AFRICA INVESTMENT FORUM

Africa’s Integrated Investment Platform
For Deals to Accelerate Development
Fast-tracking Africa’s development means fast-tracking private investments. Think of a continent that will have the same population as India and China taken together by 2050. Think of a continent with rising middle class, rapid urbanization and that will have the youngest population on earth by 2050. Think of a continent where consumer spending is projected to reach $1.4 trillion in the next three years and business to business spending to reach $3.5 trillion in the next eight years. Think of the continent that accounted for 30% of global business and regulatory reforms in 2016.

Don’t look far: Think Africa!

To help unlock massive investments in Africa, I am pleased to announce that the African Development Bank will launch the Africa Investment Forum later this year. This will be a totally transactional Forum that will be all about making deals happen and fast-tracking investments in Africa by pension, sovereign wealth, insurance and other institutional investors. So, Africa’s huge investment opportunities beckon to you, from agriculture and agribusiness to energy, ICT, infrastructure and financial services. The African Development Bank and its partners will be there to help you advance your opportunities and investments.

Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina  
President  
African Development Bank Group
The High 5 Agenda to Accelerate African Development

The African Development Bank’s High 5 agenda is a development accelerator. The goals are simple: to light up and power Africa, feed Africa, industrialize Africa, integrate Africa, and improve the quality of life for the people of Africa. By achieving the High 5s, Africa will meet more than 90 percent of Agenda 2063 as well as the region’s Sustainable Development Goals.

Achieving these compelling and urgent goals requires significant investment. For example, to light up and power Africa, between $40-$70 billion per year is needed in new investments over the next 10 years. For Feeding Africa, through the transformation of a selection of 18 value chains, an estimated $32-40 billion in investment is required per year. Industrializing Africa requires $34-55 billion in investment. Together with other projected costs, annual financing requirements for the High 5s are estimated at between $160-180 billion annually, of which only about half are met, leaving a significant financing gap.
Africa’s financing gap represents the breadth of investment opportunities if properly structured for pension funds, private equity, sovereign wealth funds, insurance companies, commercial banks and others. Net banking assets are approximately $800 billion in Sub-Saharan Africa alone, and sovereign, pension and private equity funds in Africa constitute combined net assets of $550-600 billion.

Yet, much remains to be achieved to ensure that available capital meets bankable projects and that issues hindering financial closure for potentially bankable, projects are resolved for governments, development finance institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

This is what the Africa Investment Forum is all about.

Sub-Saharan Africa’s wealth

Net banking assets
$800 billion

Sovereign, pension and private equity funds
$550-600 billion
Many events attract African business leaders through the year. But none is specifically aimed at showcasing and offering investments in Africa on one platform and in such a methodical, coherent, well-prepared and accessible way.

The Africa Investment Forum (AIF) will deliver on the promise to move capital from where it is to where the opportunities are. This will be achieved through a three-pronged approach:

- First, the African Development Bank will pool efforts with other institutions to augment project pipelines that accelerate work on closing investment gaps.

- Second, the Africa Investment Forum will deliberately bring together investors, high quality projects and investment opportunities between private sector participants and governments, and help bring them forward.

- Third, development finance institutions will come together at the Forum to de-risk those investments, mutualizing risk sharing and unblocking otherwise good deals.

Building upon good work already taking place in specific sectors, and specific organizations, the Africa Investment Forum will bring all efforts together in one place for maximum deal volume and with the right participants.

With a strong track record of arranging non-sovereign investments and an important facilitating role on the African continent, the African Development Bank will manage the Forum, bringing together multiple institutions as partners, and acting as an honest broker in putting together investment deals and relationships.
Fostering Investment Friendly Regulation

Investors and projects do not exist in a vacuum. Regulation is key and can make or break deals. The Africa Investment Forum will be a safe but informal environment where investors can have candid discussions with key African policymakers and public decision makers to remove blocks that stop them from progressing a project or transaction and reaching financial closure.

Discussions held at the Africa Investment Forum will shape the business and regulatory environment, accelerate economic investment in Africa, and push governments to put in place right policy decisions that affect projects and transactions.

Who will be at the AIF?

The Africa Investment Forum is where all the key existing and potential private sector investors in Africa gather together, including companies doing business in Africa (African and global), banks, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, private equity firms, venture capital, impact investors, and others. Key decision makers at head of state, government and ministerial level will also attend, to fast track issues that move projects and transactions closer to financial closure.

The Africa Investment Forum will also focus on bringing in a younger generation of investors and dealmakers, and ensure that women investors have the same access as other investors, in all respects.
The Africa Investment Forum is no ordinary business investment platform. All unnecessary formalities will be excluded. There will be no long speeches from government officials, the private sector or civil society.

The Africa Investment Forum will be highly transactional and interactive. All participants will be part of the story as well as part of the solution.

Political debates unrelated to financial investment will not be welcome. Instead, participants will hold concrete and focused discussions on critical topics in unexpected ways, in workshops, head-to-head, small group meetings and learning journeys, over meals, in corners and corridors.

Financial and strategic investors as well as public decision makers will roll up their sleeves, engage in critical hands-on examination of investment dossiers, and proposals that will have been patiently worked on by experts and investment professionals months in advance.

The Africa Investment Forum will become the marketplace and nerve center for sharing, learning, preparing and finalizing business and investment deals for Africa.

The Africa Investment Forum will be a totally transactional platform that will make deals happen and fast-track investments in Africa by project developers, strategic investors, pension, sovereign wealth, insurance and other institutional investors.

Africa’s huge investment opportunities beckon you, from agriculture and agribusiness to energy, ICT, infrastructure and financial services. The African Development Bank and its partners are committed to helping you advance your investment opportunities.
Making Things Happen: The AIF Deal Tracker

Putting investors and deals together is not enough. Appropriate follow up will be key. Over the coming years, there will be a tracking system for projects coming out of the Africa Investment Forum and for building the following year’s pipeline of projects and transactions. The Africa Investment Forum Deal Tracker will ensure that progress is made in a deliberate and purposeful way.

The Africa Investment Forum will become the central knowledge hub for the collection and use of big data on Africa’s investment flows through this tracking mechanism, providing a positive feedback loop into discussions taking place at each Africa Investment Forum event.
The inaugural Africa Investment Forum will be held in Africa in the last quarter of 2018.

For further information contact: aif@afdb.org

A unique platform

- No ordinary business investment platform
- A platform to shape Africa’s business and regulatory environment
- Highly transactional and interactive
- Putting investors and deals together
- Africa’s marketplace for business and investment deals
- Tracking system for projects coming out of the Africa Investment Forum
The African Development Bank focuses on five priorities that are crucial for accelerating Africa’s economic transformation.

**Light up and power Africa**
About 635 million Africans still live without electricity and demand for energy is rising rapidly. Through the New Deal on Energy for Africa, the African Development Bank is working to unify efforts to achieve universal access to energy. Its New Deal for Africa energy strategy aims to increase energy production and access, and improve affordability, reliability and energy efficiency.

**Feed Africa**
More than 70% of Africans depend for their livelihoods on agriculture. If its full potential were unlocked, agriculture could vastly improve the lives of millions and provide business and employment opportunities for Africa’s workforce. The Bank is framing its agricultural operations within a business-oriented approach, based on a deeper understanding of the obstacles and the business and investment opportunities.

**Industrialise Africa**
A persistent lack of industrialisation is holding back Africa’s economies. The Bank will support African business invest outside their home base, help expand viable markets beyond small national borders, and focus on regional value addition, building on Africa’s natural resources but also on fast-expanding regional consumer markets.

**Integrate Africa**
Through its Regional Integration Policy and Strategy, the Bank is focusing its integration efforts not just on the movement of goods and services but also on the mobility of people and financial services. The Bank will continue its support for regional connectivity (transport and ICT), increase its focus on helping countries to implement regional and continental trade agreements and deepen regional financial markets.

**Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa**
Africa’s economic growth has not yet been rapid or inclusive enough to create enough jobs and improve quality of life. The Bank is committed to building up the availability of technical skills so that African economies can realise their full potential in high-technology sectors, and also to provide basic services so critical to the quality of life such as healthcare, education and improved water and sanitation.