

THEAFRICA

eJOURNAL

CORPORATE
COUNCIL ON
AFRICA



NEWSLETTER

JAN/FEB 2023 EDITION



Excellence in Building
U.S.-Africa Business



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WELCOME NEW CCA MEMBERS

- A.G Commodities Nigeria LTD
- Kenya Women & Children's Wellness Centre
- Kombo Enterprises International
- Gerald Group
- Africa Center For Advance Technology
- Mozambique Southern Africa Power Project

WANT TO BE A MEMBER?

Contact Melton Rembert, Director of Member Relations
mrembert@corporatecouncilonafrika.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) team started off 2023 at a challenging and productive pace after a holiday break to recuperate and reconnect with family and friends following what was a “sprint marathon” in the months leading up to the successful U.S. - Africa Leaders Summit and Business Forum in December 2022. CCA was proud to be a co-host of the Business Forum and to organize a number of impactful high-level events on the sidelines of the Summit and Forum, including hosting six African Heads of State.

2023 is a marker year for CCA – celebrating our 30th anniversary as the leading business association focused solely on U.S.-Africa trade, investment, and commercial engagement. This year CCA's calendar is filled with a myriad of initiatives and events that will build on CCA's brand in providing the “access, connections, and insight” to our members to successfully do business in Africa.

Why? Because CCA has been a strong and long-standing advocate for the power of private sector-led economic growth that capitalizes on the historical ties between the United States and Africa, and we believe in the transformative future that this growth can catalyze to the benefit of the people of America and of Africa. I and the entire CCA team are committed to working with the U.S. government, African leaders, and U.S. and African private sector executives to build on the success and momentum of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit and Business Forum and the renewed U.S. commitment to the U.S.-Africa economic relationship.

CCA's flagship conference – the U.S.-Africa Business Summit – will be an important opportunity to once again bring together public and private sector leaders from the United States and across the African continent. The 2023 Summit, co-hosted with the Government of Botswana, will take place in Gaborone July 11-14, and the agenda will cover a range of sector and country-focused plenary sessions and roundtables. This is an important time when Africans are taking steps to eliminate barriers to intra-African trade and build the largest global free trade market under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). The focus on African continental economic integration and harmonization of trade and investment rules comes at a moment when many global brands are looking to diversify their value chains and shift production of key products (like batteries



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for electric vehicles or vaccines and medical supplies) out of some Asian nations (such as China) to Africa where there's an abundance of critical raw materials as well as a large and youthful labor force.

As we've been working to finalize plans and the program for the Summit, it was our privilege to co-host with CCA Board of Directors Vice Chairman John Olajide and the AXCESS team in Dallas at the end of February a Botswana trade delegation led by President Dr. Mokgweetsi E. K. Masisi. We are excited about the calls we've already had with many of you committing to participate in as well as sponsor the Summit and the CCA team is working hard to finalize the many important details to launch the Summit website that will include registration, venue, program, hotel and airline partners, and other details – so stay tuned. Please feel free to reach out to CCA Senior Director for Programs, Biova Kabine, to discuss your interest in and potential support of the Summit.

During CCA's annual Africa Economic Outlook series held at the beginning of every year, we heard from Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (Dr. Hanan Morsy) and the World Bank's Chief Economist for Africa (Dr. Andrew Dabalen) about the key economic trends on the continent, the impact of energy transition policies, AfCFTA implementation, as well as challenges including debt management, inflation, food and other insecurity threats. More importantly, we learned that all across the continent there are exciting opportunities in a range of sectors for U.S.-African joint venture projects and investments in energy transition/climate adaptation, agribusiness, manufacturing, ICT/digitalization, and health, among others.

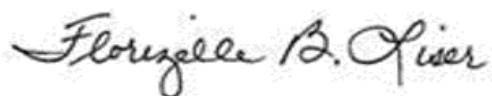
I'm also pleased to share that CCA has been privileged to provide support for upcoming senior U.S. government VVIP travel to Africa – crowding in some CCA members whose

commitments in the areas of digital transformation and women's economic empowerment will be highlighted.

Last but not least, CCA is delighted to be working with an alliance of U.S. companies, the African Union, and the African diplomatic corps to renew and possibly enhance the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) – the cornerstone of the U.S. economic relationship with Africa. On February 9th CCA hosted an event titled "AGOA: Strategies and the Business Case for Renewal." This high-level roundtable brought together eleven African Ambassadors and representatives from nearly twenty African nations with CCA member companies from a range of sectors to discuss the urgent need to renew AGOA as soon as possible for as long as possible as well as to consider the benefit of incorporating certain enhancements that would improve the utilization and impact of AGOA market access in the short term. We look forward to reviewing the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) report on AGOA that will soon be issued, as well as following up with all those in this important alliance to make a strong and unified case to leaders in the U.S. Congress and Biden Administration on how a strengthened U.S.-Africa trade and investment relationship provides crucial strategic advantages in a competitive world.

While the first two months of 2023 have quickly passed by, we look forward to a productive remainder of the year working closely with each of our members and many stakeholders on our common goal of advancing the U.S.-Africa economic and business partnership.

Sincerely,



Florizelle Liser
President & CEO
Corporate Council on Africa



PRESS RELEASE

U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT TO BE HELD JULY 11-14 IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA

During a visit to Gaborone, Botswana, Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) President and CEO Florizelle “Florie” Liser was honored to meet with H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, who reiterated his Government’s commitment to successfully co-hosting the 15th U.S.-Africa Business Summit (USABS) in Botswana later this year. President Masisi noted that key Cabinet officials who were in attendance at the meeting were ready to mobilize their ministries and work collaboratively with CCA and the private sector to organize a highly successful Summit. Following several days of government and private sector meetings as well as site visits, Ms. Liser was pleased to announce with Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Hon. Mmusi Kgafela that the Summit will be held July 11-14, 2023 in Gaborone. The announcement was made Friday, February 3, 2023 at the Minister’s office along with the signing of an agreement between CCA and the Government of Botswana.

The U.S.-Africa Business Summit is the Corporate Council on Africa’s premier annual event, bringing together African heads of state, senior U.S. and African government officials, and top CEO’s and senior business executives from the U.S. and Africa spanning major business sectors that are critical to the continent’s development. These include infrastructure, ICT / digital, health, energy, mining, agriculture, consumer goods, finance, tourism and creative industries.

The 15th USABS theme “Enhancing Africa’s Value in Global Value Chains” highlights an issue that was heavily discussed during the U.S. - Africa Business Forum, hosted by President Joseph R. Biden on the second day of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, DC in December 2022. During the Forum, President Biden announced more than \$55 billion in new U.S. government programs to support trade, investment and development in Africa along with more than \$15 billion in new trade and investment deals made by private sector companies that were in attendance. CCA was proud

to have co-organized the U.S.-Africa Business Forum which highlighted opportunities for greater collaboration between the U.S. and African private sector. This year's CCA Summit will build on and advance those discussions, further deepening U.S.-Africa economic engagement and business ties.

With a desire to keep the positive momentum going from the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit and Business Forum, Ms. Florie Liser stated that “the U.S.-Africa Business Summit is an important platform and opportunity to again bring together U.S. and African government and private sector leaders to grow U.S.-Africa trade, business, and mutually beneficial gains for the people and businesses of both the United States and Africa.”

Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry the Honorable Mmusi Kgafela said, “We look forward to working with our partners at the Corporate Council on Africa to herald a new era of two-way trade and investment between

Africa and the United States. We welcome U.S. private sector businesses to drive investment and technology that can enhance Africa's role in key global value chains, create jobs, and spur economic growth here in Botswana and across the continent.”

To receive updates and stay informed as details and announcements are made about the 2023 U.S.-Africa Business Summit, visit <http://bit.ly/3DvmaDX>.

For questions about the 2023 U.S.-Africa Business Summit, please email summit@corporatecouncilonafrika.com.

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Interested in Sponsorship?

Contact bkabine@corporatecouncilonafrika.com



Photos courtesy of the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre.

STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING SESSION

On Thursday, February 3, 2023, Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) and the Ministry of Trade and Investment (MTI) hosted a Stakeholder Briefing Session at BITC Head Office in Gaborone, Botswana.

The purpose of the briefing was to engage key stakeholders on the Summit and dialogue on expectations from Government and the private sector.

When addressing the attendants, Honorable Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Mmusi Kgafela expressed his delight at the CCA having chosen Botswana as the host country for the Summit. He further said the Summit brings an opportunity for Botswana businesses to network and explore business opportunities with key counterparts. Honourable Minister Kgafela went on to say that the Summit affords opportunities for investment start-ups as well as joint venture partnerships.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Industry Ms. Malebogo Morakaladi emphasized that the summit presents a great opportunity to explore new business opportunities and meet business partners. She said through different plenary sessions, - investors, entrepreneurs, financiers, and government officials from Africa, the United States, and beyond will be brought together to forge partnerships, discuss

challenges, find solutions, and expand investment in the African market.

In her remarks, the CCA President and CEO, Ms. Florie Liser said Africa is central to the global economy as it is the largest market in the world under the African Continental Free Trade Area. She also said Botswana has a significant footprint and boasts of good governance, international banking communities, democracy, and notable Wall Street rankings.



Malebogo Morakaladi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Botswana

PRE-SUMMIT TRIP TO BOTSWANA

President & CEO Florie Liser led a CCA survey team to Gaborone, Botswana to connect on the ground with key stakeholders for the U.S.-Africa Business Summit, to be held in Gaborone in July 2023. These included Botswana government and private sector partners, the American Business Council of Botswana, the U.S. Embassy, and other organizations. In addition to finalizing a MOA with the Government to co-host with CCA's USABS, the CCA team surveyed dozens of sites for summit-related activities to include options for the main summit venue, meeting space, lodging, and other Summit-related events.



Left to Right: Florie Liser, President & CEO, CCA; Philda Kereng, Honorable Minister of Environment and Tourism



Left to Right: Biova Kabine, Senior Director of Programs, CCA; Sara Sullivan, Koko Consulting; Georgia Duerst-Lahti, Chair of American Business Council/CEO of DLG Naturals BW; Florie Liser, President & CEO, CCA; Mukesh Chauhan, American Business Council; Pinkie Tau, Secretary of American Business Council; Jo Melissa, Director of Conferences & Events, CCA; Brian Symser, Economic and Commercial, U.S. Embassy; Carl Paschal, Senior Advisor to CCA President & Former U.S. Ambassador to The Gambia

AGOA: STRATEGIES & THE BUSINESS CASE FOR RENEWAL

On February 9, CCA hosted a hybrid meeting bringing together 23 African Ambassadors and senior representatives with U.S. and African companies with an interest in the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The African Ambassadors present noted the unified position of the African Union and its members that AGOA should be renewed before the expiration of its current authorization in 2025. They noted that their Presidents had conveyed this message to U.S. officials during the December African Leaders Summit in Washington.

Participants noted that AGOA renewal is very much in the commercial interest of companies from both Africa and the U.S. AGOA's renewal will support African efforts to industrialize their economies and integrate economically under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which in turn will support long-term growth on the Continent. Several American and African firms noted that AGOA provisions convey significant economic benefits, creating tens of thousands of jobs in the United States, ranging from factories to delivery and transportation and retail. AGOA provisions also directly support tens of thousands of jobs in a range of industries in Africa, including textiles and apparel, agriculture and manufacturing.

The discussion stressed the importance of renewing AGOA as early as possible, ideally this year, to minimize disruptions to commercial agreements and orders, many of which are placed 18-24 months in advance. Companies also noted that renewal for ten years would enable them to better plan their investments, including expanding operations in Africa which would support economic growth and export markets for the U.S. in Africa, while also creating new jobs and economic growth in Africa.

Several companies also noted that it is important to seize this moment, as factories are looking to shift production out of China as its workforce grows more expensive and companies look to reduce the risk of future supply disruptions. Africa has an opportunity to attract some of this production; to the extent that the U.S. can use an incentive program proven to be effective to promote market friendly investment and job creation in Africa, this is a powerful method of countering Chinese efforts to promote their brand in Africa. Participants agreed to coordinate efforts over the coming months.

Please contact CCA (cca@corporatecouncilonafrica.com) if you are interested in learning more.



CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA PRESENTS:

2023 AFRICA ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

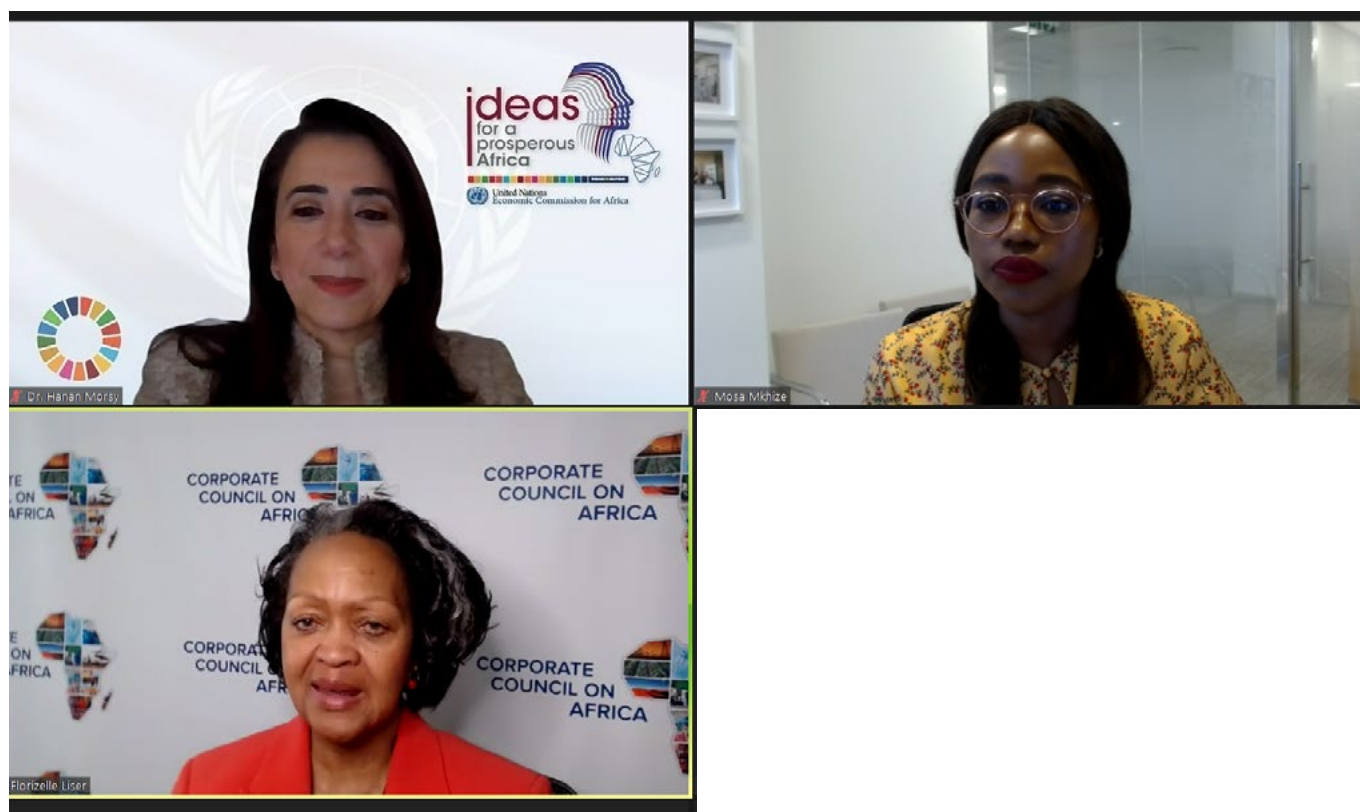
On Thursday, February 16, 2023, Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) hosted session one of a two-part webinar series focused on Africa's Economic Outlook in 2023, which featured leaders of key international institutions who offer their expert views. This webinar focused on the impact of global events on the continent economic growth and was moderated by Mosa Mkhize, a Johannesburg-based public policy advisor and Vice Chair of the Africa Practice for CCA's Member company Covington and Burling LLP, and featured Dr. Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief of Economics for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

Ms. Mkhize set the scene by labeling the significant challenges the global economy is facing: growth losing momentum, high inflation, and the effects of COVID-19. Dr. Morsy outlined an optimistic comprehensive look at Africa's growth trajectory for the forthcoming year. She outlines that East Africa will reach 5.1% of economic growth in 2023, Central Africa will reach 3.9% in 2023 with Cameroon and Gabon driving the growth due to

an increase in oil prices. West Africa will reach 3.8% in 2023 driven by Senegal due to hydrocarbon exports whereas North Africa will experience a slowdown from 4.1% to 3.8% due to decreased demands in Eurozone, and slow growth across the South Africa region.

Dr. Morsy also discussed Africa's 2023 electoral cycles and its impact on the continent's macro-economy. Dr. Morsy emphasized the need for countries to "work on their structural transformation" to better absorb economic shocks such as recessions.

The session then turned its focus to the Russian-Ukrainian War and its negative impact on Africa through three channels: food, energy, and finance. While discussing trade on the continent, Dr. Morsy identified the African Continental Free Trade Agreement as a tool to "help build and support regional value chains." Dr. Morsy and Ms. Mkhize both shared a positive sentiment and optimistic outlook for Africa's economic future.



BOTSWANA-DALLAS FORUM LUNCHEON

On Monday, February 27, Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) and the Dallas Regional Chamber, co-hosted His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana for a business lunch at the Circle T Ranch in Westlake, Texas.

President Masisi and his ministerial and private sector delegation highlighted trade and investment opportunities in Botswana with a focus on ICT, financial services, agribusiness, sustainable tourism and capacity building. President Masisi also invited the Dallas based business community to participate in the upcoming U.S.-Africa Business Summit, scheduled for July 11-14.

The lunch was sponsored by CCA's Board Vice Chair and Axxess Founder and CEO, John Olajide.

Photos courtesy of the Government of Botswana.

