

Over 700 Leaders from 70 Countries Will Convene This Week in Ethiopia

7 May 2012

Fon Mathuros, Director, Media, Communications Dept., Tel.: +25-1 (0)930 098 939; E-mail: fma@weforum.org

- Over 700 from more than 70 countries to participate at the World Economic Forum on Africa this week
- The meeting will take place in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia for the first time, from 9-11 May
- Eight African heads of state or government among 90 public figures taking part
- For more information about the meeting see <http://wef.ch/africa2012> and meeting [Fact Sheet](#)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 7 May 2012 - More than 700 leaders from business, government, civil society, academia, media and the arts from over 70 countries will meet at the 22nd World Economic Forum on Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 11 May. The meeting is being hosted for the first time in Addis Ababa with the support of the Government of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia, which is one of the world's fastest growing economies, is home to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Thus Addis Ababa offers an exceptional opportunity to bring together pan-African and global leaders to discuss the future of the region. Under the theme *Shaping Africa's Transformation*, the meeting's agenda will integrate three pillars: Strengthening Africa's Leadership; Accelerating Investment in Frontier Markets; and Scaling Innovation for Shared Opportunities.

"Africa is experiencing strong growth and despite the increasingly volatile global economy, African leaders are pursuing measures that will transform the region into the next global growth pole. In this context, the World Economic Forum on Africa will seek to leverage the positive political, economic and social progress of recent years by providing a true multistakeholder platform to develop new ideas and actions to achieve further sustainable, inclusive growth," says **Elsie S. Kanza**, Director, Head of Africa, World Economic Forum.

Led by Prime Minister **Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia** and representatives from his government, other African leaders who have confirmed their participation at the meeting are: **Djibouti**, President Ismail Omar Guelleh; **Gabon**, President Ali Bongo Ondimba; **Gambia**, President Yahya Jammeh; **Mauritius**, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development Charles Gaëtan Xavier-Luc Duval; **Namibia**, Prime Minister Nahas Gideon Angula; **Nigeria**, President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan; **Rwanda**, President Paul Kagame; **Tanzania**, President Jakaya M. Kikwete; and **Zimbabwe**, Deputy Prime Minister, Arthur G. Mutambara.

In addition, leading international personalities who will be present include: **Pascal Lamy**, Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO); **Abdoulie Janneh**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); **Jean Ping**, Chairperson of the Commission, African Union; **Gordon Brown**, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (2007-2010); **Fahad Bin Abdulrahman Bin Sulaiman**, Minister of Agriculture of Saudi Arabia; **Beverley Oda**, Minister of International Cooperation of Canada, Canadian International

Development Agency (CIDA); and **Rajiv J. Shah**, Administrator, US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Co-chairs of the meeting are: **Kofi Annan**, Chairman, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Africa Progress Panel (APP), Switzerland; **Gao Xiqing**, President and Vice-Chairman, China Investment Corporation (CIC), People's Republic of China; **Bekele Geleta**, Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Geneva; **Monhla Hlahla**, Chairperson, Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa (IDC), South Africa; **Donald Kaberuka**, President, African Development Bank (AfDB), Tunisia; **Doug McMillon**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Wal-Mart International, Wal-Mart Stores, USA; and **Tidjane Thiam**, Group Chief Executive, Prudential, United Kingdom.

Notes to Editors:

Follow this year's meeting online at <http://wef.ch/africa2012>

View photos from the 2012 World Economic Forum on Africa at <http://wef.ch/africapics2011>

Watch live webcasts of the sessions on **Livestream** at <http://wef.ch/live>

Watch the sessions on **YouTube** at <http://wef.ch/youtube>

Become a fan of the Forum on **Facebook** at <http://wef.ch/facebook>

Follow the Forum on **Twitter** at <http://wef.ch/twitter> and <http://wef.ch/livetweet>

Listen to the **Forum Podcast** at <http://wef.ch/podcast>

Read the **Forum Blog** at <http://wef.ch/blog>

Read Forum reports on **Scribd** at <http://wef.ch/scribd>

Follow the meeting on the **iPhone** at <http://wef.ch/app>

Subscribe to Forum **News Releases** at <http://wef.ch/news>

The World Economic Forum is an independent international organization committed to improving the state of the world by engaging leaders in partnerships to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Incorporated as a foundation in 1971 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the World Economic Forum is impartial and not-for-profit; it is tied to no political, partisan or national interests (<http://www.weforum.org>).



World Economic Forum, 91-93 route de la Capite, CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva
Tel. +41 (0)22 869 1212, Fax +41 (0)22 786 2744, <http://www.weforum.org>