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## Special Edition

**U.S.-Africa  
Business Summit**



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## **WELCOME NEW CCA MEMBERS**

- **Africa Sub-Saharan Services (AFRICASS)**
- **Empower Africa**
- **Global Roots Enterprises**
- **Mitrelli**
- **OHM Watts Energies SARL**

**WANT TO BE A MEMBER?**

**Contact Yolanda Nosakhare, Director of Member Relations  
at [ynosakhare@corporatcouncilonafrika.com](mailto:ynosakhare@corporatcouncilonafrika.com)**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2025 U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Luanda was more than an extraordinary gathering—it was a transformative catalyst for partnership and commercial engagement. With over 2,700 attendees, including 12 African Heads of State, 31 official delegations, 200 speakers, and 68 sponsors, this was the largest Summit in CCA's history. Beyond the impressive numbers lies the true measure of success: impact. The Summit delivered a record-breaking \$4 billion in trade and investment deals and commitments, underscoring the immense power of strategic partnership between the United States and Africa.

## A Pivotal Moment in U.S.-Africa Relations

This record-breaking turnout reflects a pivotal moment in U.S.-Africa relations. While enthusiasm for deeper trade and investment ties has never been stronger, we face growing uncertainty around foundational pillars of our partnership – namely, new tariffs on African imports, the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the future of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and support for health-related initiatives like PEPFAR. Since CCA and its members are key stakeholders on these issues, we recently issued a [statement](#) and look forward to working with our U.S. and African partners to advance them.

Following USAID's official sunset on July 1, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio outlined a new strategic direction, stating: "Our new model will prioritize trade over aid, and investment over assistance." This vision was powerfully echoed by Angolan President João Lourenço during his opening remarks, as he called to "replace the logic of aid with the logic of ambition and private investment," emphasizing Angola's commitment to transformative partnerships.

President Lourenço's declaration of "a presence more oriented towards private investment, innovation, and the building of robust partnerships" set a confident, forward-looking tone for what proved to be a dynamic and deeply impactful Summit – one that is actively reimagining U.S.-Africa engagement.

Under the theme "Pathways to Prosperity: A Shared Vision for U.S.-Africa Partnership," we witnessed this vision come to life through truly collaborative planning with the Government of Angola. Their exceptional leadership and hospitality elevated every moment, from high-level dialogues to unforgettable cultural showcases celebrating Angola's rich heritage and promising future.



• The Summit delivered a record-breaking \$4 billion in trade and investment deals and commitments, underscoring the immense power of strategic partnership between the United States and Africa.

## President's Message Continued:



## Strong U.S. Government Leadership Driving Commercial Diplomacy

We were pleased to see Ambassador Troy Fitrell, Head of the U.S. delegation to the Summit, play a key role in advancing the U.S. government's commercial diplomacy strategy. In his remarks, he captured the transformative moment we're experiencing in the U.S.-Africa relationship: "Africa is not the same place it was twenty-five years ago...the world has changed, the United States has changed, markets have changed, the economies are vastly different today than they were twenty-five years ago." He emphasized the untapped potential for American business engagement, noting that "we've got 300,000 business-ready American businesses who aren't doing business in Africa...We have to find them; we have to make sure they understand what's available here and bring them to the market as well."

Senior Advisor to President Trump, Dr. Massad Boulos, through high-level meetings, emphasized the critical link between peace, stability, and economic growth – particularly regarding the DRC-Rwanda peace initiative.

In his remarks, Dr. Boulos underscored America's commitment to responsible investment and transparent supply chains: "Meaningful economic growth can only take root in an environment defined by peace and stability. With lasting peace, the United States is prepared to support expanded investment, and U.S. companies will bring strong commitment to responsible business practices and reliable, transparent mineral and infrastructure supply chains."

This aligns perfectly with CCA's mission. We continue championing platforms that unite business and government leaders from the United States and African nations to advance responsible trade, sustainable investment, and regional integration. We recognize that peace and stability are not merely prerequisites but the drivers of mutual prosperity.

## African Leaders Champion Investment-Led Growth

African leaders delivered equally powerful messages demonstrating shared commitment to investment-led growth:

In his keynote remarks as co-host of the Summit, Chair of the African Union Heads of State Assembly and President of the Republic of Angola, João Lourenço, set the stage noting that "Today more than ever, the African continent is positioned as one of the great drivers of global growth, with a young, innovative and active population, abundant natural resources and growing integration of its markets. Africa presents itself as a privileged space for investment and growth opportunities." He highlighted that "economic ties between Africa and the United States of America have the potential to grow significantly. The opportunities for private direct investment are in key areas that correspond to both the continent's priorities and the comparative advantages of U.S. companies."

Chairman of the African Union Commission Mohamoud Ali Youssouf focused on the continental vision, declaring that "The African continent is considered by many as the powerhouse of the future global growth...the African Union Commission views U.S.-Africa private sector collaboration a game changer in our quest for shared prosperity." Chair of the AfCFTA Secretariat Wamkele Mene emphasized the importance of multilateral trade frameworks: "The multilateral trading system is Africa's only opportunity at fair trade and fair investment; through our collective efforts, guided by clarity, purpose and mutual respect, we believe that we have an opportunity to forge ahead a new U.S.-Africa trade and investment relationship with AGOA at its core."





AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina presented compelling data-driven arguments for African investment: “Smart investors should pay attention to Africa...Africa offers high rates of return on investment. Don’t believe me, believe the data.” He cited UN Development Programme insights showing that investing in Africa delivers internal rates of return between 14 and 20%, while Moody’s Analytics data reveals that Africa has the lowest infrastructure investment risk globally at just 1.9% cumulative losses due to default, compared to 6.6% in North America and over 10% in Latin America and Eastern Europe. “As we build transport corridors, let us also build strategic partnership corridors—between the United States and Africa... The U.S. and Africa’s strategic partnerships should move beyond aid to investments...Act on the data, not perceptions. Think Africa. Think opportunities. Think competition.”

Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah emphasized energy partnerships and women’s leadership, declaring that “Namibia is ready to work with U.S. partners to unlock sustainable development across strategic sectors.”

Botswana’s President Duma Boko brought sharp clarity to the digital agenda, stating that “Africa is beginning to take itself seriously—and in turn,

will compel the world to do the same,” as he championed connectivity, digital trade, and fairer financial systems.

Gabonese President Brice Oligui Nguema emphasized transparent governance and win-win partnerships, noting that “we are rich in resources—but we need partners who respect our sovereignty and help us unlock value for our people.”

Ethiopian President Taye Atske Selassie spotlighted agriculture and tourism as growth engines, urging U.S. investors to “look beyond short-term gains and commit to long-term partnerships that build resilient economies and shared prosperity.”

Together, their voices reflected a continent ready to lead – and expecting to be met with respect, investment, and shared prosperity.

In sum, strong U.S. and African government leadership in collaboration with the private sector will no doubt fulfill the Summit’s theme of a shared vision for U.S.-Africa partnership that will set a path for mutual prosperity.

#### **Welcoming New Members**

We warmly welcomed new CCA members at our annual Members meeting in Luanda, with many

participating directly in Summit panels, roundtables, and high-level dialogues. Remarkably, more organizations joined CCA at our exhibition booth during this Summit than in any previous year – a testament to the momentum we’re building and the trust we’re earning as the premier platform for action-oriented U.S.-Africa trade, investment and business engagement.

#### **Gratitude to Our Summit Partners**

The 2025 U.S.-Africa Business Summit was powered by generous support from more than 40 U.S. and African companies – from SMEs to multinationals. We were especially pleased to partner with the Angolan Agency for Private Investment and Promotion of Exports (AIPEX) whose partnership and collaboration facilitated Summit sponsorship by many Angolan companies.

To all our valued sponsors – thank you for your unwavering support. Your investment helped create a dynamic space for connection, dealmaking, and vision-setting that reflects the growing momentum behind U.S.-Africa trade, investment and commercial engagement.

#### **Thanks to CCA Team, Welcome to New Staff Member, and Farewell to Senior Advisor**

I am truly thankful for the incredible CCA team without whose dedication and hard work the Summit could not have been successful.

We’re pleased to welcome April Wells to the CCA team as the new Senior Advisor to me. A career member of the U.S. Department of State Senior Foreign Service, April brings 20 years of diplomatic experience spanning risk analysis, policy and strategy formulation, trade promotion and advocacy, and strategic communications across the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and Washington. April’s deep expertise in international relations and trade advocacy will significantly enhance CCA’s mission of strengthening U.S.-Africa partnerships.

As we celebrate new beginnings, we also honor an exceptional colleague’s distinguished service. Ellen Tannor Richardson, who served as Senior Advisor

to me on detail from the Department of State, retired from U.S. Government service and departed CCA on July 15th. Ellen’s remarkable career as a Diplomatic Security Service Special Agent, Diplomat, and Senior Foreign Service member brought invaluable expertise to our organization’s mission of strengthening U.S.-Africa partnerships. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ellen for her dedication, wisdom, and friendship. Her contributions to CCA and to U.S.-Africa relations will have lasting impact, and we wish her all the best in her post-government endeavors.

#### **Looking Ahead: 80th UN General Assembly**

We cordially invite you to join us at the 80th United Nations General Assembly in New York this September, where CCA will again host high-level dialogues with key Heads of State and prominent U.S. and African voices. Stay tuned for details – and if you’re not yet a CCA member, now is the perfect time to join us for this high-impact week in New York.

The conversation will continue, progress will advance, and the Corporate Council on Africa will be there every step of the way, providing the information, access, and engagement opportunities needed to strengthen U.S.-Africa trade, investment, and commercial ties.

Together, we are not just imagining shared U.S.-Africa prosperity. We are building it.

Sincerely,

Florizelle Liser  
President & CEO  
Corporate Council on Africa



# 2025 U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT

## Pathways to Prosperity: A Shared Vision for U.S.-Africa Partnership

The 2025 U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Luanda, Angola brought together a record-breaking crowd of over 2,700 participants from 85 countries, highlighting the growing global interest in strengthening U.S.-Africa commercial ties. The high-level gathering featured an impressive lineup of 230 speakers, including 12 African Heads of State and Government—among them six Presidents, three Prime Ministers, and one Deputy Prime Minister—as well as three Heads of African Agencies: the AfCFTA Secretariat, AUDA-NEPAD, and the African Space Agency. The Summit hosted 41 Ministers and 31 official delegations, along with more than 400 U.S. and African government officials. Supported by 68 sponsors and covered by over 300 members of the media, the Summit served as a critical platform for advancing trade, investment, and partnership opportunities across key sectors on the continent.



Over 2700 Attendees



12 African Heads of State and Government



- 400+ U.S. & African Government Officials
- 3 Heads of African Agencies
- 41 African Ministers



31 African Delegations



Over 230 Speakers



Now up to \$4 Billion worth of deals between U.S. and African partners

### SUMMIT VIDEOS

Watch the videos to see what happened at the Summit.



Monday, June 23, 2025



Tuesday, June 24 & Wednesday, June 25, 2025



Full Recap video

## 2025 U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT: OPENING CEREMONY

The 2025 U.S.-Africa Business Summit opened in Luanda, Angola, under the theme “Pathways to Prosperity,” bringing together over 2,700 delegates, including 12 African Heads of State or Government, a Deputy Prime Minister, 31 African delegations, key ministers from across the continent, and senior officials from both the U.S. and African governments. The Opening Ceremony set the tone for the Summit by emphasizing the importance of deepening U.S.-Africa economic ties through meaningful partnerships, strategic investment, and private sector engagement. Speakers highlighted Africa’s strong economic performance and underscored the transformative potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

CCA President Florie Liser opened the ceremony by affirming, “Prosperity is built through partnership, trust, and a commitment to unlocking opportunities that benefit all of us.” The importance of collaboration was echoed by Hon. Troy Fitrell, U.S. Ambassador to Angola and São Tomé and Príncipe, who noted, “Investing in human capital is a fundamentally American way of doing business,” and added, “There are business leaders in the U.S. who need to understand the opportunities that lie in doing business with Africa. Our mission going forward will be to find them—and bring them in.” John Olajide, Chairman of Cavista Holdings and CCA Chairman of the Board, emphasized Africa’s economic momentum, stating,



H.E. Joao Lourenço, President, Republic of Angola

“Africa’s GDP has been growing at a rate that surpasses the global average.”

AfCFTA Secretary General H.E. Wamkele Mene underscored the historic opportunity the agreement represents, remarking, “The African Continental Free Trade Agreement... now has one of the world’s largest free trade markets of 1.3 billion people and a combined GDP of \$3.4 trillion.” He also highlighted how initiatives like AGOA have supported smallholder farmers, factories, and U.S. investors alike. AU Commission Chairperson H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf reinforced the continent’s resolve to drive growth from within, asserting, “Yes, we are going to rely on our own domestic resources. We are developing policies to mobilize our own national resources.” Finally, H.E. President



Hon. Troy Fitrell, Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State



H.E. Wamkele Mene, AfCFTA Secretary General





João Lourenço of Angola called for a new era in U.S.-Africa relations, declaring, “It is time to replace the logic of aid with the logic of investment and trade.”

The Opening Ceremony made clear that sustainable economic development in Africa depends on sound public policies, private sector dynamism, and investments in human capital. As participants reiterated throughout the session, realizing Africa’s potential requires not only ambition but also lasting commitment—from both African nations and their global partners—to move from dialogue to action.



H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson,  
African Union Commission



John Olajide, Founder and CEO, Axxess, Chairman of Cavista Holdings & CCA



Jean Boule, Founder, Jean Boule Group, CCA Board Vice Chairman; Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group

## 2025 U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT: **SCENE SETTER PLENARY: PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY: A SHARED VISION FOR U.S.-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP**

The Scene Setter Plenary at the 2025 U.S.-Africa Business Summit provided a dynamic and thought-provoking exploration of the African market’s economic potential, particularly as a growth frontier for U.S. exports. Moderated by Bloomberg’s Jennifer Zabasajja, the session featured distinguished panelists Juvelino Domingos, CFO of BAI; Admassu Tadesse, President and Group Managing Director of TDB Group; and Yvonne Ike, Managing Director and Head of Sub-Saharan Africa (Ex-RSA) at Bank of America. Together, they examined the critical elements needed to unlock Africa’s growth, emphasizing infrastructure finance, innovative asset recycling strategies, and the importance of diversifying investment sources beyond traditional partners. The panelists stressed that while Africa offers substantial opportunities for U.S. exports—especially in sectors like machinery and technology—realizing this potential depends on building stronger policy frameworks and improving regulatory environments that can effectively attract private capital.

Speakers also addressed the structural challenges within the global financial system, calling for greater inclusion of African institutions in shaping international finance policies. “Africa should essentially attract private capital to unlock its assets,” one speaker noted, underscoring the need to move beyond reliance on public debt. Admassu Tadesse pointed out that “the truth is Africa’s development still needs a lot of debt,” while others emphasized asset recycling as a tool to relieve government fiscal pressure and spur infrastructure development. Yvonne Ike highlighted that “there’s a global \$1.5 trillion capital commitment to galvanize investment globally, and Africa is still included in that,” urging stakeholders to position the continent competitively within global capital markets.

The panel concluded with a call to action for enhanced collaboration between African and U.S. companies, deeper engagement of local financial institutions, and sustained investment in human capital and technology. Together, these efforts are essential to overcome financing barriers and to drive long-term, inclusive economic growth across the continent.



**Left to Right:** Jennifer Zabasajja, Bloomberg; Juvelino Domingos, BAI; Yvonne Ike, Bank of America; Admassu Tadesse, TDB Group



## PLENARY: ADVANCING U.S.-AFRICA ENERGY PARTNERSHIPS: FROM DIALOGUE TO DELIVERY

The plenary moderated by Richard Quest, Editor-at-Large at CNN News, focused on the theme “*Advancing U.S.-Africa Energy Partnerships – From Dialogue to Delivery*.” The discussion centered on the need for tangible outcomes in U.S.-Africa energy collaborations, highlighting trust as a critical factor between African nations and international investors. Speakers emphasized that despite long-standing dialogue about Africa’s energy potential, practical steps toward project delivery remain slow due to challenges in trust, communication, and alignment of expectations between governments, companies, and financiers.

The panel featured distinguished speakers, including H.E. Mohamed Salem Merzouq, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia; H.E. Mohamed Arkab, State Minister of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energy for the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria; Hon. Thomas Hardy, Acting Director, U.S. Trade

and Development Agency; Ms. Elizabeth Schwarze, Vice President, Global Exploration, Chevron; and Mr. Richard Brake, Director of Exploration, ExxonMobil. Each highlighted the pressing need for stronger government foundations, consistency in regulatory environments, and clear alignment on priorities to bridge the gap between investor expectations and government objectives.

A recurring theme was the importance of mutual understanding and pragmatism in building sustainable energy partnerships. Trust, transparency, and a stable policy environment were cited as essential to attract long-term investments, particularly in energy sectors balancing fossil fuel and renewable development. Speakers acknowledged the historical context of broken agreements, underlining the need to restore confidence through consistent, reliable engagement aimed at ensuring energy serves as a catalyst for Africa’s broader industrialization and development.



**Left to Right:** Richard Quest, CNN; H.E. Mohamed Salem Merzouq, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mauritania; H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President, Namibia; H.E. Mohamed Arkab, State Minister of Energy, Mines and Renewable Energy, Algeria; Hon. Thomas Hardy, U.S. Trade & Development Agency; Elizabeth Schwarze, Chevron; Richard Barke, ExxonMobil

## HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE: FINANCING THE NEXT PHASE OF AFRICA’S HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

African countries have made strengthening health systems, including expanding Africa’s capacity to manufacture more of the medicines and supplies it needs, a strategic imperative. Panelists noted that Africa needs an estimated \$260 billion in financing for health infrastructure over the next decade, while governments have only budgeted \$45 billion, leaving a \$215 billion gap. African governments face multiple demands for scarce funds and spend only 6% of public health spending on infrastructure, compared to 20% in other regions. As COVID-19 revealed, Africa faces additional needs including reducing its dependence on imported vaccines from the 99% level during the pandemic through initiatives like boosting local manufacturing. Initiatives like the USP Access for Africa Initiative and Roche’s 10x strategy aim to improve local manufacturing and supporting laboratory networks. Key challenges include harmonizing regulatory standards and building human capacity. Additionally, African countries are now grappling with overcoming their previous dependency on donors, which is spurring countries to look for innovative ways to

leverage public-private partnerships including with the insurance industry. Participants noted the example of a partnership in Cote d’Ivoire that built 62 hospitals in 36 months. The panel emphasized the need for sustainable, replicable models that lower financial and operational risks and increased political commitment to achieve long-term success. There is also scope to increase collaboration with academia and philanthropy.



**Left to Right:** Jonathan Eige, Albright Stonebridge Group; Jude Nwokike, Global Health & Manufacturing Services; Joseph Lubega, Texas Children’s Global HOPE; H.E. Nthomeng Justina Majara, Deputy Prime Minister, Lesotho; Joseph Lubega, Texas Children’s Hospital; John Nevergole, ABD Group



## HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE: THE RACE TO CONNECT: INVESTING IN AFRICA'S DIGITAL BACKBONE

The High-Level Dialogue entitled “*The Race to Connect: Investing in Africa’s Digital Backbone*”, moderated by Guy Baron, Head of Investment, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, featured H.E. Duma Gideon Boko, President of Botswana, John Olajide, Chairman, Cavista Holdings & Board Chairman of Corporate Council on Africa, Jorge Vazquez, CEO, Africell Angola, Aruna Handem, Senior Director, Cybastion, and Kunle Iluyemi, SVP, Head Sub-Saharan Africa, IHS Towers. They explored the challenges and opportunities in driving Africa’s digital transformation.

H.E. President Duma Boko emphasized that harmonizing policy across Africa is essential, urging the alignment of digital laws and regulations under the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol. He pointed to Botswana’s move to a co-created “national transformation strategy”, involving the private sector to ensure policies are practical. Using Starlink licensing as an example, he spoke

to the importance of speed and regulatory agility. He praised Botswana’s forthcoming Digital Services Act, developed in partnership with industry, and urged Africa to learn together to avoid fragmented progress.

“So we need a harmonized environment, legal and policy, framework that envelopes the whole of Africa not just isolated pockets.” — President Duma Boko

John Olajide identified three pillars for investment: Infrastructure Readiness (e.g., deploying 500 engineers to scale 4G/5G, Public-Private Collaboration—especially in rural areas where social impact justifies investment—and Smart Financing, aligning patient capital to long-term projects. He also emphasized the power of success stories from places like Botswana and Nigeria to inspire broader scale-up.



**Left to Right:** Guy Baron, Tony Blair Institutes; H.E. Duma Boko, President, Botswana; John Olajide, CCA; Thierry Wandji, Cybastion; Jorge Vazquez, Africell; Kunle Iluyemi, IHS Towers

### The Race to Connect Continued:



Jorge Vazquez framed mobile connectivity as essential—acting as a lifeline in informal economies. He advocated for shared infrastructure (multicarrier towers, open fiber), and urged that Africa leapfrog legacy systems by deploying next-generation tech early. He highlighted Africell’s space PPP with Angola’s space agency to reach remote areas and envisioned Africa emerging as a digital exporter through AI and local data centers.

Kunle Iluyemi stressed IHS’s role as Africa’s digital backbone, building towers and fiber. He warned of a massive tower-density gap (300k vs. 3M in Asia) and explained how a single rural tower can transform communities. He called for public-private partnerships, streamlined permitting, effective use of universal-access funds, and FX-hedged long-term capital—drawing lessons from global markets.

Aruna Handem shared how his son’s competitive gaming in Cabo Verde experienced lag due to latency, illustrating human costs of digital delay. He emphasized digital trust as central to ecosystems and warned against fragmented policies.

He advocated for locally tailored regulations, pointing to how digital banking flourished before formal regulation, and urged forward-looking governance to harness technologies like AI.

In response to Guy Baron’s speed round question—“What one bold, medium-term step (3–5 years) would you prioritize to catalyze Africa’s digital transformation?”—panelists offered pragmatic, people-focused strategies. John Olajide emphasized streamlining visa processes to enable talent mobility and ecosystem growth. Aruna Handem urged the development of context-aware digital regulations that align with rapid technological evolution. Jorge Vazquez recommended building focused niche ecosystems (e.g., fintech, edtech) powered by end-user-oriented policy frameworks. And Kunle Iluyemi underscored the imperative of shared infrastructure, advocating for public-private collaboration, simplified permitting, and coordinated funding. Together, their answers illustrated a vision for transformation rooted in collaboration, regulatory agility, infrastructure sharing, and human-centric solutions.



## HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE: MINING AND CRITICAL MINERALS



**Left to Right:** Andrea Hotter, FastMarkets; H.E. Habtamu Tegegne, Minister of Mines, Ethiopia; Connor Coleman, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation; Helmut Engelbrecht, Standard Bank; Thomas Flahive, CrossBoundary

Africa is actively looking to leverage major shifts in energy and manufacturing to increase its integration into global mining value chains for both traditional and critical minerals while increasing the benefits in terms of jobs and economic development for local populations. The Prime Minister of Madagascar and a distinguished panel discussed the challenges involved in achieving the vision that countries like Madagascar have to leverage mineral assets to support development. While there is no one-size fits all solution, governments and companies need to work together to make sure all the right elements are in place to allow these resources to be developed. That ranges from having required energy and transportation infrastructure in place to workforce development to putting in place the right kinds of policies to support investment. Both companies and governments need clarity in terms of what the other side needs to make investments work. It is also important for companies that government policies remain transparent and predictable, particularly given that mining projects typically take 15 years to go from 'pit to port.' While China has already established a significant presence, it is not 'too late' for U.S. companies to increase their presence in Africa. Entities like the Development Finance Corporation are working closely with the private sector to develop a mineral by mineral

approach to creating the right value chains to make projects happen. One aspect that companies and governments can pursue to make future projects more successful is to take a regional and continental approach, rather than looking at just one country, recognizing the important changes that the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and other policies have introduced. Governments can support faster development by implementing policies that support vertical and regional integration. Companies and governments should also target increasing the share of exploration budgets dedicated to Africa, which currently represent 10% of global expenditure, far short of Africa's 30% of global mineral resources.



## HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE: STRENGTHENING U.S.-AFRICA COLLABORATION IN THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

The high-level dialogue, "*Strengthening U.S.-Africa Collaboration in the Agri-Food Sector*" brought together an impressive array of heads of state, policymakers, and private sector representatives to discuss pathways for strengthening U.S. business engagement in Africa's agricultural sector. The session opened with remarks underscoring the strong interest from both African leaders and American investors in unlocking the continent's agricultural potential.

Panelists highlighted Africa's unique position, possessing roughly 60% of the world's remaining fertile land, and emphasized that agri-food transformation must become both globally competitive and business-driven to attract substantial investment. Leaders from Ethiopia, Eswatini, and Côte d'Ivoire each showcased their countries' strengths—from abundant arable land and dynamic workforces to stable political environments and strong logistical networks—aimed at attracting American investors. They made clear that the competitive edge lies not just in production but in building resilient food systems,



**Left to Right:** Mima Nedelcovych, AfricaGlobal Schaffer; H.E. Taye Atske Selassie, President, Ethiopia;

enhancing trade connectivity, and focusing on value addition and export-ready standards.

The discussion also touched on practical success stories, such as Ethiopia's wheat production transformation and Eswatini's export of high-quality sugar and citrus, demonstrating capacity to meet international standards. Heads of state encouraged U.S. businesses to invest in niche opportunities like cotton, avocado, and gluten-free crops, and stressed the importance of robust project preparation, infrastructure, and market access through continental frameworks. The session concluded with private sector leaders sharing their approaches to overcoming market, logistics, and transformation challenges—reinforcing that collaborative partnerships and value addition are key to sustainable agri-food investment and mutually beneficial growth between the U.S. and Africa



**Left to Right:** H.E. Robert Beugré Mambé, Prime Minister, The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Tomas Frade, Mitrelli; Paul Sullivan, Acrow Bridge; Joao Agostinho Pinto, OPAIA



## HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE: UNLOCKING CAPITAL FOR AFRICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH INNOVATIVE FINANCE

Moderated by CNN's Richard Quest, the session explored how Africa can unlock infrastructure development through public-private partnerships (PPPs), asset recycling, and innovative financing. Alain Ebobissé, CEO of Africa50, emphasized that while governments may delegate services to private actors, the responsibility for infrastructure delivery still lies with the public sector. Africa is adopting global PPP standards, especially in risk allocation, and must prioritize strong project sponsors and balanced contracts. Ebobissé stressed the importance of building projects with asset recycling in mind—applying a “build, derisk, distribute” model to recycle capital and accelerate development. Brook Taye, CEO of Ethiopia Investment Holding, echoed the urgency of infrastructure development despite its risks, noting that successful brownfield projects can be monetized and reinvested, though the same model is harder to apply to riskier greenfield projects. The panel also discussed the importance of policy continuity, with Ebobissé and others calling for strong enabling environments and risk mitigation tools to protect long-term investments.



**Left to Right:** Richard Quest, CNN; Alain Ebobisse, Africa 50; Akinwumi Adesina, African Development Bank; Armando Manuel, Fundo Soberano de Angola; Brook Taye Gameda, Ethiopia Investment Holding

Armando Manuel, CEO of the Sovereign Wealth Fund of Angola, highlighted the role of sovereign funds and development finance institutions in de-risking investments and mobilizing capital. All panelists agreed that power transmission is a viable and critical area for asset recycling. Taye cited Ethiopia's success in exporting electricity to multiple countries, demonstrating the revenue potential of integrated infrastructure strategies. The conversation broadened to address perceived risks in African markets, with panelists pushing back against misconceptions. Manuel advocated for blended finance models, while Ebobissé cited data from Moody's showing that African infrastructure projects are less risky than often assumed. Panelists acknowledged the trust issues between neighboring countries in cross-border projects but insisted that regional interdependence in sectors like energy and agriculture is both necessary and inevitable.

In response to skepticism from IFC's Tiago Almeida about bankability, Ebobissé and Taye passionately defended Africa's progress, citing numerous successful infrastructure investments already in place. The discussion concluded with a call to mobilize more domestic and regional capital, including local pension funds, to drive future infrastructure growth. Manuel proposed exploring blockchain and tokenization to further unlock asset value, while Taye stressed the need for governments to better manage and assess their existing infrastructure assets. As a final note, panelists rejected narratives of stagnation, pointing to landmark private investments—such as Dangote's \$21 billion refinery in Nigeria—as proof of Africa's ongoing transformation. Ebobissé closed with a strong affirmation: Africa is investing in itself and will continue to lead its own development, welcoming international support but not dependent on it.

## PLENARY: LOBITO CORRIDOR: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR AFRICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE FUTURE - PART 1

The session, moderated by Whitney Schneidman, explored the transformational potential of the Lobito Corridor and the broader imperative of infrastructure development in Africa. Framed as both a regional integration effort and a global investment opportunity, the conversation emphasized how strategic infrastructure—especially in transport, energy, and digital connectivity—can unlock intra-African trade, stimulate industrial growth, and create long-term economic resilience. The Lobito Corridor was positioned not just as a rail line or a road network, but as a model for comprehensive, multi-sector development that spans from extraction to export; what some referred to as a “pit to port” approach.

Panelists emphasized the critical role of public-private partnerships, flexible financing, and policy reform in enabling sustainable development. Speakers noted that the infrastructure gap, estimated at \$350 billion, must be addressed through long-term partnerships rather than one-off projects. The U.S. Development Finance Corporation, represented by Conor Coleman, described its evolving role in catalyzing investment that benefits

both African economies and global trade networks. Similarly, Haim Taib stressed that Africa doesn't need charity—it needs committed partners aligned with the continent's priorities. The importance of modular, accelerated construction techniques was also highlighted, particularly by William Killeen, who detailed the impact of over 180 new bridges on trade, job creation, and rural connectivity.

A clear throughline across the discussion was the idea that infrastructure must serve as a platform for broader development—linking agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and digital connectivity. Investments like Sun Africa's renewable energy grids and Africell's digital backbone demonstrate how targeted private sector efforts can complement large-scale government initiatives. The session concluded with the signing of several high-level agreements, including a \$1.5 billion cross-border energy project and the launch of a \$1 billion Lobito Corridor Impact Development Platform, signaling strong momentum behind regional integration and U.S.-Africa commercial cooperation.



**Left to Right:** Witney Schneidman, Schneidman & Associates International; Jose de Lima Massano, Minister of State for Economic Coordination; Conor Coleman, U.S. Development Finance Corporation; Haim Taib, Mitrelli; Adam Cortese, Sun Africa; Ziad Dalloul, Africell Group; William Killeen, Acrow Bridge; Hon. Museba Tavali, Minister of Transportation and Logistics, Republic of Zambia



## PLENARY: LOBITO CORRIDOR: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR AFRICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE FUTURE - PART 2



**Left to Right:** H.E. Jean-Pierre Bemba, Deputy Prime Minister of Transportation and Channels of Communication, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Troy Fitrell, U.S. State Department; Jennifer Zabasajja, Bloomberg; Samaila Zubairu, Africa Finance Corporation; Mfikeyi Makayi, KoBold Metals Africa; Brian Kelly, Anzana Electric Group; Andre Figueira, DLA Piper

Moderated by Jennifer Zabasajja of Bloomberg, the session began with a powerful statement from H.E. Jean-Pierre Bemba, Deputy Prime Minister of Transportation and Channels of Communication for the DRC, who declared, "We need absolute peace." His words set the tone for a discussion that went well beyond infrastructure, delving into the core of Africa's broader development aspirations. Without peace, he warned, even the most ambitious corridors—like Lobito—are just lines on a map. But with peace, those lines become lifelines: linking coastlines, crossing borders, creating opportunity. The Lobito Corridor, and others like it, were not presented as endpoints but as the beginning of something deeper; a connected, interdependent Africa.

This wasn't a conversation rooted in abstraction. It touched the ground on bumpy, disconnected rail lines, on seventeen-hour flights across neighboring countries, on small businesses struggling to trade

because language and access still divide them. Samaila Zubairu challenged the status quo: "All the lines are disconnected." Mfikeyi Makayi took it further, asking how we can empower everyday traders to use the African Continental Free Trade Area if they can't speak to one another or move their goods with ease. "How do we enable that education for people across borders to trade?" she asked, pointing to the urgency of multilingual learning and SME inclusion.

Speakers like Brian Kelly and André Duarte Figueira expanded the vision—emphasizing that electrification, legal frameworks, and investment must evolve together to support sustainable growth. "We cannot develop them in isolation like fifty to a hundred years ago," one panelist noted. There was a shared understanding that roads, rails, and policies must serve not just commerce, but communities. As the session drew to a close, the message resonated: Africa is not simply building infrastructure—it is building a future,

## PLENARY: WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: DRIVING INNOVATION, CATALYZING INVESTMENTS & SHAPING POLICY

At the 2025 U.S.-Africa Business Summit, the Women in Leadership plenary emerged as a powerful showcase of African women's critical role in shaping policy, catalyzing investment, and driving innovation across sectors. The session opened with a keynote address by H.E. President Ntumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of Namibia, the first woman elected to lead her country. Her address set a compelling tone, spotlighting Namibia's strides toward gender equality, including a cabinet comprised of over 50% women and a commitment to supporting women-led enterprises. She emphasized that women "do not need charity—we need opportunity," urging international partners and the private sector to invest in African women as partners and innovators, not just beneficiaries. President Nandi-Ndaitwah underscored Namibia's zebra policy, gender-responsive budgeting, and strategic programs that support women in STEM, energy, and entrepreneurship—positioning Namibia as a model of inclusive governance and economic participation.

Following her address, the panel discussion, moderated by Hariana Veras, The Africa Correspondent at the White House, featured a dynamic group of women leaders: Nono Mafelane, Senior Director of Government Engagement for Southern & Eastern Africa at VISA, Tania Silva, CEO of Angola LNG Marketing Ltd, Liz Schwarze, Vice President of



**Left to Right:** H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President, Namibia; Florie Liser, President & CEO, CCA

Global Exploration at Chevron, and Anne Alikier, Head of Client Coverage, Corporate & Investment Banking at Standard Bank.

Each panelist shared insights and lived experiences that underscored the plenary's core message: women's leadership is not just essential—it's transformative. From increasing women's visibility in boardrooms and parliaments to creating capital access for women entrepreneurs, the conversation highlighted actionable strategies for inclusive growth. Notably, discussions touched on investment funds tailored for women, mentorship



**Left to Right:** Hariana Veras, White House Permanent Correspondent for Africa; Nono Mafelane, VISA; Tania Silva, Angola LNG Marketing Ltd; Liz Schwarze, Chevron; Anne Alikier, Standard Bank



programs in technical fields, and the need for systemic reforms to remove barriers that limit women's advancement.

Panelists emphasized that progress requires intentional partnerships, supportive policies, and a cultural shift that recognizes and values women's contributions across the economic spectrum. They called for gender-responsive trade policies, such as those emerging under the African Continental Free Trade Area, and stressed the importance of educating girls in STEM to create a sustainable talent pipeline.

The session concluded with a unified call to action: to move beyond rhetoric and towards concrete investments, policy reforms, and programs that elevate women leaders. Echoing President Nandi-Ndaitwah's words, "Your voice matters. Your vision is needed," the plenary inspired a renewed commitment to building a future where African women are central to innovation, governance, and prosperity.



H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah,  
President, Namibia

## 2025 U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT:

# PLENARY: GETTING THE TRADE PRESCRIPTION RIGHT TO IMPROVE AFRICA'S HEALTH SECURITY

Africa has made remarkable strides in a few short years to improve its health security, including increasing the Continent's capacity to meet its own health needs. This plenary discussed the impact of COVID-19 and the need for improved health funding in Africa. Plenary members discussed the context of the important shifts in international donors support for programs that are coming at the same time African countries face a number of other urgent challenges. This is creating important opportunities to rethink how African countries finance health care and pursue programs like universal health coverage. Angola serves as a welcome example of a country increasing the priority of health care spending while introducing innovative ways to make spending more effective and support local manufacturing and market creation. Others noted the importance of grounding decisions in data, rather than perceptions, which underscores the opportunity to digitalize data collection as an important driver of more efficient health spending. There is also a lot that countries can do to increase trade in health products across borders if they get the terms of trade right including through initiatives



Left to Right: Robert Kapla, Squire Patton Boggs; H.E. Leonardo Europeu Inocencio, Secretary of State for Hospital Affairs, Republic of Angola; Vuyokasi Mjekula, MSD; Dr. Karim Bendhaou, Merck

like free trade zones and enforcement of intellectual property rights. The panel concluded with a call for action to leverage current opportunities to create new markets that will draw in more investment, including in areas like clinical trials, to ensure sustainable health systems in Africa.





2025 U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT:

# CLOSING PLENARY: FUTURE OF U.S.-AFRICA PARTNERSHIPS



Left to Right: Hon. Sayed Muhammed Aadil Ameer Meea, Minister of Industry, SMEs and Cooperatives, Mauritius; Naana Frimpong, DLA Piper; Herb Wallen, Boeing Africa; H.E. Vera Daves de Sousa, Minister of Finance, Angola; Clayton Naidoo, Google Cloud; Gwen Ngwenya, Mastercard

The Closing Plenary focused on capturing the highlights from the Summit in terms of the most important themes for the future of U.S.-African collaboration. Moroccan Minister Karim Zidane, the Minister Delegate to the Head of Government, began by noting that “Africa is not a land of waiting, but a land of action and ... a continent of conviction, not of contingency.” Angolan Finance Minister de Sousa and Mauritian Industry Minister Ameer Meea noted Africa’s strong determination to become more self-reliant and capable of turning challenges into shared growth through increased economic integration and greater political and economic stability. The ministers noted that many countries are implementing infrastructure projects that will have profound impacts on the physical integration of the continent, such as the Lobito Corridor in Angola and Morocco’s gas pipeline to Nigeria. There are similar projects in information communications technology, finance, agriculture and renewable energy. Panelists welcomed in general the U.S.

shift from “aid to trade,” but stressed the importance of creating a stronger partnership that focuses on “transformation, not transaction.” Minister Zidane called for a new growth pact between the U.S. and Africa, echoing calls from other ministers in previous sessions for a more strategic partnership with the U.S. Panelists discussed how best to achieve that partnership, specifically in areas like closing the digital divide. Panelists described the impact that partnerships with companies like Google and Mastercard are having in developing the skills to help Africans unlock the potential of rapid ICT expansion and improved access to financial products, while companies like Boeing are helping strengthen interconnections between African countries that can build stronger business ties.

# U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

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# U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT WELCOME RECEPTION

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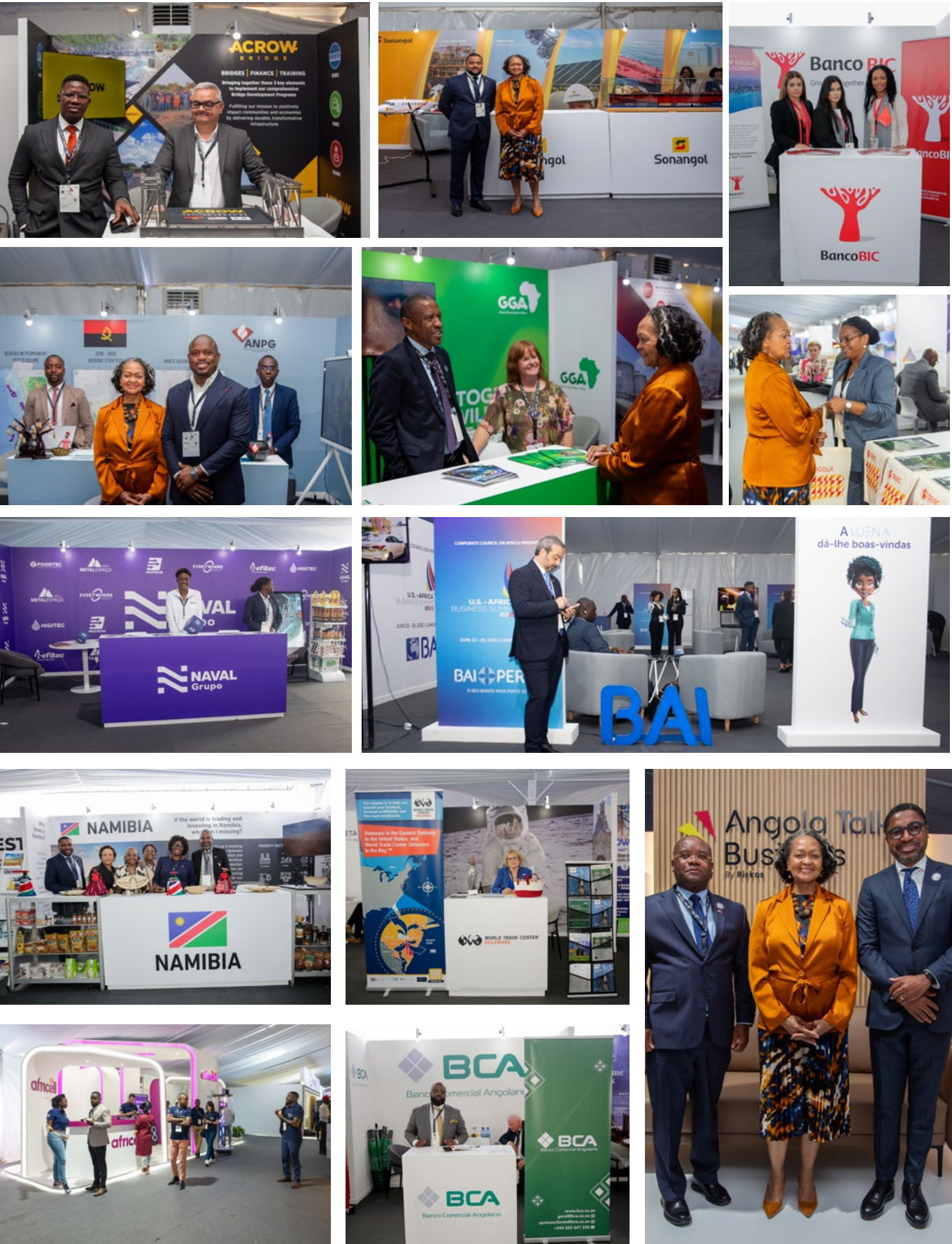


# U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT PRESS CONFERENCES

## OVER \$2.5 BILLION IN DEALS SIGNED



# U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT EXHIBITS





## U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT PHOTOS



## 2025 U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT:



### PHOTO GALLERY

Click the links below to view the photos from the 2025 U.S.-Africa Business Summit.

[Golf Tournament](#)

[Welcome Reception](#)

[Summit Gala](#)

[U.S.-Africa Business Summit - June 23 \(Day 1\)](#)

[U.S.-Africa Business Summit – June 24 \(Day 2\)](#)

[U.S.-Africa Business Summit – June 25 \(Day 3\)](#)



## VIDEO RECORDINGS: PANEL DISCUSSIONS & ROUNDTABLES

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*Click the sessions below to watch the recording.*

- Scene Setter Plenary: Pathways to Prosperity: A Shared Vision for U.S. -Africa Partnership - <https://youtu.be/CZYj5LFcUfl>
- Plenary: Advancing U.S.-Africa Energy Partnerships: From Dialogue to Delivery - <https://youtu.be/K7xZFVAsI2A>
- Plenary: Women in Leadership - Driving Innovation, Catalyzing Investments and Shaping Policy - <https://youtu.be/QcFPa0vJ9zk>
- Plenary: Lobito Corridor: Strengthening Partnerships for Africa's Infrastructure Future – Part 1 - <https://youtu.be/slxdrSdTXNg>
- Plenary: Lobito Corridor: Strengthening Partnerships for Africa's Infrastructure Future – Part 2 - <https://youtu.be/cPwzQEKjXiA>
- Plenary: Getting the Trade Prescription Right to Improve Africa's Health Security - <https://youtu.be/6L1KfM1F8UU>
- Sports Means Business - [https://youtu.be/5CMZA\\_3gwBA](https://youtu.be/5CMZA_3gwBA)
- Unlocking opportunities Franchising a gateway to U S Africa business Expansion - <https://youtu.be/QP-ZHQbXrb8>
- Unlocking Africa's Gas Potential Pathways To Sustainable Growth And Energy Security - [https://youtu.be/BPP1gQ\\_uecs](https://youtu.be/BPP1gQ_uecs)
- Supercharging Public Private Philanthropic Partnership - <https://youtu.be/0ArlZoFzGf8>
- Ready To TakeOff Critical Minerals and More on the DRC - <https://youtu.be/oY6p7JE8ISM>
- Africaneurship Panel - <https://youtu.be/eNruQKWXLtM>
- Money Without Borders - <https://youtu.be/2KYwdu59h-c>
- Invest In Namibia - <https://youtu.be/UesxXcxZ9EQ>
- Shaping The Future Building Leaders And Innovators In Africa Panel - [https://youtu.be/RWB4VP\\_5elk](https://youtu.be/RWB4VP_5elk)
- Empowering Change Expanding African Led Participation In Global Value Chains - [https://youtu.be/nR9pTslZx\\_0](https://youtu.be/nR9pTslZx_0)
- Bridging the Funding Divide - Unlocking Infrastructure Financing for Africa's Future - [https://youtu.be/HQM0XU\\_jJu0](https://youtu.be/HQM0XU_jJu0)
- Closing Plenary: Future of U.S.-Africa Partnership - <https://youtu.be/63nfzyzpYrc>

## THANK YOU FROM THE CCA TEAM

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Dear Summit Participants,

On behalf of the Corporate Council on Africa, thank you for joining us at the 2025 U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Luanda, Angola.

With over 2,700 attendees, including twelve African Heads of State and Government, numerous African ministers, and senior U.S. government officials, this year's Summit was truly historic. We are especially grateful to our sponsors and partners whose support helped make it all possible. Your presence and engagement helped advance meaningful conversations and connections to strengthen U.S.-Africa trade, investment, and collaboration.

We look forward to continuing this important work with you and hope to see you at the next Summit.

Thank you again,

Florie Liser  
President & CEO  
Corporate Council on Africa



# CCA PREMIER ACCESS DISCUSSION WITH HON. LEE KINYANJUI, CABINET SECRETARY FOR INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA



Florie Liser, President & CEO, CCA; Hon. Lee Kinyanjui, Trade & Industry of the Republic of Kenya

On April 1, 2025, the Corporate Council on Africa hosted a roundtable with Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Investment, Trade, and Industry, Hon. Lee Kinyanjui. He was joined by Kenyan Ambassador to the U.S. David Kerich, DCM Amb. Christopher Kirigua, and his senior policy adviser. The discussion focused on trade opportunities, AGOA renewal, and investment prospects in Kenya.

CCA President Florie Liser opened by highlighting shifts in the U.S. trade agenda under President Trump and emphasized the importance of renewing AGOA and strengthening U.S.-Kenya ties.

CS Kinyanjui underscored Kenya’s strategic value, citing its support for U.S. peacekeeping efforts, a strong ICT sector, infrastructure links to regional markets, and untapped mineral resources. He stressed AGOA’s importance, noting its potential impact on 500,000 Kenyan jobs.

U.S. companies expressed interest in sectors like ICT, infrastructure, and agribusiness, while urging clarity on tax policy. There was discussion about moving beyond traditional FTAs toward sectoral agreements. The CS welcomed collaboration, particularly in infrastructure and PPPs.

Liser also highlighted the \$475M DFC investment in Mozambique as a model and noted opportunities in digital trade. The CS pointed to Kenya’s growing BPO capabilities as an area ripe for U.S. partnership.



## THE LAUNCH EVENT OF THE COLLABORATING CENTER FOR HEALTH MARKET DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The launch event of the Collaborating Center for Health Market Development in Africa, held in partnership with Georgetown University, the African Union Development Agency New Partnership for Africa’s Development (AUDA-NEPAD), and the Corporate Council on Africa’s U.S.-Africa Health Security and Resilience Initiative (CCA-HSRI), took place on April 24, 2025, at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The event brought together a high-level grouping of public sector leaders, global health stakeholders, corporate executives, and development finance institutions. Speakers outlined the importance of the new center for creating resilient health systems in Africa and advancing collaboration between American and African institutions in health research and investment. The event began with an address by H.E. Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD, in which she underscored the importance of Africa’s health sector in driving economic transformation, and the significance of this partnership with Georgetown University and similar global centers of research for reimagining development and meeting Africa’s unique needs. Florizelle Liser, the President and CEO of Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), echoed the importance of the center for strengthening

Africa’s health systems. During her remarks, she reaffirmed CCA’s commitment to ensuring private sector engagement with the center in alignment with the principles of the U.S.-Africa Health Security and Resilience Initiative (HSRI). Following the opening remarks, Lahra Smith, Associate Professor and Director of the African Studies Program at Georgetown, introduced two panels focused on the need for stronger health systems in Africa, the path to achieving them, and their potential impact.

The first panel featured Dr. Deus Bazira, Director of the Center for Global Health Practice and Impact at Georgetown; Mr. Symerre Grey-Johnson, Director of Human Capital and Institutional Development at AUDA-NEPAD; and Dr. Edem Adzongenu, Chairperson of AfroChampions. Panelists discussed the origins and goals of the collaborating center, highlighting its role as a dynamic hub combining the functions of a think tank, a policy accelerator, and a driver of institutional strengthening—to shape policy, mobilize investment, build capacity, and facilitate knowledge exchange.

Speakers in the second panel included Dr. Donald Kaberuka, former President of the African



Development Bank and current Chair of the Global Fund Board; H.E. Dr. Michel Sidibe, Special Envoy, African Medicines Agency (AMA) and Ms. Zeynep Kantur Ozenci, Global Manager & Global Head of Health, IFC and. Panelists discussed supply and funding gaps, the need for regulatory harmonization, and the feasibility of replicating health system development models used in other markets. There was special attention paid to importance of African institutions driving policy, localizing research & development, and pursuing sub-regional approaches.

Also in attendance, His Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria and African Union High Representative, delivered a captivating address on the importance

of public-private partnership and government involvement in localized production. He drew on lessons learned while developing local markets and supply chains in critical industries during his tenure in office. President Obasanjo drove home the point that open and clear communication with governments is essential for fast-tracking the development of African health systems.

Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas and Georgetown Vice President for Global Engagement, Thomas Banchoff, delivered closing remarks, emphasizing the importance of U.S.-Africa collaboration in health as Africa's population and prominence on the global stage rises.



H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria and African Union High Representative



## AFRICA FINANCE FORUM: U.S.-AFRICA CRITICAL MINERALS PARTNERSHIP ROUNDTABLE



Left to Right: Florie Liser, CCA; H.E. Ricardo Viegas D'Abreu Minister of Transportation, Republic of Angola

On Wednesday, April 23, 2025, Corporate Council on Africa's Africa Finance Forum in partnership with Bank of America, hosted a high-level roundtable discussion on financing the U.S.-Africa Minerals Partnership. The event featured distinguished guests including Angola's Minister of Finance, H.E. Vera Daves, H.E. Ricardo Viegas d'Abreu, Minister of Transport, Yvonne Ike, Managing Director and Head of Sub-Saharan Africa at Bank of America and Florizelle Liser President and CEO, Corporate Council on Africa along with several senior representatives from U.S. and African public and private sectors.

The session commenced with welcoming remarks from Bank of America's Yvonne Ike, who emphasized the bank's commitment to supporting African nations in accessing capital markets for transformative projects, such as the Lobito Corridor.

Minister of Transport Ricardo Viegas d'Abreu highlighted the strategic importance of Angola's geographic position, rich natural resources, and evolving political landscape. He noted that the government committed in 2017 to diversify the economy as a means of making it more resilient,

which led to a focus on improving transportation networks and strategies. He stated that the creation of an intelligent network infrastructure enables the development of multiple transport carriers and generates synergistic benefits across nearly all sectors, while improving energy and food security. The Minister explained that the Lobito Corridor has become a flagship corridor project but is only one of several projects the country is working on, including expanding linkages through Tanzania to the Indian Ocean.

He emphasized that the regional corridor not only provides efficient logistical access for mineral, exports and imports of essential consumer goods to Angola's interior and the surrounding region but also strengthens trade relations within Central Africa. As the region's primary transport and import/export hub, the combined concession of the Caminho de Ferro de Benguela (CFB) railway and the Port of Lobito will further enhance the Lobito Corridor, positioning Angola as a central route for the movement of raw materials and goods. Additionally, the Minister announced the formal establishment of the Lobito Transit Transport Facilitation Agency (LCTTFA). The agency aims to promote the highest level of cooperation in rail and road traffic along the corridor for both people and goods.





H.E. Vera Daves, Minister of Finance, explained the related efforts her ministry is putting in place to improve the capacity to finance projects like Lobito, including improving tax and revenue collection, making the budget and procurement more transparent, combatting corruption and removing impediments to access to foreign exchange. She stressed the importance of working closely with the private sector to attract new Foreign Direct Investment in a range of sectors, including developing local capital markets.

Representatives from financial institutions, including Bank of America, the Africa Finance Corporation and Citi, discussed the importance of developing financial instruments in partnership with local entities to attract more capital. A representative from the U.S. Department of Commerce noted the shift in investment strategies from debt-based financing to equity-based models. Some participants also emphasized the need to reform risk assessment methodologies to better capture investment opportunities in complex markets such as Africa.

Florizelle Liser closed the roundtable by inviting all participants to the 2025 U.S.-Africa Business Summit, June 22-25, Luanda, Angola to continue the conversation about financing the Lobito Corridor and other regional infrastructure projects.



CCA'S NEW SENIOR ADVISOR

# Welcome to the Team



*April Wells*

A career member of the U.S. Department of State Senior Foreign Service, April Wells' 20-year diplomatic career has spanned steady state and crisis-related risk analysis, policy and strategy formulation, trade promotion and advocacy, and strategic communications in the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and Washington.

Her previous international service has included leadership roles in the U.S. diplomatic missions to the Afghanistan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of India, the Republic of Iraq, the Republic of South Africa, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Her Washington service has included work in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, the U.S. Senate, and the State Department Operations Center within the Office of the Secretary of State.

Ms. Wells holds degrees from Howard University in Washington, DC, the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA, and the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy. She is a Life Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Most importantly, she is the proud aunt of three amazing nieces.

CONTACT INFORMATION

[awells@corporatecouncilonafrika.com](mailto:awells@corporatecouncilonafrika.com)



