High Level Dialogue Report

Africa’s Health and Finance:
Pathways to Economic Growth & Prosperity

Thursday, 27 September 2018

United Nations Head Quarter
New York
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Africa has made substantial progress in improving the health outcomes of its populations since the 1990s. In spite of numerous challenges, life expectancy at birth in Africa increased overall from 51 to 58 years in 1990-2015; infant and child mortality rates declined by 50-54 percent; and maternal mortality ratio by 44 percent in this period (WHO, 2016). The private sector has contributed greatly to this progress.

Despite these significant advances, health is still a major challenge in Africa; the continent has the lowest average life expectancy, up to 13 years below the global average. Infant and child mortality rates are two times the global average. This provides a strong rationale for an urgent and a combined effort across sectors to balance Africa’s healthcare challenges with the opportunities afforded by the private sector; working together will increase access to quality and affordable healthcare to all.

The African private sector is among the most vibrant and fastest growing sectors in the world and is a key driver of economic growth on the continent. Leveraging its resources and capabilities could have a significant impact in creating resilient economies, while improving the health and wellbeing of Africans.

It is in the light of this that GBCHealth, the Aliko Dangote Foundation and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), jointly organized a high-level dialogue titled “Africa’s Health and Finance: Pathways to Economic Growth and Prosperity”, held at the United Nations headquarters in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly, on 27 September 2018.

The following recommendations came out of the high level discussions:

- African governments need to make health a national priority.
- There is need to strengthen collaboration between and among key stakeholders, and to be more creative and strategic in fostering partnerships
- The private sector, development partners, NGO’s and other key stakeholders in health should support the government to attain Agenda 2063 and the health-related SDG’s.
- ABCHealth provides a key platform to unlock synergies to help the private sector contribute more directly to national and regional health goals in the context of SDGs, and Africa’s Agenda 2063
1. INTRODUCTION


The dialogue served as a platform for African heads of state and government leaders, CEOs and business leaders, philanthropists, as well as high-level representatives of the United Nations, and other multilateral organizations to:

1. Discuss issues related to the status of health in Africa and economic growth
2. Preview and discuss preliminary findings from the forthcoming report “Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa”, which will be launched at the Africa Business: Health Forum 2019
3. Highlight the private sector’s engagements and commitments to health in Africa

In addition, the dialogue served to consult and build support for the Africa Business: Health Forum scheduled for 12 February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the margins of the African Union Summit, where both the research report and the Africa Business Coalition for Health (ABCHealth) will be launched.

2. FORMAT OF THE DIALOGUE

This high-level dialogue was organized under three segments namely:

1. Opening Session
2. Presentation of Preliminary Findings from the “Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa” Report
3. Cross-Sector Dialogue on Health and Economic Growth

The opening remarks and dialogue featured a mix of high-level speakers from the public and private sectors as well as multilateral institutions. The dialogue was chaired by Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, the Founder and Chair of Africa Initiative for Governance and Co-Chair of GBCHHealth. Ms. Isha Sesay, a British journalist and former anchor and correspondent for CNN International, moderated the session. The presentation focused on preliminary findings from the forthcoming report “Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa”.

3. PARTICIPANTS

The dialogue featured over 65 participants from 31 organizations and 12 countries. Prominent participants included H.E. Faure Gnassingbê, the President of the Republic of Togo; Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, the Former President of the Republic of Nigeria; Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia; H. E. Aouele Eugene Aka, the Minister of Health and Public Hygiene of the Republic of Ivory Coast; H.E. Hala Zaid, Minister of Health of the Arab Republic of Egypt; H.E Alfred Madigele, the Minister of Health and Wellness of the Republic of Botswana; H.E Bogolo Kenewendo, the Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry for the Republic of Botswana; H.E Sicily Kanini Kariuki, the Cabinet Secretary for Health of the Republic of Kenya; Halima Dangote, the Executive Director of Dangote Industries Limited representing Mr. Aliko Dangote; Amina Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; Ray Chambers, the Ambassador for Global Strategy of the World Health Organization (WHO) and GBCHHealth Board Director; Vera Songwe, the Executive Secretary of ECA; Mahmoud Mohieldin, the Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relations & Partnerships of the World Bank Group; Patrick Khulekani Dlamini, the CEO and Managing Director of the Development Bank of Southern Africa; Michel Sidibé, the Executive Director of UNAIDS; Dr. Natalia Kanem, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Jim Ovia, the Chairman...
of Zenith Bank; Acha Leke, the Chairman of McKinsey & Company, Africa; Zouera Youssoufou, the CEO of the Aliko Dangote Foundation, and Nancy Wildfeir-Field, the President of GBCHealth. Annex A captures the list of participants taking note that the list does not capture the names of about 13 participants who formed part of the delegations of some prominent participants.

4. KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM SPEAKERS ON THE FORUM AND ABCHEALTH:

Key Note Speakers:

In his welcome address, Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, the Founder and Chair of the African Initiative for Governance and Co-Chair of GBCHealth, stated that “African businesses and governments are realizing that investing in Africa’s health is not only the right thing to do, but it’s also good for business and for government”. He said, “If we’re able to galvanize a new era of cooperation and improve the overall well-being of this young, fast-growing continent, we will create economic growth for all Africans.”

Addressing the issue of achieving health aspirations under Agenda 2063, H.E. Faure Gnassingbé, the President of the Togolese Republic, highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships to achieve health goals and shared examples of how Togo is leveraging the profitable aspects of healthcare, including those that can be commercialized and outsourced to the private sector, to encourage their engagement in the health. “We all have a role to play,” he said. He commended the ECA and partners and hopes that, with this initiative, we’ll be able to reach another level of efficiency in healthcare in Togo and the rest of Africa”.

Amina Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, spoke about the importance of unlocking and leveraging the tools the private sector has to deliver healthcare services through sustainable finance and partnership with the government. “Much of education and much of health is not in a bad place, it is in crisis. People are faced with choice less choices, for instance, having to choose between health and water. We need solid institutions to be able to deliver services. We have to stop thinking poorly for the poor; if they can’t get good health we need to bring it to them or the crises will continue. The dividends of democracy must be given yesterday; we have to find a parallel track in strengthening the institutions to deliver on healthcare.’ She thanked the organizers and gave her commitment to ABCHealth, adding “many agencies including the UN are willing to support ABCHealth to scale”.

Addressing the African philanthropic agenda at a global level, Halima Dangote, the Executive Director of Dangote Industries Limited, daughter of Aliko Dangote, President, Dangote Group & Chairman, Aliko Dangote Foundation, delivered remarks on her father’s behalf. In them, he highlighted the private sector sector’s unique capacity to mobilize its resources and innovation to strengthen health systems across the continent and save lives. He called on more private sector leaders and corporates to join ABCHealth. In his words, I believe we need a paradigm shift in our engagement and partnerships with the private sector, philanthropy, development partners and our governments. This is what I want us to accomplish with the ABCHealth. Created by the non-profits GBCHealth and Aliko Dangote Foundation, ABCHealth represents a bold new partnership dedicated to improving the quality and access to health care throughout Africa. I hope to see all of you at the formal launch the coalition at the 2019 AU Summit in Addis.

Addressing the evolution of health investment in Africa from a global philanthropic perceptive, Ray Chambers, the Ambassador for Global Strategy for WHO and GBCHealth Board Member, emphasized the need to be creative in terms of stretching private sector capital for advancing health and economic growth. “I’m very concerned as we sit here today, but heartened by the title of this dialogue, called Africa’s Health & Finance,” he said during the discussion. “I don’t think going forward that we can separate health from finance.” The best way to move Africa forward is for businesses to step up in health
and take bold action. We must work together, across industries and with governments, to foster innovation and to drive more strategic investments. He applauded the founders of ABCHealth and others from the private sector who are stepping up to invest in health to complement traditional donor funds and grants that available to African countries.

On the issue of health financing, **Vera Songwe, the Executive Secretary of ECA** said, “The link between business and healthcare is quite obvious and evident. Africa’s population bulge and its abundance of young people is a competitive asset. This asset, however, must not become a fiscal burden by crowding in private finance to sustainably share the cost of a healthy Africa.’ In her words, “We want to continue to ensure that the Africa economy is sound, people are healthy, and the cost of ensuring that people are healthy is competitive, lower and affordable, this is why UNECA decided to join other partners in launching ABCHealth”.

**Discussants - Public Sector:**

**Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, the Former President of the Republic of Nigeria**, called for leaders in Africa, particularly political leaders, to make health a national priority. He acknowledged the pivotal role of the government in health but said there’s a limit to what they can do and called for the private sector, development partners, NGO’s etc. to support governments’ efforts to meet the health-related SDG’s. “For Africa to achieve health goals we have to be intentional about it”. He further said the adage that health is wealth is inadequate; it should be reframed, as “health is everything including wealth”. He commended the partners for birthing a great initiative such as ABCHealth.

**Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia** said a country couldn’t industrialize without a healthy society; hence investing in health is vital.

**H.E Bogolo Kenewendo the Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry for the Republic of Botswana** stated that Africa need to stop looking at health as a charitable cause, health is a very profitable business that should be encouraged – it needs to be put into an environment that is conducive and attractive.

**H.E. Hala Zaid, the Minister of Health of the Arab Republic of Egypt** spoke of the importance of the private health sector in the implementation of Egypt’s new 2018 policy on universal health coverage. The policy is aimed at expanding access to health care. The private sector is expected to play a significant role in the new health care system and Egypt’s new policy opens up a number of opportunities for the growth of the private sector.

**Discussant - Development Bank:**

**Patrick Khulekani Dlamini, the CEO and Managing Director of the Development Bank of Southern Africa** emphasized that the prosperity of any nation needs to be bed rocked in good health. “Looking at the evolution of 2G to 3G and now 4G on the continent, it is within Africa’s reach to leverage technology to leapfrog some of its healthcare needs”.

**Discussant - Private Sector**

**Jim Ovia, the Chairperson of Zenith Bank**, thanked the partners who have joined forces to forge a new model of partnership in Africa, creating the African Business Coalition for Health (ABCHealth). ‘This is an opportunity to leverage the private sector to improve and enhance health outcomes in Africa, and I’m committed to this cause,” he said.
On behalf of the Founding partners of ABCHealth, **Zouera Youssoufou, the Managing Director and CEO** of **Aliko Dangote Foundation** said, its up to us in Africa to take care of Africans; the Aliko Dangote Foundation is a model to set Africans for success! With the formation of ABCHealth, we have the opportunity to change the narrative about what Africans can do for ourselves.

**Nancy Wildfeir-Field, the President of GBCHealth**, highlighted the significant impact of the Global Business Coalition for Health (GBCHealth) over the years, working collaboratively with the business sector to influence policy and legislation – and individually with companies on workplace policies and practices. In her words, GBCHealth partnered with the Aliko Dangote Foundation, to build and launch the ABCHealth. GBCHealth believe that health is the foundation for a dynamic society, an optimal business environment and subsequently a driver of economic growth. ABCHealth is positioned to build multisector partnerships collaborating to impact on the state of health in Africa. She thanked the private sector and other key stakeholders in the room for their interest in ABCHealth adding “We look forward to working together”.

Other speakers, all of whom brought unique perspectives from their experiences in African governments, NGOs, multilaterals and the private sector, each highlighted the importance of financing health and promoting collaboration between the public and private sectors in order to create sustainable solutions.

**5. PRESENTATION ON PRELIMINARY FINDINGS - HEALTH AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN AFRICA:**

Preliminary findings from the forthcoming report “Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa” identified the importance of improving health to drive Africa’s economic growth and the need for the private sector to play a significant role in improving Africa’s health. Specifically, the report highlighted:

- **Health affects economic growth.** There is considerable evidence that raising the health of a population increases labor productivity, reduces absenteeism at school and at work and lowers catastrophic expenses on healthcare. Further, there is a robust link between improves health outcomes and economic growth. For instance, improvements in life expectancy at birth, child mortality rates and maternal mortality rates are linked with growth in GDP per capita.
- **A large proportion of population in Africa has no access to health services as they cannot afford to pay for them**
- **The private sector has an important role to play in health,** as governments alone cannot meet all health costs. On average, countries devote just 6 percent of their GDP to health care, much lower than in the U.S. and other OECD countries. Additional support is needed.
- **Current public-private partnerships in health can be more effective.** Existing public-private partnerships are disproportionately focused on a small number of countries – 10 out of Africa’s 54 countries account for half of the current partnerships. Further, current public-private partnerships are not aligned with the countries’ most pressing health problems. Partnerships and solutions require a holistic approach that also addresses poor infrastructure, malnutrition and the lack of clean water.

The forthcoming report, “Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa” will be launched on February 12, 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the margins of the African Union Summit. The Africa Business: Health Forum (ABHF) will also provide the platform to formally launch the ABCHealth, a joint initiative of GBCHealth and the Aliko Dangote Foundation.
6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants from the private and public sector endorsed the formation and launch of ABHF and ABCHealth as catalyst to improving economic growth and health outcomes in Africa. African businesses and governments are realizing that investing in Africa’s health is not only the right thing to do, but it’s also good for business and for government.

A summary of the key recommendations from the dialogue included the following:

1. African government needs to make health a national priority. It is paramount they commit to and invest significantly in health. The 15% agreed at Abuja declaration has not been met, the government need to do more, direct and monitor the course of health system to encourage investment, to ensure collaboration, and maintain and sustain national priorities to meet targets set for the health-related goals in the SDG’s.

2. There is need to strengthen collaboration between and among key stakeholders, and to be more creative and strategic in fostering partnerships - more creative in terms of stretching private sector capital and developing new tools and investment vehicles such social impact bonds or using the funding for equity and loan guarantees to minimize, underwrite and or share financial risk and reward. Private sector funding could also be leveraged to provide endemic countries with more credit towards their contribution to total health care costs in their country.

3. The private sector, development partners, NGO’s and other key stakeholders in health should support the government to attain the health-related SDG’s. While healthcare is a national priority – there is a limit to how much governments can do - private sector play an integral role in financing and provision of services.

4. ABCHealth provides a key platform to unlock synergies to help the private sector contribute more directly to national and regional health goals in the context of SDG Agenda 2030 and Africa Agenda 2063 — and through its platform can help realize more strategic and collaborative partnerships, ultimately improving the standard of living, the quality of life, and the overall health and well-being of all Africans. The private sector and government will benefit from supporting the ABCHealth agenda.

4. The partners of this initiative also agreed to collaborate to launch Social Impact Bonds in the following countries: Togo, Botswana, Namibia and Ethiopia. A prospectus would be developed by ECA towards this.
Annex A - PARTICIPANTS LIST

Dialogue Chair
Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede
Chair, Africa Initiative for Governance & Co-Chair GBCHealth

Heads of State
H.E. Faure Gnassingbé
President
Republic of Togo

Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
Deputy Prime Minister
Republic of Namibia

Ministers
Hon. Aouele Eugene Aka
Minister of Health and Public Hygiene
Republic of Ivory Coast

Hon. Bogolo Kenewendo
Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry
Republic of Botswana

HE. Hala Zaid
Minister of Health
Arab Republic of Egypt

Hon. Sicily Kanini Kariuki
Cabinet Secretary for Health
Republic of Kenya

Former Head of State
Chief Olusegun Obasanjo
Former President
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Moderator
Isha Sesay

UN Agencies
Amina Mohammed
Deputy Secretary General
United Nations

Vera Songwe
Executive Secretary
UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Michel Sidibé
Executive Director
UNAIDS

Natalia Kanem
Executive Director
UNFPA
Ray Chambers
WHO Ambassador for Global Strategy
GBCH Board Member

Bience Gawanas
Special Adviser on Africa
United Nations

Amr Nour
Director of the Regional Commissions Office New York
UN

Aissatou Clemence Bare Habi
Director
UNAIDS liaison office to Africa Union and UNECA

Thokozile Ruzvidzo
Director of Social Development Policy Division, ECA

Adeyinka Adeyemi
Senior Inter-regional Adviser, Head, Regional Integration and Infrastructure Cluster and NEPAD Focal Point, ECA

Ingrid Cyimana
Director of Strategic Planning and Operational Quality Division
ECA

Saurabh Sinha
Chief of Employment and Social Protection
ECA

Inderpal Dhiman
Research Officer in the Executive Office
ECA

Chigozirim Bodart
Policy & Coordination Officer
ECA

Development Banks

Patrick Khulekani Dlamini
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Development Bank of Southern Africa
South Africa

Mahmoud Mohieldin
World Bank Group's Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, UN Relations, and Partnerships

Private Sector

Halima Aliko Dangote
Executive Director; Board Trustee
Dangote Industries; Aliko Dangote Foundation

Jim Ovia
Chairperson
Zenith Bank

William Roedy
Chair/Vice Chair
amfAR, Staying Alive Foundation, GAVI, Board Member, GBCHHealth

Naveen Rao
Managing Director, Health and Senior Advisor to the President
Rockefeller Foundation

Gayle Smith
President
ONE Campaign

Acha Leke
Chairman, Africa Region
McKinsey & Company

Suprotik Basu
Partner, Founder
Blue Like an Orange Sustainable Capital

Zouera Youssoufou
Managing Director/ CEO
Aliko Dangote Foundation
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yvonne Ike</td>
<td>Managing director and head of Sub Saharan Africa (Ex-RSA) at Bank of America Merrill Lynch &amp; Board member Aliko Dangote Foundation</td>
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<td>Jubril Adewale Tinubu</td>
<td>Group Chief Executive Oando PLC</td>
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<td>Nancy Wildfeir-Field</td>
<td>President GBCHealth</td>
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<td>Witney Schneidman</td>
<td>Senior International Advisor to Africa Covington &amp; Burling LLP</td>
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<td>Todd Baer</td>
<td>Global Director Bloomberg Media</td>
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<td>Mercy Machiya</td>
<td>Acting CEO African Business Coalition for Health (ABCHealth)</td>
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<td>Amit Nayak</td>
<td>Regional Director Bloomberg Media</td>
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<td>Aloysius Ordu</td>
<td>CEO Omapu Associates LLC</td>
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<td>Ochuko Keyamo</td>
<td>Country Manager, CAMA GBCHealth</td>
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<td>Anwarali Hassanali Versi</td>
<td>Founding Editor Africa Business</td>
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<td>Bolaji Balogun</td>
<td>CEO, Chapel Hill Denham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Babatunde Omilola</td>
<td>Manager Public Health, Social Protection and Nutrition Division of the African Development Bank (AfDB)</td>
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<td>Ghislaine Ouedraogo-Ametchie</td>
<td>Project Manager, Demographic Dividend GBCHealth</td>
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<td>Segun Awolowo</td>
<td>Executive Director/CEO, Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC)</td>
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<td>David Thomas</td>
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<td>Oluwatosin Ibrahim</td>
<td>Senior Advisor, Corporate Communication TenGen Holdings Limited</td>
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<td>Delegation: Former President Federal Republic of Nigeria</td>
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<td>Edem Adzogenu</td>
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<td>Maurice Babale</td>
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<td>Atom Lim</td>
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Annex B - Background

Africa has made substantial progress in improving the health outcomes of its populations since the 1990s. In spite of numerous challenges such as poverty, epidemic diseases, environmental hazards, food insecurity and conflict, life expectancy at birth in Africa increased overall from 51 to 58 years in 1990-2015; infant and child mortality rates declined by 50-54 percent; and maternal mortality ratio by 44 percent in this period (WHO, 2016).

The private sector has contributed greatly to this progress. With limited financial and operational capacity in the public sector, and unpredictable donor funding, almost half of total health expenditure in Africa other than North Africa is accounted for by the private sector (IFC, 2008) spread across all elements along the health value chain, including provision, financing, manufacturing, distribution, and retail.

Despite these significant advances, health is still a major challenge in Africa, the continent has the lowest average life expectancy; up to 13 years below the global average. Infant and child mortality rates are two times the global average. An African woman is also many times more likely to die during pregnancy or while giving birth compared to women in other regions.

This provides a strong rationale for an urgent and a combined effort to balance Africa’s healthcare challenges with the opportunities afforded by the private sector and increase access to quality and affordable healthcare to all.

GBHealth, the Aliko Dangote Foundation and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) are planning to convene the Africa Business Health Forum in February 2019 alongside the African Union Summit meeting. It is expected that the Africa Business Health Forum will become a regular annual event to strengthen regional partnership between the African private and public sectors, and foster and identify areas of closer collaboration between the private sector and the African Union, to unlock synergies that will contribute more directly to meeting regional health goals and improve the overall health and wellbeing of people and ultimately the African economy as a whole.

High Level Dialogue: Africa’s Health and Finance: Pathways to Economic Growth and Prosperity

In advance of the Africa Business Health Forum 2019, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in partnership with GBHealth, the Aliko Dangote Foundation and the Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria will collaborate to bring together a number of African leaders, CEOs and business leaders, philanthropists, as well as high level representatives of the African Union, United Nations, and the African Development Bank and other multilateral organizations to discuss issues relating to status of health in Africa and economic growth.

The High Level Dialogue, entitled ‘Africa’s Health and Finance: Pathways to Economic Growth and Prosperity’ will hold at 12:30pm on Thursday, 27 September 2018 in Conference Room B, United Nations Conference Building, New York, USA.

Objectives:

The ultimate aim of the event includes;

- To preview and discuss preliminary findings from the forthcoming publication on “Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa”. The insights gained from the dialogue are expected to
contribute to revisions of the report. The final report will be launched at the Africa Business: Health Forum 2019;

- To highlight the private sector’s engagements and commitments to health in Africa.
- To consult and build support for the Africa Business: Health Forum scheduled to take place on 12 February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the margins of the African Union Summit.
- To announce the launch date of the Africa Business Coalition

**Expected Outcome:**

This invitation only dialogue is expected to be a powerful platform for public-private sector engagement; out of which selected measurable results are to be identified.

**Annex C – Media Coverage**

**CNBC Interviews:**

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<td>UNITED NATIONS</td>
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<td>NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA</td>
<td>AFRICA’S HEALTH CARE</td>
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Press Releases:

- [Africa’s health challenges and investment opportunities under spotlight at United Nations (UN) General Assembly](http://www.publicnow.com/view/8CAF73C643DD3AA1159F50636F9745EB4A563292?2018-10-01-10:30:11+01:00-xxx2532)
- [UNECA - United Nations Economic Commission for [...] (via Public) / Vera Songwe advocates AfCFTA, digital identity, investment opportunities and strengthened partnerships at UNGA side event](http://www.publicnow.com/view/8CAF73C643DD3AA1159F50636F9745EB4A563292?2018-10-01-10:30:11+01:00-xxx2532)
- [Vera Songwe défend la ZLECA, l'identité numérique, les opportunités d'investissement et le renforcement des partenariats lors des manifestations parallèles, à l'AGNU](https://fr.allafrica.com/stories/201810010610.html) - Afrique: Vera Songwe défend la ZLECA, l'identité numérique ...