



Driving Investment for Inclusive Growth

7-9 December 2017

Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

*Held under the High Patronage of
H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt*

Concept Note

Preamble

In a world which has witnessed major geopolitical changes **in the past few years, Africa's** fundamentals remain strong, consumer spending continues to grow and is projected to reach USD 1.4 trillion by 2020, and as reported by the investor community, the continent offers some of **today's** best returns on investment globally in all sectors. As such Africa, is and is projected to remain one of the most attractive investment destinations in the world.

Indeed, **Africa's global economic and strategic importance is rapidly increasing, spurred** by more than a decade of unprecedented growth and investment. In 2016, over 28 African countries grew at more than 3% and 12 at more than 5%. Likewise, during the same year, inward FDI Stock has grown by over 8% and reached USD 836 billion. Reform is driving a more business-friendly investment climate, and with its youthful demographics, growing and less dependent workforce, rapid urbanization and abundant natural wealth, the continent is undergoing extraordinary economic transformation.

Despite this progress, major challenges remain. More must be done to accelerate infrastructure development, and **drive regional integration and trade. To realize Africa's** full potential, its young entrepreneurs must be empowered through an enabling environment, underpinned by inclusive and broad-based growth.

Egypt has embarked on major economic reform and structural transformation program, strongly supported by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, aimed at fixing structural imbalances, promoting social justice and inclusion, and unlocking private sector investment potential. **The Government of Egypt's efforts have** already translated into over USD 8 billion in FDI inflows in 2016, a 20% increase on 2015 levels and 75% on 2014 levels.

With its unique geographical position at the crossroads of Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, **its important role in China's 'One Belt One Road' project, and its free trade** access to Africa including through COMESA, and the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement COMESA, EAC and SADC, the country is ideally positioned to be a gateway for investors into Africa.



Africa 2017

The annual Africa Forum is an international landmark event hosted under the High Patronage of H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, aiming **to promote African trade and investment. This year's edition, Africa 2017, will take place** from the 7th to the 9th of December 2017 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, and is organised by the Government of Egypt – through the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation – and COMESA Regional Investment Agency.

Africa 2017 is a unique business-to-business and government-to-business platform, bringing together policy makers, financiers, leading industrialists and young **entrepreneurs. This year's Forum will focus on "Driving Investment for Inclusive Growth"**. In this context, various activities have been arranged, ultimately in view of enhancing private sector cooperation in Africa and catalyze investment into sectors of strategic interest to our continent.

The three-day Forum promises to convene more than 1,000 leaders in business and policy from across Africa and the world. This year, the programme has been enhanced with a Young Entrepreneurs Day.

The 2017 edition builds on the success of the inaugural Africa 2016, where six African heads of state and more than 1,400 delegates from 45 countries participated, and where over 300 one-to-one meetings took place and various MOUs across multiple sectors were signed.

Pillars of the Forum

The Forum is driven by three major priorities:

Investment for sustainable development: This segment will look at how to bring about sustainable development, that is, by investing in a way that is geared for the long-term and delivering solutions that will cater to the challenges of tomorrow.

Job creation: **Arguably, creating the jobs for the youth bulge is government's biggest** challenge across Africa today. What models are valid today and how do we gear ourselves up for what is being tagged as the fourth industrial revolution.

Inclusive growth: This segment will focus on solutions to ensure that prosperity is shared and that young, rural, women, and lower income segments of society all partake in the **continent's** growth story. The entrepreneur segment of the Forum will be key to harnessing the opportunity of **Africa's young talent.**



What to look forward to

The Forum:
Africa 2017
8-9 December

- Hear first-hand from African heads of **state and the continent's most** important CEOs
- Engage with over 1000+ leading financiers, industrialists, policy-makers, and project owners from Africa and around the globe
- Gain insight into current and future developments in Egypt and Africa
- Identify new business and partnership opportunities
- Attend the exclusive Africa 2017 Gala Dinner

Special Africa 2017 Event:
Young Entrepreneurs Day
7 December

- Hear from the leading serial entrepreneurs in Africa
- Meet and partner-up with mentors, start-up hubs, angel investors and venture capital firms
- Attend TED-style talks and workstreams
- Win a chance to present your project **during the "The Start-Up Elevator Pitch"**
- Network with your peers at the YED Cocktail Reception