

High-Level Conference

Shaping the Future with Africa: Young Entrepreneurship as Key to a Just Transition

21 November 2023
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

German Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and Development
Stresemannstraße 94, 10963 Berlin

The Conference “Shaping the Future with Africa – Young Entrepreneurship as Key to a Just Transition” will bring together high-level political and business leaders from Europe and Africa and offers a platform for connecting, networking and discussing challenges, new ideas and best practices so as to harness the enormous potential of young, innovative entrepreneurs for a just transition.

Registration & Welcome Coffee (for on-site participants)

08:00 a.m. **Start-Up Fair**

Young Entrepreneurs present their businesses – informal exchange and networking

Welcome & Opening

09:30 a.m. **Svenja Schulze**, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

Host: Conny Czymoch

Policy Recommendations from Young Entrepreneurs

Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi, Executive Vice President, African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET)

09:50 a.m. **4 Young African Entrepreneurs**

What is needed to unlock the potential of young entrepreneurs for a social and ecological transformation of the economy?

40 young entrepreneurs and change makers will share their policy recommendations elaborated during a workshop the day before.

Keynote Speech

Kola Aina, Founding Partner, Ventures Platform

10:30 a.m. *Entrepreneur, investor and mentor Kola Aina provides his personal view on the potential of young entrepreneurs in Africa as well as the particular challenges they are confronted with.*

High-Level Panel

- **H.E. Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat**, Minister of International Cooperation, Egypt
- **Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina**, President, African Development Bank Group
- **Lacina Koné**, Director General & CEO, Smart Africa
- **Audrey S-Darko**, Founder & CEO, Sabon Sake, Ghana
- **Mariatheresa Kadushi**, Founder & CEO, Mobile Afya, Tanzania
- **Birgit Pickel**, Director-General Africa, BMZ

10:45 a.m. *Taking up on Minister Schulze's opening speech, the policy recommendations from the young entrepreneurs and the insights from the keynote speech, this panel will discuss how African and European policymakers, entrepreneurs and investors can work together to promote a conducive business and regulatory environment that supports young entrepreneurs and further enhances their power to innovate.*

The discussion will provide answers to some of the main questions around this topic: What particular potential do African entrepreneurs have to provide solutions to the major challenges of our time? What are key factors in supporting start-ups in sectors that contribute to a just transition? Who are the key players in supporting and stimulating innovation and young entrepreneurship and how can networks and partnerships strengthen cooperation between young entrepreneurs and across markets?

12:00 p.m. Closing Remarks

Birgit Pickel, Director-General Africa, BMZ

12:15 p.m. **Networking & Light Lunch** (for on-site participants)

01:30 p.m. **End of Conference**
