



ABLC at the Africa CEO Forum 2024

Dear ABLC Members,

We are thrilled to share highlights from our recent successful participation at the Africa CEO Forum 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda (view the press release [here](#)). We discussed climate finance, launched a [landmark study on women's economic inclusion](#) and unveiled the [ABLC Gender Statement](#).

This marks the second flagship event for ABLC this year, following our showcase at the Commission on the Status of Women in March in New York, USA on 14 March. These events highlight our unwavering commitment to driving meaningful change on the continent and our ability to unite the voice of the private sector to make our needs heard by key stakeholders with seats at the table.

ABLC CEO Roundtable on Gender Equality and Climate



Participants at the ABLC Roundtable discussion on climate finance moderated by BCG's Patrick Dupoux



UN Global Compact's Chief Tolu Lewis Tamoka, Sasini's Martin Ochien'g and Axian's Hassanein Hiridjee participate at the roundtable discussion

On 16 May, the ABLC hosted an engaging CEO Roundtable at the Africa CEO Forum. The sessions brought together a dynamic mix of private sector leaders, government officials (like the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion in Rwanda) and development finance institutions (like the International Finance Corporation and the East African Development Bank). The focus was on advancing gender equality and climate action across the continent.



Highlights of the CEO roundtable:

- **Bold action on Women’s Economic Inclusion:** UN Global Compact Government Relations and Africa Chief Ms. Tolu Lewis Tamoka moderated a roundtable discussion of ABLC CEOs and prospects for tangible actions and commitments the private sector can make to implement gender equality initiatives within its organizations.
 - BCG’s Managing Director and Partner Ms. Zineb Sqalli unveiled the UN Global Compact- BCG Report: Corporate Africa Advancing Gender Equality.
 - ABLC member Ms. Phumzile Langeni presented the ABL Gender Statement.
- **Engagement with Development Finance Institutions (DFIs):** Our CEOs had a unique platform to directly engage with DFIs on climate finance gaps across the continent. ABLC CEOs shared firsthand what they need to progress on climate goals and DFIs shared their priorities on what is needed from the private sector.



Very high interest and attendance at the ABLC CEO Roundtable discussion



UN Global Compact ASG & CEO Sanda Ojiambo, Honorable Minister of Gender and Family Promotion in Rwanda Dr. Valentine Uwamariya, and UN Resident Coordinator Dr. Ozonnia Ojielo

UN Global Compact High-Level Closing Reception



UN Global Compact ASG & CEO Sanda Ojiambo introduces the Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea, H.E. Amadou Oury Bah



The Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea, H.E. Amadou Oury Bah, presents the launch of the Gender Statement, signed by ABLC CEOs

Our presence at the Africa CEO Forum culminated in a high-level closing reception hosted by the UN Global Compact, where Assistant Secretary-General and CEO Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Chief Ms. Tolu Lewis Tamoka and ABLC CEOs publicly launched our report, signed the ABLC Gender Statement and networked with private and public sector leaders. It was a testament to the power of collective action and the vital role of the ABLC in uniting voices across the continent.



Highlights of the closing reception:

- **Keynote address by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea, H.E. Amadou Oury Bah**, who emphasized the role of the private sector and youth in driving sustainable economic development in Africa.
- **UN Global Compact - BCG Publication Launch:** Ms. Zineb Sqalli presented the publication, setting the stage by sharing how there is significant expectation-reality gap with many believing there was gender parity despite empirical evidence and men and women's own experiences in Africa showing otherwise.
 - Read the full report [here](#).
- **ABLC Gender Statement Launch and Signing:** A ceremonial signing of the Gender Statement marked a collective commitment from African business leaders to drive gender equality.
 - Read the full statement [here](#).



Axian's Hassanein Hiridjee & DP World's Phumzile Langeni present the ABLC Gender Statement to the public for the first time



Equity Bank Rwanda's Hannington Namara signs the ABLC Gender Statement

Looking ahead & next steps

The Africa CEO Forum 2024 highlighted the ABLC's growing influence (with lots of social media chatter such as [this](#)) and our unwavering commitment to advancing gender equality and climate action. We are excited to continue this momentum and work collaboratively with our partners to create a more inclusive and sustainable future for Africa.



Stay tuned for updates on our upcoming flagship ABLC events at the UN General Assembly "Summit of the Future" in New York, USA and COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Together, we can take ambitious action and drive meaningful change across the continent.

Warmly,

Tolu Lewis Tamoka

Head of the ABLC Secretariat
Chief of Government Relations and Africa
United Nations Global Compact