



Ghana Transformation Forum

10-11 FEBRUARY, 2015

La Palm Hotel
Accra, Ghana

ANNOTATED AGENDA

OVERVIEW

In March 2014, the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) published its first ***African Transformation Report***, kicking off a timely conversation among business leaders, economists, and policymakers on how African countries can build on their recent growth to transform their economies. The report advanced a view of economic transformation as “Growth with DEPTH.” That is, growth with:

- Diversified production
- Export competitiveness
- Productivity increases in firms, on farms, and in government offices
- Technology upgrading from low to medium and high technology
- Human well-being, led by higher incomes and better jobs in the formal sectors

Dominant among the feedback ACET received was a call to bring the report down to the country level to inform and assist countries in moving ideas from the report forward.

It is opportune that the NDPC has recently published its ***Agenda for Transformation***, a program setting out policies, programs, and strategies for economic and social transformation of the country. In support of the NDPC’s role, ACET completed an organizational and functional review of the NDPC in 2012. ACET is also a member of a recently established Implementation Advisory Group monitoring the implementation of the *Senchi Consensus*. This forum aims to provide an opportunity for stakeholders—including government, parliament, civil society, the private sector, and development partners—to discuss the challenges and prospects for economic transformation in Ghana. It will also offer perspectives from the experiences of other African countries.

DAY 1

08:30 – 09:00 *Registration and Light Breakfast*

09:00 – 10:00 **OPENING SESSION**

In the opening session, **Dr. K.Y. Amoako**, Founder and President of ACET, and former Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, will share his perspective on Africa’s economic transformation as a backdrop to the forum’s deliberations and outcomes. **Dr. Kwesi Botchwey**, Chairman of NDPC, will discuss plans to revitalize the NDPC to play a more pivotal role in socioeconomic development and transformation in Ghana.

- **Chair:** Mr. Tony Oteng-Gyasi, CEO, Tropical Cable and Conductor, and former President of the Association of Ghana Industries

10:00 – 10:15 *Coffee Break*

10:15 – 12:30 **PLENARY SESSION 1**

Agenda for Transformation: Perspectives from African Countries

In discussing Ghana’s transformation, benchmarking against other African countries is helpful. **Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, and Rwanda** are noted for their leadership in certain aspects of transformation, and are making significant strides. In this peer-to-peer exchange, senior officials

from these countries will share their countries' progresses and challenges in a number of areas, including setting a national vision and strategy, state-private sector collaboration, providing a business-friendly environment, and coordination and institutional oversight.

- **Chair:** Mr. Tito Mboweni, Former Governor, South African Reserve Bank, and Former Chairman of AngloGold Ashanti Ltd.
- **Speakers:**
 - **Ghana:** Dr. Nii Moi Thompson, Director General, NDPC
 - **Ethiopia:** Mr. Getachew Adem, Deputy Commissioner, National Planning Commission
 - **Kenya:** Dr. Julius Muia, Executive Secretary, National Economic and Social Council
 - **Mauritius:** Prof. Ramesh Durbarry, Professor in Tourism and Deputy Director, Academic and Partnerships, Amity Institute of Higher Education
 - **Rwanda:** Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 – 16:45 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

The breakout sessions will focus on six themes identified in the *African Transformation* Report as critical areas that need addressing in order for African countries to achieve economic transformation. For each theme, ACET has commissioned a background study on the opportunities, key challenges, and possible actions and strategies for Ghana. A member of a research team of Ghanaian experts will present each theme, a discussant will react to the presentation, and then the floor will be open for general discussion and recommendations. There will be two breakout sessions consisting of three concurrent thematic discussions. Each participant will be encouraged to choose one in each session.

13:30 – 15:00 *Breakout Session 1*

A) **Skills**

This session will address how to match the skills of the workforce with the needs of business. Sub-topics will include the state of technical and vocational education and training in Ghana, innovations in training required to equip high school and university graduates with necessary skills, and the role of both the private and public sectors in bringing about transformational changes.

- **Chair:** Prof. Goski Alabi, Associate Professor of Management and Leadership Dean, School of Graduate Studies, UPSA
- **Presenter:** Dr. William Baah Boateng, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Ghana
- **Discussant:** Mr. Lars Jøker, Team Leader, Business & Green Growth, DANIDA

B) **Exports**

This session will explore the critical elements of Ghana's export promotion strategy, prospects for export expansion, major challenges that Ghanaian exporters face, and the country's export promotion institutional infrastructure, including how it is working and how it can be strengthened.

- **Chair:** Dr. Baffour Osei, CEO, Export Development and Agricultural Investment Fund

- **Presenter:** Dr. Eric Osei Assibey, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Ghana
- **Discussant:** Mr. Tony Sikpa, President, Federation of Association of Ghanaian Exporters (FAGE)

C) **Tourism**

This discussion will examine trends in tourism development in Ghana, including successes and failures, the role of private sector investment, and types of public sector partnerships that can give rise to a thriving tourism industry.

- **Chair:** Ms. Mawuena Trebarh, CEO, Ghana Investment Promotion Center
- **Presenter:** Mr. William Frimpong Bonsu, Senior Lecturer, Methodist University College
- **Discussant:** Ms. Mona Boyd, CEO, Land Tours & Avis Ghana

15:00 – 15:15 *Coffee Break*

15:15 – 16:45 *Breakout Session II*

A) **Light Manufacturing**

This section asks if there is sufficient scope for Ghana to take advantage of component assembly, garments, and other simple labor-intensive products as a steppingstone to increased manufacturing exports. The discussion will also situate manufacturing firmly at the center of Ghana’s industrialization potential and solicit innovative approaches to expanding the sector.

- **Chair:** Mr. Nana Owusu-Afari, CEO, Afariwaa Group of Companies; Former President, AGI
- **Presenter:** Dr. Kofi Nti, Former Dean, University of Ghana Business School
- **Discussant:** Mr. Kofi Smith, Senior Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Trade and Industry

B) **Energy**

Given the catalytic role that energy—power in particular—plays in all sectors of the economy, this section will discuss Ghana’s energy crisis, present options for addressing it, and focus on how long-term planning can improve the quality and consistency of energy supply.

- **Chair:** Mr. Mohammed Amin Adam, Executive Director, Africa Center for Energy Policy
- **Presenter:** Dr. Joe Asamoah, Director, EnerWise Africa
- **Discussant:** Mr. Sunil Mathrani, Senior Energy Economist, World Bank

C) **Local Content (Natural Resources)**

Given the relative newness of Ghana’s oil and gas sector as compared to mining, this section explores the progress in local content and value addition in Ghana overall and the role of the various policies and stakeholders in contributing (or detracting) from this.

- **Chair:** Mr. Moses Asaga (TBC), CEO National Petroleum Authority
- **Presenters:** Dr. Toni Aubynn, CEO, Minerals Commission
- **Discussant:** Ms. Afua Amissah, Coordinator - Local Content, Ministry of Petroleum

17:00 – 18:30 **COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

DAY 2

09:00 – 09:45 **PLENARY SESSION 2**

Keynote Address: Can Africa Become the Manufacturing Floor?

Ms. Helen Hai is a UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador, CEO of the Made in Africa Initiative, and advisor to the governments of Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Senegal for investment promotion and industrialization. Ms. Hai led the establishment of Huajian shoe factory in Ethiopia, which began exporting to the United States in just three months and employs more than 3,000 Ethiopians after two years of operation. In this keynote address, she will share insights on how to expand manufacturing in Africa.

- **Chair:** Mr. Kwame Pianim, Chairman, Airtel and Chairman, Ghana International School

09:45 – 11:15 **PLENARY SESSION 3**

Breakout Session Presentations and Q&A

In this session, the chairpersons of each breakout session will present key insights and recommendations for priority actions for implementation in the next two to three years. The co-chairs will synthesize the session reports to inform the ministerial roundtable.

- **Co-chair:** Dr. Nii Moi Thompson, Director General, NDPC
- **Co-chair:** Dr. Yaw Ansu, Chief Economist, ACET

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 **PLENARY SESSION 4**

Ministerial Round Table: Implementing Ghana's Transformation Agenda

The climax of the forum will be the ministerial roundtable. The forum's endgame is to feed into Ghana's long-term plans as well as to spur concrete actions in the short term. Thus, the ministerial roundtable will be a direct channel for sector ministers to receive insights directly and to engage with the audience on how to move forward with them.

- **Moderator:** Mr. David Ampofo, CEO, Channel 2 Communications

13:00 – 13:30 **CLOSING & WAY FORWARD**

- Dr. Kwesi Botchwey, Chairman, NDPC
- Dr. K.Y. Amoako, Founder and President, ACET

13:30 – 15:00 LUNCH