



NOVEMBER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER CONTENT



SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS FOR UGANDA PLATFORM

The Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) and the European Union (EU) have partnered to engage in a public-private sector dialogue aimed at overcoming crucial bottlenecks to trade, investment, and private sector growth under the Sustainable Business for Uganda (SB4U) Platform. The SB4U Platform, was launched by His Excellency the President of Uganda at the first ever EU-Uganda Business Forum which took place in March 2020. It is headed by a Board of both EU and Uganda representatives, supported by a Secretariat funded by the European Union.

In addition to policy advocacy activities, the objective of the SB4U is to help EU and UG businesses to invest and export to Uganda and Europe by initiating B2B and B2G events, joint business missions; facilitating the signature of contracts; increasing visibility of EU and UG companies; providing information, support, and advice for investing in Uganda and EU; etc. The SB4U platform will give EU and Ugandan companies access to tools fostering investment and trade: National Trade Facilitation Portal, Access to Finance Portal, development of export guides, training for trade support institutions and sector associations, development of e-commerce platforms, etc.

A mechanism to support the public-private discussion aimed at finding solutions to identified issues is now in place. Four Technical Working Groups (TWGs) that mirror the identified hurdles have been agreed by stakeholders "Skills and Attitude", "Access to Finance", "Governance and Corruption" and "Trade and Investment Promotion.

The TWGs will contribute to a continued EU-Uganda investment climate dialogue, identify challenges in the agreed thematic areas, prioritize areas of focus and recommend implementable solutions through innovative private-public collaboration.

Call for Expression of Interest for membership of SB4U Technical Working Group.

As Europeans, are you operating businesses in Uganda? We would like to hear from you if this is of your interest. However, there are limited slots and a quick response will be appreciated.



If you are a European Business and interested in serving on one of the Technical Working Groups "Skills and Attitude", "Access to Finance", "Governance and Corruption" or "Trade and Investment Promotion" we would love to hear from you. We very much value your contribution.

Please contact Sarah Kitakule via email info@sb4uplatform.com and copy nicolas.renard@ees.europa.eu. We would be glad to give you more details on the modalities for participation.

PRIVATE SECTOR FOUNDATION RECEIVES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITH EXCITEMENT

The private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) has received the substantive executive director with excitement. Stephen Asiimwe was last week appointed by the PSFU board led by Dr Elly Karuhanga the board chairman. Asiimwe has worked for both the government the private sector for over 30 years at management, leadership and business leadership levels in Uganda and on international level. According to Dr. Elly Karuhanga, Asiimwe's appointment was with immediate effect and currently in office. Before his appointment to this top job, Asiimwe has been the PFSU's director of policy and business development, a position held for one year. Asiimwe took over from Francis Kisirinya who has been acting capacity since the death of the Gideon Badagawa the former substantive PSFU executive director who succumbed to covid-19 mid this year



A brief background of Stephen Asiimwe:

He holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership and Management from the US-based Development Associates International (DAI) affiliated to Uganda Christian University (UCU).

He is also a BA Social Sciences graduate of Political Science and Sociology from Makerere University. Asiimwe has a host of post-graduate certificates and diplomas in Management, Education, Marketing, IT and Corporate Governance, among others. He had worked at New Vision as a reporter, sub-editor and Business Editor from 1993-2004. He was also the chief executive and Editor-in-Chief of the East African Business Week from 2004 to 2014. Asiimwe had worked at Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) as a chief executive officer for five consecutive years.

2021 ECONOMIC MKUTANO CONFERENCE

The 2021 Economic Mkutano Conference was held on the 23rd of November under the theme, 'Building a sustainable and competitive Industrial Sector in Uganda'. It was organized by the Mkutano Company in partnership with the ministries of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Finance, Planning and Economic Development and key partners in the industrial sector. The conference was attended by Presidential Advisors, Development Partners, Heads of multilateral institutions, Representatives of Financial Institutions, Private Sector, and Civil Society Organizations. The European Union was represented by the Head of Cooperation Ms Caroline Adriaensen.

The delegates discussed the current state of the industrial sector in Uganda and the enabling environment required to build a sustainable and competitive

industrial sector in Uganda. They made several recommendations for implementation by the various stakeholders.

The Mkutano Company will continue to work with strategic partners in the industrial sector to find solutions to the challenges and to support Industrial sectors strategic initiatives aimed at improving the industrial environment, legal and regulatory frameworks.



Caption for photo: Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development Betty Amongi and Deputy Prime Minister Lukia Isanga Nakadama officiate at the launch of Uganda's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights at the Sheraton Hotel, Kampala on 28th October 2021. (Credit: Initiative for Socio Economic Rights)

Government launches new business and human rights action plan.

In October 2021, the Government of Uganda launched the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP), joining a group of just thirty countries who have done so, and becoming only the second African country to approve such a plan.

The aim of the NAP-BHR is to guide implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) adopted in 2011. Those principles are based on the three pillars of the state's duty to protect human rights, business responsibility to ensure its operations do not undermine human rights and ensuring access to effective remedies for victims of rights abuses involving businesses.

Speaking at the launch of the plan at an event in Kampala on 28th October 2021, Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development Hon. Betty Amongi Ongom said the NAP is a "key tool in providing guidance to the State and non-State actors on the requirements that all business operations are to be conducted in line with human rights standards".

Addressing the launch event, the EU Delegation's Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Anna Merrifield called the adoption of the new plan "a big step in the right direction" and emphasised the EU's interest in linking the implementation of the action plan to the Sustainable Business for Uganda (SB4U) platform.

The plan will be implemented over five years through a collaborative effort involving government ministries, departments and agencies, private sector organisations and civil society. The EU Delegation and EU Members States are currently assessing how their own plans to focus on the Business and Human Rights agenda can be tailored to support the implementation of the NAP.

THE 2021 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE - COP26

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) comes against the background of widespread, rapid and intensifying climate change impacts, which are affecting every region globally. There have been continued discussions and global efforts to address climate change and the COP26 created the opportunity to achieve pivotal, transformational change in global climate policy and action. The objectives are to cut emissions and limit global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius, to reach the target of \$100 billion per year of climate finance to developing and vulnerable countries and to implement the set rules that will boost international carbon markets.

The 26th United Nations Climate Change conference was held in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom from the 31st October to 13th November 2021. The president of the conference was the United Kingdom (UK) cabinet minister Alok Sharma. At the conference of parties, a new global agreement – the Glasgow Climate Pact was reached aiming at reducing the worst impacts of climate change although some leaders and campaigners were not convinced it would go far enough.

Although the agreement was not legally binding, it sets the global agenda on climate change for the next decade where it was agreed that countries will meet next year to pledge cuts to emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Six years ago, scientists warned that countries should prevent a “climate catastrophe” and try to keep temperature rises within 1.5C which would limit global warming to about 2.4C.



The COP conference was further highlighted by a plan to reduce the use of coal which is responsible for 40% of annual CO₂ emissions. An agreement to phase-out subsidies that artificially lower the price of coal, oil or natural gas was reached by the world leaders although no firm dates were set. US and China also pledged to cooperate in the reduction of methane emissions and the switch to clean energy. Leaders from more than 100 countries promised to stop deforestation by 2030 despite similar initiatives that have previously failed to stop deforestation noting under funding as a major cause. The overall goal of the COP26 is to keep cutting emissions until they reach a net zero by the mid-century.

The European Commission President Ms. Ursula von der Leyen thanked Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans for his crucial role in negotiations in Glasgow for making it possible to reach the agreement. She further said that several major

emitters have announced new emission reduction targets and more than 100 countries have joined the Global Methane Pledge. The EU already contributes more than a quarter of global climate finance, with over 27 billion dollars a year. The European Commission president asked everyone to take their responsibility and said the EU will cut emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and will become the first climate neutral country by 2050.

Uganda's approach to climate change was presented by Hon. Matia Kasaija the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. In his address, he affirmed that conducted research revealed that 41 percent of Uganda's land is now degraded and forest cover is declining by 2.6 percent every year. This has increased the risks of natural capital degradation. The Government of Uganda through the third National Development Plan (NDPIII) recognises climate change as one of the risks to achieving sustainable growth and development. The Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Ministry of Water and Environment (Climate Change Department) is the institution responsible for the coordination, supervision, regulation and management of all activities related to climate change and development of long-term low emissions strategy simultaneously. Uganda formally communicated its intended NDC under the Paris Agreement on 14 October 2015 which became its NDC upon ratification of the Paris Agreement in November 2016. Since then, Uganda has undertaken steps to implement the NDC and increase its ambitions towards climate change. Most significantly is Uganda's formulation of the National Climate Change Act 2021 to give the force of law to the Paris Agreement. Uganda's Green Economic Recovery Plan will focus on six areas which include: Climate Finance, ICTS (Digitalization of sectors), Resilient transport, Urban and Built Environment, Energy, and Green Procurement.

BlueInvest Africa – Call for Pitchers



**BLUE
INVEST
AFRICA**
15 - 16 MARCH 2022

#BlueInvest Africa

SEYCHELLES



To increase the potential of the global blue economy in the maritime activities and sectors to develop socio-economic sustainability in Africa and Europe, BlueInvest Africa is calling for pitchers for the event to take place between March 15 – March 16, 2022. To qualify for participation there are three distinct categories.

- ① Registered African start-up business companies (already operating in the various sub-sectors of the blue economy)
- ② African Small Micro and Medium sized businesses (SMMEs). These may not yet be officially established but bearing an innovative idea subject to further commercial development within the African market)
- ③ Public and Private Investors (interested in blue economy sectors in Africa)

BlueInvest Africa will provide an opportunity to put forward the African know-how and local skills, business projects and initiatives for participants to generate concrete business opportunities, develop sustainable products and services in the blue economy sectors through matchmaking between investors and entrepreneurs.

Registration is now open until the 19th December 2021. Please follow the link below:
<https://blueinvest-africa-2022.b2match.io>

Tanzania Uganda Oil & Gas Symposium, 27th & 28th November, 2021.



The first joint oil and gas conference was held in Dar es Salaam the commercial capital of Tanzania on the 27th and 28th November 2021. The President of Uganda H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni was welcomed by his Tanzanian Counterpart, President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Speaking at the symposium, the Minister for Energy Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa said government is working around the clock to ensure that the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Bill which is currently before the parliamentary committee on natural resources is passed by parliament as a framework to enable the exportation of Uganda's crude oil. According to the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), the symposium will provide a platform for the private sectors of the two countries to network, understand the industry opportunities and challenges, discuss areas of cooperation and showcase their capacities through sharing experiences and interaction with public sector actors on legal and policy matters that govern the industry in both countries. The 3.5-billion-dollar oil pipeline project is the longest electrically heated pipeline in the world because Uganda's oil is waxy. The 1,445-kilometer-long East African Crude Oil Pipeline will draw crude oil from wells in Western Uganda (Hoima district) to Tanzania's seaport of Tanga creating opportunities for the private sector including transportation, security, hotels, foods and beverages, finance, human resource, construction and many more.

OTHER NEWS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOUNDATION UGANDA



Private sector Foundation Uganda had a consultation meeting on the Fisheries and Aquaculture bill 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to sensitize the lead firms on the impact of the bill on their operations. The PSFU will develop a private sector position paper on the fisheries and aquaculture bill. If you wish to contribute to the discussions, please send your input to the SB4U Secretariat via email info@sb4uplatform.com

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH INSTITUTE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

On 19th November 2021, the Acting Executive Director Mr. Francis Kisirinya met with the Chief Executive Director, The Institute of Corporate Governance of Uganda, Mr. Dison B. Okumu and signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. The collaboration arrangement will support capacity building of private sector corporations in corporate governance.



