

## **Boosting Trade Linkages and Value Chains Between the UK and Africa - Unlocking and Capturing New Business Growth Opportunities.**

With the global trade Economic Partnership Arrangements (EPAs) and WTO in transition, the impact of COVID-19, BREXIT and the launch of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the summit provides an opportunity to explore investment and economic opportunities in the African region for global companies seeking new channels and consumer market for growth, changes in local business climate, key trends and best practices to operate successfully in the continent. The summit brought together business leaders, government officials, investors, diasporas, experts, policy makers, academics and professionals from around the world.

About 800 people around the world attended this conference which was divided into 4 sessions:

### **1. Strengthening UK-Africa multilateral trade and economic partnerships**

Moderator:

- Dr Quaye Botchway - CEO and Director QBQ Research & Consultancy, Chair of African Business Chamber (AfBC), Chair of the National Council of Ghanaian Unions UK and Chairman of Ghana Union Midlands (GUM)

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

- Emma Wade-Smith OBE - Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Africa at Department for International Trade (DIT)
- Lord Dolar Popat - Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Rwanda and Uganda

#### **PANEL SPEAKERS**

- Keith Stoke-Smith - Advisory Board Member, African Business Chamber (AfBC), Chairman of the Birmingham Commonwealth Association (BCA) and President of Greater Birmingham Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce (GBCCC)
- H.E. Teferi Melese Desta – High Commissioner, Ethiopian Embassy UK
- Andrew Mold - Chief Regional Integration and AfCFTA, Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa, UNECA
- Dr El-hadj Bah - Chief Policy Economist, Office of the Vice President, Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization at the African Development Bank (AfDB)

This session highlighted the importance of strengthening UK-Africa partnerships despite the impact of Covid19 and brexit on businesses in Africa. Participants discussed the following themes:

- Increase and support of the African trade by encourage the business access to the UK companies and access for the African companies to the UK
- Create and explore investment and economic opportunities in the Africa market
- Mobilize diplomatic network to support the work
- Work on trade policies to an independent trading regarding European Union,
- Work with business associations to have more companies' opportunity (UK government establish and open discussion about this relationship)
- Encourage more trade for consumers and costumers
- Understand Business ambitions of Africa, explore the strategies ...

- Impact of Covid19 and BREXIT
- Structure transformation (decrease of agriculture and increase for industrial sector)
- Infrastructure deficit (transport network, logistic, energy...)
- Employment regarding to the growth of the population
- Geographical fragmentation (across borders)
- Strengthening the skills to be more productive

## **2. Trade and investment in the African Markets - Economic and opportunities landscape**

Eugene Nizeyimana - CEO SSCG Consulting, CEO, African Business Chamber (AfBC) and Director, One Africa Network (OAN)

### PANEL SPEAKERS

- Frank Matsaert – CEO, TradeMark East Africa (TMEA)
- Pumela Salela - UK Country Head, Brand South Africa
- Papa Kow Bartels - Minister-Counsellor (Trade & Industry), Ghana High Commission
- Dr Mekondjo Kaapanda-Girrus - Commercial Counsellor, High Commission of the Republic of Namibia
- Amit Lev - Trade and Investment Commissioner, Head of the Economic Mission to Southern Africa, Israel
- Mohamed Warsama Boss - Political and Trade Counsellor, Somaliland Diplomatic Mission to the UK and the Commonwealth
- Uday Dholakia - Honorary Consul for The Republic of Malawi
- Chinwe Egwim - Senior Economist, FNBQuest Merchant Bank
- Elias Pungong - UK Honorary Consul for Cameroon and Chairman of the UK-Cameroon Chamber of Commerce (UK-CCC)
- Eric Olanya - Country Director at Department for International Trade - Uganda, British High Commission

The second Section was an opportunity for the speakers to present their countries, making an overview of the current situation (political and economic situation) and expose all the opportunities for the foreign investors (the sectors in which there could be opportunities).

Also, it was an opportunity to change the perception of Africa: there are great services and great location to live, to work with a lot of potential businesses opportunities as: (Natural resources, agriculture, oil and gas, telecommunications, health care, water energy, infrastructure, alternative energy, transports and logistics, insurance, cybersecurity, technologies, tourism and many more).

## **3. Doing business in Africa - Key drivers for growth, navigating the business climate, cross-border trade risks and operation complexities**

- **Trevor Simumba** – International Trade Economist, Zambia and SADC, and Managing Director, SSCG Consulting US

- **Steven Gray** - Regional Representative - West Africa, UK Export Finance (UKEF) \*
- **Cobus Visagie** - Group CEO at Africa Merchant Capital
- **Geetha Tharmaratnam** - CEO & Founding Partner, Aequalitas Capital Partners
- **Frank Mwiti** - East Africa Markets Leader at EY Africa
- **Lydia Rangapanaiken** - Sub-Saharan Africa Economist at FCMB Bank UK
- **Kenneth Legesi** - Managing Partner and CIO, Ortus Africa Capital
- **Tony Otoa** - Executive Director at Stanbic Business Incubator Ltd, Uganda
- **Lydia Rangapanaiken** - Sub-Saharan Africa Economist at FCMB Bank UK
- **Nirmala Rewa** - Counsellor (Economic Matters), Mauritius High Commission, UK
- **Cedric Longange** – Chairman, Congolese Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain (CCCGB)

#### **4. The role of African Diaspora and remittances - The impact on economic development**

- Moderator: Rachel Okello - Director and Solicitor at Clarity Visas
- Moemedi Mokgosi - Executive Director, International Business at Botswana Investment and Trade Centre
- Chikaodili Okeke - Executive Director, Feed Africa Advocacy Network
- Stanley Osuide - CEO of Nigeria Investment Gateway Limited and Director at African Investment Gateway Group (AIGG)
- Washington Kapapiro - Executive Chairman at Africa Procurement Group
- Sonia Galat - Co-Founder of Africa Business Venture and Director of the Chamber of Commerce of Cote d'Ivoire, UK
- Agnes Gitau - Partner GBS Africa, Advisory Board at Frontier Africa Reports and a Trustee at Five Talents Microfinance (UK)