



# THE AFRICA eJOURNAL

A NEWSLETTER BY THE  
CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY FLORIZELLE LISER

I hope you enjoyed the holidays and wish all our members and stakeholders a healthy and prosperous New Year.

The Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) ended 2021 with several well-received programs in November and December capping off a busy and productive year enhancing U.S.-Africa trade and investment. We remain optimistic and hopeful that we can increase the number of in-person events in 2022 but will be guided by the course of the COVID-19 pandemic in the months to come.

Following on a year that has seen both COVID-19 impact as well as the beginnings of recovery, 2022 will be pivotal on many fronts regarding Africa and the U.S. relationship.

Will Africa make needed progress on COVID vaccine access, getting shots into arms, and controlling the spread of new variants? And does the recent lifting of U.S. travel restrictions on southern African nations signal how we can expect the U.S. to treat Africa relative to other regions experiencing future COVID variants? The answers to these questions are an important part of the prognosis for the health and economic wellbeing of U.S. and African people and businesses in 2022 and for the overall U.S.-Africa relationship.

CCA hopes, through its U.S.-Africa Health Security and Resilience Initiative (HSRI), to bring both U.S. and African public and private sector stakeholders together to discuss ways to collaborate on not only fighting COVID, but also building stronger African health systems. On November 9, CCA's HSRI hosted a virtual roundtable on "Accelerating Patient Access to Medicines and Vaccines in Africa." The panel, focused on the implementation of innovative ways of working to modernize regulatory systems in Africa, was moderated by Leah Kaplow of McKinsey & Company and featured both private sector and public sector speakers. HSRI works to convene key stakeholders to discuss strategic collaborations that support strengthening health systems for improved health security by leveraging the role of the private sector on the path to economic recovery on the continent.

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**THE AFCFTA & THE  
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On December 8, CCA held a HSRI virtual roundtable on "Strengthening Health Security and Resilience in Africa: The Continuing Critical Role of the Private Sector" in honor of the initiative's first anniversary. The virtual event brought together key U.S. and African business executives to highlight partnership opportunities, abest practices and policies that support transformation in disease preparedness, universal health coverage, and trade and investment in Africa's health systems through more focused private sector engagement.

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The issue of African manufacturing capability and the role U.S. investment could play in Africa producing not only vaccines but other products in the health supply chain (such as PPE, etc.) was one point raised by Wamkele Mene, the Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat at a roundtable hosted by CCA and the US Chamber of Commerce's Africa Business Center on December 16. Mene briefed a select group of U.S. companies on where things stand on AfCFTA, and what opportunities to expect in 2022. The African Union (AU) plans to hold an investment and trade summit during 2022, and Mene promised to stay in close touch with CCA to develop specific opportunities, including in key sectors like ICT, health and energy.



As countries and companies strategize on their relaunch in 2022, Africans are looking to the U.S. for the kind of positive partnership that will serve the interests of the economies and people of the U.S. and African nations. Much that Secretary of State Blinken said and signaled during his first trip to Africa (visiting Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal from November 15-20) were positive. In a speech on U.S.-Africa policy in Abuja, Secretary Blinken welcomed “the African Continental Free Trade Area, because we want to see Africa’s economic power in the world grow. More consumers should gain access to African goods and services. More jobs must be created for Africa’s young people – the global workforce of the future.” He added that “our commitment to inclusive growth is behind our Build Back Better World initiative, which aims to help close the global infrastructure gap.”

This message was well received by many Africans who have been signaling on their end a readiness to engage more with U.S. companies and investors. One of the good news stories about democracy in Africa that Secretary Blinken mentioned in his speech was about Zambia, where the opposition party won elections in August, something few believed would be allowed to happen.

On December 7, CCA was pleased to host the U.S.- Zambia Business and Investment Forum in partnership with Prosper Africa. The forum served as a platform to explore and engage directly with the governments of Zambia and the United States, as well as the private sector on opportunities for partnership in key sectors. The event featured H.E. Hakainde Hichilema, President of Zambia as well as Minister of Finance, Situmbeko Musokotwane and Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Chipoka Mulenga. The U.S.-Zambia Business and Investment Forum demonstrates how the Corporate Council on Africa is working hand in hand with the private sector, the U.S. government, African governments, and multilateral organizations to advance U.S.-Africa trade, investment, and business.

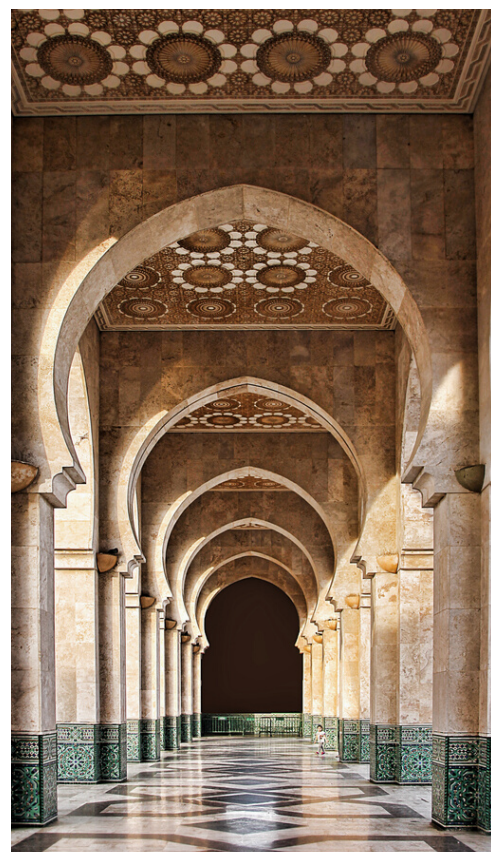
CCA has high hopes for 2022. While AfCFTA implementation and phase 2 negotiations proceed on the African side, we also anticipate that the Biden Administration will set a path for a stronger, reenergized U.S.- Africa relationship - advancing the Prosper Africa Build Together Campaign and B3W projects in Africa and launching a Digital Africa initiative.



**Left to right:** H.E. Hakainde Hichilema, President of Zambia; Florie Liser, CEO & President, CCA

We also hope the USG will announce a new economic partnership framework that supports AfCFTA implementation, builds on AGOA, and moves ahead on the U.S-Kenya FTA negotiations. And we're excited that the year will be topped off with a much-welcomed U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. CCA looks forward to actively supporting the U.S.-Africa economic agenda in the new year - working closely with our members on their 2022 business plans on the continent and engaging as a trusted partner with the USG and African governments. Our biggest news for 2022 is that CCA, in partnership with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, will be hosting our signature U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Morocco in late June/early July 2022. We look forward to hosting U.S. and African public and private sector leaders and to seeing all of you there! Stay tuned for more information on the Summit over the coming months, and again our best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

## 2022 U.S.-Africa Business Summit



Marrakesh, Morocco

# SAVE THE DATE

June 28, 2022 - July 1, 2022



CCA'S U.S.-AFRICA HEALTH SECURITY AND RESILIENCE INITIATIVE PRESENTS

## Accelerating Patient Access to Medicines and Vaccines in Africa



On Tuesday, November 9, 2021, Corporate Council on Africa's U.S. - Africa Health Security and Resilience Initiative (HSRI) held a virtual roundtable on "Accelerating Patient Access to Medicines and Vaccines in Africa". The panel, focused on the implementation of innovative ways of working to modernize regulatory systems in Africa, was moderated by Leah Kaplow of McKinsey & Company and featured both private and public sector speakers.

Panelists began by referencing the African Union Model Law on Medical Products Regulation for providing a legislative framework to address challenges by harmonizing requirements and processes. Representing the Ghana Food and Drugs Authority, CEO Delese Darko spoke of the shift in regulation practices which began during COVID-19 towards a rolling basis of submissions to expedite processes. Bonface Fundafunda, CEO of the Africa Resource Center, echoed her sentiment, drawing on the "extra harmonization [between the public and private sectors] during COVID-19", which allowed for swifter action to make products available. From the private sector, Dr. John Mwangi, co-chair of the African Regulatory Network of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations, spoke of the approval processes and the need to continue investing in post-approval/ market changes in order to improve on quality and incorporate new elements with the ultimate aim of expanding access to safe, quality and effective medicines for patients in need in the continent.

The session focused on the harmonization between regulators and industry, particularly during post-regulation. With greater trust between industry and regulators through the sharing of safety data and monitoring of adverse events in a timely manner, confidence is created, no matter the country. With the recent establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA), the panelists reflected on its impact on ongoing country and regional harmonization efforts.

Panelists answered questions related to the importance of digitization in creating cross-country connectivity, the need for clear communication to facilitate the educating process between regulators and industry players, and how industry can improve the ease of doing business through greater movement of goods.



**Top Row from left to right:** Leah Kaplow, Associate Partner, Social Sector Practice, McKinsey & Company; Dr. John Mwangi, Co-Chair, African Regulatory Network, IFPMA

**Bottom Row from left to right:** Delese Mimi Darko, CEO, Ghana FDA; Bonface Fundafunda, CEO, Africa Resource Center

CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA AND PROSPER AFRICA PRESENT

## U.S.-ZAMBIA BUSINESS & INVESTMENT FORUM

On Tuesday, December 7, Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) hosted the U.S.-Zambia Business and Investment Forum in partnership with Prosper Africa. The forum served as a platform to explore and engage directly with the governments of Zambia and the United States, as well as the private sector on opportunities for partnership in key sectors. The event featured H.E. Hakainde Hichilema, President of Zambia as well as Minister of Finance, Situmbeko Musokotwane and Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Chipoka Mulenga.

Florie Liser, President and CEO of the Corporate Council on Africa, delivered welcome remarks, emphasizing the far-reaching agenda of democratic and economic reforms initiated by the new Zambian Government. She said, “the change in Zambia’s political leadership promises to usher in a new phase in the U.S.-Zambia relationship that will facilitate increased trade, investment and commercial partnerships between the two nations and their private sectors.”



H.E. Hakainde Hichilema, President of Zambia

In his opening remarks, President Hakainde Hichilema reaffirmed that Zambia is open for business. He addressed his administration’s commitment to stabilizing the economy and building a long-standing relationship with the United States.

Albert Halwampa, Acting Director-General, Zambia Development Agency and Muchindu Kasangola, Chief of Investment at the Industrial Development Corporation presented live investment opportunities to over 200 attendees at the virtual forum. These opportunities cut across several of Zambia’s priority sectors: agriculture, mining, renewable energy, ICT, and tourism.

On behalf of the U.S. Government representatives from across the whole-of-government Prosper Africa initiatives highlighted new activities to increase trade and investment, including to change the narrative about investing in Africa, de-risk markets, support the advancement of Zambia’s business climate, and pursue maximum interagency collaboration to achieve our shared goals.

Participants from the United States Government included: Akunna Cook, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Camille Richardson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Middle East and Africa Global Markets, U.S. Department of Commerce; Diana Njuguna, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation;

Ervin Massinga, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Leslie Marbury, Acting Chief Operating Officer, Prosper Africa; Sheryl Stumbras, USAID Zambia; and Members of the U.S. Embassy Deal Team in Zambia.

To round out the forum, a panel led by key private sector business leaders, focused on highlighting investment and business growth opportunities in Zambia. The panel featured Dr. Mohamed El Sahili of Medland Health, Khululiwe Mabaso of Abbott and Bolanle Baruwu of Flutterwave. By hearing about others experiences and business goals, U.S. businesses and investors were able to learn firsthand about doing business in Zambia. Business leaders were also able to directly engage with both governments and address areas of support needed to grow their businesses in the country. The forum ended with closing remarks by Zambian Ambassador to the U.S., Lazarous Kapambwe.

The U.S.-Zambia Business and Investment Forum demonstrates how the Corporate Council on Africa is working hand in hand with the private sector, the U.S. government, African governments, and multilateral organizations to advance trade and investment through the Prosper Africa Build Together Campaign.



## Strengthening Health Security and Resilience in Africa: The Continuing Critical Role of the Private Sector

THIS EVENT WAS IN CELEBRATION OF THE INITIATIVE'S

*One Year Anniversary*

CORPORATE  
COUNCIL ON  
AFRICA

On Wednesday, December 8, 2021, Corporate Council on Africa's (CCA) U.S. – Africa Health Security and Resilience Initiative (HSRI) held a virtual roundtable on “Strengthening Health Security and Resilience in Africa: The Continuing Critical Role of the Private Sector” in honor of the initiative's first anniversary.

Speakers included Dr. Jeffrey Sturchio, Chairman of CCA and Rabin Martin; Sally Ethelston, Director of Resource Mobilization and Outreach, Malaria Vaccines for PATH; Dr. Mohamed El Sahili, CEO of Medland Health Services; Dr. Anton Bizzell, CEO of The Bizzell Group; Ikechukwu Ofuani, Director of Worldwide Government Affairs and Policy, West Africa for Johnson & Johnson; Patrick van der Loo, Regional President of Africa Middle East for Pfizer; and Christopher Whiffeld, General Manager of Africa Region, Global Patient Solutions, for Gilead Sciences.

The virtual event brought together key U.S. and African business executives to highlight partnership opportunities, best practices and policies that support transformation in disease preparedness, universal health coverage, and trade and investment in Africa's health systems through more focused private sector engagement.

Panelists focused on equitable vaccines and the need for readiness to receive and distribute on the continent, which will require the strengthening of supply chain capacity including resilient infrastructure, but disease surveillance and strong private-public partnerships.

Beyond just vaccines, panelists emphasized the importance of local partnerships in providing equitable access to all types of healthcare. Other essentials for implementation include collaboration with community health workers, strong country leadership, and trust in the system.

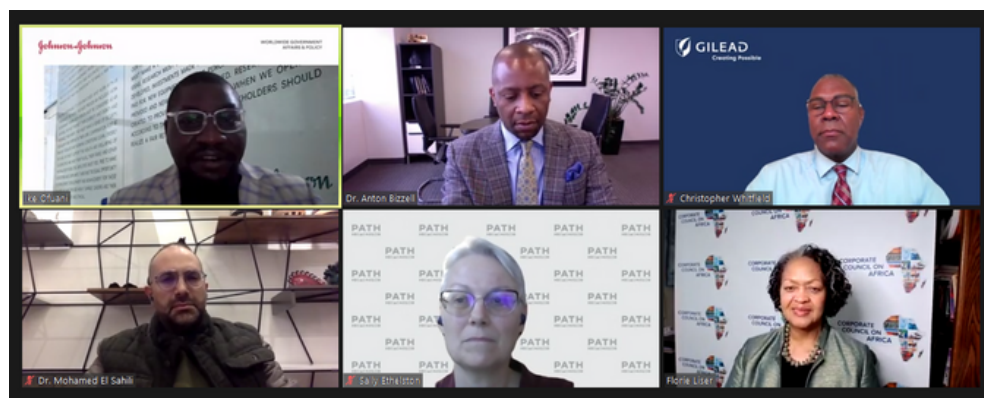
A major emphasis during the event was on how both the private and public sector need each other to ensure the delivery of equitable healthcare. The private sector is able to invest in treatment and provide more structure based on demand. The public sector provides on the ground information and large amounts of data.

By working together and using each other's comparative advantage, public-private partnerships can ensure equitable healthcare deliverance.

This event is part of CCA's U.S.-Africa Health Security and Resilience Initiative (HSRI). HSRI works to convene key stakeholders to discuss strategic collaborations that support strengthening health systems for improved health security by leveraging the role of the private sector on the path to economic recovery on the continent. HSRI is generously sponsored by Pfizer and Gilead.



Patrick van der Loo, Regional President, Africa Middle East, Pfizer



**Top Row from left to right:** Ikechukwu Ofuani, Director, Worldwide Government Affairs and Policy, West Africa, Johnson & Johnson; Dr. Anton Bizzell, CEO of the Bizzell Group; Christopher Whitfield, General Manager, Africa Region, Global Patient Solutions, Gilead Sciences

**Bottom Row from left to right:** Dr. Mohamed El Sahili, CEO, Medland Health Services; Sally Ethelston, Director, Resource Mobilization and Outreach, Malaria Vaccines, PATH; Florie Liser, CEO and President of CCA

CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA &  
THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS CENTER

# The AfCFTA and the Future of the U.S.-Africa Trade

On December 16, Corporate Council on Africa and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's U.S.-Africa Business Center hosted a roundtable discussion featuring H.E. Wamkele Mene, the Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, who discussed the lessons learned from the first year of trading under the AfCFTA, the next steps in the AfCFTA negotiations, and opportunities for U.S. businesses. Wamkele Mene briefed a select group of U.S. companies from CCA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Africa Business Center on where things stand on AfCFTA and what opportunities to expect in 2022. As a signal of the importance Africa is placing on attracting more American companies to invest and do business in Africa, Mene noted that he had picked Washington for his first official trip outside of Africa.

He noted that African negotiators are just a few tariff lines away from finishing up the last item in the first phase of negotiations (on rules of origin), which will allow companies to trade under the same set of rules and standards across the 39 countries that have already ratified the agreement. Phase II negotiations will include services and investor protections, among other things. The AU is intent on liberalizing services as quickly as possible, and will focus on distribution and logistics services, financial services, ICT and health. The AU is also keen to get private sector input, and to match opportunities with companies. They plan to hold an investment and trade summit during 2022, and Mene promised to stay in close touch with CCA to develop specific opportunities, including in key sectors like ICT, health and energy.



**Left to right:** Wamkele Mene, Secretary General of the AfCFTA Secretariat; Scott Eisner, President of the Africa Business Center at the US Chamber of Commerce



**Left to right:** Florie Liser, President & CEO of CCA; Donald Graves, Deputy Secretary of Commerce



**Left to right:** Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Africa Camille Richardson; Florie Liser, President & CEO of CCA; Wamkele Mene, Secretary General of the AfCFTA Secretariat; Scott Eisner, President of the Africa Business Center at the US Chamber of Commerce; Hilda Suka-Mafudze, AU Ambassador to the US; Akunna Cook, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Africa; Guevara Yao, Senior Director, West and Central Africa, U.S. Chamber of Commerce





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JANUARY 2022

High-Level Dialogue with Ambassador Molly Phee  
Postponed | In Person

Africa Economic Outlook  
Date TBA | Virtual

CCA/KEPSA SME Launch Event  
Date TBA | Virtual

## FEBRUARY 2022

HSRI Event on the sidelines of the AU Summit  
Date TBA | Virtual



**For more information, please visit** [www.corporatecouncilonafrica.com](http://www.corporatecouncilonafrica.com)

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