



CONFERENCE ON “GOVERNANCE, DEMOCRACY AND BUSINESS”

Ouagadougou, January 16-17, 2018

“OUAGADOUGOU DECLARATION”

We, participants of the Conference on “Governance, Democracy and Business”, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on January 16 -17, 2018

Under the patronage of **H.E. Roch Marc Christian KABORE**, President of Burkina Faso,

And in the presence of:

- **H.E. Mahamadou ISSOUFOU, President of the Republic of Niger**
- **H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar KEÏTA, President of the Republic of Mali**

1. Acknowledge the right of people to be responsible for their destiny under democratic and inclusive institutions.
2. Assert our strong support for promoting democratic governance, characterized by accountability, transparency, open dialogue, strong market institutions, effective regulation and rule of law.
3. Acknowledge that smooth democratic governance is the best guarantee for individual freedom essential for economic and social development, economic growth, political stability and security.
4. Emphasize, in this respect that the roles, though specific, of Governments, parliaments, companies, civil society and social partners are complementary in poverty and inequalities alleviation, human rights protection, ethics promotion, social integration consolidation, creation of economic opportunities, establishment of corporate social liability and environmental preservation.
5. Encourage the development of performing market economies for sustainable economic growth. Such market economies contribute towards strengthening democratic governance performance by securing economic freedom, competition, fair laws and regulations and mobilizing corporates to combat corruption. They moreover contribute towards developing institutions securing markets safety, fostering company ethics, securing an equal access to information and strengthening the rule of law.
6. Launch an appeal to public authorities, corporates, workers and civil society to work together to promote, as appropriate, good governance and democracy for fairer and more pacific and inclusive societies.

Done in Ouagadougou on January 17, 2018

The participants