



GBR 9th ANNUAL WORLD CONGRESS FOR TRADE & INVESTMENT 2019

THEME: ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

BACKGROUND TO GBR

The Global Business Roundtable (GBR) is a global professional networking organisation, with a mandate to develop people holistically. GBR focuses on the following key areas of human development: spiritual development (which we believe is a foundation for ethical behaviour and consciousness); business and financial development (including trade and investment); family and society issues; science and technology; education and intellectual development; sports, arts and culture; leadership, governance and politics, as well as media and communications. GBR has grown since its inception in 2009 to have representation in over 80 countries around the world. It has a presence in 43 African countries in all the core regions of the Continent: SADC, West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and North Africa.

GBR is present in 14 Countries in Europe, 12 States in the USA and Canada, in Asia, Middle-East, the Caribbean Islands and Indian Ocean Islands. GBR aims to be in 150 nations in line with its Vision 2020 strategy.

CONFERENCE THEME OVERVIEW

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook Update of July 2018, global growth is projected at 3.9%, for 2018 and 2019. In most major economies, expansion appears to have plateaued and growth less synchronised. Growth is becoming uneven in developing and emerging economies, due to the rise in oil prices, market pressures on currencies, and higher yields out of the United States of America. Global economic growth is at risk due to several factors including, the rise in trade wars resulting from an increase in tariffs, geopolitical concerns, uneven distribution of resources, reduction in capital inflows to emerging economies, particularly those with weaker fundamentals and higher political risk. To preserve global expansion, collaborative solutions that promote inclusive and continued growth in the trade of goods and services is critical. Equally important, is the issue of inequality around the world which undermines democracy, the economy, public health and culture. Concentrated wealth translates into political power which leads to the kind of economic distortions that caused the 2008 financial collapse.

In the quest for industrialisation around the world, it is important that redistribution of wealth and resources takes centre stage. Industrialised nations such as the United States, Japan and Europe control and profit from about 70% of the world's resources and have higher access to goods and services, which means their citizens enjoy a much higher standard of living. Consequences of this are that human settlement and migration patterns are distorted, conquests, wars and conflicts arise. There should be global effort to address issues of inequitable distribution of resources.

THE GBR ANNUAL WORLD CONGRESS

The Global Business Roundtable (GBR) is hosting its 9th Annual World Congress for Trade and Investment. The 9th GBR World Congress aims to provide an unparalleled global platform where leaders and decision makers from all sectors address ways in which global economic growth and equitable distribution of wealth and resources can occur. Central to the high-level discussions is Africa's positioning and participation, which will effectively advance the economic development agenda of the continent. The diverse and content-rich programme caters for multi-national corporates, public sector, SMMEs, technical and financial partners wishing to explore trade and investment opportunities through various types of partnership models including, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and entrepreneurs seeking finance for their projects. The event will also highlight the need and importance of intra-regional trade on the continent, as well as a need for reviewing present multilateral agreements that are more responsive to the needs of the continent. The event aims to attract representatives from over 100 nations, for meaningful dialogue through high-level plenary sessions. Plenary sessions are designed to bring diverse perspectives and formulate practical solutions to the issues raised by industry, government and private sector representatives.

The event will include a fully-fledged exhibition and trade fair where government, private sector, development financiers, state owned entities, trade and investment agencies, chambers of commerce, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and other parties of interest, can showcase and demonstrate their goods, cutting-edge products and services to a global audience.

The GBR world congress aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. **Global Networking Platform:**
 - GBR aims to create a credible platform where entrepreneurs and professionals can connect with decision makers from around the world.
2. **Deal Flow:**
 - A global and competitive platform where trade and investment pitches, projects and other business proposals are presented to individual and institutional financiers, investment bankers, venture capitalists and technical partners.
3. **Thought Leadership:**
 - A forum where sought-after experts, innovators, market leaders share their experiences, skills and knowledge to inspire our conference delegates to go back to their businesses and professional lives to turn ideas into real solutions.
4. **Business Matchmaking:**
 - A platform where entrepreneurs are matched with like-minded partners in order to grow and expand their businesses and engage in the export of their goods and services, including cross-border trade opportunities.

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2019

OPENING PLENARY: 10:00 to 11:15

THEME: ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

A top-level opening session addressing the main conference theme with a focus on policy/industry issues. The opening plenary sets the tone for the entire conference and challenges delegates to explore issues at a macro-economic level, geopolitical and socio-economic levels, ensuring that issues are addressed from diverse perspectives, representing various stakeholder interests.

We expect a key note address from either: Government, Captain of Industry or a Regional Body.

SUB-THEME: GLOBAL TRADE MOVEMENTS FROM WEST TO EAST

PLENARY 1: 11:15 to 13:00

The session aims to explore the impact of global trade movements from various perspectives. Geopolitical and policy issues emerging from current macro-economic trends from around the world. The effects of global trade wars, urbanisation, the rise of a consuming middle class in emerging economies, technological shifts and changes in international trade policies.

Speakers and topics:

- **Speaker 1:** Navigating the New Realities of Global Trade & Investment. (Consulting houses, Think-tanks, Economists/Analysts, etc.)
- **Speaker 2:** Small Business is Big Business; What is the Real Impact of SMMEs on Trade? (UNDP, SEDA, etc.)
- **Speaker 3:** What is the impact of global trade movements on business? (CEOs of corporates, Chambers of Commerce/ Trade Officers from International Organisations)
- **Speaker 4:** Navigating the Geopolitical Complexities in Trade (Regional Organisations such as BRICS, UN, etc.)
- **Speaker 5:** How innovative technologies in the Fourth Industrial Revolution are transforming trade by making the processes more inclusive and efficient.

PLENARY 2: 14:00 to 15:30

Objectives of the plenary are to focus on a specific industry or sector and explore the issues that relate to the movements in global trade for that sector.

For example, the telecommunications industry has revolutionised the way a trade happens; the concept of the global village has been made real through the development of technological advancements in telecommunication. Also explore (food, transportation, banking, financial services, social security, energy, retail).

For example, the energy sector is a big contributor to global trade, with the value of deals in the sector has increased by 62% in 2018. The value of energy and power transactions are estimated at \$365.7 bn in the first half of 2018. What are the issues that will shape the global energy market in 2018? What will be the energy mix, trade patterns and price trends? What is the impact of geo-political issues and movements of commodities? How do the Gulf states affect global oil production trade by virtue of controlling over 40% of all oil traded globally?

Speakers and topics (energy sector focus panel):

- **Speaker 1:** Where are the biggest opportunities in the energy sector, for both trade & investment?
- **Speaker 2:** The Middle-East effect and its implications on global oil trade.
- **Speaker 3:** What is the role of SMEs in driving growth in the energy sector?
- **Speaker 4:** How will economic growth be achieved by countries, whilst impact on the environment is considered? E.g. China has achieved economic growth with a minimal increase in energy consumption, what can be learned by other developing economies?
- **Speaker 5:** How fast can renewables or alternative energies grow? What are the effects of fragmentation in the renewable energy sector?

NETWORKING & EXHIBITIONS

DAY 2: THURSDAY 28 MARCH 2019 - OPENING PLENARY: 10:00 to 11:15

SUB-THEME: AFRICA IN THE NEW GLOBAL CONTEXT

Africa has a population of over 1.2 billion boasting significant human and natural resources, as well as the youngest and largest middle-class across all developing economies of the world. Its potential for sustainable growth is considerable. With 80 % of arable land still undeveloped, Africa is rightly seen as representing the solution to the global food security problem. It is the continent with the lowest electrification rate in the world. A rapidly emerging continent, Africa needs partnerships that can play a catalytic role in it realising its full development potential, rather than conditional assistance. *(Except from the World Policy Conference).*

This plenary seeks to explore the role Africa should play in leading the achievement of global economic growth and equitable distribution of resources. Africa has progressed from being the dark continent, to be the centre of global trade and investment, how should Africa leverage this opportunity optimally? What are the real opportunities and costs of DFI in Africa? How can Africa determine her own destiny? What is the political or economic agenda of the East towards Africa, since there is a clear shift of power from the West? What are the implications of Africa receiving global attention, when it comes to issues of social justice? Africa the biggest supplier of labour to the West in the new global context, is Africa leveraging its human capital? What is the state of leadership and governance on the Continent? This session aims to explore possible solutions to these questions and more.

Speaker composition for this key note session: Government leaders, captains of Industry & regional organisations.

PLENARY 1: 11:15 to 13:00

SUB-THEME: LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE, CORRUPTION & ECONOMIC GROWTH

The session aims to expand on the theme of Africa in the new global context by looking at leadership, governance, corruption and these issues relate to economic growth. To what extent is the lack of good/progressive leadership contributing to Africa's failure to achieve her full potential? How do we break the chains of colonialism holding back Africa's growth? What is the role of young people in changing the African narrative, given that over 60% of the continent is youth? How does resolving Africa's governance, leadership, corruption issues contribute to Africa's contribution to the achievement of global economic growth and equitable distribution?

Speakers and topics:

- **Speaker 1:** What types of global partnerships should Africa be looking for to unlock its potential for growth? (Government leaders and CEOs of multi-nationals, etc.)
- **Speaker 2:** The scourge of corruption and its impact on the growth of the SME sector. Is there the political will to really unlock the potential of SMEs in the continent, what are the case studies?
- **Speaker 3:** How should trade agreements be framed to ensure the African economic agenda is driven? (academic view & civil society)
- **Speaker 4:** What are the current trade and investment opportunities on the continent and how do we ensure Africa's maximum participation? (embassies should present).

- **Speaker 5:** What is the real cost of direct foreign investment in Africa? Who is investing in the Continent, in which sectors and what do they want in return? (trade and commercial officers, chief procurement officers in the public sector, etc.).

PLENARY 2: 14:00 to 15:30

Objectives of the plenary are to focus on a specific industry sector and its role on the continent and its contribution to global economic growth and equitable distribution of resources. The plenary will focus on Africa's agricultural sector, which has been identified as being both underutilized and key in growing the continents economies and ensuring not only the continents food security issues but those of the world as well. Africa has about 65% of the world's arable land, but the sector only accounts for 25% of GDP. What projects in the sector are being prioritised and funded? What types of partnerships are being forged? How can African countries add value to their agricultural output, and ultimately to industrialise?

Speakers and topics:

- **Speaker 1:** Agriculture, a path to Africa's prosperity and a key to unlocking economic and export growth. (Land bank, AFGRI, African Development Bank, UNIDO, Food & Agriculture organisation, Farm Africa, etc.)
- **Speaker 2:** Practical case studies of food processing centres in other emerging economies.
- **Speaker 3:** The risk environment for agriculture in Africa, droughts, high input costs, etc.
- **Speaker 4:** Opportunities for funding in the agricultural value chain.
- **Speaker 5:** Transformation of the agricultural sector in Africa: current challenges and opportunities.

NETWORKING & EXHIBITIONS

DAY 3: FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2019

SUB-THEME: THE IMPACT OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

The digital economy refers to a broad range of economic activities that use digitized information and knowledge as key factors of production. The internet of things, cloud computing, big data, fintech, and other new digital technologies are used to collect, store, analyse and share information digitally. Digitisation is a series of transformations triggered by the massive adoption of digital technologies that generate, process, share and transfer information. The first wave of digitisation is associated with the introduction and adoption of what today are considered “mature” technologies, such as management information systems aimed at automating data processing and applied to monitor and reporting of business performance, telecommunications technologies such as broadband (fixed and mobile) and voice telecommunications (fixed and mobile) which allow the remote access of information. The second wave of digitisation entails the diffusion of the Internet and its corresponding platforms (search engines, marketplaces), which enable the networking of enterprises to consumers and enterprises among themselves for purchasing of supplies, and distribution of output. The third wave of digitisation entails the adoption of a range of advanced technologies, such as big data/analytics, Internet of Things, robotics, sensors, and artificial intelligence, and is aimed at enhancing information processing and the quality of decision making, while further automating routine tasks within business enterprises and governments. And lastly, the advent of cryptocurrencies; what is the future of digital currencies and how can they help in democratizing economies?

PLENARY 1: 10:00 to 11:30

This session seeks to address and explore the digital age and its impact on the nature of markets and products, how to produce, how to deliver and pay, the scale of capital to operate globally, and the undeniable impact on human capital requirements. We also look at how digitisation is also boosting productivity, exposing companies to new ideas, technologies, new management and business models, and creating new channels of market access; all of this at relatively low costs. It is no exaggeration to predict that firms will increasingly rely on artificial intelligence for basic routines and for more complex tasks.

Speaker 1: What is the impact of adopting new digital technologies on the competitiveness of companies and industries?

Speaker 2: The benefits and challenges of the digital economy for emerging countries.

Speaker 3: A case study: The overall benefits of the digital economy in Ireland.

Speaker 4: Growth industries within the digital economy. What is the current state of the digital economy in Africa?

Speaker 5: How technology is turning knowledge-sharing into a global currency.

PLENARY 2: 11:30 to 13:00

This session seeks to explore priority segments in the manufacturing sector, in particular: Agri-processing, automotive, chemicals, ICT/electronics, metals and textiles industries. Trends show that the manufacturing sector continues to grow globally. It now accounts for approximately 16 percent of global GDP and 14 percent of employment. It is a sector that triggers economies around the world to industrialize and the larger segments are those in the automotive sector, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. These are followed by the food and beverage sectors, which are all driven by global innovation. The rise of the middle class in emerging economies is driving most of the forecasted consumption. Manufacturing is directly affected by the technological advances in the fourth industrial revolution.

Automotive sector plenary/roundtable discussion anchored by a Company in the automotive sector is envisaged. The session will consist of key stakeholders in the sector representing the interests of government, private sectors, regional and local associations, labour and other stakeholders. The session aims to deal with key challenges that affect the automotive sector such as: achieving global competitiveness, responding to market dynamics and changes, optimising regional integration, establishing inclusive value chains and how infrastructure is an enabler of growth in the sector. This plenary seeks to answer some of the below topics affecting the sector:

Speaker 1: How do we increase the local manufacturing and production capacity of the continent? What type of infrastructure investment is required to drive this? How can we make the continent more appealing to international investors?

Speaker 2: What is the policy landscape on the African continent pertaining to the automotive sector?

Speaker 3: How can regional value chains around components be realised, and how can Africa be plugged into the global automotive supply chain?

Speaker 4: What is the impact of global warming and sustainability requirements on growth in the sector?

Speaker 5: What is the role of preferential trade agreements and free trade agreements in driving regional and export growth? Does the West “owe” us? Addressing the post-colonial effects on the continent in a manner that ensure equality and redresses imbalances.

Speaker 6: What is the impact of modernisation, Industry 4.0 (Internet of Things, Nano-technology, robotics, etc.) on the entire production life-cycle?

Speaker 7: What is the role of localisation and indigenisation?

Speaker 8: The role of BRICS in preserving the manufacturing sector and the reality of the China-effect?

=====
NETWORKING & EXHIBITIONS
=====

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Captains of Industry
- Leaders in Government
- Financial Institutions
- Investors: Private Investors, Institutional, Venture Capitalists,
- Trade & Investment Agencies
- Chambers of Commerce
- State Owned Enterprises
- SMMEs
- Professionals

BUSINESS PITCHING SESSIONS

Entrepreneurs, government representatives and project sponsors who wish to pre-book appointments with strategic partners, financiers, venture capitalists, etc. can make enquiries with the GBR Global Office. They are required to submit an information memo with the following information:

- Project title (contracting authority)
- Contact person or project sponsor
- Summary project description
 - Project benefits and risks
 - Estimated project cost
 - Type of partnership envisaged & structure
- Progress to date
- The way forward - next steps

KEY REASONS TO PARTICIPATE:

- Global networking platform with representatives and businesses from over 80 countries
- Deal-makers and financiers from all sectors show-casing their financial tools, products and services
- Over 1000 delegates representing a variety of business opportunities
- Sought after speakers from private & public sector
- SMME's
- Business match-making

SECTORS OF FOCUS

- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Mining
- Manufacturing
- Asset Management
- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Transportation
- ICT
- Health
- Education
- Services

CONGRESS GLOBAL CONTACTS:

Secretariat Organising Committee

Chairman: Mr Sipho Mseleku
Tel: +27 11 242 8000

Global Coordinators:
Mr. Ronnie Mulaudzi
Email: ronnie@globalbusinessroundtable.com
Mobile: +27 73 648 2401
Office: +27 11 242 8000

Mr. Thato Mashao:
Email: thato@globalbusinessroundtable.com
Mobile: +27 71 483 0279
Office: +27 11 242 8000

Sponsorships and exhibitions:

Ms Cisca Adamson
Mobile: +27 82 590 2244
Office: +27 11242 8000
Email: cisca@globalbusinessroundtable.com

GBR Head Office physical address: 85 Central Street, Houghton Estate, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Website: www.gbrcongress.com

References:

<https://davidkortzen.org/equitable-distribution/>

<https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-on-africa-2017/sessions/africa-in-new-global-context>

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2018/07/02/world-economic-outlook-update-july-2018>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/resource-distribution-and-its-consequences-1435758>

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/world/2018-07-03-energy-and-power-sector-the-biggest-contributor-to-global-mas-so-far-in-2018/>

<https://www.worldgovernmentsummit.org/api/publications/document?id=82ee8ac4-e97c-6578-b2f8-ff0000a7ddb6>

<https://www.ft.com/content/c9bdc750-ec85-11e7-8713-513b1d7ca85a>

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/world/africa/2018-05-24-agriculture-marked-as-africas-path-to-prosperity--and-dube-port-will-play-a-key-role/>

<https://www.ictsd.org/opinion/seizing-the-benefits-of-the-digital-economy-for-development>