ACCEPTANCE REMARKS AT HAND-OVER CEREMONY

SAMUEL DOSSOU-AWORET

PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN

AFRICAN BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

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Thank you grand patron for this singular honor and awesome responsibility to follow in your very big footsteps.

Let me assure you that i do not take this new post lightly and i pledge to continue the amazing legacy of not only yourself but of our founder dr. Babacar ndiaye

Thank you dear friends and colleagues for joining us at this auspicious occasion. I can tell you that i am optimistic about the future of africa, because i see a vibrant, dynamic and knowledgeable group of african business people, entrepreneurs, educators, thinkers who have an understanding of the pan african vision of collective self-reliance, unity and the fact that the destiny of all african peoples and countries are connected and that both continental africans and those in the diaspora share not just a common history but a common destiny as well.

Africa is rich. We as business people and entrepreneurs have vast opportunities for investment to ensure the well being of africa. The african business roundtable has as it’s mission to be at the forefront to help to ensure african business development and to inspire growth in africa.

We consider it of highest importance to ensure that business people have a voice as we continue to encourge the growth of the private sector, especially smes ensuring that african business is globally competitive and sustainable.

As abr we will contiue to promote and support africa-wide good governance practices and the rule of law. Our programs will promote development of operational capacity and sustainability.

Abr has positioned itself to be at the forefront of the global movement for the development of africa and her people. Our objectives, vision and mission are all directed for sustgainable growth.

May i share a few of our goals with you, you will find a more extensive list in the abr profile that was given to you:

Our goals are to

* To expand the role of private enterprise in africa and to create an environment conducive to economic growth and prosperity;
* To provide innovative assistance to existing enterprises and to serve as a forum for business leaders to study issues, exchange ideas and develop positions and solutions to problems of mutual concern in africa;
* To serve as a forum for our members which will promote the establishment of business relations among them and encourage the formation of joint ventures;
* To promote wider internatioinal awareness of africa’s business, investment and trade potential;
* To co-operate with governments, the public sector and other organizations in africa and internationally with a view to advocating elimination of impediments to investment and trade;
* To advise and encourage governments and other national, regional or international institutions, to adopt laws, policies, regulations and procedures that enhance business growth, especially in small and medium- sized enterprises;
* To build and maintain a positive image and enhance the good reputation and effectiveness of african entrepreneurs by providing them with assistance in resource mobilization;
* To encourage indigenous african enterprises in the processing and marketing of raw materials and agriculture products and in the various service sectors;
* To serve as a partnership that is able to assist businessmen and businesswomen to play a constructive role in building a more prosperous africa.

As the new president and chairman, i hope you will join with us to continue to build on this great legacy ensuring that the abr is the foremost leading business association that has a continent-wide agenda for sustainable growth and development of africa.

I am looking forward to working with you as we continue to build the african private sector.

Thank you again for coming.

I am told that dinner is now served, bon apitite.

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