



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY
BUILDING FOUNDATION

FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE

LAUNCH OF THE ACBF STRATEGY 2017-2021 & PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR ITS FINANCING

**REMARKS OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REMARKS OF HON. MOMOH VANDI, DEPUTY MINISTRE
OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE,**

VICE-CHAIR OF THE ACBF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**REPRESENTING THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
HON. GOODALL GONDWE, MINISTER OF FINANCE OF MALAWI**

ABIDJAN, 30 JUNE 2016

*Securing Africa's future through Capacity Development
Assurer l'avenir de l'Afrique en renforçant les capacités*



- *Honourable Hamed BAKAYOKO, Senior Minister, Minister of Internal Affairs and Security, Representing H.E. Dr. Alassane OUATTARA, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire*
- *Honourable Governors of ACBF,*
- *Honourable Cabinet Ministers of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire*
- *Distinguished Guests*
- *The Executive Secretary of ACBF*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen*

I convey to you the apologies of Hon. Goodall Gondwe, Minister of Finance of Malawi and Chair of the ACBF Board of Governors who was scheduled to be here to address you in person. Regrettably, he has had urgent and unavoidable pressing national commitment which made it impossible for him to travel for this important meeting. Minister Gondwe has asked me to express his most sincere gratitude to all of you for attending this event.

Allow me to express the most sincere gratitude of the ACBF family to H.E. Dr. Alassane OUATTARA, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and his Government for accepting to host this important Conference and the kind hospitality extended to all of us since our arrival in the beautiful city of Abidjan. We are pleased and encouraged by the continued support of Cote d'Ivoire to the growth of the African Capacity Building Foundation. The support to the Foundation by member countries demonstrates strong continental ownership.

Honourable Senior Minister, Honourable Governors, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your presence here today demonstrates the great value you attach to capacity building as a key enabler for economic development and sustainable growth of our respective countries. Indeed, the unyieldingly high demand for ACBF interventions bears testimony to the centrality of capacity development is on the continent. Over the past 25 years, the Foundation has established solid partnership with key stakeholders with a view to collaborate strategically and leverage its networks to deliver impactful results. The results of various independent reviews of our strategic medium term plans reveal a Foundation that is still relevant and considered useful by stakeholders.

Our meeting today takes place less than two months after we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Foundation. You will have access during this Conference to documentation summarizing what the Foundation has accomplished over these years suffice to state that there is compelling evidence of the continued relevance of ACBF interventions. In this regard, the African Union requested ACBF to assist its member countries in understanding and addressing

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the capacity challenges that have to be addressed to successfully implement Agenda 2063. We are advised that the Secretariat has been directed to explore and negotiate cooperation agreements with the AUC and NEPAD to further enhance the existing collaboration to ensure that the Foundation's support to countries, our regional economic communities and our pan African institutions is smart and impactful.

The longstanding relationship with our multilateral founding partners is evolving into more strategic engagement. In this regard, while we are heavily indebted to the enduring support Ed have enjoyed from the World Bank and UNDP, allow me to publicly acknowledge the increasing leadership role of the African Development Bank in providing the resources needed to support our interventions. It is ominous that the AfDB support to the Foundation has increased three fold during the current Strategic Medium Term Plan. We are encouraged by the growing interest and influence of African institutions in driving and defining the strategic orientation of Foundation.

Honourable Senior Minister, Honourable Governors, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to also express my most sincere appreciation to two African countries, who are not members of ACBF yet, but have kindly agreed to join us today. Let me recognize in this regard the Republic of South Africa which has been making financial contribution to ACBF since January 2012, and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. It is my hope that the presence of these important partners marks the beginning of the journey towards them officially joining the other 34 African members countries of the Foundation.

I am also pleased to welcome our partners who have taken time off their busy schedule to join us today. The World Bank, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Program, are the three sponsoring agencies that established the Foundation in partnership with several bilateral and African countries. In acknowledging the historical financial contribution that ACBF has received from these partners, I wish to emphasize the gradual shift in our partnership from ACBF simply being a recipient of grants towards technical cooperation and collaboration.

In an effort to build better synergies and establish mutually reinforcing partnerships in areas of common interest, we are exploring ways to collaborate with the European Investment Bank, AfreximBank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, BCEAO, PETROCI, Nestle, AFREA, among

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others. I am grateful that some of these partners have been able to join us today. I also hope today marks the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial partnership.

Honourable Senior Minister, Honourable Governors, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Our Foundation is 25 years-old. This is 25 years of experience in understanding the challenges on the continent, what works or does not work and more importantly, more than two decades of learning. ACBF now stands ready, more than ever before, to support countries with high quality and targeted interventions necessary to pursue their development agenda.

The historic high in financial contribution by African countries to the third Strategic Medium Term Plan (SMTP III, 2012-2016), signalled to other funding partners that the Foundation is a continentally owned entity. This encouraged and attracted funding from the other partners. I urge African countries to continue on this path. The Foundation has collected more than 75 percent of the pledged funds and I urge countries with outstanding commitments to finalize their disbursement before the end of the current Strategic Plan to avoid accumulating arrears.

Allow me to appeal to all Governors as shareholders of the Foundation, to take the initial steps to mobilize resources for our foundation so that we can subsequently engage partners across the world to support the post-SMTP III. The pledges that you will be requested to make later today will be payable over a period of 5 years (2017-2021).

Honourable Senior Minister, Honourable Governors, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Sustainable Development Goal Target 17.9 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is dedicated to capacity building and aims to "*Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation*". Within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, capacity-building is also mentioned by target 17.8 in the context of ensuring full operationalization of the "*technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017*".

The Foundation, following today's Pledging Session, will require our continued support to mobilize the additional resources for the implementation of the Strategy

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2017-2021. The Foundation will need each and every one of its member and sponsor countries to help mobilize these additional resources.

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It has been said before, the success of Africa's sustainable development is predicated on our capacity to transform our economies to make them more resistant to shocks, creative of decent jobs for our youth and more attractive for foreign direct investments. Our capacity to transform our economies itself has to be unbundled into a set capacities among which: Capacity for strategic planning; Capacity for domestic resource mobilization; Capacity to develop effective investment policies; Capacity to establish and sustain decentralized systems of government; Capacity to develop social institutions that facilitate market transactions; Capacity to develop skills in transformative areas such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; and Capacity for the continent to engage critical economic groupings such as the G20.

Honourable Senior Minister, Honourable Governors, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

In concluding, I would like to thank the Government of Cote d'Ivoire again for the kind hospitality and welcome all my Colleagues Governors as well as all our Distinguished Guests for joining us here at the mythic Hotel Ivoire today.

The commitment that we will show as Governors and Partners of ACBF today will determine how our partners will follow us. As you would recall, we resolved at our 20th Annual Meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, that the minimum pledge for an African country to a 5-year Strategic Plan is USD 500,000, which represents USD 100,000 for each year of the Plan. A number of countries such as Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Tanzania and Zimbabwe have already demonstrated that each of our countries can not only achieve this level of contribution but exceed it several-fold. It is my hope that not only will continue at the same level of contribution or more, but also that their example will be followed by many other countries.

Therefore, when Hon. Adama KONE will call us to pledge, let us pledge big, thereby showing our optimism for our respective countries' prospects over the next 5 years and demonstrating to our non-African Partners our ownership of ACBF.

I thank you for your kind attention

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