

9th German-African Economic Forum North Rhine-Westphalia 2026 – Program

Africa Business: Call to Action!

Conference date: March 3rd, 2026

Venue: Dortmund Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK zu Dortmund), Main Hall, Märkische Str. 120, D-44141 Dortmund, Germany

Conference language: German

Simultaneous German/English translation via headsets in the main hall is available.

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE PATRON

Patronage:

Minister for Federal and European Affairs, International Affairs and Media of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, *Nathanael Liminski*

Welcome Address

by *Nathanael Liminski* – reflecting on the importance of cooperation with African partners, emerging global economic dynamics, and opportunities for German SMEs seeking trade and investment engagement with Africa.

Overall Moderator:

Wulf-Christian Ehrich – Deputy Chief Executive, Dortmund Chamber of Commerce and Industry

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Until 9:00 — Registration & Standing Coffee

09:00 — Welcome

- *Heinz-Herbert Dustmann* – President of the Dortmund Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- *Klaus Wegener* – President, Auslandsgesellschaft.de, Dortmund
- *Alexander Kalouti* – Lord Mayor of the City of Dortmund

09:15 — Opening Address of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Minister *Nathanael Liminski*

Minister for Federal and European Affairs, International Affairs and Media Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

09:25 — Keynote

The Race for Africa's Markets: Securing Your Place in the New Global Economy

Dr. Olumide Abimbola – CEO, Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI), Berlin

CONTINUOUS SERVICES (10:00–17:00)

Advisory Lounge

Personal advisory consultations are available with representatives from:

- All German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHK) across Africa
- *Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI)*
- *Africa Business Network (Wirtschaftsnetzwerk Afrika)*
- *Euler Hermes*
- *PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH*
- *Association of the German Trade Fair Industry (AUMA)*

10:00 – 17:00 — B2B Matchmaking Area

Participants can register for 20-minutes business matching sessions with other forum attendees.

THEMATIC BLOCKS

10:00 – Theme Block 1: Innovative Technologies – Export & Import

Focus on the role of digital solutions and technological innovation across African markets. Includes Best Practice Inputs about mobile payment, automotive, urban mobility and IT outsourcing as business opportunities.

Moderator: *Daniela Vaziri* – Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI)

Best Practice Inputs:

- *Henri Depe Tchatchu* – CEO, CarMedialab
- *Bernd Brandorff* – CEO, AceProx Identifikationssysteme
- *Gloria Niiquaye* – CEO, COMESO
- *Andreas Henning* – Co-Founder & Board Member, Adaire Technologies

10:45 – Coffee & Networking Break

11:00 – Doing Business in Africa: Advisory & Finance Offers

Moderated discussion on consultancy and financing packages to support market entry, featuring:

Moderator: *Tobias Schill* – Deputy Head of Africa Business Network

- *Andreas Vollbach* – CEO, TITANIA Fabrik
- *Stefan Müller-Christmann* – German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Project Manager developPPP
- *Karina Boers* – Director Group Corporate Responsibility, SIG Combiloc
- *Anne Kirschbaum* – Senior Investment Manager, German Companies, KfW DEG (Impact Connect)

11:45 – Circular Economy Business Models

Moderator: *Khadi Camara* – Deputy Head of Countries & Markets, German-African Business Association (Afrika-Verein der Deutschen Wirtschaft)

This panel brings together innovative German companies from the water and circular economy sector to discuss how technology, business models, and partnerships are driving successful market entry and growth across Africa. The discussion will highlight practical innovation, local collaboration, and the strategies that enable scalable and sustainable impact in diverse African contexts.

Moderated discussion on business models with

- *Jana Heinemann* – CEO, IMPARI Consulting
 - *Anna Shepelenko* – Outreach Officer, Boreal Light
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12:15 – Theme Block 2: Sustainable Sourcing from Africa with Resilient Supply Chains

Highlights the importance of resilient supply chains, diversification, and compliance with EU regulations

Moderator: *Jörg Raspe* – Neuss Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK Mittlerer Niederrhein)

Best practice inputs by:

- *Christian Bergmann* – Head of Purchasing, Teekanne
 - *Dr. Julia Bellinghausen* – CEO, Import Promotion Desk
 - *Miriam Teweldebrhan* – Advisor, Helpdesk Economy & Human Rights
 - *Dr. Michael Arretz* – CEO, German Importers
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13:00 – Lunch Break, Exhibition & Dialogue

- Advisory Lounge remains open
 - Matchmaking continues
 - Billboard networking board available
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14:15 – Which Economy Partners Is Africa Looking For?

What are the Minerals and Metals Trade Potentials of Nigeria in the EU Market?

The presentation of the honourable Minister of Steel Development in Nigeria is focusing on Nigeria's industrial policy direction, steel sector reforms and industrial infrastructure investment opportunities for German and international investors.

As Nigeria is actually undergoing reforms aimed at repositioning and reinvigorating the Metallurgical Industry, the forum presents a compelling chance of demonstrating the enormous potentials of the Nigeria's Steel sector and attraction of investments to the fledging metallurgical industry in Nigeria.

The Minister is highly interested in fostering collaboration and discussing economic cooperation and industrial development strategies. Therefore he will engage in bilateral and multilateral meetings with German Government representatives, Development

Partners, and Private Sector Investors to promote investments in Nigeria's steel and raw-materials value chains. All stakeholder engagements aimed in strengthening cooperation between Nigeria and German industries are wanted for networking sessions.

Presentation by

H.E. Prince Shuaibu Abubakar Audu – Minister for Steel Development (Nigeria)

14:30 – Political Talk: New Africa Strategies – How Useful for Business?

Discussion on Germany's evolving Africa strategies facing business needs.

Moderator: *Katja Scherer*, Economic Journalist

Moderated discussion with:

- *Paul Hoeller* – State Secretary, Ministry for Economic Affairs of North Rhine-Westphalia
 - *Dr Wolfgang Langen* – Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs
 - *Benjamin Knoedler* – Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
 - *Dr Michael Blank* – Delegate of the German Industry and Commerce in Ghana
 - *Wolfram Stengel* – Head of Corporate Controlling & Finance, KHS GmbH, Dortmund
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15:30 – Theme Block 3: Raw Materials, Infrastructure & Industry in Africa

Focus on urbanization, infrastructure needs, industrial growth opportunities, and sustainable raw materials supply chains.

Moderated by *Marc-Peter Zander* – CEO, africon

Best Practice insights by:

- *Leandro Fernandez* – CEO, INZAG Germany
- *Sandy Bolte* – Senior Manager Sustainable & International Trade Finance, Project Materials
- *Martin Selig* – CEO, FRENELL
- *Mirko Liebetrau* – Managing Director, ISEBAR – Agency for mineral resource and sustainability

16:15 – Theme Block 4: Education, Qualification & Placement

Discussion on workforce development and education as key enablers of economic participation and growth in Africa.

Moderated by *Katarina Kunert* – German-African Business Association (Afrika-Verein der deutschen Wirtschaft).

Featuring:

- *Alexander Ritter* – Managing Partner, netspice
- *Florian Kollewijn* – Co-Founder & Member Board of Directors, Chancen International
- *Nadja Schneider* – Public Affairs Manager, LUCAS-NUELLE
- *Martina Wagner* – Deputy Senior Vice President, Business Unit International, WBS Training

SPECIAL SESSION

German Football in Africa: Economic Potential, CSR and Future Opportunities!

17:00 – Talk with Bundesliga International, BVB – Borussia Dortmund and Arminia Bielefeld!

- *Benedikt Scholz* – Director Internationalization & Commercial Partnerships, BVB Borussia Dortmund
- *Nico Luft* – Director Sales, DSC Arminia Bielefeld
- *Henning Brinkmann* – Head of EMEA (Audiovisual Rights), Bundesliga International

17:30 – CLOSING SESSION in the Foyer

Speed Dating:

Exploring CSR cooperation opportunities between the German football club *Arminia Bielefeld* and German companies active in South Africa.

Final Reception

Networking in the foyer with exclusive jersey raffle and finger food.

END OF EVENT

18:00