

AFRICA FORWARD SUMMIT 2026

GREEN INDUSTRIALISATION AND ENERGY TRANSITION

WORKING CONCEPT NOTE

EXECUTIVE SNAPSHOT

- Purpose: provide a concise, synthesis of the Green Industrialization and Energy Transition session for Africa Forward Summit 2026
- Core proposition: shift Africa–Europe partnership from aid dependency and commodity-export dependence to co-production and co-investment in green industry, enabling energy systems (especially renewables), and jobs-rich value chains.
- Focus: global energy shocks and energy security; the centrality of affordable, reliable and renewable power to Africa’s green industrialisation; and delivery in the context of Africa’s energy poverty.
- Outputs: declaration-aligned political commitments, CEO recommendations, announcement-ready flagship initiatives and financing signals, and a practical 2026–2030 delivery and follow-through architecture.

1. Session Identity, Leadership and Speakers

Field	Detail
Theme	Green Industrialization and Energy Transition
Session title	Investing in Africa’s Green Industrial Future: A Strategic Africa–France Partnership
Summit	Africa Forward Summit 2026
Date	12 May 2026
Session format	Plenary with Heads of State and Government and CEOs

Indicative duration

90 minutes

Venue

Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC),
Nairobi

Leadership roster

Moderators

- Ms. Nachouat MEGHOUAR

Co-Chairs / hosts

- H.E. William Ruto — President of the Republic of Kenya – 4 min
- H.E. Emmanuel Macron — President of the French Republic – 4 min

Speakers (indicative)

Heads of State and Government:

- Ethiopia - H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali – 4 min
- Zambia - H.E. President Hakainde Hichilema – 4 min
- Ghana - H.E. John Dramani Mahama – 4 min

Joint CEOs Pitch and announcements:

- James Mwangi, CEO Equity Bank - 3 min
- Christel Heydemann, CEO, Orange – 3 min

Open Discussion between Heads of State and CEOs

- **Green Industrialization and Agriculture:** The segment will address investment opportunities linked to African green industrialization, including sustainable food systems, agricultural transformation and local value-added processing.
- **Infrastructure, Energy, and Digital:** This segment will address the infrastructure required to enable green industrialization, including power grids, logistics corridors and digital infrastructure.
- **Human Capital, Skills, and Creative Industries:** The discussion will focus on concrete opportunities, current bottlenecks and the operational conditions required to accelerate investment, scale projects and deliver transformative impact across strategic sectors.

2. Strategic Proposition

The plenary session is intended to translate the Summit’s political ambition into an operational investment agenda by aligning public leadership and private capital around a shared Africa–France partnership for energy transition and green industrialisation. It is structured to move the relationship from aid dependency and commodity-export dependence to co-production of goods, energy and technologies, through local value creation, jobs and productive strategic autonomy.

The session will explicitly address global energy shocks and energy security as central drivers of industrial competitiveness. It will position renewable energy, and the enabling grids, transmission and storage systems, as foundational conditions for Africa’s green industrialisation, particularly in the context of Africa’s energy poverty and the imperative to expand access while decarbonising.

3. Why It Matters Now

1.5bn	€60bn	700,000
Africa’s population and future core markets	French FDI stock in Africa	Jobs supported by French companies in Africa
€5bn	~120	~€15bn
Annual diaspora remittances	Projects launched since 2020	Investment value of launched project portfolio since 2020

Africa’s structural transformation is both a continental imperative and a strategic opportunity for Africa, France and Europe. In a more fragmented global economy, marked by re-shoring, climate constraints and competition for critical value chains, industrialization, enabling infrastructure and skills investment are central to economic sovereignty and long-term resilience.

Recent global energy shocks have reinforced the centrality of energy security to industrial competitiveness. For Africa, scaling renewable energy and grid capacity is both an access imperative and a production enabler: without reliable, affordable and increasingly clean power, industrial upgrading and jobs-rich value addition cannot scale.

The Africa–France partnership already rests on a deep economic footprint and a diversified project portfolio. The opportunity is to accelerate a balanced partnership based on co-investment, value creation and long-term industrial collaboration that strengthens regional value chains and productive autonomy.

4. Alignment to the Summit Message

Sovereignty through systems and capacity

Centres industrial capability, local value addition, enabling energy/transport/digital infrastructure, and the skills and innovation ecosystems required for productive transformation.

Co-investment and shared value creation

Frames Africa–Europe cooperation around complementary positions in value chains, mutual benefit, long-term industrial partnerships, and coordinated public–private action.

Delivery through bankable initiatives and implementation architecture

Convenes Heads of State and CEOs to surface bankable projects, the regulatory and financing levers required to scale them, and practical follow-through for 2026–2030.

5. Discussion Architecture

The plenary retains three integrated pillars for action — green industrialisation; enabling infrastructure (energy, transport and digital); and human and creative capital

Block	Theme	Core focus	Intended output
Block 1	Green industrialisation and value chains	Jobs-rich value addition across agriculture value chains, manufacturing, fertilisers and agro-processing; critical minerals-based value chains; structuring export-oriented and intra-African value chains under AfCFTA; shift from commodity export to co-production.	Priority projects and policy/regulatory levers for scaling green industrial ecosystems and value chains.
Block 2	Energy as the enabling condition (renewables, grids, resilience)	Global energy shocks; Africa’s energy poverty; renewable generation, transmission, storage and grid expansion; energy security and affordability as competitiveness drivers; integrated energy–industrial ecosystems and de-risking	Bankable energy–industrial propositions, de-risking instruments and policy asks for scaling renewables-led industrial capacity.

Block 3	Human, innovation and entrepreneurial capital	<p>tools to mobilise private capital.</p> <p>Skills and TVET aligned to industrial needs; technology transfer; innovation ecosystems; digital skills and entrepreneurship; corporate initiatives that translate training into jobs and productive capacity.</p>	<p>Commitments on skills pipelines, innovation partnerships and implementation mechanisms linking training to industrial demand.</p>
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6. Priority Outcomes

1. Political / Declaration Outcome	2. Investment / Initiative Outcome	3. Delivery / Follow-through Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear political message that green industrialisation is a central economic, energy security and competitiveness agenda for Africa–Europe cooperation, feeding into the Nairobi Declaration package. • A consolidated set of commitments on energy security, renewables-led industrialisation and value-chain upgrading under African leadership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO recommendations to Heads of State on the regulatory, fiscal and financing levers required to scale green industrial projects and integrated energy–industrial ecosystems. • Visibility for flagship projects and announcements linked to African priorities, regional value chains and implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A practical 2026–2030 follow-through architecture: named owners, financing pathways, and a mechanism to track delivery of announced projects and policy asks. • A project map / portfolio view illustrating operational depth of Africa–France green industrial partnership.

7. Contribution to Summit Declaration

Draft declaration language proposed for consideration

- We commit to advancing a balanced Africa–France partnership for green industrialisation and energy transition, anchored in local value creation, productive sovereignty and long-term co-investment.
- We commit to accelerate renewables-led, integrated energy–industrial ecosystems as the foundation for competitiveness, energy security, quality jobs and resilience in the context of Africa’s energy poverty.
- We commit to align public policy, regulation and financing tools with bankable private-sector projects in green industry, enabling infrastructure and human capital development, and to establish a time-bound follow-through architecture for 2026–2030.

8. Session Design and Run of Show

Time	Segment	Lead / speakers	Strategic role	Expected output
0–35 min	Introductory Remarks by the two host Presidents	H.E. William Ruto;	Set the political and strategic framing for the CEO–Heads of State sequence and position green industrialisation, energy transition and industrial value chains as shared Africa–Europe priorities.	Clear high-level political framing and strategic direction for the session.
20 min		H.E. Emmanuel Macron;		
15 min	Presidential Perspectives	H.E. Hakainde Hichilema; H.E. John Dramani Mahama; H.E. Abiy Ahmed Ali	Present national and regional perspectives on green industrialisation, value chains, industrial capacity, investment opportunities and public-private cooperation.	Shared political perspectives and priorities on industrial transformation, investment and strategic partnerships.

35–45 min	Joint CEOs Pitch and announcements	James Mwangi, CEO Equity Bank; Christel Heydemann, CEO Orange	Showcase concrete projects and investments already being implemented on the ground, while engaging Heads of State on the key operational levers needed to unlock greater impact, accelerate delivery and scale transformation across strategic sectors.	Visibility for concrete projects, investment announcements and operational priorities required to unlock greater impact, accelerate delivery and scale transformation.
45–90 min	Open Discussion between Heads of State and CEOs	Heads of State and CEOs of the Coalition	Facilitate an open and interactive discussion around three major clusters of opportunities and challenges: green industrialisation and agriculture; infrastructure, energy and digital; and human capital, skills and creative industries. Focus on concrete opportunities, current bottlenecks and operational conditions required to accelerate investment, scale	Identification of concrete opportunities, investment priorities, bottlenecks and operational conditions required to accelerate investment and scale transformative projects across strategic sectors.

			<p>projects and deliver transformative impact across strategic sectors.</p>	
90–100 min	<p>Conclusion by the two host Presidents and Chairperson of AUC, and Closing reflection</p>	<p>H.E. William Ruto; H.E. Emmanuel Macron; H.E. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf</p>	<p>Present reflections on the discussion, emerging commitments and key takeaways, consolidating the political and economic messages around green industrialisation, infrastructure development and human capital as central priorities for sustainable growth, investment and long-term partnerships.</p>	<p>Consolidated reflections, emerging commitments and key political and economic messages around green industrialisation, infrastructure development and human capital.</p>
100-105 min	<p>Signing of Cooperation Framework for Africa Green Industrialisation Initiative (AGII)</p>	<p>H.E. Wamkele Mene; Dr. Sidi Ould Tah; Ms. Odile Renaud-Basso.</p>	<p>Formalise institutional cooperation and implementation partnerships supporting the Africa Green Industrialisation Initiative (AGII) and regional value chains.</p>	<p>Formal signing of the Cooperation Framework for Africa Green Industrialisation Initiative <i>AGII</i> and reinforced institutional implementation partnerships.</p>

9. Stakeholders Required for Implementation

Implementation cluster	Organisations / actors	Indicative role after the summit
Political and governmental follow-through	Republic of Kenya; Republic of France; participating governments; AUC	Carry summit commitments into policy coordination, investment promotion and bilateral/multilateral engagement.
Corporate implementation and project sponsors	AFIC member companies; participating African and European firms	Advance flagship projects, partnerships and investment decisions placed on record during the plenary.
Financing and de-risking architecture	Development banks and multilateral institutions; blended finance and investment platforms	Translate summit signals into financing structures, de-risking mechanisms and long-term capital mobilisation.
Regional value-chain and trade architecture	AfCFTA-linked value-chain actors and trade facilitation structures	Support structuring of export-oriented and intra-African value chains and trade-enabling reforms.
Energy transition and infrastructure delivery	Renewable generation; grid and transmission; storage; logistics; industrial zones; digital infrastructure actors	Carry forward integrated energy-industrial ecosystems and enabling infrastructure commitments.
Skills, innovation and workforce development	Corporate training initiatives; TVET partnerships; technology transfer and digital skills platforms	Advance vocational, technical and innovation programmes aligned to industrial needs.
Communications, tracking and reporting	Summit secretariat; communiqué / recommendation owners; project-map owners	Maintain visibility of flagship initiatives and ensure follow-through on outputs and reporting cycle.