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A NEWSLETTER BY
CORPORATE COUNCIL ON AFRICA

IN THIS ISSUE



U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit Update

Page 5



High-Level Dialogue Series

Page 6



CCA hosts H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas

Page 9



UNGA 2022 Events

Page 10



U.S.-Togo Business Roundtable

Page 13



Africa Finance Forum

Page 14



Private Meetings

Page 16



New CCA Staff Member

Page 17



CCA in The Africa Report

Page 18



Upcoming Events

Page 19



Africa Media Agency

Page 20

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we head into the last quarter of the year, I'm pleased to share some of the highlights of an incredibly busy September and October. CCA kicked off September with an off-the-record briefing from the new NSC Senior Director for Africa, Judd Devermont on the Administration's newly released Africa policy. CCA member companies welcomed the opportunity to hear about and provide feedback on the Biden-Harris Administration's vision for a 21st century U.S.-Africa partnerships one of whose four main objectives is to promote post-pandemic economic recovery and mutually beneficial U.S. Africa sustainable growth. In the same vein, CCA hosted a session with the visiting CEO of AUDA-NEPAD, who explained her organization's new Energize Africa initiative to set up innovation hubs across the continent, while also expanding the reach and representation of NEPAD across the continent as part of the strategy of building stronger links between government and business.

Those discussions helped set the stage for several high-profile events in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly, including with the President of Togo and senior Nigerian officials to discuss trade and investment opportunities. I had the pleasure of moderating a session on removing trade barriers at the Unstoppable Africa Summit in New York as well. Back in Washington in October, CCA held the latest session in its long-running Africa Finance Forum. This year's Forum focused on issues related to financing climate change transition and brought together a mix of private and public sector experts to talk through some of the biggest challenges to mobilizing more finance to accelerate the transition to a net-zero economy in Africa. These issues gave members a good preview of the discussions that will take place at COP-27 in Sharm al-Sheikh in November.

On the margins of the Africa Finance Forum, CCA members met the Ethiopian Minister of Finance and his delegation to get an update on important reforms his government is making in financial services and banking, and to get an update on the overall investment climate in Ethiopia. After the meeting, it was reported that Ethiopia and the Tigray Regional Government have



CCA is proud to be working with its partner, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as well as with the U.S. Government to organize the U.S.-Africa Business Forum on December 14.

agreed on a ceasefire and to resume peace talks, which is welcoming news.

There was also important news from the continent, as seven countries began 'Guided Trade' of 100 products under AfCFTA in early October. While trade officially began under AfCFTA in January 2021, it has taken some time for countries to amend their rules and regulations to adopt AfCFTA provisions and create new harmonized forms and procedures. The AfCFTA Secretariat worked closely with seven countries to help companies physically trade goods across borders under AfCFTA. In several cases, these countries trade little with each other, making this pilot even more important as a test case to illustrate the practical steps that will be necessary to implement this transformative trade agreement. We applaud this practical road test and look forward to working with the Secretariat and African Governments to support AfCFTA's further implementation.

As we look ahead to the rest of the year, two events stand out. First, African countries will have an important opportunity to advance their concerns at COP 27 in November about the importance of finding the right balance that finances the energy generation Africa needs for its own economic security, while also mapping out a transition to a net-zero emissions world and improving the resources available to help poorer countries adapt to the impacts of climate change. The continued impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on world energy (and food) markets will make addressing these issues all the more important and urgent.

Second and a significant marker for the U.S.-Africa relationship is the hosting of the

U.S. Africa Leaders Summit to be held in Washington, DC on December 13-15. CCA is proud to be working with its partner, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as well as with the U.S. Government to organize the U.S.-Africa Business Forum (ABF) on December 14 (please see the following section for more information). The Summit – the second only since first hosted by President Obama in 2014 - offers an opportunity for the United States to reset and re-energize U.S. engagement with Africa. The last two years have seen a range of challenges that have impacted Africa, including the global pandemic, COVID-induced financial and economic challenges, and this year's food and energy security challenges. As tough as they have been, each of these challenges has also created its own set of opportunities for the U.S. and African governments and private sectors to deepen their engagement with each other. Several U.S. Government agencies are planning important announcements at the Summit geared to support opportunities in specific sectors, which we look forward to sharing with you as we get more information. We are also keen to work closely with CCA members to help you make best use of the platform that ABF creates to highlight any new deals or initiatives you may have. We will provide you more information very soon on the Summit program and related events.

Sincerely,



Florizelle Liser
President & CEO
Corporate Council on Africa

U.S.-AFRICA LEADERS SUMMIT: UPDATE

U.S. - AFRICA BUSINESS FORUM

WASHINGTON, D.C.

DECEMBER 14

CCA and its partners in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Government are finalizing preparations for the U.S. Africa Business Forum – an official part of the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit being held by the Biden-Harris Administration on December 13-15. There will be a number of important events on the 13th that will cover discrete topics, including trade, food security, climate change and health. On December 14, the Business Forum will take place, followed by government meetings on the 15th. We will provide more details on all of these events as they become available, including more information on several side events CCA will host.

The U.S.-Africa Business Forum on the 14th will bring together African Heads of State with CEOs and corporate leaders from the U.S. and Africa as well as U.S. Government officials. The invitation-only event will cover six main topics, including the future of U.S.-African trade and investment, building a more resilient health sector, a U.S.-African partnership for a sustainable energy future, digital connectivity and partnerships in agriculture. Each of the sessions will feature a mix of Heads of State, U.S. Government representatives and corporate leaders, and will be designed to highlight the most important issues and suggestions for deepening U.S.-African relations.

As soon as the agenda is finalized, CCA will share it with members.

For more information on the Summit visit, <https://www.state.gov/africasummit/>

I look forward to working with African governments, civil society, diaspora communities across the United States, and the private sector to continue strengthening our shared vision for the future of U.S.-Africa relations.

Joseph R. Biden

President of the United States

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE WITH JUDD DEVERMONT

On Thursday, September 8, 2022 CCA hosted an off-the-record discussion on the Administration's sub-Saharan Africa strategy with Judd Devermont, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council. Given the tremendous upside economic potential of implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), and impact of the global supply chain / food supply / health crises, as well as ongoing conflicts on the continent, coordinated U.S. leadership in African engagement is more vital than ever. Mr. Devermont, who led development of the new Africa strategy prior to assuming his current duties, welcomed observations and suggestions from CCA members regarding core elements vital to private sector-led economic development through increased U.S. - Africa trade and investment partnerships, including U.S. government posture and programs needed to strengthen American competitiveness. The discussion included Mr. Devermont's insights on the preparations for the U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit and Business Forum in December.



Judd Devermont, Special Assistant to the President & Senior Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council and Florie Liser, President & CEO of CCA.



CCA HOSTS H.E. NARDOS BEKELE-THOMAS

On September 15, CCA hosted H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, who was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD and was endorsed by the African Union Heads of State and Government during the Thirty-Fifth Ordinary Session of the African Union in February 2022. She is the first woman to lead the African Union's development agency.

H.E. Bekele-Thomas discussed her agency's "Energize Africa" initiative to create innovation hubs across Africa to help foster ingenuity from the youth and provide a space for creativity that will move Africa forward. She also shared the need to focus on health to increase capacity and provide resources in and for Africa.

"Building the supply and value chain is critical and AUDA works in tandem with the AfCFTA," says Bekele-Thomas. The organization is also partnering with the World Bank to assist with implementing food securities on the continent.

AUDA-NEPAD plans to expand and open regional offices in each African country to deliver greater results.



Left to Right: H.E. Hilda Suka-Mafudze, African Union Ambassador to the U.S.A.; Florie Liser, President & CEO of CCA; H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO of the African Union Development Agency



UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL ASSEMBLY: UNSTOPPABLE AFRICA



On September 18, 2022, Florie Liser, President and CEO of CCA, moderated a session entitled “No Red Tape: Removing Our Own Trade Barriers: Accelerating The Africa Trade Area Agreement”. With AfCFTA implementation underway, members states are committed to eliminating trade barriers on most goods and services. However, these commitments must be supported by effective and practical regulations, flexible financing, and private sector ingenuity to accomplish the desired goal. Florie was joined by a dynamic group of experts in these fields such as H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, Former President of Tanzania; Rebecca Grynspar, Secretary-General UNCTAD; Dr. Donald Kaberuka, Former AfDB President; H.E. Amb. Martin Kimani, Kenya Permanent UN Representative; and Tariye Gbadegesin, CEO of Arm Harith Infrastructure.



NIGERIAN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM BREAKFAST MEET & GREET



On the sidelines of the UNGA, CCA hosted the breakfast session for the Nigerian International Economic Partnership Forum in partnership with the Nigerian Investment promotion council on September 22, 2022. The Forum was attended by members of the Corporate Council on Africa and various key stakeholders in the public and private sectors, including AFDB, Afrexim, and more. Florie Liser, in her remarks, spoke about CCA's long history of hosting key stakeholders from the public and private sectors. Nigeria remains a priority country in line with CCA's mandate to drive

trade and investment between the United States and Nigeria. She also spoke about CCA's Energy and Health working groups and the CCA's willingness to help support Nigeria's health security and energy transition plans. She advised the key stakeholders from the Nigerian public sector to scale up efforts around the AfCFTA as an opportunity to mitigate the effects of the global tailwinds. Through the remarks of the Chief of Staff to the President, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, the Nigerian government thanked CCA for being a long-time partner.



WTO PUBLIC FORUM '22: LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY FOR AN INCLUSIVE RECOVERY



Despite the COVID-19 pandemic's disruptions, new technology allowed trade and economic activity to continue. In the meantime, as digitization spreads quickly across industries, it is growing the digital divide. From investing in domestic internet infrastructure to putting in place the right policies to increase internet adoption and dissemination, there are many things governments can do to support SMEs to grow in trade and achieve technological transformation, Florie Liser said at this year's World Health Organization public forum on September 28, 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Corporate Council on Africa's CEO and President joined an esteemed panel of thought leaders to discuss how trade can narrow digital gaps by leveraging technology to promote an inclusive economic recovery while ensuring a fair, safe and sustainable marketplace. Entitled "Leveraging technology for an inclusive recovery: Ambition to action", the forum examined how trade rules can be strengthened and government policies improved to create a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive trading system.

[Click here](#) to watch the live stream session.



U.S.-TOGO BUSINESS & INVESTMENT ROUNDTABLE

On Wednesday, October 12, 2022, CCA hosted the delegation of H.E. Faure E. Gnassingbe, President of Togo at Winston & Strawn LLP in Washington, DC. The event was sponsored by Cybastion with Leila Ndiaye, Senior Vice President for Business Strategy & Government Affairs providing introductory remarks and welcoming the Republic of Togo's Minister of Investment Promotion, H.E. Rose Mivedor. H.E. Mivedor shared a presentation on the resilience of the Togo economy and the growth opportunities that the West African nation has ahead. Togo offers free access through its market and is the founding member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAE-MU) and the Economic Community of 15 West African States (ECOWAS).

In 2020, Togo stood out as the best performing in terms of investment attraction in the world, relative to its size, according to Greenfield performance index. H.E. Mivedor stated that private investments have almost doubled in 5 years which is equivalent to an average annual growth rate of 12.2%. The main sectors of attraction are infrastructure, industry, banking, telecommunications, energy and mining.

The event included questions and answers from representatives of CCA member organizations and Florie Liser, President & CEO of CCA, provided the closing remarks reiterating the potential and modernized economy of the Republic of Togo.

Special thanks to Winston & Strawn LLP for hosting the event and photography.



H.E. Rose Mivedor, Minister of Investment Promotion, Republic of Togo



Left to Right: Thomas Trimble, Partner, Winston and Strawn, LLP; H.E. Bouraïma Kanfintine Tchede Issa, Minister of Accessibility and Rural Roads; H.E. Mila Aziablé, Minister Delegate to the President for Energy and Mines; Florie Liser, President & CEO, CCA; Leila Ndiaye, Senior Vice President Business Strategy and Government Affairs, Cybastion; H.E. Antoine Lekpa Gbegbeni, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development; H.E. Frédéric E. Hegbe, Ambassador of Togo to the U.S.; Jeremy Schwer, Of Counsel, Winston & Strawn, LLP

AFRICA FINANCE FORUM: CLIMATE FINANCE IN AFRICA: LEVERAGING PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT



Corporate Council on Africa's "Africa Finance Forum" series focused on climate finance in a session on October 13, 2022, held in Washington, D.C. The roundtable session, entitled 'Climate Finance in Africa: Leveraging Public Sector Investment' was moderated by Kalidou Gadio, a Partner at Curis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP and included nearly three dozen participants from the private sector, international financial institutions, and both African and U.S. government officials. In the course of the exchange various topics were addressed in an open and candid conversation focused on African government institutional approaches to seeking private sector investment in

a just energy transition, private sector expectations and experiences investing in the African energy sector, expectations leading into COP27 in Sharm-el-Sheikh, and comparative analysis of risks and opportunities in light of current events. Among the provocative subjects on which attendees exchanged views was the potential for a global reassessment of greenhouse gas emission commitments in light of retrenchment by



Left to Right: H.E. Matia Kasaija, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda; Kalidou Gadio, Partner, Curis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP; H.E. Ilyas Moussa Dawaleh, Minister of Economy and Finance, Djibouti; Dr. Doyin Salami, Chief Economist Adviser to the President of Nigeria.

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Tshepidi Moremong, Chief Operating Officer , Africa50

PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH AFRICAN LEADERSHIP



Left to Right: Florie Liser, President & CEO, CCA; Prof. Kingsley Moghalu, President of Sogato Strategies LLC



Left to Right: Florie Liser, President & CEO, CCA; H.E. Onkokame Kitso Mokaila, Ambassador of Botswana to the U.S.



Left to Right: H.E. Serge Mombouli, Ambassador of the Republic of Congo to the U.S.; Florie Liser, President & CEO, CCA; H.E. Denis-Christel Sassou Nguesso, Minister of International Cooperation, Republic of Congo



Left to Right: Emama Shunnom, Senior Policy Manager, Cybastion; Florie Liser, President & CEO, CCA; H.E. Faure E. Gnassingbe, President of the Republic of Togo; Leila Ndiaye, Senior Vice President of Business Strategy and Government Affairs, Cybastion



Ethiopian Minister of Finance, H.E. Ahmed Shide and his delegation at the Business Roundtable on October 14, 2022

The Corporate Council on Africa welcomes the November 2, 2022, signing of a cessation of hostilities between the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front.

CCA congratulates the people of Ethiopia and wishes to see this agreement bring security, peace, and prosperity to Ethiopia and the region in general.

CCA'S NEW DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
& BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to the Team



*Sauda
Ahmed*

Sauda is an active international attorney licensed to practice in New York and Nigeria with over 13 years of experience as a prosecutor, program developer, human rights advocate, and ethics/compliance attorney. She began her career prosecuting human trafficking cases in Nigeria while facilitating public-private partnerships, negotiating MOUs, and drafting grant proposals to fund and build programs that provided medical treatment, emergency housing, education assistance and job/vocational training to human trafficking victims.

Sauda's experience spans from an international organization and federal civil service in Africa to nonprofit and for-profit organizations in the United States with expertise in international law and anti-trafficking as well as anti-corruption and anti-money laundering compliance respectively.

She has had the opportunity to interact with high level government officials, c-suite executives, diplomatic communities, vulnerable groups, and volunteers across these industries and continents. She received her law degree from University of Abuja and a Master of Laws (LL.M) in International and Comparative Law from George Washington University Law School.

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CCA MEMBER COMPANIES FEATURED IN THE U.S. EDITION OF THE the africa report

PROFILE

ADVERTORIAL

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Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) is the leading U.S. business association focused solely on connecting business interests in Africa and promoting business and investment between the US and the nations of Africa. CCA is pleased to spotlight a few of our member companies that are doing great work on the Continent. More info: www.corporatecouncilonafrika.com

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ESATAL

● Finance



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Eastern and Southern African Trade Advisers Limited (ESATAL) is a subsidiary of TDB Group, and the fund manager of the Eastern and Southern African Trade Fund (ESATF).

ESATF is an open-ended collective investment fund which focuses on advancing trade-led economic and social development in Africa via the financing of short to medium-term trade transactions, including those of SMEs.

ESATAL and ESATF are part of TDB Group's asset and fund management activities which are focused on the design, origination, and growth of stand-alone investment vehicles for a wide range of investors and development partners. In addition to ESATAL, TDB Group also comprises the Trade and Development Bank (TDB), Trade and Development Fund (TDF), TDB Captive Insurance (TCI), and the TDB Academy.

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service. Our objective is to build a sustainable Pan-African business to transform the lives of our customers while creating a positive impact in the environment we operate in. Trinity Energy is the first indigenous South Sudanese company to be ISO 9001 2015 certified. We are a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact as a further commitment to sustainable business practices. Trinity Energy is dedicated to delivering homegrown solutions for Africa's energy transformation.

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CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL

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Hajiya Rabi Habibu harvests 70 bags of corn per hectare, up from 5 bags. She is one of 50,000 Nigerian smallholder farmers sowing benefits through a grant to Thrive Agric from the USAID West Africa Trade & Investment Fund. The Trade Hub's blended finance model unites the private and public sectors to boost food security, improve agri-business, address climate change and generate jobs. The results are impressive: The blended finance model supports 87 public-private partnerships, leveraging more than \$700



million in private capital in 23 value chains, over \$600 million in exports and 73,000 new jobs. When local voices and expertise are supported by global best practices and resources, the results can be transformative. Creative Associates International has applied these principles in Africa for nearly four decades, having a positive and sustainable effect on education, employment and much more.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2022

November 15

Digitalization: A Backbone for Regulatory
Harmonization and Health Systems
Strengthening in Africa

9:00 am - 10:15 am EST | Virtual

[Click here](#) to register

December 13 - 15

U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit
Washington, D.C.

December 14

U.S.-Africa Business Forum
Washington, D.C.

WELCOME NEW CCA MEMBERS

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mrembert@corporatcouncilonafrika.com

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