

18-22 November 2019, Addis Ababa

World Export Development Forum 2019

Trade and Invest in One Africa

THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2019

9:00–10:00 WELCOME AND SCENE-SETTING

10:00–11:30 PLENARY: INVESTING IN ONE AFRICA

New trade and investment opportunities will emerge from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Business and government leaders in and outside Africa share insights for the business community to take advantage of these developments.

The session will start with an update on the implementation of the agreement and expected impact of AfCFTA. The EU will share its experiences in building a single market. The African Export-Import Bank will outline its solutions for one Africa, such as the new digital payment platform to support trade across the continent. Investors will highlight changing investment trends emerging from the AfCFTA.

11:30–12:30 IN CONVERSATION: BUSINESS VOICES FOR ONE AFRICA

Women and youth are key to a more prosperous Africa. This conversation creates a dialogue between young entrepreneurs and those who are already in the position of influencing the developments around the AfCFTA. It features recommendations from the SheTrades and YES (youth entrepreneurship) events earlier in the week.

14:30–16:00 PLENARY: DIGITAL AFRICA

New African digital entrepreneurs are on the rise. They serve as a catalyst to the continent's overall transformation, connecting businesses to new markets within and outside Africa. Policy, regulation and infrastructure need to be in sync for these entrepreneurs to grow.

The session begins with an overview on the digital status and vision for Africa. It follows with models that serve as cases to scale up the potential of e-commerce and digital tools for business, including in rural areas.

16:15–17:45 SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS: PITCH YOUR IDEAS

Finalists pitch their business cases live on stage to a jury of experts.

FRIDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2019

9:00–10:30 PLENARY: SKILLS FOR THE NEW AFRICA

What do investors and buyers seek among small firms in value chains, or when setting up local hubs? Are these skills in line with the strategic sectors for the African Continental Free Trade Area? Multinationals speak about how they invest in skills development; skill providers talk about what they are doing to train the workforce of the future.

10:45–12:00 TRADE IS SUSTAINABLE

Doing good, doing good business: companies that invest in sustainable trade are investing in their own competitiveness. Climate resilience solutions, sourcing of environmental products and eco-financing will be explored during this session.

12:00–13:15 FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT: FOCUS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

This session features solutions to help achieve the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area by service providers, both public and private.

14.30–16:00 THE NEW AFRICA: MARKETPLACE FOR THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

As Africa moves forward to shape its trade and investment, many organizations support this effort. Using a “marketplace” format, organizations will present their technical solutions to make the most of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The presentations will be 10 minutes each, with four simultaneous stages, allowing participants to choose special areas of interest and enter directly into dialogue with presenters.

16:00–16:30 CLOSING SESSION

This session will feature highlights from the week, including the Declaration on Youth Entrepreneurship and Self-employment of the YES Forum, and SheTrades Global recommendations.