



African Business Roundtable

ABR NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 2024

INTRODUCTION

“Unlocking Prosperity through Collaboration: ABR's Commitment to Partnerships in the Era of AfCFTA”

Dear ABR Members and Stakeholders,

As we navigate the dynamic landscape of business in Africa, the African Business Roundtable (ABR) stands at the forefront of fostering collaboration, innovation, and sustainable growth. In line with the transformative vision of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), ABR is committed to forging strategic partnerships with various stakeholders across the continent and around the world. And the theme of partnership emerges as not merely a choice but an imperative for the economic prosperity of Africa.

The AfCFTA, heralding a new era of economic integration, presents unprecedented opportunities for the private sector in Africa. With a unified market of over a billion people the AfCFTA promises to unlock immense potential for businesses across diverse sectors. In this transformative journey, collaboration becomes the cornerstone for success, and ABR is taking a proactive stance in building strong alliances to harness the full potential of this historic agreement.

ABR is reaching out to all stakeholders namely government bodies, fellow private sector entities, academia, and civil society. A holistic approach to collaboration ensures that the private sector plays a pivotal role in shaping policies and initiatives that not only promote economic growth but also contribute to the well-being of communities and the sustainable development of our continent.

In the spirit of partnership, ABR is committed to facilitating knowledge exchange, capacity building, and joint initiatives that drive innovation and competitiveness. By fostering a culture of collaboration, ABR aims to create a network of interconnected businesses and stakeholders that can navigate the complexities of the evolving African business landscape.

Under my leadership, the ABR is determined and committed to boosting inter-African trades, maximise the opportunities of AfCFTA and attract foreign investors into all the economic sectors of the African continent.

To achieve these ambitious goals, ABR is planning a series of initiatives and events that will serve as platforms for dialogue, networking, and collaboration. These include industry-specific forums, policy roundtables, and joint projects aimed at addressing the unique challenges and opportunities presented by the AfCFTA.

As ABR continues to champion the cause of private sector development within the AfCFTA, we invite each member of the ABR family to actively participate, share insights, and contribute to the success of this collective endeavor. Together, we can create a business ecosystem that not only thrives in the era of AfCFTA but also contributes to the economic prosperity and sustainable development of Africa as a whole.

In conclusion, as we embark on this journey towards a more integrated and prosperous Africa, let us remember that our success lies not in isolation but in collaboration. Let us embrace partnerships as the cornerstone of our collective endeavor and work hand in hand towards realizing the vision of an Africa that thrives, prospers, and shines on the global stage.

In unity, we find strength. In collaboration, we unlock prosperity.

Sincerely,



Samuel Dossou-Aworet
Chairman & President
African Business Roundtable

ABR NEWS | ABR at COP 28 International Partnership Forum on Sustainability



Group photo at COP 28 International Partnership Forum on Sustainability's ABR Forum

The COP 28 International Partnership Forum on Sustainability, held at the Nigerian Pavilion in Dubai, UAE, on December 6, 2023, brought together stakeholders under the theme “Bridging the Gap: Financing Nigeria's Agriculture and Infrastructure Development in an Uncertain World.”

Hosted by the African Business Roundtable, the event marked a significant milestone in the global conversation on climate change and sustainability. As part of the annual Conference of Parties (COP), this forum provided a platform

for high-level discussions on critical climate events, shaping the future of the planet and its people.

With a focus on assessing progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement, stakeholders gathered to review achievements and challenges halfway to the 2030 delivery target.

The forum served as a unique platform for engaging the international business community, fostering deeper ties and partnerships across the two regions in key areas of partnership.



State governments, international companies, and other organizations seized the opportunity to showcase their brands and promote solutions in various sustainability areas. From agriculture to infrastructure development, participants highlighted innovative approaches and initiatives aimed at addressing pressing environmental concerns.

The COP 28 International Partnership Forum on Sustainability exemplified the importance of collaboration and shared responsibility in advancing global efforts towards a more sustainable future. As stakeholders continue to work towards common goals, events like these serve as catalysts for meaningful change and progress on a global scale.



Engaging Dialogue between ABR and London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

We are pleased to share highlights from a recent engaging dialogue between the African Business Roundtable (ABR) and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), held on March 4, 2024.



*From left to right Mr Samson Chime, Mr Fadil Elobeid, Ms Lizzy Ashikwe, Professor E.O Ogunkola
Professor David Luke, Mr Dotun Ajayi, Ms Juliana Anosike and Ms Lesley Orero*

1. Professor David Luke, Strategic Director, Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, LSE
2. Professor E.O Ogunkola, Professor of Economics- University of Ibadan
3. Juliana Anosike, Project Manager - Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
4. Fadil Elobeid, Africa Engagement Programme Manager - Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, LSE
5. Lesley Orero, Africa Engagement Programme Manager - Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, LSE
6. Mr. Dotun Ajayi, Executive Director - West Africa, African Business Roundtable
7. Samson Chime, Programme Manager - African Business Roundtable
8. Lizzy Ashikwe, Programme Manager - African Business Roundtable

SUMMARY:

The conversation commenced with Professor David Luke expressing gratitude for the opportunity to engage and highlighting the significance of topics such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) and the Nigerian economy. Mr. Dotun Ajayi, representing ABR, provided a comprehensive overview of ABR's mission, activities, and regional presence, emphasizing the need for enhanced engagement in Northern Africa.

With the unanimous election of Mr. Samuel Dossou – Aworet as President and Chairman of the ABR Board of Directors in September 2017, and his formal assumption of leadership in January 2018, the ABR has been refocused to delivering on its mandate for the sustainable development of the private sector.

His mission to build the capacity of indigenous entrepreneurs to undertake mega developmental projects while leveraging on the resources of international partners, have underscored the activities and programmes of the ABR. As Vice – Chair of the Afreximbank driven Pan Africa Private Sector Trade and Investment Committee (PAFTRAC), Mr. Dossou and the ABR have contributed immensely towards mobilizing and

engaging the private sector on issues relating to regional integration, trade facilitation and investments promotion.

Discussion ensued regarding advocacy efforts surrounding the AFCFTA, with both parties acknowledging the importance of addressing trade barriers and facilitating cross-border commerce. Professor David emphasized the need for ABR's involvement in advocating for issues such as non-tariff barriers and access to capital. Mr. Dotun welcomed collaboration opportunities with LSE to further trade-related advocacy initiatives.

The dialogue also delved into bureaucratic challenges affecting the movement of goods across borders, with a shared commitment to engaging with governments and the private sector to enhance productivity and inclusivity within Nigeria's informal economy.

Professor David underscored the importance of supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) by addressing challenges such as access to capital and high-interest rates. He also highlighted the significance of learning from global practices to enhance agricultural productivity in Africa.



Mr. Dotun Ajayi, Executive Director - West Africa, ABR and Professor David Luke, Strategic Director, Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, LSE (presenting his book How Africa Trades)

CONCLUSION:

The exchange highlighted areas of mutual interest and potential collaboration between ABR and LSE, particularly in advocating for trade issues, supporting SMEs, and promoting the integration of the AFCFTA.

Both parties expressed a commitment to further engagement and partnership to drive sustainable economic growth in Africa.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Madame Toure Massogbe, ABR Director Côte d'Ivoire participated at the official launch of the Canada Côte d'Ivoire Chamber of commerce (CACICC)

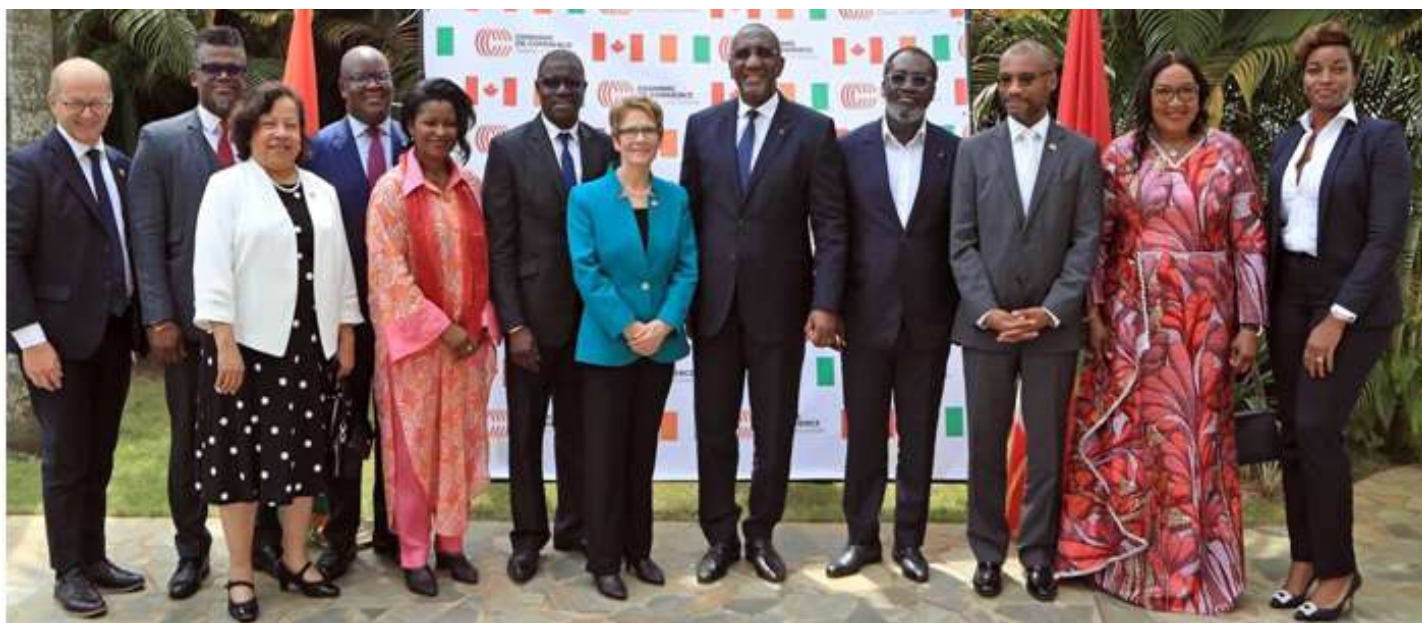
Madame Toure Massogbe, ABR Country Director Côte d'Ivoire, President of SITA participated at the official launch of the Canada Cote d'Ivoire Chamber of Commerce that took place on March 6th Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

The memorable ceremony took place in the presence of Dr Souleymane Diarrassouba, Minister of Trade and Industry and Promotion of SMEs of Côte d'Ivoire, the President of the

Canadian Senate, the Honorable Raymonde Gagné.

Madame Toure Massogbe, ABR Director, Côte d'Ivoire is the current first Vice President of the newly formed chamber - Canada Côte d'Ivoire Chamber of Commerce.

The creation of this economic bridge between canadian and Ivorian economic operators promises very enriching collaborations.



Group photo at the official launch of the Canada-Cote d'Ivoire Chamber of Commerce



Madame Toure Massogbe speaking at the official launch of the Canada Côte d'Ivoire Chamber of Commerce

Seplat Energy Completes ANOH Gas Plant

NEWS MEMBERS



Roger Brown, CEO of Seplat Energy Plc

Seplat Energy Plc, an active ABR Member has announced that the ANOH gas plant installation works reached mechanical completion on 29th December 2023, in line with the revised timetable.

A statement issued by the company on Wednesday explained that the milestone has been achieved without a single recordable Lost Time Incident (LTI) across 11-million-man hours, “a testament to the focus of the whole team on safe and secure operations”.

Part of the statement read: “ The ANOH Gas Processing Company (AGPC), an incorporated joint venture between Seplat Energy and NNPC Gas Infrastructure Company (NGIC) Ltd, is delivering the ANOH gas plant with Phase One processing capacity of 300mmscfd. Upon

commencement of operations, the plant will deliver dry gas, condensate, and LPG to customers. It is envisaged that AGPC will sell the gas and LPG domestically, and the condensates to the international market.

The other key steps to first gas, as outlined in the Company's Interim Results announcement, were the drilling and hook-up of the Upstream wells and completion of essential third-party infrastructure: the OB3 pipeline river crossing and Spur Line connecting OB3 to the gas plant. “Completion of the third well (ASSN-05) was previously announced and the fourth and final well (ASSN-06) planned ahead of first gas has also now been completed by the upstream unit operator, SPDC.

We now look forward to the completion of the necessary plant pre-commissioning activities and essential third-party infrastructure which will enable the commissioning of the gas plant and commencement of operations. Our previously communicated guidance for first gas is unchanged.

Roger Brown, Chief Executive Officer of Seplat Energy, said:

“ANOH is an important strategic project for Seplat, it will roughly double our gas production, and we are focused on the path to first gas.

“Once completed, ANOH will provide two income streams for Seplat: wet gas sales from OML 53 to the gas plant and dividends from the joint venture ANOH Gas Processing Company, which will operate the plant.

“ANOH's gas will further reduce Seplat's and Nigeria's carbon intensity and increase energy supplied to the Nigerian domestic market.”

Waltersmith Press release

Waltersmith to Acquire Interest in The Shell Petroleum Development

Lagos, Nigeria – January 16, 2024 – The Waltersmith Group (“Waltersmith”), a Nigerian energy and infrastructure investment group, is pleased to announce that Renaissance Africa Energy (“Renaissance Africa”) has signed an Agreement with Shell to acquire the entire shareholding in The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (“SPDC”).

Renaissance Africa is a consortium consisting of ND Western Limited, Aradel Holdings Plc, the Petrolin Group, First Exploration and Petroleum Development Company Limited and the Waltersmith Group, who together possess significant operating experience across the energy value chain in Nigeria and other emerging markets.

This acquisition marks a significant milestone for Waltersmith in establishing its strategic position in the Nigerian market. Renaissance Africa is committed to ensuring a smooth transition and look forward to leveraging our expertise, in partnership with SPDC's industry-leading staff and working in partnership with all the stakeholders in the SPDC-JV to drive continued growth and success in Nigeria and beyond.

Waltersmith intends to leverage the collective experience and strong track record of the Renaissance Africa Consortium to make significant contributions to Nigeria's energy sector, drive growth, create job opportunities, and facilitate regional socio-economic development while contributing to solving the prevailing Energy Trilema in Africa.

The completion of the transaction is subject to the requisite regulatory approvals.

<https://waltersmithng.com/2024/01/16/waltersmith-to-acquire-interest-in-the-shell-petroleum-development-company-limited/>

PRESS RELEASE PETROLIN GROUP



RENAISSANCE AFRICA ENERGY ACQUIRES SHELL PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF NIGERIA LIMITED

We are pleased to announce the signing of a landmark transaction with Shell International PLC to acquire its entire shareholding in the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC).

Renaissance is a consortium consisting of ND Western Limited, Aradel Holdings Plc, the Petrolin Group, FIRS Exploration and Petroleum Development Company Limited and the Waltersmith Group, each with demonstrable and proven operational capabilities.

This acquisition marks a significant milestone for Renaissance, establishing its strategic position in the Nigerian market. We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition and look forward to leveraging our expertise in partnership with SPDC's industry-leading staff and to working in partnership with all the stakeholders in the SPDC-JV to drive continued growth and success in Nigeria and beyond.

Completion of the transaction is subject to the requisite regulatory approvals. (www.Raecafrica.com)

AfCFTA NEWS UPDATE

The African Continental Free Trade Area Private Sector Portal

[African Continental Free Trade Area \(AfCFTA\) Secretariat](#) has developed the Private Sector Portal to support State Parties in facilitating their private sector at the national level including business-to-business matchmaking to allow potential partners, buyers and investors within the private sector to connect with other businesses that align with their goals.

<https://au-afcfta.org/private-sector-registration/>

ABR CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings

19th to 21st April 2024
Washington, DC, USA

59th Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank

27th to 31st May 2024
Nairobi, Kenya
Contact: ABR Secretariat

Afreximbank Annual Meetings

African Export Import Bank
12th to 15th June 2024
Nassau, Bahamas
Contact ABR Secretariat

The 79th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 79)

10th to 24th September 2024
New York City, USA
Contact ABR Secretariat

6. World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings
October 25th to 27th, 2024
Washington DC, USA

PARTNERS AND OTHER EVENTS

MMEC 2024

The 10th edition of Mozambique International Mining & Energy Conference and Exhibition
02 - 03 May 2024, Maputo, Mozambique
Contact
mmecc@ametrade.org
44 207 700 4949 / +258 84 551 29 03

GITEX Africa

Africa Tech and start up event

May 29 - May 31, Marrakech, Morocco
Contact ABR Secretariat

MOTA 2024

7th Annual Mining on Top Africa 2024
03 - 04 July 2024, Paris, France
MOTA Team
mota@ametrade.org
[+44 207 700 4949](tel:+442077004949)

CSR & Sustainability Summit MOZ 2023

17 - 18 July 2024, Maputo, Mozambique.
Contact
csr@ametrade.org
[Tel: +258 84 55 12 903](tel:+258845512903)

AFRICA PPP 2024

14th Africa PPP Summit,
22nd-24th October 2024, Nairobi, Kenya

ZIMEC 2024

The 12th edition of ZIMEC 2024
Zambia International Mining & Energy
Conference, 06 - 07 November 2024
Kitwe, Zambia

Contact
Tel: + 44 (0) 207 700 49 49
Website: www.zimeczambia.com
Email: zambia@ametrade.org

SIM Senegal 2025

8th Senegal International Mining Conference & Exhibition, 04 - 06 November 2025, Dakar, Republic of Senegal
Contact
Email senegal@ametrade.org
Telephone: 44(0)2077004949

ABR CONTACT DETAILS:

For enquiries and further information, please visit our website: www.abrnetwork.org
Emails: abrsouthafrica@abrnetwork.org / info@abrnetwork.org