

Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference (GLITC)

Kigali, Rwanda
Kigali Convention Centre
18 – 20 March 2020

Concept and Draft Annotated Agenda

Theme: “Cross-border investment and trade as catalysts for development and regional integration”

The signatory member states of the ICGLR PACT and the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (PSC-F) will convene the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference (GLITC) on 18-20 March 2020 under the auspices of the Government of Rwanda. The event is jointly organized by the Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, the Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes region (ICGLR) and the Rwanda Development Board. It follows the first Great Lakes Private Sector Investment Conference held in 2016 in Kinshasa hosted by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The mobilization of private sector investment into the region to harness the extensive natural resources endowments and existing economic opportunities will offer mutual benefits to investors and to the countries of the region that are on the path of economic transformation. By creating more economic opportunities and wealth for a growing number of people, increased private sector and institutional investments bear significant potential to contribute to collective efforts towards sustainable peace, stability and the transformation of the Great Lakes region.

The GLITC will provide a platform for the promotion of cross-border projects and the vast cross-border economic opportunities in the African Great Lakes region in several sectors (energy, mining, agriculture, infrastructure, and services including finance, information technology, communication, tourism, health...etc.).

The Conference will provide a platform for public-private dialogue on investments and networking opportunities to over 500 participants from all over the world. Moreover, the GLITC will include a high-level political segment with the participation of Heads of State and Governments and high-profile investors, plenary sessions with key-note speakers, industry sector specific sessions as well as exhibition stands for Member States to showcase country-specific projects.

It is expected that at the end of the conference, valuable information would have been exchanged, useful networking contacts established, and trade and investment deals initiated to promote responsible business that would provide livelihood opportunities and inclusion of the teeming women and youth population, thereby contributing to the achievement of the sustainable development goals in the region.

Key benefits

Participants will benefit from opportunities to:

- (i) Participate on a platform to derive benefits from critical networking with Government, business and international development partners across the African Great Lakes region;
- (ii) Better understand the key challenges hampering the promotion of cross-border investment and trade in the region;
- (iii) Gain knowledge of the economic opportunities of the countries in the region and the institutional and regulatory frameworks in place to facilitate cross-border investments, especially in view of the establishment of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AFCTA);
- (iv) Participate in high-level dialogue on the regional investment climate, promotion of responsible business conduct and the building of public-private partnerships in the region;
- (v) Identify emerging long-term investment opportunities and avail of cross-border projects that are bankable, ready for business and conform to inclusive and responsible investment requirements;
- (vi) Identify bottlenecks that constrain the development of private sector investment and trade within the GLR and learn of joint efforts and plans by Governments and relevant stakeholders to address them;
- (vii) Match potential investors to promoters of projects in the following priority areas: Agriculture; Infrastructure; Mining; Energy; Services (ICT, Finance) and take note of the concrete commitments that could result from these interactions.

PS: Most of the Panelists/Moderators listed in this provisional Agenda are tentative and yet to be confirmed

08.00 - 09.00 Arrival at the Venue for the Opening Ceremony

(Kigali Convention Centre)

09.00 - 09.07 Welcome remarks: Ms. Soraya Hakuziyaremye, Minister of Trade and Industry, Rwanda

09.07 - 09.17 Opening remarks: H.E. Paul Kagame, President, Rwanda

09.20-10.45 High-level Panel: Strengthening Public-Private partnership to improve the business climate and promote private sector development in the Great Lakes region

The high-level Panel will provide the leadership of the region the opportunity to share and engage with high-profile business leaders and representatives of international/regional Organizations on the evolving positive political dynamics and economic opportunities in the region and highlight measures being taken to improve the business and investment climate and to promote private sector development and cross-border economic opportunities in the region. The role of international development partners and the benefits of synergy with organized private sector to support regional economic growth will be explored in this interactive session.

Moderator: Ms. Ms. Catherine Samba Panza, former President, Central African Republic

Key-note Speaker: Dr. Akinwunmi Adesina, President, African Development Bank (AfDB)

Panelists Heads of States and Government of the PSC-F countries,

Mr. United Nations Secretary-General (tbc)

Mr. David Malpass, World Bank President (tbc)

Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, AUC Chairman (tbc)

Ms. Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary-General OIF (tbc)

Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Director General BADEA

Mr. Tony Elumelu, President of Tony Elumelu Foundation, the largest African philanthropic initiative devoted supporting entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship (tbc)

Ms. Florie LISER, CEO and President, US Corporate Council on Africa (CCA)

Mr. Jack Ma, Philanthropist, China (tbc)

Mr. Aliko Dangote, CEO Dangote Group (tbc)

Dr. Liu Zhenya, Chairman, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO)

10.45 – 11.15 Testimonies of three (3) successful flagship cross-border projects

This short session will feature three (3) successful flagship projects showcased during the first PSIC in Kinshasa in February 2016 and will provide the beneficiary countries and the project sponsors as well as investors, the opportunity to present highlights of the projects and updates on their implementation, including the challenges faced and how they were overcome.

Moderator: Hon. Claver Gatete, Minister of Infrastructure, Rwanda (tbc)

The three (3) successful flagship projects are:

- **The Ruzizi III Regional Hydroelectric Project:** it has reached a critical stage with the Project Document signed in July 2019 in Kinshasa. It involves the construction of a *147 MW hydro-electric dam and a distribution station between Rwanda and the DRC on the Ruzizi River*. It will supply electricity to Rwanda, Burundi and the DRC under a long-term Power Purchase Agreement. The Ruzizi III project will significantly transform the electricity sectors in the countries concerned and will contribute to: (i) optimal exploitation of the Ruzizi River's energy potential to improve security of supplies and access to electricity; (ii) the strengthening of regional economic integration by creating a regional market for electricity.

Presenter: Mr. Herman Tuyaga, Permanent Executive Secretary, CEPGL, Gisenyi, Rwanda

- **The road-rail Bridge Kinshasa-Brazzaville:** The recently signed \$550m agreement between the DRC and the Republic of Congo, the African Development Bank and Africa50 Infrastructure Fund foresees the construction of a crossing to link the two closest capitals in the world. Kinshasa and Brazzaville are currently only connected by ferries. Once built, the bridge is likely to boost the existing traffic from an estimated 750,000 people and 340,000t of freight a year to over three million people and two million tons of freight by 2025.

Presenter: Mr. Alain Ebobissé, CEO, Africa50 Infrastructure Fund, Rabat, Morocco or ECCAS (Project promoter) (tbc)

- **The Great Lakes Development Bank** which is now operational and ready, in a second phase of its development, to access additional resources through recapitalization and fund.

Presenter: Mr. Emmanuel Ntaganda, Director General, BDEGL (Project promoter)

11.15 – 11.45 Break and Group picture, followed by the exhibition tour

VIP and Participants will tour the exhibition space to learn about the range of investment opportunities in the Great Lakes region. Exhibition stalls will remain open throughout the Conference.

11.45 – 13.00 Plenary Session I: Operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): what are the opportunities and expectations for the Great Lakes region?

The AfCFTA entered into force on 30 May 2019. This historic agreement which is a landmark achievement in fostering regional integration, will lead to the creation of a single continental market. It is expected the transition phase to the AfCFTA alone could generate welfare gains of \$16.1 billion and boost intra-African trade by 33 per cent. Research has shown that countries do not benefit equally from regional trade integration. However, all African countries would be better off with AfCFTA than without. As a sub-region, the Great Lakes region has the right ingredients to be competitive, at the continental level, in many sectors. This session aims to discuss how to harness the opportunities and overcome the challenges, from the Great Lakes region perspectives. How to make it profitable for SMEs to accelerate growth and allow the countries of the region to be more competitive in global trade and value chains?

Moderator: African Union Representative or Representative from private Sector

Panelists: **Dr. Frannie Léautier**, COO, Eastern and Southern African Trade & Development Bank, Tanzania (tbc)

Dr. Peter J. Pham, US Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, Department of State, Washington DC, USA

Mr. Faustin Mbundu Kananura, Executive Chairman, MFK Group Rwanda (tbc)

Mr. Etienne Giros, President, EBCAM, Paris, France

13.00 – 14.00 Lunchtime

14.00 – 15.00 Plenary Session 1: Promoting private sector investment for cross-border projects in the Great Lakes Region

The Great Lakes countries are well endowed with natural resources and share an ecosystem that creates complex interdependencies. Yet, this huge potential is not fully exploited and has not yet translated into significant improvement of the well-being for the population. For this reason, Great lakes countries are combining their efforts to develop joint projects to foster multi-sectorial cooperation for the benefit of border communities and to advance on a path of peace and shared prosperity. The role of the private sector is key to mobilize private investment crucial to support the implementation of cross-border projects.

This session will discuss the challenges faced by the private sector when investing in regional projects; the opportunities of creating regional frameworks to support such investments and how to best promote public-private partnerships for the sustainable management of the region's natural resources endowment towards shared prosperity.

Moderator: **Ms. Clare Akamanzi**, CEO Rwanda Development Board (RDB)

Panelists: **Mr. Albert Yuma Mulimbi**, CEO, GECAMINES, President Fédération des Entreprises du Congo (FEC) (tbc)

Mr. Toufiq S. Turkey, East African Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (EACCIA), Board Chairman

Mr. Director, *Virunga* National Park

15.00 – 15.45 **Presentation of the cross-border projects**

The presentation will focus on four (4) flagship cross-border projects identified in the Great Lakes region and will involve stakeholders, including Government officials, project promoters, investors and development partners.

Moderator : **Mr. Laurent YOGO**, Fédération des Entreprises du Congo (FEC)

Presenter: **Mr. Joseph Lutitiyo**, Deputy Executive Secretary, CEPGL

15.45 – 16.00 **Tea/coffee break**

16.00 - 17.00 **Plenary Session 2 “Improving the Business climate through effective regulatory reforms in the Great Lakes region”**

Many Great Lakes countries are among the fastest growing economies in Africa. Increasing investment inflows have been the main drivers of these countries' sustained growth. While the private sector is indeed the main driver of development, Governments still have the role to establish the conducive climate in which businesses can operate optimally. Countries of the Great Lakes region have dedicated significant efforts to improve the investment climate to attract foreign direct investment.

This session will aim to identify the major constraints in the respective sectors and seek out ways to: address constraints that hamper investments in the Great Lakes region; harness the opportunities to streamline business regulations and simplify regulatory requirements for businesses.

Moderator: Ms. Sandra Uwera, CEO, COMESA Business Council

Panelists: Mr. Gunter Engling, Managing Director, MTN Rwanda (tbc)

Mr. Michael Joseph, CEO, Safaricom, Kenya (tbc)

Mr. Jean-Christophe Carret, Country Director, World Bank for DRC and Burundi

Mr. Anthony KINZO, Director General ANAPI (Investment Promotion Agency), RDC (tbc)

15.35 – 16.45 Thematic Breakout Sessions

Thematic Session 1 Infrastructure: “Development corridors”: Where do we stand in the Great Lakes region?

“Development corridors” are the new generation of integrated transport and transit corridors, increasingly used as a vehicle to boost intra-regional trade, economic growth and structural transformation in Africa. They have the potential to amplify the mobility of persons and goods, develop connectivity between urban centers, connect landlocked countries to international gateways such as ports in neighboring countries, boost the agriculture, increase exports and improve regional economic integration.

This session aims to explore the state of existing corridors in the Great lakes and how to harness the opportunities to promote a “development corridors” approach in a region with an important number of landlocked countries and to contribute to durable peace and shared prosperity.

Moderator: Mr. **Alain Ebobissé**, CEO Africa50 Infrastructure Fund, Rabat, Morocco (tbc)

Panelists: Mr. **Johnny Smith**, Chair, African Corridors Management Alliance (ACMA), Namibia (tbc)

H.E. **Sindiso Ngwenya** Secretary-General, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) (tbc)

Mr. **Dieudonné Kasembo**, Vice-président, Fédération des Entreprises du Congo (FEC), Kinshasa

Ms. **Olive Kikongo**, Chair, Uganda Chamber of Commerce (tbc)

Mr. **David Stanton**, Director General, Trademark East Africa (tbc)

North Corridor Authority

Thematic Session 2: Energy: Investing in renewable energy in the Great Lakes region

Despite the rich endowments of energy resources, the Great Lakes region is seriously deficient in energy supply. The cost of energy is prohibitive and remains one of the main obstacles to the region's industrialization aspirations. Given the important existing potential, diversification of electricity sources through renewable energy solutions – such as solar, wind, geothermal and hydro power – is seen now as a durable alternative to reach the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of universal access to energy by 2030. Indeed, several Great Lakes countries are already reaping benefits from investment in renewables. However, some bottlenecks remain and include lack of finance, lack of interest from investors and the desire by some to take on mega projects that could easily fail to attract private investors. This session will discuss how to harness the opportunities to generate significant amounts of clean energy, diversify the energy sources to meet the Great Lakes region fast-growing energy needs through optimal use of the region's abundant renewable energy resources.

Moderator: H.E. Ms. **Amani Abou-Zeid**, AUC Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy (tbc)

Panelists: Mr. **Rizwan Fazal**, Executive Director, The Lake Turkana Wind Power Project, Kenya (tbc)

Dr.GEIDCO,

Mr. Patrick Ngowi, CEO and Founder of Helvetic Group, providing Solar Energy to Africa, Tanzania (tbc)

Mr. Baraka Kassali, COO, Kivu Green Energy, DRC (tbc)

Mr. Frederik Van Den Bosch, Managing Director, EDFIMC-ElectriFI, an impact investment facility, Belgium (tbc)

Thematic Session 3 Agriculture: “Investing in Agricultural Value Chains in the Great Lakes region”

The Great Lakes region has a great potential in agriculture, with almost half of Africa’s arable land, waters and huge markets. Agriculture represents a significant part of the economy of the region and can effectively help fight food insecurity, eradicate poverty, boost intra-regional trade, develop value chains, create decent jobs and be the driver for industrialization, economic diversification and structural transformation. Yet, many Great Lakes countries are still net food importers. Other major risks in the region include agriculture’s vulnerability to climate change and heavy reliance on primary commodity exports. For agriculture to be a main driver of sustainable economic growth in the region, there is a need to drive an agricultural revolution. It will require, amongst others, to increase significantly private sector investment in agri-food value chains, foster entrepreneurship and boost intra-regional trade. This session will discuss pragmatic approaches to the development of the agro-industry sector and to harness the opportunities for cross-border agricultural value chains in the region.

Moderator: Mr. Bill Kayonga, CEO of NAEB Rwanda (tbc)

Panelists: Mr. Venkata Ramani Srivathsan, Managing Director and CEO, OLAM Africa and Middle East (tbc)

Ms. Monica Musonda, CEO, Founder of Java Foods, Zambia (tbc)

Mr. Ran Maidan, CEO, NETAFIM, Israel irrigation company (tbc)

Mr. Hussain Al Nowais, Chairman of Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development (KFED), Abu Dhabi, UAE (tbc)