



UNSTOPPABLE  
**AFRICA**

GLOBAL AFRICA BUSINESS INITIATIVE



**2024**

# 6TH AFRICAN UNION MID-YEAR COORDINATION MEETING

*Ceremony Marking Exchange of Letters of Intent*

Kempinski Hotel, Gold Coast Accra, Ghana  
July 20, 2024

# INTRODUCTION

After two highly successful annual flagship events held during the United Nations General Assembly week, the Global Africa Business Initiative (GABI) has firmly established itself as an essential platform during the High-Level Week. Ensuring the continuity of these vital conversations and connections throughout the year is crucial for providing a high-level forum for in-depth dialogue aimed at amplifying and accelerating Africa's business, trade, and investment opportunities. Convened by the UN Global Compact on behalf of the UN system, GABI embodies the commitment to fostering sustainable development in Africa.

In alignment with this mission, a new partnership was announced between the African Union (AU) Commission and the UN Global Compact during the 6th African Union (AU) Mid-Year Coordination Meeting (MYCM) of the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities, the Regional Mechanisms, and the African Union Member States. This significant event took place on July 20, 2024, at the Kempinski Gold Coast in Accra, Ghana. The announcement marked a pivotal moment, with both organizations exchanging Letters of Intent (LoI) to publicly demonstrate their intention to deepen cooperation.

## OBJECTIVE

The Letter of Intent (LoI) between the AU Commission and the UN Global Compact builds upon a robust framework designed to implement the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). This strategic partnership aims to leverage the Global Africa Business Initiative (GABI) to promote sustainable development across the continent. The collaboration is expected to facilitate enhanced dialogue, foster investment, and drive actionable initiatives that align with both AU and UN objectives.



# AUDIENCE

The signing ceremony was attended by a distinguished assembly of global and continental leaders, as well as captains of industry. Among the notable attendees were:

- **Her Excellency Fatima Kyari Mohammed**, the Permanent Observer of the African Union (AU) to the United Nations (UN).
- **Mr. Charles Abani**, the UN Resident Coordinator to Ghana.
- **His Excellency Albert Mudenda Muchanga**, the AU Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry, and Minerals.
- **Prof. Benedict Okey Oramah**, the President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank).
- **Ms. Sanda Ojiambo**, the Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director, and CEO of the UN Global Compact, whose video message was played at the ceremony.
- **Ms. Tolulope Lewis-Tamoka**, the Chief of Governmental Relations and Africa at the United Nations Global Compact, who represented the Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director and CEO of the UN Global Compact.
- **Mr. Tolu Lacroix**, the Executive Director of the Global Compact Country Network Ghana.
- **Ms. Pren-Tsilya Boa-Guehe**, the Head of Pan African Institutions, Government Affairs, and Public Policy at Google.

These dignitaries bore witness to this landmark event, which marked a new chapter in the collaborative efforts of the involved parties.

# AGENDA

## **Opening**

The event commenced with opening remarks from the Master of Ceremony (MC), Tolu Lacroix, Executive Director of the Global Compact Country Network Ghana. In his introductory comments, Mr. Lacroix articulated the purpose of the gathering, underscoring the key objectives of GABI and emphasizing the significance of the occasion. Selected officials from across the UN system and the AU subsequently addressed the audience.

## **Welcome Remarks**

Her Excellency Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Permanent Observer of the AU to the UN, delivered the opening remarks. She highlighted the necessity of deliberate actions to ensure inclusivity and sustainable growth. She remarked, “We need to deliberate in our actions to be inclusive and to ensure all segments of society benefit for growth to be sustainable. The signing of the Letter of Intent today will further solidify our strong working relationship with the United Nations and also institutionalize the Global Africa Initiative.”

## **Video Message**

A video message from Sanda Ojiambo, Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director, and CEO of the UN Global Compact, was played to the high-level audience. Ms. Ojiambo reiterated the alignment of the UN Global Compact’s efforts with the AU’s Agenda 2063, stating, “Our work at the UN Global Compact, which drives business action on the Sustainable Development Goals, is aligned with the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the AU-UN Agreement on Sustainable Development... Together, we can build a prosperous and sustainable future for Africa and the world.”

## **GABI Video**

Following the video message, a GABI promotional video was shown to the audience, showcasing the initiative’s impact and vision.

## Signing of The Letters of Intent (LoI)

The formal signing and exchange of the Letters of Intent (LoI) then took place between the AU Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry, and Mineral, His Excellency Albert M. Muchanga and the Chief of Governmental Relations and Africa at the United Nations Global Compact, Ms. Tolulope Lewis-Tamoka, on behalf of Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, the Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director, and CEO of the UN Global Compact. This momentous event was witnessed by the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, Her Excellency Fatima Kyari Mohammed, the UN Resident Coordinator to Ghana, Mr. Charles Abani, the President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), Prof. Benedict Okey Oramah, and the distinguished audience, symbolizing a commitment to deepening collaboration.

### Comments on the LoI Signing

- **Charles Abani**, the UN Resident Coordinator to Ghana, delivered remarks following the successful signing of the documents. He emphasized the pivotal role of the private sector in driving innovation and economic progress. He stated, ***“The private sector is critical not just because of finance and money that they bring to the table but because of the innovation that will really drive the continent forward... This partnership announcement highlights the importance of the collaboration required between the private sector and the public sector to achieve these aspirations.”*** He further reinforced the critical role of Africa's creative industries as a key driver of youth engagement, job creation, and a powerful amplifier of the continent's vast potential and opportunities.
- **Benedict Okey Oramah**, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, also addressed the audience, expressing pride in being a founding supporter of the initiative. He encouraged participation in the upcoming GABI event in New York, noting, ***“We are very proud to be one of the founding supporters of this initiative... And as a member of the GABI Circle, I take this opportunity to rally all of us to join the September event in New York.”***
- **His Excellency Albert Mudenda Muchanga**, AU Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry, and Minerals, echoed the importance of implementing the LoI. He concluded his remarks by reaffirming the AU's commitment to collaborating with the UN system, stating, ***“Signing is good, but it is not enough. The next task is the implementation of the Letter of Intent... And I would like to conclude by reaffirming our commitment to collaborating with the United Nations system.”***

# SNAPSHOTS



**Her Excellency Fatima Kyari Mohammed**, Permanent Observer of the African Union (AU) to the United Nations



**Mr. Charles Abani**, UN Resident Coordinator to Ghana



**His Excellency Albert Mudenda Muchanga**, Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry, and Minerals of the African Union Commission



**Prof. Benedict Okey Oramah**, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)



**Ms. Sanda Ojiambo**, Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Director, and CEO of the UN Global Compact (Virtual)



**Ms. Tolulope Lewis-Tamoka**, Chief of Governmental Relations and Africa at the United Nations Global Compact



**Mr. Chiza Charles Chiumya**, Acting Director-Industry, Minerals, Entrepreneurship & Tourism of the African Union Commission



**Pren-Tsilya Boa-Guehe**, Head of Pan-African Institutions, Google



**Dr. Wilfred Ochan**, UNFPA Country Representative, Ghana



**Mr. Said Adejumobi**, Director of Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division, UNECA



**Ms. Nadege Tandu**, Director of Human Resources Management of the African Union Commission



**Signing the LoI**



**His Excellency Albert Mudenda Muchanga and Ms. Tolulope Lewis-Tamoka** displaying the signed copies of the Letters of Intent (LoI)



**Chief Abdul Moomen Muslim**, Chief Creative Director of the Mansa World Caravan



**Hon. Nicolaas C.M Van Staaldouin**, Honorary Consul for Bulgaria in Ghana





**Ms. Ngone Diop**, Director of UNECA's Sub-Regional Office for West Africa



**Stephanie Diatta**, General Manager of Africa Prosperity Network



**Dignitaries at the Exchange of Lol**



**Felix Addo-Yobo**, Deputy Director and Special Advisor, SDGs Advisory Unit



**Mr. Tolu Lacroix**, Executive Director of the Global Compact Country Network Ghana

# KEY INSIGHTS FROM REMARKS BY THE DIGNITARIES

## **Partnership and Collaboration:**

Strengthening partnerships between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN), particularly through the Global Africa Business Initiative (GABI), is essential for achieving common goals. The dignitaries emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to drive sustainable development.

## **Role of the Private Sector:**

The African private sector is pivotal in driving economic growth, creating jobs, fostering innovation, and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063. The remarks highlighted the necessity for deliberate actions to support and empower this sector.

## **Deliberate Actions for Inclusivity and Development:**

There is a call for intentional investment in human capital, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and institutional strengthening to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth. The need for inclusivity in all segments of society was underscored.

## **Economic Integration and Regional Cooperation:**

The importance of regional integration, particularly through initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), was highlighted as a key factor in promoting economic development and reducing poverty.



Cross-section of some participants during the event

### **Global African Movement and Diaspora Engagement:**

Engaging the African diaspora and fostering a global African movement are seen as essential for maximizing business and investment opportunities and enhancing Africa's role in the global economy.

### **Focus Areas for Development:**

Specific areas critical for development include food systems, energy access, digital transformation, social protection, education, and addressing the triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss, and waste).

### **Commitment to Implementation and Measurable Results:**

The importance of implementing agreements, such as the Letter of Intent (LoI), and achieving measurable results was stressed. This includes tracking investments, economic shifts, poverty reduction, and competitiveness in the new technological era.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## **Strengthen Partnerships**

Continue to build and enhance the collaboration between the AU and the UN, leveraging platforms like GABI to facilitate dialogue, investment, and action towards achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

## **Support the Private Sector**

Implement strategic initiatives to bolster the African private sector, focusing on providing a conducive environment for businesses, fostering innovation, and facilitating access to finance and investment.

## **Promote Inclusivity**

Ensure that all segments of society benefit from economic growth by investing in education, healthcare, and critical infrastructure. Strengthen institutions to support inclusive development.

## **Enhance Regional Integration**

Promote and support regional integration initiatives such as AfCFTA to boost intra-African trade, economic cooperation, and collective growth.

## **Engage the Diaspora**

Actively involve the African diaspora in economic initiatives, recognizing their potential to contribute significantly to Africa's development through investment, business partnerships, and knowledge exchange.

### **Focus on Key Development Areas:**

Prioritize areas critical for sustainable development, including robust food systems, energy access, digital transformation, social protection, and environmental sustainability.

### **Ensure Implementation and Accountability:**

Commit to the effective implementation of agreements and track progress through measurable outcomes. This includes monitoring investments, economic diversification, poverty reduction, and advancements in technology and competitiveness.

## **CONCLUSION**

The partnership between the African Union (AU) Commission and the UN Global Compact represents a significant milestone in advancing sustainable development goals in Africa. Through the Global Africa Business Initiative (GABI), this collaboration is poised to drive economic growth, foster innovation, and promote inclusivity. The concerted efforts of all stakeholders, including the private sector and the diaspora, are crucial in achieving a prosperous and sustainable future for Africa and the world.

This partnership underscores the commitment to implementation and accountability, ensuring that the objectives set forth in the Letter of Intent translate into tangible, measurable outcomes.



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*Kempinski Hotel, Gold Coast Accra, Ghana*

*July 20, 2024*



United Nations  
Global Compact

# UNSTOPPABLE AFRICA

SEPT. 25-26,  
2024

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CONVENE NYC



## ABOUT THE GLOBAL AFRICA BUSINESS INITIATIVE (GABI)

Launched in September 2022, GABI is the premier private sector-led global platform that galvanizes African and global leaders from various sectors to amplify and accelerate Africa's unstoppable business, trade, and investment opportunities, for Africa and the world.

GABI is built upon three pillars– to convene the African private sector and global stakeholders to amplify and accelerate opportunities in and for Africa; to connect and showcase Africa's private sector to potential partners, businesses, and investors across the world; and to catalyze and promote collaboration amongst sectors and industries to drive sustainable and inclusive business, trade and investment for Africa and the world.

[Unstoppable Africa 2023 Executive Summary](https://tinyurl.com/3k58cu96)  
<https://tinyurl.com/3k58cu96>

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