y lo lamenta porque considera su continente como uno que "tiene mucho con lo que comerciar". "Muchas naciones africanas no cuentan con acuerdos de comercio, necesitan aumentar ese volumen", aseguraba Abdou Diop, aunque ligando en todo momento el comercio al libre tránsito de personas. Cree que "ambos acuerdos deben convivir. No puede haber libertad comercial sin libertad de movimiento de las personas". No obstante, actualmente tan sólo una decena de países han firmado este acuerdo, lo que espera sufra un cambio porque, como explicaba en su intervención "todas las naciones africanas están comprometidas, y eso es lo más importante".



Ese compromiso es al que se deben sumar países como España, o al menos así es como lo ve Mariétou Coulibaly: “Nos tenemos que sentar a hablar. Sé que España tiene experiencia en varios campos en los que nosotros necesitamos avances”. Uno de esos sectores a los que hacía referencia es el de la industrialización, con el que considera existe un problema en África. Por eso, hacía un llamamiento a España, país que considera también puede ser de gran ayuda por su conocimiento y experiencia en términos de sanidad y materiales de construcción.



Establecer un vínculo con África debe ser un camino bidireccional. Aprovechar el talento del continente africano ha de ser uno de los objetivos de esta cooperación, como apuntaba Pere Navarro. Y hay que hacerlo ya, porque no es sólo una visión a futuro, es una cuestión de presente: “Está creciendo el talento en África, es una realidad, no es algo de cara al futuro”. Un hecho que el propio Navarro ligaba con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), de los que dice “nos marcan el camino para aprovechar nuevas tecnologías, proteger los derechos de las mujeres, y establecer alianzas, entre otras muchas cosas. En España queremos fortalecer esas alianzas”

Todos los ponentes estaban de acuerdo en que es importante ayudar a crecer a través del desarrollo y la formación, no dar productos terminados. Jerónimo Falcón López afirmaba que “China quiere capitalizar el acuerdo de libre comercio de África, y hay que evitarlo”. Se debe incentivar la producción en el propio continente, no que otros traigan productos terminados a África. Es el único camino posible para conseguir el crecimiento, apoyar la formación y la cualificación de las personas que puedan poner en marcha iniciativas propias, no importar material y producto de fuera.



Pero para hacer llegar tanto la infraestructura como las materias primas necesarias para establecer las bases de crecimiento, es importante dotar de garantías a las importaciones. La certidumbre que a veces se echa de menos por parte de los inversores de la que hablaba Santiago Muelas. “La clave es la garantía de conseguir establecer buenas conexiones de comercio”, porque, asegura, “hay empresas que se retiran al no tener la certidumbre necesaria de estos intercambios, por eso se debe dotar de seguridad a estos vínculos”. Son todos estos elementos los indispensables en una hoja de ruta que lleve a África a una posición fuerte a nivel comercial y, sobre todo, permita incentivar el libre comercio y tránsito de personas a lo largo y ancho de todo el continente africano.

AFRICA BRIEFING

PRESS



Africa-Spain Summit highlights vital role of women entrepreneurs in African economy

THE first Africa-Spain Cooperation Summit, held recently in Madrid, concluded with a compelling session focused on the pivotal role of women entrepreneurs in driving the African economy. The event shed light on the significant challenges and discrimination faced by these women. Distinguished panellists, including influential figures such as María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, President of the Women for Africa Foundation, and Grace Obado, President of Africa 2.0 (Spain), highlighted the need for empowering women and addressing the obstacles they encounter.

In her opening remarks, María Teresa Fernández de la Vega commended the panel's chosen theme, stating, 'Women's entrepreneurship empowers African societies, fostering development, well-being, and peace. The commitment and generosity of women know no bounds.' She also emphasised the ongoing struggles faced by women on the continent, particularly their reliance on unregulated employment, lack of access to education, religious radicalism, early pregnancies, and forced marriages. Despite these challenges, De la Vega affirmed that 'women are the driving force of the continent, the agents of development, and the leaders of progress and advancement in African development.'

De la Vega stressed that achieving a more egalitarian society requires granting women access to education and allowing them to bring their business ideas to life. She advocated for providing support in the form of credit, training, and resources. Highlighting Africa's status as the continent with the highest rate of women entrepreneurs globally (24 percent), De la Vega stressed the importance of government support for women entrepreneurs, warning that failing to do so would result in a loss of talent.

The panellists shared their personal experiences and discussed their efforts within their respective organisations to facilitate women's empowerment. Marta Maiques, Communications

Director of AFFAEME, a large women's entrepreneurship group in Barcelona, underscored her association's commitment to women and its collaboration with governments to secure funding for women's initiatives. Another objective of AFFAEME is to enhance the visibility of women.

The panellists also examined the multifaceted role of women in African families and economies, acknowledging the persistently high gender gap and the challenges women face despite their entrepreneurial spirit. Grace Obado, President of Africa 2.0 (Spain), stressed the need for legislative measures to drive change, remarking, 'We have to legislate to achieve changes.'

Massita González-Regueral Kambou and Mariétou Coulibaly echoed similar sentiments. They discussed the hurdles faced by women entrepreneurs, the transformative role of women in Africa's agricultural sector, and the inclusion of women in scientific fields. They called for support not only from Spain but from all of Europe, emphasising the unity required among women worldwide. They also praised the European Commission's efforts in advancing women's rights and stressed the importance of integrating these rights across all sectors.

Participants highlighted that Africa's progress and development hinge on the contributions of women. They expressed their determination to continue fighting for equality and underlined the need for unity among women to achieve their goals.

Concluding the first Africa-Spain Summit, Hassan M. Alaoui, President of One Africa, the organising entity, addressed various topics of interest, including renewable energies, digitalisation, agri-food security, investments, financing, and cooperation. Alaoui underscored the vast opportunities Africa offers, urging Spain to turn its attention toward this continent brimming with possibilities.



Un Sommet à Madrid pour accompagner la vision Focus Africa de l'Espagne

Le premier sommet de coopération Afrique-Espagne se tiendra à Madrid les 6, 7 et 8 juillet 2023. Organisé par One Africa Forums, le Africa Spain Cooperation Summit vise à établir un pont de dialogue entre l'Espagne et l'Afrique. Ce forum de haut niveau est l'opportunité pour l'Espagne de se rapprocher des réalités sociales et économiques du continent et d'envisager des pistes de coopération entre acteurs publics et privés.

Plus de 70 conférenciers viendront partager leurs expériences et leur expertise sur divers sujets d'intérêt commun avec plus de 500 représentants de gouvernements, d'organisations et d'entreprises en provenance de 30 pays africains.

« L'Afrique est le continent de l'avenir ! Cependant, pour garantir son intégration dans l'économie mondiale, elle doit ouvrir des ponts de dialogue avec le reste du monde et présenter les vastes chantiers de réformes en cours ». C'est ainsi que Monsieur Hassan M. Alaoui, Président de One Africa Forums, explique les ambitions de ce forum dont l'objectif principal est de promouvoir une

nouvelle ère de relations entre l'Afrique et le reste du Monde.

Alors que d'autres puissances mondiales se retirent progressivement de l'Afrique, l'Espagne a adopté un cadre stratégique ambitieux pour sa politique étrangère avec l'Afrique. Le plan d'actions étranger Focus Africa 2023 comprend cinq objectifs stratégiques, tels que la paix et la sécurité, le développement durable, l'investissement privé et le commerce, les services sociaux et l'égalité des genres.

« Après des décennies de relations solides avec l'Amérique Latine et l'Europe, l'Espagne a choisi de se tourner vers l'Afrique en raison de son potentiel de développement dans plusieurs secteurs clés de son économie. Ce forum permettra

à l'Espagne d'apporter une grande valeur ajoutée à des secteurs prisés en Afrique, tels que l'énergie, les infrastructures, les services sociaux, les technologies de l'information et les services financiers, la recherche et développement, etc...», a affirmé le Président de One Africa Forums.

Clase media en África

Cuántas veces nos hemos encontrado con que aquello que pensábamos o que creíamos que era de una determinada manera no se correspondía después con la realidad. O al menos, la precepción se acercaba más a ciertos clichés y estereotipos que habíamos adoptado casi de manera mecánica al ver una película bastante antigua o las informaciones más o menos habituales en los medios de comunicación, mayormente la televisión.

Es el caso de la realidad actual en cada uno de los 54 países de África. El continente negro que poco a poco ha ido convirtiendo el capítulo de emergente en un desenlace de crecimiento y desarrollo apoyado en la creación y consolidación de su clase media. La celebración en Madrid, por primera vez, del África Spain Cooperation Summit con la participación de más de 250 representantes de distintos sectores de 15 países africanos ha permitido demostrar la necesidad de lograr una mayor, pero sobre todo mejor información sobre lo que está ocurriendo en los diversos países africanos. Organizado por la empresa marroquí One África Forum, el estrado del hotel Eurostars Tower acogió a profesionales y dirigentes de países como Marruecos, Costa de Marfil, Senegal, Gambia, Benín, Mauritania, entre otros, junto con los españoles que coincidían en unos planteamientos profesionales, alejados de cualquier atisbo caritativo, con planteamientos win-win, ganar las dos partes, respaldados por argumentos convincentes que situaban a los países

africanos como una solución para Europa.

Además de las materias primas, las tierras fértiles y otras muchas opciones, los africanos ofrecen una juventud con formación continua, con espíritu de superación y con enormes ganas de contribuir al desarrollo y progreso de su país como paso imprescindible para el bienestar de su familia gracias a su trabajo en lo que ya se ha convertido en un elemento clave para muchos países como es la clase media. Frente al

envejecimiento de la sociedad europea, los africanos se están presentando como una opción válida y estable que evite y supere los riesgos tradicionales de mala gobernanza, corrupción, conflictos y escasa o nula educación y formación. Cuando se pregunta a responsables bursátiles de la región, o a consultores internacionales, o a ministros y ex primeros ministros sobre los sectores más favorables para la inversión y llevar a cabo proyectos y negocios, la respuesta mayoritaria es: todos, queda casi todo por hacer. Pero sin duda las infraestructuras, vivienda y urbanismo, el agua, las energías renovables, la digitalización, la banca, el turismo que se unen los sectores tradicionales de la agricultura y la minería, principalmente. La conclusión más relevante de un encuentro que ha revelado cómo el conocimiento mutuo es un factor trascendente para mejorar la colaboración, es que África es un continente de oportunidades para España.

INTERVIEWS



<https://youtu.be/bA60D2tL9Eo>



<https://youtu.be/D4LZovV3BL4>



<https://youtu.be/IZ6AMQMxA2A>



https://youtu.be/2_PTMIhTi40

INTERVIEWS



https://youtu.be/_qhwFN0SQAw



<https://youtu.be/OTLhaZDViiY>



<https://youtu.be/ztfLQegS4Gg>

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