



**African Business Roundtable**  
**Table Ronde des Hommes d’Affaires d’Afrique**

**AFRICA’S FOREMOST  
CONTINENT-WIDE  
ASSOCIATION OF  
BUSINESSES AND BUSINESS  
LEADERS**

Promoting investments and private  
sector development in Africa

[www.abrnetwork.org](http://www.abrnetwork.org)

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN



Welcome to the African Business Roundtable - ABR

Within the pages of this profile you will learn about one of the most outstanding and innovative Pan African Business organizations in the world, and we are hoping that you will become a part of ABR.

I can tell you how optimistic I am about the future of Africa, because I see a vibrant and knowledgeable group of African business people, entrepreneurs, educators, thinkers who have an understanding of the Pan African vision of collective self-reliance, unity and the fact that the fate of all African peoples and countries are intertwined and that both continental Africans and those in the Diaspora share not just a common history but a common destiny too.

Our continent have successful businessmen and women aware of the necessity for good governance, the development of operational capacity, transparency and the rule of law. They are working within and outside of Africa for the betterment of our continent.

ABR has positioned itself to be at the forefront of this global movement for the development of Africa and her people.

Samuel DossouAworet  
Chairman

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## HISTORY

In 1988, 25 prominent business leaders convened at the Headquarters of the African Development Bank in Abidjan, to advise the Bank President on strategies to enhance the role of private enterprises in African development. A Private Sector Development Unit was set up as a result in the Bank for direct AfDB financing of African private enterprise.

In a span of two years, the grouping decided to put in place coherent, independent body capable of re-engineering the continental role of private enterprises as the engine of growth for Africa. Thus in March 1990, at a historic meeting in Cairo, The African Development

Bank Group established the **African Business Roundtable (ABR)**, Africa's foremost **continent-wide association of businesses and business leaders.**

ABR rapidly evolved to become a continent wide association with offices in several regions and developed strategic partnerships with globally renowned multilateral development Agencies, Development Finance Institutions and Business Associations.

Today, it is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit private sector funded organization, committed to fostering African private sector-led economic growth and social development in Africa.



## ABOUT US

The African Business Roundtable is Africa's foremost continent-wide association of businesses and business leaders dedicated to achieving an African private sector led regional economic integration and sustainable development of Africa, based on good corporate governance and competitively open market systems.

ABR focuses on strengthening the African private sector, promoting intra-African trade and investment and attracting foreign investment into Africa.

ABR contributes in creating an environment conducive to economic growth and prosperity by proposing

solutions on issues such as the cabotage regulations, transit corridors, continental free trade zones and the African business passport to mention a few.

ABR was granted 'Special Consultative Status' by the United Nations Economic and Social Council - UNECOSOC and ABR President was invited by the President of the UN General Assembly to address the 60th Session of the General Assembly in New York, on behalf of the entire private sector, thus serving as the 'voice of the private sector' giving a unified, worldwide voice to the African private sector on issues of mutual concern.



## VISION

Become the globally preferred partner for facilitating the sustainable development of Africa's private sector.

## MISSION

Promote, via various initiatives throughout the Continent and beyond, the development of Africa's private sector, particularly SME's, ensuring they become globally competitive and sustainable.

## AIM, PROCESSES & OBJECTIVES

The aim of the African Business Roundtable is to help create an enabling environment conducive to good governance, responsible private investment and sustainable economic growth and development in the countries of Africa.

To do this ABR sponsors workshops, seminars, research, information services, conferences, investment related services, and educational activities.

**Some of our key objectives include:**

- expand the role of private enterprise in Africa and to create an environment conducive to economic growth and prosperity;
- provide assistance to existing enterprises and to serve as a forum for business leaders to study issues, exchange ideas and develop positions and solutions to problems of mutual concern;
- serve as a forum for its members, promote the establishment of business relations among them and encourage the formation of joint ventures;
- promote wider awareness of Africa's business, investment and trade potential;
- co-operate with Governments, the public sector and other organizations in Africa and internationally with a view to advocating elimination of impediments to investment and trade;
- advise and encourage governments and other national, regional or international institutions to adopt laws, policies, regulations and procedures that enhance business growth;
- build and maintain positive image and enhance the good reputation and effectiveness of African entrepreneurs.

## ACTIVITIES

The major activities of ABR are founded on dialogue, research and communication.

ABR programmes are focused on continuous and effective dialogue, which provides opportunities and fora for business leaders to meet regularly amongst themselves and with public sector officials, building partnership for investment opportunities and consensus on policy reforms. These include, but are not limited to the following:

### **Trade and Investment Missions**

ABR organizes and sponsors, in collaboration with its partners trade and investment missions abroad and hosts serial trade missions in countries of Africa.

### **Economic Summits**

ABR organizes annual business Summits on regional and continental levels, which focuses on improvement of business and investment environment and offers members business networking opportunities. It also facilitates members' attendance at various business fora.

### **Research**

The research activities provide support for the various ABR programmes with reliable data. Primary focus is on policy issues as they affect national economies (competitiveness) regional integration (especially intra-African trade and investment), market access, and private sector development, financial, business and other economic indices. Deliberate effort is made to avoid duplication of efforts and utilize available data through collaboration with particular institutions.

### **Business Information and Communication**

To bridge the information gap, facilitate business decisions, and enhance intra-African trade and investment, ABR manages an electronic database (ABEX) on financial and business statistics, economic reviews, and trade and investment opportunities on all countries in Africa

### **Policy Commission**

ABR has groupings of its members from the various countries/regions focusing on business issues as they affect trade and investment in the



continent. These groups prepare business positions on issues of policy for submission to appropriate authorities.

### **Advocacy Functions**

ABR carries out its advocacy activities through membership of and affiliation with regional/continental institutions – AfDB, AU, ECOWAS, UN and UN Agencies, etc

At the national level ABR consults with its members and coordinates with other private sector associations to address policy constraints and other concerns of the business community and to convey to their governments the views articulated by ABR at the regional and continental level, thus providing additional ‘continental persuasion’ for change.

### **General Meetings**

ABR organizes regional chapters and continental General Meetings for its members, during which, special educational and informative presentations by renowned specialists that are of significant value to members are held. These meetings also provide networking platforms for members.

### **Training and Development**

ABR facilitates access to training and manpower development opportunities for its membership through various affiliates/funding bodies.

### **Publications**

ABR publishes occasion papers for economic summits, periodicals and subscribes to economic journals and magazines for circulation to members and associates.



## MEMBERSHIP & CATEGORIES

- Category 1 : Patron
- Category 2 : Corporate
- Category 3 : SMEs
- Category 4 : Consultants
- Category 5 : Professionals - Established  
Professionals - Young
- Category 6: Associates – Business association

## REGIONS & STRUCTURE

The regional membership chapters are as follows:

ABR's COMESA Chapter (Southern and Eastern Africa)

ABR's ECCAS Chapter (Central Africa)

ABR's ECOWAS Chapter (Western Africa - Anglophone and Francophone)

ABR's AMU Chapter (North Africa)

ABR's International Chapter (International)

The African Business Round Table comprises the following constitutive organs and bodies:

- The General Assembly
- Membership Chapters
- The Board of Director
- The Executive
- Specialized Committees
- The Central Secretariat

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

> Corporate  
> Consultants

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The African Business Roundtable provides opportunity for you to:

- Build capacity for business growth and competitiveness through participation in trainings delivered in workshops, seminars and conferences with lively presentations by industry experts and policy makers
- Meet financial partners from across the globe and access innovative financing opportunities.
- Obtain cutting edge information from Government Ministers, top policy makers, analysts and experts about Africa's economic outlook, trade and investment opportunities in Africa at several Networking Platforms
- Discuss leading issues about Africa's investment climate and markets and have the opportunity to make your voice heard through our advocacy platforms and channels
- Find potential business partners and Explore opportunities to forge business / investment partnerships
- Showcase your company locally and internationally

## PARTNERS & ASSOCIATES

Our partners include among others:



African Development Bank group : founding institution



African Union : with a goal of creating “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena.”



New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD): strategic framework for pan-African socio-economic development, is both a vision and a policy framework for Africa in the twenty-first century.



United Nations and its agencies such as UNIDO, UNECA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNCTAD



World Bank / International Monetary Fund : Global funding agency, partnering with state governments providing bilateral, multinational funding



International Trade Centre : International trade organization, providing capacity information on international trade



Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency: an international financial institution which offers political risk insurance guarantees. Such guarantees help investors protect foreign direct investments against political and non-commercial risks in developing countries



Regional Economic Commissions (ECOWAS, COMESA, AMU, SADC, CEEAC, IGAD, ECCAS)

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