



CONCEPT NOTE

“Africa Forward Summit: Africa – France Partnerships for Innovation and Growth”

11-12 May 2026, Nairobi, Kenya

The Summit will focus on economic issues of interest to Africa and France, including the reform of the global financial architecture and the renewal of the development agenda, the energy transition, green industrialisation, blue economy, sustainable agriculture, AI and digital technologies, health and peace & security. The Summit will illustrate the African continent’s innovation capacity, and the shared commitment to develop common and mutually beneficial solutions, based on effective multilateralism and a spirit of partnership.

Themes of the Summit of Heads of State and Government (May 12TH 2026)

Summit discussions will be structured around the following thematic areas conducted through plenary and roundtable formats, each featuring dedicated Member State intervention slots

Plenaries:

- **Green Industrialisation and Energy Transition:** This plenary session will bring together Heads of State and Government as well as approximately thirty (30) leading CEOs from Africa and France. The discussion could be structured around 3 themes: (i) Green industrialisation and value chains; (ii) promoting bankable projects through private finance and energy transition catalysts; (iii) human, innovation and entrepreneurial capital. .
- **Reform of the Global Financial Architecture (GFA): Advancing Equity, Sustainability and the African Voice;** Particular focus will be on solutions to improve Africa’s access to sustainable financing, risk reduction mechanisms and fair representation of African countries in the international financial architecture. (working lunch)

- **Peace and Security:** The main objective of the session is to inspire a forward-looking exchange on the challenges and opportunities for Africa in terms of peace and security within the context of a profoundly changed world order. The event will also aim to promote effective and inclusive multilateralism in advancing peace and security on the African continent, in the face of attacks against it, develop concrete proposals to support African institutions and mechanisms, particularly those led by the African Union, and highlight the centrality of African solutions and the levers available to promote and strengthen them.

Roundtables:

- **Unlocking the Potential of the Blue Economy:** This roundtable will be organized around three axes: (i) the identification of strategic priorities in terms of maritime governance and environmental security, (ii) the creation of blue jobs and (iii) the decarbonisation of maritime transport.
- **Building Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Agri-Food Systems in Africa- Strengthening Partnerships:** The discussions of this roundtable will focus on: (i) supporting production and agroecological intensification in Africa through sustainable investments in African agricultural value chains; (ii) the structuring of value chains (for example, the dairy sector) and developing balanced commercial partnerships; and (iii) cooperation on nutrition, school feeding programmes, and food security.
- **Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technologies:** The roundtable will focus on harnessing the potential of AI and digital technologies for growth by addressing (i) investment in digital infrastructure, (ii) building partnerships for open AI, (iii) growth of start-ups and talent training, and (iv) financing AI and the high-tech sector as growth drivers.
- **Catalysing Investment, Technology Transfer and Strategic Partnerships for Local Manufacturing of Health Products and Technologies in Africa*:** This round table will aim to (i) promote a health cooperation model based on partnership and co-construction; (ii) strengthen local production chains for vaccines and medicines; (iii) develop the continent's human and technical capacity in health.

BUSINESS FORUM (May 11TH, 2026)

The business forum “*Africa Forward: Inspire & Connect*”, to be held on the 11 of May, will aim to strengthen economic partnerships between African countries and

France. It will highlight projects, innovations and ideas from both African and French private sectors, with a particular focus on the Summit core topics.

The event will bring together about 1500 high-level participants, including major African and French business leaders but also leaders of mid-sized companies and SMEs, and young entrepreneurs. It will be structured around three axes: (i) networking of major French and African companies ; (ii) B2B and B2G workshops and talks to promote Africa-France cross-investments and between African countries; (iii) valorisation of economic partnerships Africa – France. The business forum will include a high-level session dedicated to sport, which will have the objectives of (i) establishing sport as a platform for partnership between Africa and France, (ii) positioning sport as a field of investment and opportunities, and creating jobs.

OTHER PARALLEL EVENTS (May 11TH, 2026)

- I. An event dedicated to youth focusing on:
 - i) Employability, tech, digital, and AI;
 - ii) Positioning of the African continent on the international scene
- II. A cultural and creative industries event will run throughout the day of May 11th. It will include presentation of immersive works of art, in the spirit of what was presented at the editions of “Creation Africa” (Paris 2023; Lagos 2025). Companies from the sector will also be present at the business forum.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Adoption of a Nairobi Declaration covering inter alia the eight (8) key themes of the Summit.

Concrete and action-oriented deliverables, including potential deals and commitments from the private sector.

PARTICIPATION

African Heads of State and Government, representatives from the African Union, Regional Economic Communities, the United Nations, the European Union, regional and multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, international organisations, academia, private sector representatives, including tech-leaders and young entrepreneurs and other partners. A civil society forum themed, ‘A Pavilion for Creation and Social Innovation’ is also scheduled for **10th May, 2026**.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

11 May University of Nairobi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 8h30-17h30: Business Forum<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 8h30: Opening speeches by Kenyan and French Foreign Affairs Ministers○ 09h30-10h30: High- level Youth event○ 11h30-13h: High-level Cultural and Creative Industries event○ 1200-1400hrs: Ministerial Meeting on Peace and Security○ 14h-15h: High-level Sport event○ 17h00-17h30: Closing speeches by President Ruto and President Macron ▪ 19h-20h30: State Banquet
12 May Kenyatta International Convention Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 9h-10h: Opening plenary▪ 10h-10h15: Family photo ▪ 11h-12h30: Plenary with African and French CEOs on i/ sustainable industrialisation and ii/ energy transition and access to electricity ▪ 13h-14h30: Plenary working lunch on the reform of the international financial architecture▪ 15h-16h: Plenary session on peace and security ▪ 16h15-17h15: Parallel Roundtables on i/ AI; ii/ blue economy; iii/ health; iv/ agriculture▪ 17h30-18h30: Closing plenary ▪ 21h: Closing concert (TBC) <i>Kasarani Arena</i>