



President's Message - May/June 2020 eJournal



As we head toward mid-summer, I am both saddened and inspired. Like all of you, I am deeply saddened by the health and economic devastation caused by COVID-19 globally. In the United States, we are far from beating the virus while in Africa, it seems the fight is in its early stages. In the past month alone, the number of COVID cases in Africa has doubled and the continent is heading into its first recession in 25 years. So Africa's and America's social and economic wellbeing is in peril.

And yet there are also many sources of hope and inspiration.

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CCA Leaders Forum: Resilient U.S.-Africa Business Engagement to Drive Post COVID-19 Recovery

On Tuesday, June 23, 2020, Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) launched its inaugural Leaders Forum, a high level virtual Forum that convened Heads of State, senior USG and African government officials, CEOs and private sector executives, and leaders from multilateral institutions to discuss post COVID-19 recovery in Africa. Over **2500** business and government leaders from across the U.S. and Africa registered for the CCA Leaders Forum and over the course of the week, the Forum was live streamed on over 300 Africa-related news sites and attracted well over **100,000** views daily.

[Day One Spotlights the Global Financial Response to COVID-19 in Africa](#)



The opening session of the Forum focused on the Global Financial Response to COVID-19 in Africa. H.E. Paul Kagame, President, Republic of Rwanda, delivered opening remarks. Day one of the Forum also featured a high-level panel discussion with private sector leaders and senior multilateral officials including Diane Willkens, Development Finance International Inc. Dr. Donald Kaberuka, SouthBridge Group, Dr. Vera Songwe, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Admassu Tadesse, Eastern and Southern Trade and Development

Bank (TDB), Dr. Albert Zeufack, The World Bank Group and Akin Dawodu, Citi, Kalidou Gadio, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP, and Dr. Jeffrey L. Sturchio, Rabin Martin.

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[Day Two Spotlights the Economic and Health Innovations in Response to COVID-19 in Africa](#)



Session two featured opening remarks by H.E. Filipe Nyusi, President, Republic of Mozambique. Day two of the Forum also featured a high-level panel discussion with private sector leaders and senior multilateral officials including Hon. Betty Maina, Republic of Kenya, Farid Fezoua, GE Africa, Gregory Rockson, Mpharma, Angela Wasunna, Pfizer Inc, Bill Killeen, Acrow Bridge, Dr. Witney Schneidman, Covington & Burling LLP, and Dr. Jim Winkler, Creative Associates International.

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[Day Three Spotlights Drivers of Growth in Post-COVID Africa](#)



Session three featured opening remarks by Bonnie Glick, Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Day three of the Forum also featured a high-level panel moderated by Dr. Acha Leke, McKinsey Africa. Panelists included: Dr. Sarah Alade, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mohamad Darwish, IHS Towers/IHS Nigeria, Aida Diarra, VISA, Karim Senhadji, OCP Africa and Riva Levinson, KRL International.

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[Day Four Spotlights Regional and Bilateral Trade Post-COVID in Africa](#)



Session four featured welcome remarks by CCA President and CEO Florizelle Liser, and opening remarks by Demetrios Marantis, Visa Inc. H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President, Republic of Ghana, and H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President, Republic of Kenya, gave opening remarks and participated in a fireside chat moderated by Amb. Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Albright Stonebridge Group. Panelists included Wamkele Mene, AfCFTA Secretariat, Tewolde GebreMariam, Ethiopian Airlines, Viliam Trska, Procter & Gamble Southern Africa and Jeff Hardee, Caterpillar.

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CCA Webinar Series on "Navigating the Impact of COVID-19"

[The U.S. Government Response to COVID-19 in Africa: A Dialogue with Christopher Runyan](#)



On May 5, 2020, CCA hosted a webinar featuring Christopher Runyan, Senior Coordinator, USAID Bureau for Africa and Adam Tomasek, Lead for Corporate Relations, USAID Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment. According to Runyan, the United States remains the largest single country donor to the COVID-19 response efforts globally, building on decades of leadership in life-saving health and humanitarian assistance.

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[A Dialogue with Assistant U.S. Trade Representative \(USTR\) for Africa Constance Hamilton on U.S.-Africa Trade](#)

On May 7, 2020, CCA hosted a webinar with Constance Hamilton, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa. Hamilton highlighted the importance of continuing the dialogue on trade policy and U.S. FTA initiatives in Africa despite the postponement of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum until 2021.



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[Kenyan Government and Private Sector Response to COVID-19](#)



On May 11, 2020, CCA hosted a webinar featuring Ambassador David Gacheru, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya to the U.S. and Ms. Carole Karuga, CEO of Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) on the impact of COVID-19 in Kenya. Ambassador Gacheru shared that the Kenyan government is addressing the social and economic impact of the pandemic by increasing testing, working with the local manufacturers to provide PPEs, following World Health Organization guidelines, and supporting the private sector through cash support, tax deferrals, and debt relief.

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[Understanding Prosper Africa: A Dialogue with Victoria Whitney, Chief Operating Officer](#)

On May 14, 2020, CCA hosted a webinar featuring Victoria Whitney, Chief Operating Officer of Prosper Africa, as part of CCA's "Navigating the impact of COVID-19" webinar series.

The discussion was off the record.



[The Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis in Africa and How the Continent is Responding - A Dialogue with Dr. Acha Leke](#)



On May 19, 2020, CCA hosted Dr. Acha Leke, Senior Partner in McKinsey's Johannesburg office and Chairman of McKinsey's Africa practice. Dr. Leke noted that a minimum of \$1 billion will be needed over the next few months just to address the health crisis.

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[A Dialogue with Goolam Ballim, Chief Economist, Standard Bank](#)

CCA in partnership with National Association of Securities Professionals and MiDA Advisors, hosted a webinar on May 20, 2020 featuring Goolam Ballim, Chief Economist and Head of Research, Standard Bank. Despite Africa's stellar GDP growth over the past 20 years, Mr. Ballim anticipates a 4% GDP contraction in 2021, with oil-based economies taking the hardest hit.



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[A Dialogue with Professor Benedict Oramah, President & Chairman, Afreximbank](#)



CCA featured Prof. Benedict Oramah, President and Chairman of Afreximbank, in a webinar on May 21, 2020. He described Afreximbank's \$3 billion Pandemic Response Facility, which will support financial institutions, corporations, and some sovereign governments in responding to the trade shocks (including food import challenges) resulting from COVID-19 in Africa.

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[U.S. Foreign Policy in Africa in a Post-COVID-19 World](#)

On May 27, 2020, CCA hosted a dialogue with Ambassador Tibor B. Nagy, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Nagy noted the serious health and economic challenges facing Africa as it responds to COVID-19, including weak healthcare system, food supply disruptions, and devastating impacts on export sectors (especially among oil producers), and tourism.



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Government Response to COVID-19: Kingdom of Morocco and Republic of Senegal



CCA's webinar discussion on May 29, 2020, featured H.E. Amadou Hott, Minister of Economy, Planning and Cooperation, Republic of Senegal and H.E. Mohcine Jazouli, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Minister Hott outlined Senegalese government responses to the COVID-19 including providing \$500 million to support impacted companies and creating a \$1.6 billion fund to support fiscal and social COVID-19 recovery measures. Minister Jazouli remarked on the Moroccan governments \$3.5 billion fund and an Economic Monitoring Committee to provide economic support measures for businesses and citizens.

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South African Government and Private Sector Response to COVID-19



On June 11, 2020, CCA hosted a webinar featuring H.E. Nomaindiya Mfeketo, the new Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to the U.S. Ambassador Mfeketo identified her main priorities as the strengthening of bilateral relations with the U.S. government and private sector and the creation of mutually beneficial economic opportunities

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[Nigerian Government and Private Sector Response to COVID-19](#)



On June 16, 2020, CCA hosted a webinar on the Nigerian government and private sector response to COVID-19 featuring Senator Olorunnimbe Mamora, Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria and Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu, Director General of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). H.E. Mamora began the discussion by stating that in response to COVID-19, the government has monitored borders, created laboratories, and enforced social distancing. The President of Nigeria H.E. Buhari inaugurated a 12-member multi-sectoral presidential task force to manage the national response to COVID-19.

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