

CONCEPT NOTE

HIGH LEVEL THEMATIC SESSION ON HEALTH

May 12, 2026 | Nairobi, Kenya

*Catalyzing Investment, Technology Transfer and Strategic Partnerships for Local
Manufacturing of Health Products and Technologies in Africa*

1.0 Background Africa Forward Summit (AFS)

The **AFRICA FORWARD SUMMIT**, themed “*Partnerships for Innovation and Growth*”, will convene in Nairobi, Kenya on 11th to 12th May 2026. This marks the first time the summit is hosted in East Africa.

Jointly announced by Presidents Emmanuel Macron and William Ruto at the United Nations General Assembly in 2025, the **AFRICA FORWARD SUMMIT 2026** reflects a recalibration of France’s relations with Africa—moving beyond traditional donor–recipient dynamics toward a framework of mutual respect, shared prosperity, and strategic partnership.

Kenya’s role as host underscores both its rising diplomatic profile and Africa’s collective ambition to redefine relations with France on the basis of sovereignty, equity, and partnership.

The Summit will address a broad spectrum of economic and strategic issues of mutual interest, including the reform of the global Financial architecture and renewal of the Development Agenda, Energy Transition, Green Industrialisation, Blue Economy, Sustainable Agriculture, Artificial Intelligence & Digital Technologies, and Health.

By highlighting the continent’s capacity for innovation and its commitment to effective multilateralism, the Summit will demonstrate Africa and France’s shared resolve to

develop common, mutually beneficial solutions anchored in partnership and collective responsibility.

This Summit will focus on the following thematic areas :

- Reform of the International Financial Architecture
- Leveraging African solutions for the energy transitions and increasing access to electricity
- Advancing Green Industrialization in Africa
- Unlocking the potential of the Blue Economy
- Developing Sustainable and high value-added agriculture
- Harnessing the potential of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technologies
- Rethinking Global Health and building resilient national health systems

2.0 Health Pillar of the Summit : Advancing Health Sovereignty in Africa

The Health Pillar will focus on advancing **health sovereignty** by strengthening Africa's capacity to protect the health of its populations and mobilizing sustainable investment in resilient health systems. Key priorities include:

- **Local Manufacturing:** Accelerating regional production of vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, and medical technologies through strategic partnerships.
- **Regulatory Systems:** Strengthening and harmonizing regulatory frameworks to ensure the quality, safety, and efficacy of health products across Africa.
- **Technology Transfer:** Promoting equitable access to advanced technologies and supporting innovation within African institutions.
- **Investment Mobilization:** Attracting domestic and international investment to support sustainable health systems and long-term impact.
- **Human Resources for Health:** Expanding training and professional development to build a skilled and responsive health workforce.

Together, these priorities reinforce Africa's commitment to strategic autonomy, resilient health institutions, and mutually beneficial global partnerships, positioning the continent as an active leader in shaping global health governance.

The Summit is anticipated to culminate in the adoption of the **Nairobi Declaration**, which will consolidate commitments across the seven key thematic areas of the agenda. In addition, leaders are expected to endorse a set of concrete, action-oriented deliverables, ensuring that the summit produces tangible results beyond declarations.

A central feature of the Summit will be the roundtable engagements with the Private Sector, where participants are expected to announce new deals, investments, and commitments that directly support Africa's innovation, industrialization, and health sovereignty agenda. These outcomes will reinforce the summit's credibility as a platform for practical partnerships and measurable impact.

2.1 Context and Rationale for the Health Round table

Africa's continued dependence on imported medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and medical devices exposes the continent to supply-chain disruptions, weakens health security, and slows progress toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the imminent risks associated with highly concentrated global production capacities and underscored the urgent need to develop resilient, regionally integrated health products manufacturing ecosystems. Expanding local manufacturing of health products is therefore not only a public health priority but also a strategic imperative for health sovereignty, industrial development, and economic resilience across the continent.

The Health Pillar of the Summit aligns with key African continental frameworks, including the strategic priorities of the African Union, the manufacturing agenda of the **Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)**, the regulatory harmonization mandate of the **African Medicines Agency (AMA)**, and the broader industrial transformation vision of **AFRICA UNION AGENDA 2063**.

The Summit supports Africa Union's goal of locally producing at least 60 percent of its vaccines, medicines, and diagnostics by 2040. It further advances Africa CDC's Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda, which prioritizes strengthened manufacturing capacity, robust regulatory systems, skilled workforce development, and sustainable domestic financing.

The Summit agenda also complements global and regional health strategies. It aligns with the World Health Organization's priorities of strengthening resilient health systems, enhancing pandemic preparedness, and containing antimicrobial resistance, while reinforcing global commitments to equitable access to health products and technologies, as well as diversified supply chains.

In concert with the **European Union Global Health Strategy**, the Summit underscores its commitment to diversifying health product manufacturing, advancing regulatory convergence, and mobilizing sustainable investment through initiatives such as the **Global Gateway and EU4Health Programme**. The Summit further builds on **France's Global Health Strategy** which is anchored in multilateralism, equitable access, innovation, and health system resilience—provides a strong foundation for partnership with Africa.

Moreover, France's longstanding engagement with global health institutions, including the World Health Organization, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNITAID, Gavi and the Vaccine Alliance, demonstrates its enduring commitment to global health solidarity. Through collaboration with development finance and technical partners such as Agence Française de Développement (AFD),

Expertise France, Banque publique d'investissement (Bpifrance), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank Group/IFC, and Afreximbank, the Summit offers a strategic opportunity to mobilize investment, blended finance, public and private partnerships, foster technology transfer, and advance industrial cooperation to strengthen Africa's health manufacturing ecosystem.”

The **AFRICA FORWARD SUMMIT 2026** in Nairobi therefore provides a timely platform to translate political commitment into concrete partnerships and investment-ready initiatives. By bringing together Governments, Regulatory Institutions, Development Financial Institutions, International Organizations and The Private Sector, the Summit will catalyze strategic collaboration to strengthen Africa's health sovereignty, support industrial transformation, and contribute to more resilient global health supply chains.

3.0 Strategic Goal of the Health Roundtable

The Health Pillar round table aims to catalyze strategic Africa–France partnerships to accelerate sustainable local manufacturing of Health Products and Technologies (HPTs) across Africa.

3.1 The Health Roundtable Session will be guided by the following strategic objectives:

I. Mobilize Sustainable Investment and Blended Finance

Identify and structure investment-ready projects, leveraging development finance institutions, private capital, and innovative blended-finance instruments to de-risk industrial scale-up and ensure long-term sustainability. Further, advance public and private partnerships, including Technology Transfer.

II. Promote Public and Private Partnerships

Licensing agreements, joint-ventures, co-development initiatives, and collaborative R&D between African manufacturers and French/European firms to foster innovation and shared capacity.

III. Strengthen Regulatory Cooperation and Market Integration

Encourage regulatory harmonization and reliance among National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs), while deepening collaboration with the **African Medicines Agency** to accelerate product approvals and expand regional market access.

IV. Enhance Human Capital and Skills Development

Support the development of biomanufacturing expertise, regulatory science training, quality assurance systems, and supply-chain management through joint centres of excellence, fellowship programmes, and professional exchanges.

V. Strengthen Industrial Ecosystems and Value Chains

Consolidate manufacturing clusters, reinforce quality infrastructure, and expand regional value chains and logistics platforms to enhance competitiveness, resilience, and continental health sovereignty.

4.0 Expected Deliverables

The Health Roundtable Session is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

i. Identification of Investment-Ready Projects

Select priority projects with indicative capital requirements and financing pathways to catalyze industrial scale-up.

ii. Announcement of Africa–France public-private partnerships, including Technology Transfer

Formalize partnerships in priority health products and technology sectors through licensing, co-development, and innovation-driven collaboration.

iii. Commitment to Structured Regulatory Cooperation

Affirm pathways for regulatory harmonization and reliance, strengthening collaboration with the African Medicines Agency to accelerate approvals and expand market access.

iv. Mobilization of Blended Financing

Secure commitments to mobilize development finance institutions, private capital, and innovative blended-finance instruments for priority manufacturing projects.

v. Launch and Scaling of Workforce Development Initiatives

Advance joint programmes for biomanufacturing skills, regulatory science, and supply-chain management through centres of excellence, fellowships, and exchanges.

vi. Endorsement of Health Pillar Consensus statement

Approve statement from the Health Round Table reaffirming shared commitment to multilateral cooperation, equitable access to health products and technologies, and the advancement of sustainable manufacturing capacities across Africa.

6. Target Participants

Participation will be strategically curated to ensure delivery-oriented engagement and investment mobilization. Participants will include:

- Heads of State and Government
- Ministers of Health, Industry, Trade, Finance, and Higher Education
- Leadership of the African Union Commission and its Agencies (AMA , Africa CDC, NEPAD, AfCTA)
- National Regulatory Authorities
- Development Finance Institutions and Multilateral Banks
- Pharmaceutical, biotech, diagnostics, and medical device manufacturers
- Institutional Investors and Private Equity Funds
- Research Institutions and Academic Centres
- United Nation Agencies and other multilateral bodies
- Civil Society
- International Organizations
- Health Development NGOs
- Health Products Procuring Agencies
- Private Sector Health Services Providers.
- Private Foundations

7. Program for the Health Round table

The program will be structured as follows:

- Opening session
- Plenary presentations
- Panel discussions
- Concluding Remarks
- Reading of the consensus statement

8. Conclusion

The **AFRICA FORWARD SUMMIT 2026** presents a strategic inflection point. By moving from dialogue to structured investment, coordinated regulation, and scalable public and private partnerships, including technology transfer, the Summit can catalyze a new era of industrial partnership. This will strengthen Africa's health security while deepening long-term Africa–France cooperation grounded in mutual growth,

sovereignty, solidarity, and shared global responsibility. The Summit therefore positions Africa and France not only as partners in development—but as co-architects of a more resilient and equitable global health order.

Structure of the Health Pillar round table Program (Draft dated 04052026)

1. Opening Segment (12 minutes)

- Welcome remarks by moderator on the theme (1 Minutes)

Opening remarks:

- Co-chairs Heads of State and Government (Republic of Ghana and the Prime Minister of Morocco) (4 minutes each)
- Government of France representative (HE Éléonore Caroit) (3 minutes)

2. Setting the Stage (6 minutes)

- Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)-
Presenter - DR Kaseya DG Africa CDC .

A summary presentation on the Manufacturing of Health products and Technologies strategy with a focus on the key priorities, progress, gaps and opportunities for Africa.

3. Short Panels : Announcements and Commitments (35 minutes)

Announcements will be structured across three (3) panels, followed by a political engagement announced by three African countries. The moderator will guide the panelists in making their announcements.

I. Financing & Investment (9 minutes)

Panelists will be invited to share anticipated announcements and commitments on financing and investment that will strengthen local capacity for health commodity and technology manufacturing in Africa. The discussion should highlight forthcoming partnerships, funding mechanisms, and investment models that are expected to drive sustainable growth and resilience in the health sector.

Suggested Panelist :

- World Bank Group-Africa Initiatives for Medical Access and Manufacturing (Aim 2030).

- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Republic of Kenya - Mr Aden Duale Cabinet Secretary for Health
- Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Anticipated Outcome:

Announcements and commitments on financing and investment are expected, including new partnerships, blended finance models, and targeted funding streams. These measures will strengthen local capacity for manufacturing health commodities and technologies in Africa, while supporting long-term sustainability and resilience in the health sector.

II. Technology Transfer & Public-Private Partnerships (12 minutes)

Panelists will be invited to discuss specific initiatives in technology transfer and public-private partnerships that will strengthen expertise in research and development as well as manufacturing capabilities, thereby accelerating the local production of health commodities and technologies in Africa.

Suggested Panelist

- International vaccine Institute (I.V.I)
- UNITAID
- SANOFI

Anticipated Outcome:

Announcements expected on **technology transfer and technical support agreements** between African private sector actors, state agencies, and international partners (both public and private), aimed at strengthening local capacity for the manufacturing of health commodities and technologies.

III. Human Capital, Regulatory & Market Measures (14 minutes)

Panelists will be invited to share concrete initiatives that are fostering innovation, strengthening expertise, advancing regulatory convergence, and leveraging market measures to accelerate local manufacturing of health commodities and technologies in Africa.

Suggested Panelists :

- WHO

- Africa Medicine Agency (AMA)
- GAVI
- Africa Union Commission

The panel is expected to highlight forthcoming commitments and initiatives that will strengthen human capital through skills development, advance regulatory convergence to streamline approval processes, and leverage market measures to create a more enabling environment. These actions are anticipated to accelerate local manufacturing and ensure the sustainable availability of health commodities and technologies across Africa.

4. Closing Session (5 minutes)

- Summary by moderator
- Closing remarks (Africa + France)