

INCREASING CANADA-AFRICA
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: FEATURED COUNTRY OF THE 7TH EDITION OF THE FORUM

PROGRAMME
MAY 22 AND 23, 2025
HOLIDAY INN HOTEL IN
DOWNTOWN MONTREAL

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM PREMIER OF QUEBEC



François LegaultPremier of Quebec

As Premier of Quebec, I am proud to highlight the holding in Montreal of the 7th edition of the Canada-Africa Trade and Investment Forum.

In the current economic climate, it is more important than ever for Quebec to diversify its international trading partners. I am convinced that the French language is a powerful economic lever, and that we must work to ensure that it becomes more established as a global business language. Strengthening our ties with our African partners is essential to achieving this goal.

Québec 🕯 🕏

Congratulations to Force Leadership Africain for organizing this important event. I wish all participants, from here and abroad, an excellent forum, and I hope that it will be an opportunity for them to develop new business relationships between Quebec and Africa.

François Legault

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN AND CEO



Dr Yaovi Bouka CEO of Force Leadership African



Ladies and Gentlemen, Honorable Delegates,

On behalf of Force Leadership Africain and on my own behalf, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our 7th edition of the Canada Africa Trade and Investment Forum which will bring us together in this beautiful city of Montreal, on May 22 and 23, 2025. During this international business meeting, we will discuss and seek together the best strategies for cooperation and economic and commercial partnership between Canada/Quebec and Africa, in an international context marked by uncertainties caused by the tariff wars triggered by the United States. In this perspective:

- This intention was clearly expressed by the Canadian authorities and the President of the African Union Commission during their second High Level Dialogue held in Toronto on November 7, 2024;
- The collaboration agreement concluded between the African Union Commission and Force Leadership Africain in March 2025 for the promotion of trade between Canada and Africa, in terms of trade and investment on the other hand.

In addition to representatives from Canada and Quebec, this 2025 edition will bring together delegates from many African countries, including: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Uganda, Madagascar, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Chad and Togo, proof of the great enthusiasm for our forum.

Among our distinguished speakers, we can mention, among others, SEMme Bestine Kazadi, minister delegate in charge of International Cooperation and Francophonie and Mr. Barnabé Muakadi Muamba, director of the General Directorate of Taxes of the DRC, Mr. Islam Swaleh, head of the Entrepreneurship and Investment Division of the African Union Commission, Ms. Gracia Kasoki Katahwa, mayor of Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and member of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal, Mr. Touré Faman, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Gunther Beger, general director of the Directorate of Innovation and Economic Transformation of the SDGs, UNIDO.

I wish everyone a pleasant stay in Montreal and very fruitful meetings.

MAY 22, 2025

ARRIVAL OF GUESTS

8:00 A.M.

00 OPENING SESSION

8:30 A.M.

MODERATOR

Dr. Cheickh Tidyane Bangoura

President of the Africa think tank and former Chief Legal Adviser to the United Nations. Vice-President Canada of the Forum's Advisory Board.

PANELISTS

8:35 a.m. - Quebec's economic action in Africa.

Mr. Jean-François Mélançon

Head of the Ivory Coast and Central Africa Desk, Africa and Middle East Directorate, Quebec Ministry of International Affairs.

9:05 a.m. - For a pragmatic and mutually prosperous Canada/Quebec/Africa economic cooperation.

SEMme Bestine Kazadi

Minister Delegate in charge of International Cooperation and Francophonie of the DRC.

9:35 a.m. - Montreal, International Metropolis of Eastern Canada.

Ms. Gracia Kasoki Katahwa

Mayor of Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, member of the City of Montreal's Executive Committee, responsible for HR, fight against racism and systemic discrimination, and associate advisor for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. **8:50 a.m.** - The new Canada-Africa economic and trade partnership.

Hon. Mélanie Joly

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development of Canada (to be confirmed).

9:20 a.m. - Welcome address.

Mr. Islam Swaleh

Head of Entrepreneurship and Investment Division, African Union Commission.

9:50 a.m. - Welcome address by FLA President.

Dr. Yaovi Bouka

CEO of Force Leadership Africain and advisor at IG Gestion de Patrimoine.

MAY 22, 2025

01 THE MAIN SECTORS OF CANADA-AFRICA TRADE

10:05 A.M.

MODERATOR

Dr. Komlan Sedzro

Dean of the UQAM School of Management.

PANELISTS

10:10 a.m. - Role of UEMOA in regional development in West Africa.

Mr. Abdoulaye Diop

President of the UEMOA Commission.

10:25 a.m. - Place of university training in Canada-Africa cooperation.

Dr. Nii Addy

Associate Director, African Initiatives, Senior Outreach Advisor, Office of the Associate Vice-President, Student Life and Learning, McGill University.

10:40 a.m. - Digital technology as a vector for modernization and the economic and technological advancement of Africa.

Mr. Sid Zerbo, Eng., FIC

Specialist in automation and applied computing, CEO of Royal System.

10:55 a.m. - Question period.

MAY 22, 2025

02 ROLE OF BUSINESS PEOPLE IN CANADA-AFRICA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

11:10 A.M.

MODERATOR

Ms. Marie-Heureuse Niyitegeka, CA

Managing Director, IG Real Estate Distribution at IG Asset Management.

PANELISTS

11:15 a.m. - Evolution and typology of sources of financing for African economies.

Dr. Larissa Nawo

Senior Administrator, Wealth Operations, IG Wealth Management.

11:45 a.m. - Financing possibilities and conditions from the Middle East.

Mr. Eric Kombila

Executive Consultant, Director of Development for Africa, Hilal ESG Holdings, Middle Eastern investment fund broker.

12:00 p.m. - Question period.

11:30 a.m. - Possible role of Chambers of Commerce in promoting Canada-Africa business relations.

Mr. Touré Faman

President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Côte d'Ivoire.

DINNER 12:15 P.M.

FAIR AND DISCUSSIONS ON CONCRETE PROJECTS

2:00 P.M.

- Project presentation session and search for partners by governments, promoters and entrepreneurs.
- "B to B" meeting between potential partners.



MAY 23, 2025

ARRIVAL OF GUESTS

8:00 A.M.

03 ROLE OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

8:30 A.M.

MODERATOR

Dr. Nuha Mwesigwa

Executive Director and Senator (Private Sector Representative) of Makerere University in Uganda, Secretary of the Private Sector Forum. Vice-Chair for East Africa of the Forum's Advisory Committee.

PANELISTS

8:35 a.m. - Challenges and successes in financial mobilization in Africa: The case of the DRC.

Mr. Barnabé Muakadi Muamba

Director of the General Directorate of Taxes of the DRC.

9:05 a.m. - Opportunities for contributions from Canadian companies in the implementation of the Simandou Project. **SEM Diiba Diakité**

Minister and Chief of Staff of the Presidency of the Republic of Guinea.

9:20 a.m. - Question period.

8:50 a.m. - The essential role of African savings in the emergence of Africa.

Mr. Jeremy Awori

Group CEO of Ecobank (to be confirmed).

04 ROLE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

9:35 A.M.

MODERATOR

M. Mohamed H'Midouche

CEO of IACG, Vice President North Africa on the Forum's Advisory Board.

PANELISTS

9:40 a.m. - The strategic role of the AfDB in financial mobilization in Africa.

Ms. Marie Laure Akin-Olugbade

Senior Vice President of the African Development Bank (to be confirmed).

10:10 a.m. - How to achieve accelerated industrialization in Africa

Mr. Gunther Beger

Director General of the SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation Directorate, UNIDO.

9:55 a.m. - Overview of FINdev Canada fundraising activities. **Ms. Brigid Shea**

Director of Public Policy and Partnerships, FinDev Canada.

10:25 a.m. - Strengthening the economic autonomy of vulnerable populations in developing countries by promoting their financial inclusion and increasing their capacity to act.

Mr. Louis-Edgar Jean-Francois, CPA

CEO of Groupe 3737 and President of the Montreal East Chamber of Commerce.

10:40 a.m. - Question period.



MAY 23, 2025

05 STRATEGIES FOR CONVERGENCE AND GROWTH OF ECONOMIC AND 10:55 A.M. COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES

MODERATOR

Dr. Moussa Blimpo

Assistant Professor, University of Toronto. Member of the Forum Advisory Committee.

PANELISTS

11:00 a.m. - Entrepreneurship as a business partnership strategy for African business people.

Ms. Genevieve Cyr

Business Buyer Advisor, CTEQ.

11:30 a.m. - IMF and World Bank Support Program for the Development of Youth and Women Entrepreneurship in Africa.

Dr. Constant Lonkeng

Deputy Division Chief and Mission Chief, African Department, IMF.

12:00 p.m. - Question period.

11:15 a.m. - Investissement Québec's offer in terms of support and financing for Quebec business people in their business development in Africa.

Ms. France Nadine Forget

Director, Exports, European and African Markets, Invest Ouébec.

11:45 a.m. - Immigrant investor programs in Canada and Quebec.

Me. Julien Tetrault

Lawyer.

CLOSING SPEECH 12:15 P.M.

DISCOVER OUR PRESTIGIOUS PANELISTS



Mr. Abdoulaye DIOPPresident of the UEMOA
Commission.



Dr. Constant LonkengDeputy Division Chief and
Head of Mission in the Africa
Department, International
Monetary Fund.



SEM Djiba DiakitéDirector of Cabinet of the
Presidency of the Republic
of Guinea.



Mr. Barnabé Muakadi Muamba Director of the General Directorate of Taxes, DRC.



Mr. Islam Swaleh Head of the Entrepreneurship and Investment Division of the African Union Commission.



Mr. Gunther Beger
Director General of the
Innovation and Economic
Transformation Directorate,
UNIDO.



Mr. Touré FamanPresident of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Ivory Coast.



SEMme Bestine Kazadi Minister Delegate for International Cooperation and Francophonie of the DRC.



Mr. Jean-François Mélançon Head of Desk for Ivory Coast and Central Africa, Africa and Middle East Directorate, Quebec Ministry of International Affairs.



Mme Gracia Kasoki Katahwa
Mayor of Côte-des-NeigesNotre-Dame-de-Grâce,
member of the City of
Montreal's Executive
Committee, responsible for HR,
the fight against racism and
systemic discrimination, and
associate advisor for
reconciliation with Indigenous
peoples.



Mr. Eric Kombila
Executive Consultant, Africa
Development Director Hilal
ESG Holdings, Middle
Eastern investment fund
broker.



Ms. France Nadine ForgetDirector, Exports, European and African Markets,
Investissement Québec.

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION



The African Union Commission (AUC) is the secretariat of the African Union (AU), based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It carries out the AU's day-to-day operations and represents the Union internationally. Its main missions are to:

- Represent the AU and defend its interests;
- Develop proposals for consideration by AU organs;
- Implement the decisions taken by these bodies;
- Manage the AU budget and resources;
- Coordinate the positions of Member States in international negotiations.

The African Union Commission plays a vital role in promoting the integration and development of the African continent, notably by:

- 1. Private Sector Development
 - Facilitate access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) through initiatives such as the SME Development Strategy;
 - Promoting innovation and technology to strengthen the competitiveness of African businesses;
 - Encourage public-private partnerships to stimulate investment in essential infrastructure and services.
- 2. Promotion of Trade and Investment Relations:
 - The development of trade policies promoting regional and continental economic integration;
 - Negotiating trade agreements with economic blocs and partner countries, such as the EU and the United States;
 - The establishment of monitoring mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of agreements and partnerships.

Some Key Initiatives of the Commission:

- Agenda 2063: A strategic plan for Africa's socio-economic transformation;
- The Africa-Arab Partnership aimed at strengthening economic and commercial relations with Arab countries;
- Participation in the G20: To represent African interests and attract international investment.

These efforts aim to create an environment conducive to economic growth and Africa's integration into the global economy.



THE FORUM'S FEATURED COUNTRY: THE DRC

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has an area equivalent to that of Western Europe (2.345 million km²), making it one of the largest countries in sub-Saharan Africa with a population of over 100 million.



- 1. The DRC is endowed with exceptional natural resources, such as cobalt and copper, immense hydroelectric potential, significant arable land, great biodiversity and the second largest rainforest in the world.
- 2. Agriculture is another promising sector in this country, with fertile land and a favorable climate for growing products such as coffee, cocoa, and rubber.
- 3. The DRC's economic growth has been robust, with a growth rate of 7.5% in 2023 and 5.7% in 2024, despite challenges in the extractive industries, particularly due to insecurity in some regions. Growth prospects remain favorable, with growth forecast at 5.6% in 2025. The government is also aiming for inclusive growth and reducing inequality.
- 4. The country will, however, face some challenges, including:
 - The energy deficit that hinders economic growth. To this end, the DRC is seeking investments to increase the added value of mineral extraction, particularly in the Katanga region;
 - The construction and rehabilitation of transport infrastructure to create allseason roads and crossing structures.
 - Vocational and professional training.
- 5. The declaration of principles signed on April 25, 2025 between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda under the mediation of the United States opens the way for possibilities of peace between the two countries with a view to economic growth and development in this region of Africa.





République Démocratique du Congo MINISTERE DES FINANCES DIRECTION GENERALE DES IMPOTS (DGI)



Qui sommes-nous?

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a DGI est un service public doté d'une autonomie administrative et financière. Elle a été créée par le Décret n° 017/2003 du 02 mars 2003 tel que modifié et complété à ce jour, et placée sous l'autorité du Ministère des Finances.

Elle est dirigée par une Haute Direction composée d'un Directeur Général assisté de deux Directeurs Généraux Adjoints chargés, respectivement, des Questions Fiscales et des Réformes, et des Questions Administratives et Financières.

Elle a pour mission principale la gestion de l'impôt (notamment l'assiette, le contrôle, le recouvrement et le contentieux des impôts). A cet effet, elle joue le rôle de conseiller fiscal du Gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo.

Elle est organisée en Services centraux et opérationnels ci-après :

I. Services Centraux

- · Une (01) Inspection des Services rattachée à la Haute Direction ;
- · Un (01) service d'audit interne ;
- Un (01) service de Coordination qui comprend la cellule technique, le suivi des réformes et la gestion des risques;
- Neuf (09) Directions centrales.

II. Services Opérationnels

- · Une (01) Direction des Grandes Entreprises (DGE) ;
- Une (01) Direction urbaine dans la Ville de Kinshasa et ;
- Dix (10) Directions provinciales au sein desquelles se trouvent les Centres des Impôts CDI, actuellement au nombre de 5, et des Centres d'Impôts Synthétiques (CIS).

Les Services Centraux jouent le rôle d'encadrement, de pilotage et de supervision des Services opérationnels.

La Direction des Grandes Entreprises exerce la mission de gestion des gros contribuables dont les chiffres d'affaires dépassent FC 10 milliards (USD 3,6 millions). Elle a une compétence nationale.

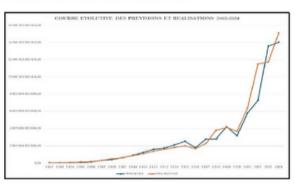
La Direction Urbaine de Kinshasa et les Directions Provinciales exercent la mission de gestion des contribuables dans les zones géographiques respectives. Elles ont, en leur sein, les CDI et CIS.

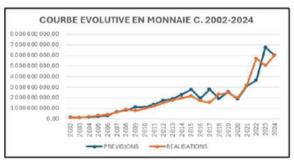
Les CDI ont en charge les moyennes entreprises (chiffres d'affaires entre FC 10 Milliards et 200 millions un, soit USD 3,6 millions et 73 mille un), tandis que les CIS gèrent les entreprises de petite taille dont les petites entreprises (chiffre d'affaires entre FC 200 millions et 10 millions un, soit USD 73 milles et 3 mille) et les microentreprises (chiffre d'affaires inférieur à FC 10 millions, soit USD 3 mille).

Le répertoire des contribuables géré en la Direction Générale des Impôts de la République Démocratique du Congo compte plus de 108 000 assujettis actifs; dans lequel les grandes entreprises se chiffrent à 763, les moyennes entreprises à 11 265, les petites entreprises à 36 299 et les micro-entreprises à 47 101. Il faut toutefois signaler que le répertoire parait à ce niveau parce que les entreprises jouent le rôle des redevables légaux de paiement de l'impôt pour le compte des leurs employés. Avec le processus d'immatriculation des employés récemment amorcé, l'effectif réel du répertoire sera à plusieurs centaines des milliers.

Evolution durant les 10 dernières années avec un accen particulier sur 4 derniers exercices clos ?

Les graphiques ci-dessous illustrent l'évolution des performances de la DGI en nominale et monnaie constante :





De 2002 à 2019, la courbe des prévisions et celle des réalisations se confondent tantôt légèrement supérieure à l'autre et vice-versa.

Cette situation illustre le fait que l'exécution des prévisions au titre desdites années n'était pas si satisfaisante que ça, mise à part la tranche de la période de 2004 à 2008 où la DGI avait successivement enregistré des performances relativement faibles.

A partir de 2020 à ce jour, la courbe des réalisations s'est visiblement séparée de celle des prévisions, alors que cette dernière est allée tout de même croissante de manière exponentielle, et ce, malgré qu'elle ait été une année difficile par rapport à la crise sanitaire de Covid-19.

En monnaie constante, bien que les performances enregistrées de 2004 à 2008 ainsi que de 2020 à 2024 se sont vues impactées à la baisse du fait de la dépréciation du Franc Congolais par rapport au Dollars américains, les recettes des impôts de 2020 à 2024 sont demeurées résilientes en s'affichant avec des taux d'exécution audessus de 100% (à l'exception de l'année 2023 qui a enregistré un taux de 87% bien que les recettes soient restées croissantes entre 2022 et 2023).

Ces performances s'expliquent par des réformes profondes amorcées notamment en renforcement des capacités humaines, en digitalisation et en suivi rapproché des contribuables essentiellement sur l'impôt des personnes physiques, les profits du secteur minier, la TVA et autres.

HOLIDAY INN

In the heart of Montreal's vibrant metropolis lies the Holiday Inn Downtown, an oasis of comfort and convenience. Nestled at **999 Saint-Urbain Street**, this iconic property offers convenient access to the city's top attractions and most vibrant neighborhoods. Participants staying on-site will have access to numerous amenities, including:

- Fitness center
- Pool
- Spa



ABOUT AFRICAN LEADERSHIP FORCE

ABOUT

Force Leadership Africain (FLA) is a pan-African and intergenerational organization for reflection, awareness and action founded in March 2006 whose objectives are as follows:

- To establish, in Canada, an African group for consultation, representation and positive action on political, economic, commercial, cultural, scientific, technical and social issues affecting Africa and Africans;
- To promote the pursuit of excellence in all areas of activity among Africans, whether here in Canada or anywhere in the world;
- Promoting leadership and entrepreneurship within African communities in Canada;
- Contribute to the implementation of a mutually beneficial partnership between Canada and Africa.

In order to make our action more effective, Force Leadership Africain has set up an operational body called the Center for Professional References, Advice and Technology Transfers (CERCOT) with different action units, namely:

- Investment and Trade;
- Technology business;
- Entrepreneurship and Talent Management;
- Environment and Green Economy;
- Legal Affairs;
- Cultural, arts and societies;
- Sport.

As an organization of the African diaspora in Canada, we intend to act in three complementary directions:

- 1. Contribute to the economic growth and development of our host country, Canada and Quebec;
- 2. Help the professional, economic and social development of the Canadian and international African diaspora;
- 3. Respond favorably to the call launched by the African Union in our direction for mobilization in favor of African countries.

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Retired doctor.

Vice President of Strategic Planning

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Financial and Strategy Analyst, SIVACO.

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Senator, Executive Director of Makerere University, Secretary of the Private Sector Forum.

Vice President West Africa

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Dean of the UQAM School of Management.

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Assistant Professor, University of Toronto.

Vice President Canada

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Chairman of the Africa think tank and former Chief Legal Adviser to the United Nations.

Vice President North Africa

Dr. Mohamed H'Midouche

President, IACG.

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Rose Pulcherie Otouba Kimva

Senior Mission Manager, Internal Audit Division, Banque Crédit du Congo.

Secretary of the Board

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Advisor, IG Wealth Management.

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Tovi G. Amegan

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Essivi Gagnon Koudji

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Nurse.

Wilfried Balata

Student at Simon Fraser University.

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Civil Servant, Canada Revenue Agency.

Director of Operations

Yao Athou Muata

Financial strategic planning consultant.

Advisor

Rose Pulcherie Otouba Kimva

Senior Mission Manager, Internal Audit Division, Banque Crédit du Congo.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS!



















REGISTER FOR THE NEXT EDITION

Take advantage of this opportunity to showcase your business to other participants at the 7th edition of the Forum on **May 21 and 22, 2026** presented by Force Leadership Africain on the theme: **Let's accelerate the growth of Canada-Africa business relations!**



Early bird discount for the 2026 edition: **25% discount** valid until **November 30, 2025**.

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT CANADA AFRICA FORUM 2025





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