



THE AFRICA eJOURNAL

A NEWSLETTER BY THE
CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY FLORIZELLE LISER

As August comes to a close, there is a lot to pause and reflect on. On July 27-29, CCA was delighted to welcome more than 1,200 participants to the 13th U.S.-Africa Business Summit. We were pleased to host the Presidents of Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique and Rwanda, as well as the Prime Minister of Mauritius and a host of Ministers and senior officials from the Continent. On the U.S. side, we welcomed Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, USTR Ambassador Katherine Tai, Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield, USAID Administrator Samantha Power, NSC Senior Director for Africa Dana Banks, a large number of senior officials from across the U.S. Government, and hosted Members of Congress in our invitation-only sessions.

While the Summit is always wide-ranging, this year's sessions provided critical insights on the Biden-Harris Administration's policies on U.S.-Africa trade and investment, the direction of Africa's economic recovery and the role for the private sector, and extensive coverage of health issues, including a powerful session on access to vaccines that featured the Director General of the WHO and the head of the African CDC along with senior officials from Pfizer, Abbott and Aspen.

Throughout the 3-day Summit, the overarching theme that came through is that now is the time for American companies to take a new look at the rapidly evolving conditions on the Continent. While there are still significant challenges, there are positive and fast-moving trends as well as opportunities that few other continents offer. The COVID pandemic naturally remains top of mind. Worldwide, countries just passed 5 billion COVID vaccinations, which is an astounding number for a vaccine that did not exist 18 months ago. African countries are making amazing progress in distributing and delivering vaccines, although they still remain far behind the rest of the world in terms of vaccine access.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Health authorities have administered 125 million doses of the 1.5 billion the African CDC estimates will be needed to provide a minimal level of protection for populations. Important investments, such as Johnson & Johnson's partnership with Aspen to produce 400 million doses, and Pfizer's investment in Biovac to produce 100 million doses, are early but important steps toward addressing Africa's goal of manufacturing 60% of the vaccines it consumes by 2040.

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The progress in vaccinations has been tempered by the swift spread of the Delta variant, which is now dominant in most countries and provides a stark reminder of just how interconnected our health and security are. The spread of Delta has already induced several African countries to reimpose lockdowns and health restrictions, endangering a nascent economic rebound that had started May through July, particularly in the Northern Hemisphere. Sobering figures on unemployment show that the three countries with the highest unemployment rates are in Africa (South Africa, Namibia and Nigeria), highlighting the impact COVID will continue to have on African economies. This, in turn, underscores the importance of the IMF moving quickly this fall to enact important reforms to allow greater access to Special Drawing Rights and implement a longer-term solution to extend the debt suspension initiative while countries put in place measures to support longer-term economic restructuring and recovery. It also highlights the importance of African governments' calls for more private sector investment, particularly in growth-inducing sectors like infrastructure and ICT.

The past two months were a great preview of what will be a very intense fall during which Africa will feature prominently on the international agenda. The United Nations will hold its General Assembly and related meetings September 14-30, with Heads of State appearing for the General Debate starting on the 21st. The theme of this year's UNGA will be "building resilience through hope – to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people and revitalize the United Nations." For the first time since 1981, the UNGA will convene a High-Level Dialogue on Energy. These discussions will be continued in October when the IMF and World Bank hold their fall meetings, during which they are likely to announce important decisions on expanding Special Drawing Rights and allowing them to be transferred to support restructuring African debt.

Next up is COP 26, which will start November 1, and will be expected to make good on G7 and G20 pledges to support innovative new ways enabling transitions to more sustainable and greener economies, particularly in developing countries. African countries will be important participants in all of these discussions, which will focus on both the challenges that exist today, and the opportunities over the next decades.

The U.S. will also have a busy policy agenda regarding Africa this fall, beginning with decisions on AGOA eligibility in September and October and a meeting of African Trade Ministers with USTR Ambassador Tai. Over the course of the fall, we expect that next steps will become clear regarding the U.S.-Kenya FTA. USAID also plans to announce, likely in October, its new continental trade hubs as part of the Prosper Africa Build Together campaign. In November, the U.S. and the African Union will hold their High-Level Dialogue, which will review cooperation on a broad range of issues, including the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. The White House plans to convene a Summit of Democracies in December, which will include a number of African countries, and conclude a very busy fall.



President Masisi at the Doing Business in Botswana session at the U.S.-Africa Business Summit.

CCA will be actively involved in all of these discussions, hosting country-focused events on the sidelines of UNGA, sessions on African economic recovery during the World Bank/IMF fall meetings, helping organize an AGOA private sector dialogue, and facilitating high level discussions on energy and climate as well as U.S.-Africa trade policy and the Prosper Africa Build Together campaign. All of these will be opportunities to highlight the potential for collaboration with the private sector to advance the U.S.-Africa economic agenda, while also helping companies understand and take advantage of rapidly evolving opportunities in Africa. We look forward to you joining us over the next few months as CCA continues to provide a platform and advocate for a stronger and better U.S.-Africa trade, investment, and business relationship.



"Today marks a major milestone in our U.S.-Africa Business collaboration and partnership. Through this COMESA-CCA MOU we strengthen the relationship to facilitate closer collaboration, joint advancement of the private sector business agenda, and provide a platform for consolidating the voice of the Private Sector in the U.S. and COMESA region countries."

Mr. Marday Venkatasamy, Chairman of the COMESA Business Council, during the CBC-CCA MOU signing ceremony which took place at the 13th U.S.-Africa Business Summit, held on July 27, 2021.

BIG ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THE 13TH U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT

"New Pathways to a Stronger U.S.-Africa Economic Partnership"



From July 27 – 29, 2021, the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) hosted the 13th U.S.-Africa Business Summit. The Summit is CCA's flagship event viewed as essential by those doing business in Africa. The 2021 Summit featured a stellar lineup of African and U.S. government and private sector leaders as part of the program. CCA was delighted to provide more than 1200 participants with the access, connections, and insights on critical issues and policies impacting the U.S.-Africa economic partnership – the Summit theme.

The Summit – held virtually – included 5 plenaries and 12 panel sessions highlighting key economic recovery strategies and focused on a range of sectors and issues, including health and vaccine access, trade, digital transformation, infrastructure, financing, SMEs, tourism, women's leadership, and investment opportunities in various African countries.

CCA was honored to host six African leaders at the 2021 Summit, including H.E. Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and AU Chairman, H.E. Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique and SADC Chairman, Hon. Pravind Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya.

In his remarks during the opening plenary session, Mauritian Prime Minister Jugnauth captured a sentiment expressed by the leaders when he stated that he “fully subscribe(s) to an integrated and prosperous Africa entering a mutually beneficial and strategic partnership with the U.S.” CCA was humbled when Rwandan President Paul Kagame noted in his statement that “the Corporate Council on Africa has been the voice of private sector engagement between the United States and Africa for a quarter century.”

In addition to African Heads of States, a host of African Ministers of trade, energy, agriculture, investment, ICT, and infrastructure from more than ten countries across the continent also participated in various Summit sessions.

Also at the Summit, were honored U.S. Cabinet officials – Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai, and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas Greenfield.

They were joined by other senior officials in the new Biden-Harris Administration representing nearly a dozen U.S. government agencies that play a role in implementing U.S. policies and initiatives impacting the U.S. economic relationship with African nations. Among the highlights, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo noted that “now is the time to strengthen U.S.-Africa economic relations” and Dana Banks, White House Senior Director for Africa, announced the Administration's request for \$80 million in additional funding to jumpstart the Prosper Africa Build Together Campaign that will drive billions of dollars of investment in Africa, build new markets for American products and create thousands of jobs for African and American workers.

There were five dynamic sessions focused on health which addressed the COVID 19 pandemic and recovering from its economic impact. Building on CCA's ongoing U.S.-Africa Health Security and Resilience Initiative, which includes a pillar on disease management and response, a high-level Summit plenary session focused on equitable COVID vaccine access and distribution.

During that session, Pfizer Biopharmaceutical Group President Angela Hwang, announced its partnership with the South African Biovac Institute to manufacture and distribute the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine within the African Union – the first such arrangement for African production of the mRNA COVID vaccine. Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the WTO, also announced the three roles WTO can play to help end the COVID-19 pandemic including, monitoring export restrictions and prohibitions to ensure goods move from one place to the other; working with the private sector to increase investments in manufacturing in emerging markets and developing countries; and supporting technology transfer and know-how.

The Summit also convened two ‘invitation only’ special sessions – the first on the future of energy and climate/clean energy in Africa. U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry, was joined by other senior USG officials, Ministers and senior African officials from key oil and gas producing nations, and CEOs and other top executives from U.S. and African oil, gas and power companies and major investors in the sector. A lively dialogue covered important topics such as Africa’s energy poverty, the need for energy access on the continent, calls for countries to work together to promote public-private partnerships to address climate change, and for fair treatment in the development and financing of Africa’s energy transition.

The second ‘invitation only’ session brought together select business leaders with key Members of Congress, including Rep. Karen Bass and Rep. Chris Smith of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa to discuss U.S.-Africa trade policy. This high-level dialogue focused on legislation such as the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and explored what U.S. legislation and policies are needed to promote greater U.S.-Africa trade and investment.

CCA was pleased to sign an MOU with the COMESA Business Council (CBC) to promote greater two-way trade and business partnerships between U.S. companies and those operating in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) region which covers nineteen countries.

At the Summit closing plenary session, CCA Board of Director Vice Chairs Diane Wilkens, Founder and CEO of Development Finance International, Inc. and General William Ward, Inaugural Commander Africa Command, noted the critical issues discussed during the Summit included equitable vaccine access, improving energy and transportation infrastructure, addressing climate change and food security, digitizing trade and maximizing U.S.-Africa trade and investment relying on initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Prosper Africa Build Together campaign.

Their message: “now is not the time to retreat from Africa, now is the time to invest and find new partners on the continent.” CCA plans to support this through their ongoing programs and is looking forward to hosting the 2022 U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Morocco. Florie Liser, CCA President and CEO, thanked all who attended the Summit, expressed appreciation to the CCA Board of Directors and the CCA team without whom the Summit could not have happened, and noted that CCA is here to support its Members and all those doing business in Africa.

The 2021 U.S.-Africa Business Summit was proudly sponsored by leading global businesses and organizations including Abbott, Acrow Bridge, All Africa Global Media, Caterpillar, Chevron, Citi, Computer Frontiers Inc., Covington & Burling, Creative Associates International, Development Finance International (DFI), Inc., ExxonMobil Corporation, Fayus Inc., Flour Mills of Nigeria PLC, Flutterwave Inc., General William and Joyce Ward, Gilead Sciences, Google, Kosmos Energy, Jean Boulle Group, Jeune Afrique, Pfizer Inc., Prosper Africa, P&G, Rabin Martin, Sun Africa, Trade and Development Bank, Visa, and Vulcan.



From Left to Right: CCA Board of Director Vice Chairs, Diane Wilkens and General William Ward, Florizelle Liser, President and CEO, CCA



From Left to Right: Jirair Ratevosian, Gilead Sciences; Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala, WTO; Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC; Angela Hwang, President of Pfizer Biopharmaceutical Group; Stephen Saad, CEO Aspen; Bassem Bibi, Divisional VP Abbott; Jayashree Watal, ADJ Professor Georgetown University Law Center

ACCREDITATION & QUALITY ASSURANCE: ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN AFRICA - A CRITICAL ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR



As many low and middle-income countries (LMICs) pursue health care reforms to achieve universal health coverage (UHC), the development of national accreditation systems has become an increasingly common quality-enhancing strategy endorsed by players, including Ministries of Health. There have been some investments in health facilities and medical diagnostics laboratories in Africa, contributing to more interface between accreditation as a continuous quality improvement strategy in accelerating the overall goal of achieving universal health coverage. Dr. Eckhard Kleinau, Director at URC, drew lessons from Jordan in establishing an accreditation council and efforts to move from pilots to scale and the requisite enabling environment for accreditation of health facilities to thrive. According to Jacqui Stewart, the CEO of COHSASA, accreditation is for both public and private health facilities. Ensuring that the entire health facility is accredited and well managed is crucial to ensure optimal working.

In ensuring health facilities' optimal working, the process is critical and an iterative journey through accreditation. The processes within health facilities should be documented and systematized. Dr. Mohamed El Sahili, CEO of Medland Hospital, noted the importance of maintaining standards post accreditation, especially during the current COVID -19 pandemic and increased workload among health care workers.

According to the World Bank, quality and safety are integral in achieving patient safety. Approaches such as performance-based financing, clinical audits, quality improvement processes, and accreditation have shown that quality can be improved in a relatively short time, even in highly constrained settings and without major additional investments in other health inputs. Jacqui Stewart, CEO-COHSASA, emphasized that public-private partnerships (PPPs) are critical and contribute to cross-fertilization across sectors. King Faisal Hospital is one of the outstanding public health facilities accredited by COHSASA. Dr. Edgar Kalimba, Deputy CEO of King Faisal Hospital, demonstrated the 15-year journey of King Faisal Hospital – a public hospital in Kigali, Rwanda, to be the only accredited health facility for the past ten years. According to Dr. Kalimba, "Health care stakeholders should work on access and quality of health services in tandem. Accreditation/quality improvement changes the mindset and approach of health services delivery by health care workers, including the governance and running of health facilities."

An enabling environment is critical for the accreditation of health facilities. In Rwanda, the private sector played a crucial role by providing Community-Based Health Insurance, covering more than 80% of the Rwanda population. According to Dr. Nicole Spieker from Pharm Access Foundation, they have developed through a product called "Safe Care" a way to stimulate investments in contracting health services. "Safe Care" developed a methodology to rank health facilities in terms of risks, including the investment risk for the banks. The "Safe Care" partnership has resulted in health facilities linkage to lending facilities through banks that are more amenable to investing in health services with a better understanding of risk profiles through accreditation. Similarly, insurance schemes are looking to reward better quality.

Moderator

Eckhard Kleinau, Director- Research and Evaluation at HRH2030, URC

Speakers

Jacqui Stewart, CEO, COHSASA

Dr. Mohamed El Sahili, CEO, Medland Hospital Services

Nicole Spieker, Director of Quality, Pharm Access Foundation

Dr. Edgar M Kalimba, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, King Faisal Hospital – Kigali

One of CCA's media partners, JeuneAfrique, is issuing a special edition in October 2021 of The Africa Report that will focus on the U.S.-Africa relationship. We are encouraging members looking to expand on the continent to consider taking out an ad in that issue and thereby access the broad readership of The Africa Report across the continent and beyond. The discounted advertising rates range from \$3,500 to \$8,200 for 1/4 page to a full page. Deadline for placing an ad is September 15, 2021. Please contact Pierre Bessiere at p.bessiere@jeuneafrique.com for more information.

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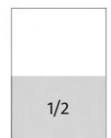


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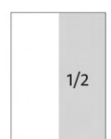
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UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2021

CCA Member's Meeting
September 15 | Virtual

United Nations General Assembly 2021 Special Sessions
September 13-23 | In-person and Virtual

OCTOBER 2021

World Bank Group Annual Meeting
October 11-17 | Virtual

African Growth and Opportunity (AGO) Forum
October 20-21 | Virtual

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November 15-21 | Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
www.intrafricantradefair.com



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