

# COMMUNIQUÉ

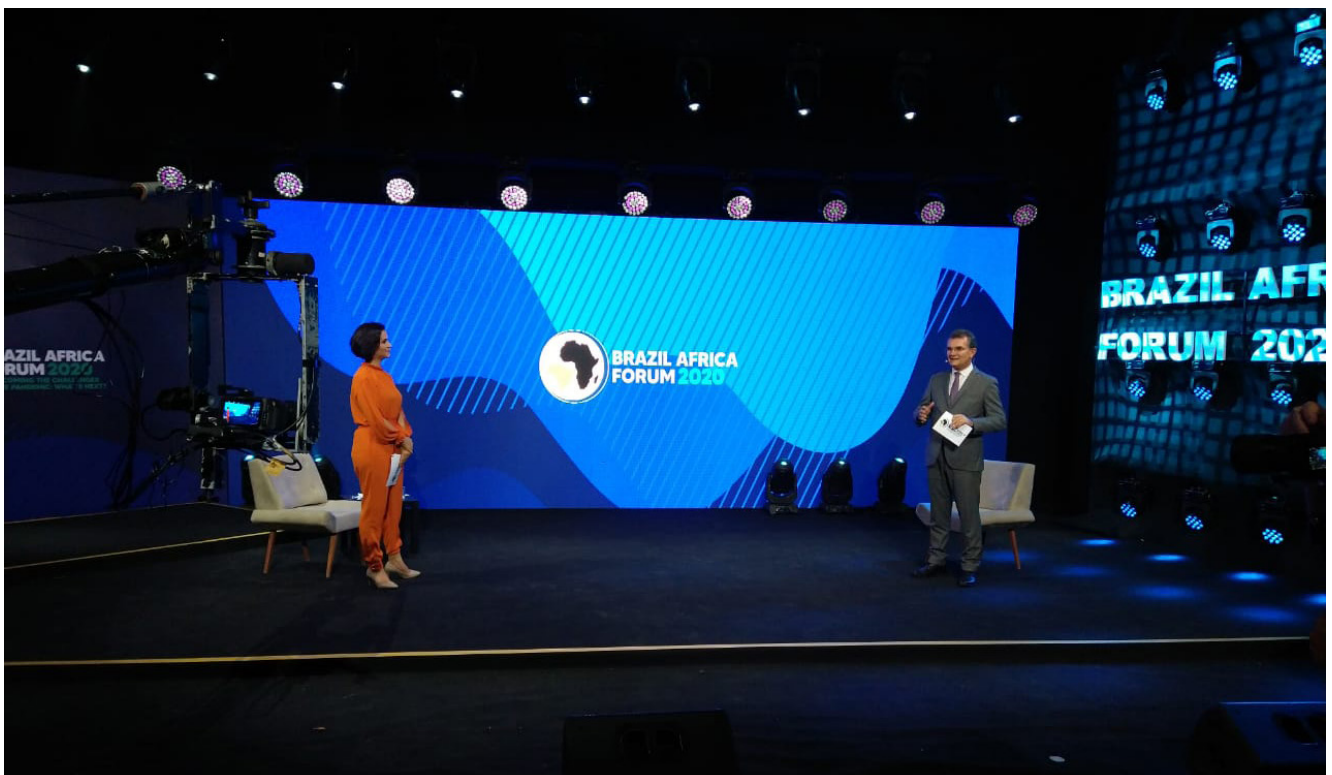
## BRAZIL AFRICA FORUM 2020

### HELD VIRTUALLY ON NOVEMBER 3rd-4th

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

**1.1** The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the world in a very unfortunate way. All over the globe, societies have battled the disease, suffered with its socioeconomic consequences and completely rearranged their lifestyles. Political and institutional crises create uncomfortable situations for many societies; the global economy is expected to dive into recession, with countries facing as much as 10% losses in their gross domestic products. While still recovering from this global crisis, the time has come to rethink the world for the post-coronavirus era, overcoming the challenges through dialogue and cooperation.

**1.2** The Brazil Africa Forum has changed accordingly this unprecedented moment. The 2020 edition respected health protocols and social distancing, moving from the traditional in-person audience format, held since the first BAF in 2012, to an innovative online one, preserving, nonetheless, the same enthusiasm for uniting Brazil, Africa and third nations for constructive conversations. Seeking to foster fruitful and useful discussions, but also hoping to see a fresh perspective on the subject, this year's edition was held under the theme **"Overcoming the Challenges of the Pandemic: What's Next?"**.



**1.3** BAF 2020 was held virtually on November 3rd and 4th. The programme featured 24 sessions, going through plenaries, rapid-fire panels, interviews, pre-recorded showcases and exclusive closed-door roundtables. It fulfilled more than 14 hours of a live streamed agenda in three languages (English, Portuguese and French), gathering more than 70 speakers - global leaders, high-level governments officials, Nobel Prize laureates, private sector representatives, academics and potential investors. The event was followed via Youtube by more than 1.200 registered delegates from countries all over the world and engaged a broader audience via social media, achieving over 53.700 impressions on Twitter.

## 2. RESULTS

**2.1** The BAF 2020 was built to yield the following results, which counted on great commitment from all speakers.

- **Global health:** foster dialogues for large-scale cooperation to achieve positive results for the future, strengthening global coordination, improving international communication.
- **Economic recovery and investments:** create opportunities to generate smart and effective investments in key segments of national economies, boosting employability, revenue and consumption.



**1.4** The Brazil Africa Forum is the flagship event of the **Brazil Africa Institute**, held annually, and it is established as the major event to connect decision-makers from Brazil and Africa. The 2020 edition was jointly organized with the **SouthBridge Group**. The partnership between both organizations endorses BAF as a distinguished business environment for fostering opportunities between major players from both regions.

- **Technical and scientific cooperation:** act like a bridge to connect global institutions and national agencies to exchange of information, technologies and good practices.
- **Regional experiences:** identify good practices to push against the spread of the virus and its many negative impacts through close



collaboration, finding synergies to replicate and scale-up solutions in the longer-term.

- **Agriculture and food security:** generate investments in agricultural value-chains, reconnect Brazilian investors with Africans and advocate for resilient food systems.

## 2.2 Launch of the BID

The **Brazil Africa Business and Investment Dialogues (BID)** was launched at the Brazil Africa Forum 2020. Organized by the Brazil Africa Institute in partnership with the SouthBridge Group, the BID is a platform to connect major players from Brazilian and African markets, generating opportunities for strategic meetings with investors during the BAF and beyond. The meetings were held in a closed-door roundtable, in a private online room, simultaneously to the livestreamed programme of the event.

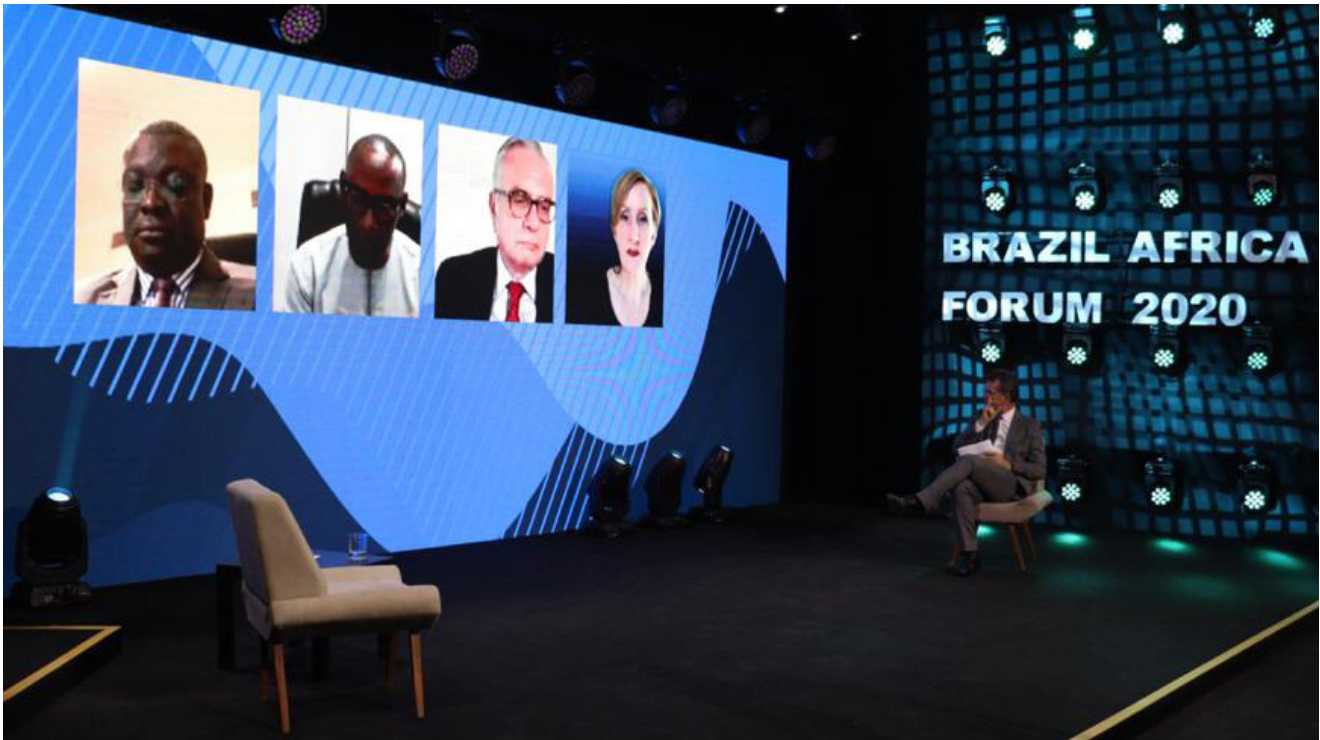
On November 3rd the BID Roundtable addressed **“Investment in Infrastructure: Opportunities in Energy, Construction and Transports”**. Participants such as the Minister of the Economy and Finances of the Republic of Benin Romuald Wadagani, the President of the West African Development Bank

(BOAD) Serge Ekué, and the CEO of Standard Bank Brazil Natália Dias stressed that the impact of the Covid-19 on traditional ways of doing business has opened the door for increased communication and cooperation at regional level, promoted by investment in Energy and Road infrastructure.

On November 4th the BID Roundtable addressed **“Investment in Agribusiness: Opportunities in Agriculture, Processing and Storage”**. Participants pointed at the similarities between Brazil and Africa. Both with huge agricultural potential, both looking to maximise productivity and reach their full potential, however at different stages on the same journey.

After the closed-door roundtables, in a live conversation, H.E Hailemariam Desalegn, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chair of AGRA, stated that the BID was “a fruitful moment” to catch up with the Brazilian scenarium and to acknowledge the needs to build the capacity for small and medium agriculture entrepreneurs in Africa. H.E Lionel Zinsou, former Prime Minister of Benin and Managing Partner of SouthBridge Group, stated on the achievements





of Brazil in competitiveness and quality of agriculture products and infrastructure, highlighting also similarities which can strengthen cooperation with African countries. Dr. Frannie Leautier, Senior Partner and CEO of SouthBridge Investments, stated on the opportunities for Brazil to work with Africa in areas like innovation, technology transfer, and how Africa has the potential to distinguish itself.

### 2.3 Partnership between Development Banks

The Development Bank of Minas Gerais (BDMG) and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) announced, during the Brazil Africa Forum 2020, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding focused on the sharing of technology and good practices. BDMG President, Mr. Sérgio Gusmão Suchodolski, stated that the partnership reinforces the importance of dialogue between the two sides of the Atlantic. The memorandum is anchored in the sharing of BDMG digital platform, which supports micro and small companies. Mr. Suchodolski also pointed out that BDMG will be able to learn about financial instruments operated by DBSA, such as the Green Climate Funding. DBSA CEO Patrick Dlamini stated that the exchange of good

digital practices with BDMG will be an asset for development in the Southern Africa region. The CEO expects to improve operationalization and digitalization of DBSA processes in order to better contribute to inclusive economic growth in both regions. This is the first partnership of its kind between development banks from Brazil and Africa.

### 2.4 Opening path for new Brazilian investments

The African continent has been increasingly a priority for Brazilian companies, which find in the region several investment opportunities and for the promotion of local development. The Brazil Africa Forum consolidates itself, with each edition, as a space to strengthen existing relationships and foster new partnerships. Representatives of some of the most prestigious Brazilian companies had the chance to hear from African investors and financial institutions. The CEO of the Randon Companies, one of the largest transport companies in the world, the Chairman of Multinacional Marcopolo, also a leader in the transport sector, the CEO of Hyva Brasil, one of the global leaders in transportation solutions, the CEO of the BrazAfric Group, leader in the distribution of post harvesting equipment in Eastern Africa attended BID Roundtables.

## 2.5 Acknowledgment of the African Union Agenda

Gathering as speakers Mr. Donald Kaberuka, Chairman of the Global Fund, AU Special Envoy for Africa and Founder and Managing Partner of SouthBridge Group; Mrs. Bineta Diop, AU Special Envoy on Women Peace & Security; Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, Chief of Staff of the Chairperson of the African Union, Mr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD, Mrs. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner of the AU for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Mr. Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Director General of the African Risk Capacity Group, the Brazil Africa Forum 2020 acknowledged the African Union Agenda 2063 and AU's efforts for transforming Africa and fighting the effects of the pandemic.

Africa Forum and President of the Brazil Africa Institute, Prof. João Bosco Monte, who was appointed last September as a Food Systems Champion, stated that the session was the moment to deepen the dialogues towards achieving food security and zero hunger.

## 2.7 Supporting the UN System

Focused on promoting dialogues that are aligned with the most current issues on the global agenda, the Brazil Africa Forum 2020 brought important representatives of the United Nations to deepen urgent debates. In addition to the Food Systems Summit, the World Health Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural De-



## 2.6 Supporting Food Systems

The United Nations 2021 Food Systems Summit was highlighted during the Brazil Africa Forum 2020. Committed with an agenda for proposing and defending the creation of more sustainable, resilient, and healthy food systems, BAF promoted a special session themed "Food Systems after the pandemic: rethinking production and consumption to ensure sustainable development". The General Coordinator of the Brazil

development were involved in the discussions. With the needs for overcoming the challenges of the pandemic as his central theme, the Director-General of the WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, addressed the characteristics of the current moment that the world faces, with emphasis on international cooperation and the importance of strengthening health systems. With the crisis, issues such as food production and the eradication

of hunger become even more a priority. Aligned with the topic of Food Systems, the President of IFAD, Mr. Gilbert Houngbo, emphasized, in a special pre-recorded interview, the connection between poverty, health, agriculture, and cooperation as a fundamental factor in facing future crises.

### 3. FUTURE TO COME

The pandemic is far from over. Without a vaccine, Covid-19 will continue to make victims worldwide. The challenges are many, but the path is clear: without international cooperation, it will not be possible to fight

the negative effects that already afflict millions of people. The Brazil Africa Forum has been, for the past eight years, a space for dialogue, learning, fostering good practices and new investments in various sectors. For the 2020 edition it was necessary to build online the engagement and networking that usually occur in person. But what was seen, from speakers and other participants, was a complete interaction and commitment to an agenda that needs to be boosted. The BAF 2020 main goal is to help increasing actions in a short, medium and long term, stimulating the commitments and the opportunities that emerged at the event.





ORGANIZER



CO-ORGANIZER

**SOUTHBRIDGE**

SPONSORS



PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS

