



# CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE GOLDEN BUSINESS FORUM (GBF)

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## 1) Context

African economies have been described as “Lions on the move”. Today, despite the economic challenges that the world is facing, Africa’s economic lions are still moving forward. Africa remained the world’s second fastest growing economy after East Asia.

For the couple of years, the continent achieved average real annual GDP growth of 5.4% notwithstanding global headwinds and regional shocks. In 2015, sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa) grew faster than the continental average, at 4.2%, with East Africa leading the way at 6.3%.

Despite the previous economic successes, the continent has more potential to keep growing its economies and ensure lions on the move for the benefit of its people. The continent has a young population with a growing labour force, expected to be the world’s largest working-age population of 1.1 billion by 2034. Africa is still urbanizing and much of the economic benefit lies ahead to allow an additional 187 million Africans to live in cities in the next decade as predicted by the United Nations. African economies are also well positioned to benefit from rapidly accelerating technological change that can unlock growth and leapfrog the limitations and costs of physical infrastructure in important areas of economic life.

In view to the above, the role of the private sector is very critical to drive the economies of the continent and ensure significant contribution to the implementation of SDGs which are aiming to improve the life of people.

In Rwanda, the Private Sector Federation has launched the “Golden Circle Forum” which brings together business champions, captains of industry and like-minded business leaders to network and engage in constructive dialogue. Members in this category seek to discuss and champion, among others, Business to Business partnerships, doing business environment, investments (public private partnership), policy reforms, regional integration and regulatory framework requisite for business growth.

The 22nd Rwanda International Trade Fair expected to be attended by over 25 countries, will be a multi-sectoral trade event that will attract local, regional and international exhibitors which is an opportunity not only to sell, buy, but also be a platform for marketing and linking local traders to their international counterparts for exchanging business ideas.

Given the expectations of the market and consumers at large, the event will attract more innovative products and services from different countries as well as over 350,000 visitors.

## **2) Why Golden Business Forum**

Recently the Africa Union has launched a campaign of “Africa we want” and advocating for the implementation of agenda 2063 which seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.

Borrowing from home grown solutions and the Golden Circle Forum successes, the Private Sector Federation of Rwanda would like to introduce the “Golden Business Forum” as annual high-level business platform and channel for the Private Sector players to contribute to the socio-economic development of the continent.

The summit will be bringing together primarily investors, business, political and other leaders involved in business development to shape Africa, national and companies’ agendas.

## **3) What is unique about Golden Business Forum?**

The forum presents an excellent opportunity to bring together high-profile individuals, organisations and policy-makers with an interest in the development of economies and companies of Africa. The forum is expected to provide a variety of events and sessions focused on bringing together continental stakeholders involved in the business ecosystems.

These may include:

- **Golden Business Forum:** This is a conference that brings together different players to engage, discover opportunities, strategize, advocate and share experiences on how the private sector led economy can be effective. Additionally, the forum is expected to serve as a marketplace where investors from all over the world can pitch for equity, grants and forge business partnership with their fellows from all over the world through Business to Business, side events, project visit, networking events, etc.

- **Golden Gala Night:** This gala night shall be a place for celebration for the concluded partnerships and ongoing development be through the Golden Circle and the Rwanda International Trade Fair in Rwanda or what other players have been doing to ease doing business and the export in Africa. High-level policy makers, invited Investors from different countries, development partners, media and academia are expected to attend.

**Other sessions:** These sessions may include forums such as China – Africa B2B, platforms where entrepreneurs can access training opportunities, pitch for grants and build capacity, enterprise mentorship and workshops, creative arts enterprise forum and ecosystem visits.

#### **4) Launch of the Golden Business Forum**

The launch of the Golden Business Forum shall be driven by the theme *“Unlocking Inter-Africa Trade and Africa with the World”*. The launch of the forum will provide a true continental experience that addresses today’s intertwined challenges and forge for continental bright future. The event is scheduled from:

- a) Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019: Arrival, meetings with different officials and visit to strategic projects;
- b) Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019: Attend the Golden Business Forum at the Kigali Conference Centre to be followed by the Golden Gala Night in the evening at the Intare Conference Arena;
- c) Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019: B2B, visit to the Rwanda International Trade Fair (RITF) and tourism activities at leisure.

#### **5) Participation to the Golden Business Forum**

The GBF shall bring together around 1000 top participants from Africa, Asia, Europe and America.

The audience will be diversified and range from captains of industry, investors, Private Sector bodies, policy makers, opinion leaders, development partners and like-minded business leaders to conclude business partnership, network and exchange ideas on matters of mutual interest with regard to doing business, business growth and economic development in Africa.