

AFRICA: RIDING THE CREST OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL VOLATILITY

OPENING KEY NOTE ADDRESS
AT THE AFRICA ECONOMIC
SUMMIT 2024 HOLDING JUNE 3-
4, 2024 @ THE ABUJA
CONTINENTAL HOTEL, ABUJA,
FCT- NIGERIA

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PRESIDENT
AFRICA ECONOMIC SUMMIT 2024



PREAMBLE

All Protocols duly observed, I am so grateful to our Almighty God that HE Has brought us all safely to Abuja. I am so privileged to welcome all the visiting Africans to Africa's most populous Nation- Nigeria. I wish to thank up front, all of our partners and sponsors without whom this summit would not have been possible. I am also grateful to my colleagues, Vice Presidents- Dr David Molapo (South Africa), Jamel Boudjaria(North Africa) Hon Josiah Thiriku (East Africa) Elias Shoniyin (West Africa) who worked very hard along with Dr Brian Reuben(founder) and all the team members across the Continent to make this day possible. Given the limited time available, it has been one helluva of hard work.





**WHY
ARE WE
HERE?**

Every year, our political leaders and some Business leaders attend World Economic Fora. Then they jet off to many of the Summits called individually by some of the World Leaders where statements and platitudes are made, many of which end in the Conference halls. Meanwhile, the economic status of many African Nations remain dismal with poverty advancing in Africa.



Africa contributes only 2.84 % to the Global GDP representing the Second smallest continental economy in the World, after the Oceania. Yet it has a Population of about 1.35 billion which is 16.72% of the World Population, making it the second most populated continent after Asia. This population is growing at nearly 2.5% per annum and is projected to reach 2.5 Billion in 2050. Over 460 million People in Africa are living in extreme poverty which is about a third of the Population



COVID -19 and it's aftermath coupled with the Russian- Ukrainian War have forced many African Nations into dire poverty, reaching 82% in South Sudan and over 50% in most of the Sub- Saharan African Countries including South Africa(55.5%). This level of poverty of course has been compounded by high levels of unemployment rate which varies across the Countries with Nigeria(37% now rebased to about 5%) South Africa(33%) , Rwanda(24%) and Sudan(20%). Ghana's unemployment rate at about 5% is consistent with its historical unemployment rate.



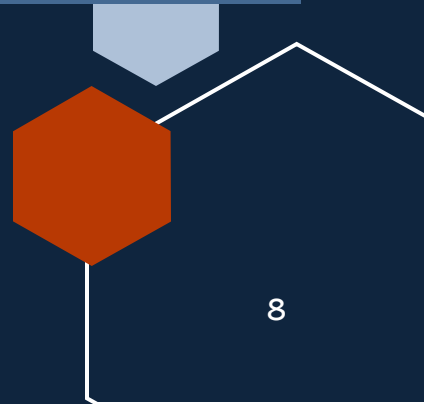
After 61 years of the establishment of OAU and latter AU, after several decades of setting up Regional Economic Blocks like The Economic Community of West African States(ECOWAS), The South African Development Community(SADC), The East African Community(EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA),The Arab Maghreb Union(AMU), The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Mano-River Union(MRU) etc, it is very disturbing that Intra- Africa trade has not shown any significant growth. Many Africans and businesses see Europe, China, India and USA as their first port of call for any needs and leisure, hardly do they look to their neighbors or other Countries in Africa. What happens mostly is informal trade and smuggling across the borders, not much of formal trade.



Even with the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement(AfCFTA), Intra African trade is still unimpressive as Africa continues to contribute significantly to the growth of other regions, while neglecting theirs. Over the past 10 years, Intra- Africa trade has only grown by 4% , from US \$ 98 Billion to US \$ 102 B which is only 13.7 % of global African trade in 2022. Thus about 86% of African trade is done outside Africa whereas Asia does nearly 60% within the region and only about 40% with the rest of the World.

WORLD GDP CONTRIBUTION *ACCORDING TO* *WORLDOMETER*

COUNTRY	CONTRIBUTION	COUNTRY	CONTRIBUTION	COUNTRY	CONTRIBUTION
UNITED STATES	24.08%	INDIA	3.28%	ITALY	2.40%
CHINA	15.2%	UK	3.26%	CANADA	2.04%
JAPAN	6.02%	FRANCE	3.19%	RUSSIA	1.95%
GERMANY	4.56%	BRAZIL	2.54%		






Above are the 11 biggest economies in the World which also control Global trade and Global Geo politics. Africa is not represented here. India represents the Asian Continent as No 5 while Brazil represents Latin America at No 8.



The biggest African economy measured by GDP today is South Africa which recently displaced Nigeria is at No 41 contributing only 0.55% of Global GDP, with Egypt at no 43 , Nigeria now at 53 ,Ethiopia at 57, Morocco at no 60, Kenya at 68, Angola at 72, Ivory Coast at 76, Tanzania at 81 and Ghana at no 83 contributing only 0.07% of the Global GDP. Behind Ghana the GDP contributions of the other African Countries are so insignificant . Above are the biggest economies as projected by IMF for 2024.

As earlier Stated, the whole of AFRICA contributes only 2.84% of the Global GDP which is markedly below what India alone contributes(3.28%) and just slightly higher than what Brazil contributes(2.54%), yet all the African Countries occupy a single seat each in the UN , the same as US and China! It is comforting that many of our leaders and Peoples have long decided that this narrative must change and this summit is part of the continuing effort to change African Story. We therefore need to produce more, buy and sell more to each other and export aggressively to the rest of the World to improve balance of Trade in Favour of Africa and earn the much desired foreign exchange But what are the impediments?



Very often Africa is a recipient of the hurtful outcomes of global development- geopolitical, social and economic. The World seems at times to act as if Africa is an afterthought . HIV AIDS did not start in Africa but at some point, some people were peddling the opposite narrative . Africa still bears major burden of HIV/ AIDS. All the SARS epidemic, none has originated from Africa but we end up bearing the pains. Russia seems to have decided to annex Ukraine or some of its territories and the repercussions are hitting us in the face.

Several Climate change conferences and resolutions are being taken and Africa is expected to bear major burden when actually it contributes the least to the depletion of the Ozone layer. Some mitigation measures are being decided by the West with insufficient appreciation of the impact on Africa. Most promises made to support Africa's energy transition to renewable energy remain just that: Promises

We are here therefore as Africans with minimal presence of people from other regions to speak Truth to ourselves. Africa has since come of age! But the Truth is that Africa is not all about bad news and depressing statistics. We have achieved some successes worthy of note. But other people are telling our stories. We need to regain the initiative. Look at the way Africa handled

Ebola and especially COVID-19. We largely disappointed the World by reporting the lowest casualty figures. How did we do it? Africa is conquering the World in Music, sports, fashion and arts. Our young men and women are exhibiting tremendous creativity in the Internet space, often with minimum support by our Governments.

Many African Nations are re-structuring their economies, some of which have precipitated harsh temporary or short term pains. How do we learn from those who have passed through this route or what do we do to ride the crest of the precipitated instability. What must we do to stop the resurgence of coups in Africa? How do we ensure Food security in Africa so that we can reduce importation and tame inflation . What additional things do we need to do and how do we collaborate more to ensure better Security for our Continent and generally make Africa more competitive .Some African Entrepreneurs are making headway in leading Intra- African investment, but how do we prevent hurtful repercussions like Xenophobia.?

These are some of the issues we have gathered here to dissect in the next two days and I am thankful to God that we have a fair representation of the executive and legislative arms of the Governments in Africa to interact with private sector participants and ordinary citizens who are wondering like me, why Africa can not do better than it is currently doing, especially considering the great potentials God has bestowed on her. Africa Today has the richest deposit of natural resources- solid, liquid, gas, flora and fauna and all these are in good demand by the Global community. What is more, the People are entrepreneurial and are known for hard work! So how do we harness these resources in the most responsive and sustainable manner to ride the crest of the global economic and political volatility and bring increased prosperity to Africa. That's our call for the next two days.

Your Excellencies,
distinguished Legislators, Our
Speakers & Panelists,
rapporteurs, Ladies and
gentlemen, I welcome you to
the AFRICA ECONOMIC
SUMMIT 2024. Enjoy and God
bless

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OFR, MON, NPOM
PRESIDENT
AFRICA ECONOMIC SUMMIT
2024

