

# SECOND SUMMIT RUSSIA–AFRICA ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN FORUM

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## The New Global Economy

### **The Sustainable Development of Diamond Mining Communities**

In partnership with ALROSA

Russia and Africa, which account for approximately 90% of global diamond production, face significant challenges in adhering to a considerable number of different regulations and industry standards for responsible business conduct and sustainable development. Many of these requirements are imposed on diamond-producing countries and companies operating in Africa and Russia from the outside and are driven by opportunistic foreign policy and economic considerations. However, there is no common understanding of what responsible diamond mining is. At the same time, the requirements often have little to do with the diamond mining sector, which has been given the primary responsibility for maintaining the reputation of the global diamond and jewellery industry and building consumer confidence in the end product. What are the critical aspects of sustainable diamond mining? What is the industry's role in the socio-economic development of mining regions and the economies of diamond-producing countries as a whole? What is the industry's contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals? How can fair levels of revenues from diamond mining and sales on the world market be ensured for the economies of diamond-producing countries?

## The New Global Economy

### **SMEs in Russia and Africa: New Benchmarks for Partnership**

Interaction between Russian and African small businesses is of great importance to both parties. On the one hand, it can become an additional source of income and new markets for their goods and services. It can also contribute to the development of Africa's economy, the creation of new jobs, and the improvement of the standard of living for its population. Developing prospective areas of cooperation between the business communities of the two regions, as well as exploring opportunities for export and import of goods and services, mutual investments, technological cooperation and cultural exchange can serve as key vectors for building bilateral cooperation. What is the legal framework for business activities in Russia and Africa? How can collaboration between the business communities of the two regions be facilitated? What are the best practices of existing Russian small businesses operating in African countries? What is the potential for interaction between SMEs and how could they work with government authorities?

## The New Global Economy

### **Identifying an Effective Strategy for Cooperation in Agribusiness**

The African continent is now the world leader in terms of population growth, leading to an increased demand for food. The continent is rapidly developing agriculture and agro-technology, and about half of Africa's workforce is employed in agriculture. At the same time, many countries on the continent are heavily dependent on imports, buying a wide range of foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials. The Russian Federation holds a significant position in the world's agribusiness export market, ranking among the top 20 leading countries by 2022. Last year Russia supplied agricultural products to nearly 160 countries, and its exports exceeded USD 41 billion. This represents a 12% increase on 2021. What are the prospects and strategic vectors for the development of bilateral cooperation between Russia and Africa in terms of agricultural trade? What can Russia offer the African continent to ensure its food security? Which countries on the continent will have the highest demand for Russian agroindustrial products? What is the potential for the development of Africa's transport infrastructure to increase trade turnover? Which agribusiness projects will help to increase trade turnover?

## The New Global Economy

### **Doing Business in Africa: Risks, Market Conditions, Opportunities**

Thanks to its rapid growth and significant development potential, Africa is emerging as an area that holds hopes for a global economic upturn, supported by the Asia-Pacific region. Russian companies are already implementing a significant number of flagship projects that contribute to the sustainable development of the African region. However, from 2016 to 2022, Russia's share in the external trade of African states was just over 2%, which certainly does not reflect the full potential for expanding cooperation. The presence of African businesses in Russia should undoubtedly also be more prominent. In the rapidly transforming global network of trade and economic relations, the opportunity to strengthen

and expand contacts with long-standing partners is of special value. It appears that progress in developing business relationships is impossible without establishing strong cooperation with both African partners and Russian businesses in African countries. This necessitates expanding, optimizing, and diversifying support measures from governments, developing the regulatory and legal framework, currency and financial logistics, and eliminating various barriers that impede trade. What can Russian businesses in Africa now offer? How can they mitigate risks while exploring new markets and building long-term relationships with African partners? What are the expectations of African countries? What new development programmes and projects are being implemented in Africa?

#### The New Global Economy

### **EAEU–Africa: Horizons of Cooperation**

Trade and economic cooperation between the EAEU and Africa has a long and rich history. Today, given the current trends in global economic development, the dialogue between Eurasia and Africa is not only making active use of bilateral state-to-state contacts but also the potential of regional economic associations. This opens up additional opportunities to promote more diversified cooperation. Today's Africa is multi-faceted and its fast-growing economy is diverse in structure and scale. In the current context of shifting centres of influence on the world stage, the African continent is one of the emerging centres of global development. In order to intensify cooperation between the EAEU and African partners, as well as to strengthen trade and economic ties of EAEU member states with countries and integration associations in Africa, its priority areas should be identified. Today they include infrastructure and agriculture, trade, investment and business development, and regional economic integration. How does regional integration affect the current architecture of the global economy? What are the current challenges facing those involved in regional economic integration processes in Eurasia and Africa, in terms of strategic development planning? What joint steps can be taken to find a common vision for the future of integration building in Eurasia and Africa? What formats and mechanisms need to be deployed at the level of integration alliances to effectively harness the potential of trade and economic cooperation? What requests are being formulated by the business community in the context of EAEU–Africa dialogue? What initiatives could become breakthroughs?

#### The New Global Economy

### **The Potential of Russian–African Exports in the Face of New Challenges**

2019 saw the holding of the first ever Russia–Africa Summit and Economic Forum. A large number of plans were mapped out and the groundwork was laid in key areas. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent world events forced us to pause somewhat and, from last year onwards, to rethink our approaches towards interaction with our African partners in many ways. We know that Africa is the continent with the youngest population and the broadest range of opportunities for Russian business. At the same time, the government and development institutions need to bolster their coordinated work to create appropriate infrastructure to support the implementation of Russian companies' plans. An understanding of experiences of successful expansion to African markets and of the main nuances and features of working in the continent's different countries can provide the groundwork for companies to advance. Special attention should be paid to the development of soft power and the use of exports of educational services. None of the plans and initiatives discussed can be implemented without the accompanying calculations. Last year showed the importance of having alternative communication channels and of taking payment routes to a fundamentally new level. What has been done in this area and what should the focus be on in the future? New challenges are always new opportunities.

#### The New Global Economy

### **Russia–Africa: Prospects for Energy Cooperation**

The African continent is one of the fastest-growing energy markets in the world. This is due to the growing economic and demographic potential of African countries, as well as the efforts of many states to combat climate change. However, realizing this potential requires significant investment and infrastructure development. Building on the friendly ties between Russia and African states, Russian energy companies are implementing a number of ambitious projects on the African continent. The promotion of these projects contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 7, which is to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy sources, primarily by increasing the level of electrification in African countries. These projects include the first nuclear power plant project in Africa and the development of hydroelectric projects. To implement new energy projects on the African continent, Russian companies can not only offer their expertise, but also ready-made technologies for the construction and operation of power facilities, such as power plants, power grids, and solar and wind installations, which will enable African countries to develop their economies and raise living standards. What kind of government policies are in place in African countries to promote sustainable energy development? How do the activities of Russian companies fit into this context? What challenges are there on the way? What are the possible measures of financial support for projects?

## The New Global Economy

### **New Russian–African Logistics Routes**

The increase in trade and economic turnover between Africa and Russia depends on many factors. Among these, one of the critical factors is the development of logistical routes. Both passenger and cargo transportation has a significant impact on the development of cooperation in very different areas, ranging from tourism to the real economy. The problem of building a Russia–Africa logistics route system that would be both practical and mutually beneficial for all parties concerned has become even more pressing in recent years, influenced by the pandemic and the global reshaping of export and import flows. Moreover, logistics influences the decision-making process in both business and public environments, significantly slowing down integration processes in the absence of effective solutions. How can a highly efficient Russia–Africa logistics flow system be built? What factors should be key to the ongoing optimization of this system? How can high-quality logistics ensure a significant increase in trade and economic turnover between Russia and the countries of the African continent?

## The New Global Economy

### **International Cooperation in Financial Security**

#### Integrated Security and Sovereign Development

### **International Security in Times of Geopolitical Instability: Cross-Party Cooperation**

The modern world is one of great uncertainty. The old geopolitical reality, already shattered to the core, has yet to be replaced by a new one. Threats to global security are becoming increasingly diverse, from conventional military conflicts, food shortages, energy crises, and uncontrolled migration to criminal terrorist activity. Global security increasingly affects the African continent as the role it plays in world politics gains in importance. The Global North exploits its dominant position in the current system of international relations and continues to employ aggressive, neo-colonial policies to achieve its goals. What threats does neo-colonialism pose to the Global South? How exactly does it do so and to what effect? How can we resist contemporary manifestations of colonialism and promote a more constructive agenda aimed at the common development of humanity?

#### Integrated Security and Sovereign Development

### **Stabilizing the Fertilizer Market to Eradicate Hunger in African Countries**

#### In partnership with URALCHEM

The issue of food security is key for most countries on the African continent. Eradicating hunger in Africa is directly linked to the effective use of mineral fertilizers, of which African agricultural producers are experiencing a severe shortage. Russian companies are not only offering to supply fertilizers but are also willing to transfer modern agricultural technology to Africa. The responsible strategy of Russian fertilizer producers in Africa is borne out by their free deliveries to famine-stricken African countries. A long-term strategic partnership with Russian suppliers will allow African nations to increase their agricultural productivity, train qualified specialist personnel, create new jobs and provide their populations with food staples. But how can we ensure that African countries can access diversified supplies and new agricultural technologies in the challenging environment of today's global trade? How can we reduce the risks of sanctions and restrictions? What else needs to be done to ensure food security in African countries, and what role can Russian supplies and technologies play in this? How can we make African agriculture more efficient and resilient to current challenges? What new forms of cooperation between Africa and Russia should be developed to reduce risks and ensure maximum mutual effect?

#### Integrated Security and Sovereign Development

### **Russia and Africa: Partnership for Food Sovereignty**

#### In partnership with the Russian Association of Fertilizer Producers (RAFP)

Although agriculture employs more than 60% of Africa's workforce and accounts for about a third of the continent's GDP, Africa is the most food-insecure region in the world. 278 million people in Africa suffer from chronic hunger. This corresponds to 20% of the continent's population. At the present rate, food imports, which today stand at a whopping USD 55 billion a year, will double in monetary terms by 2030. No miracle is in sight. With sanctions wars and the collapse of supply and production chains, the flywheel of food inflation on the planet will gain momentum. Africa's food sovereignty is therefore the only solution to this critical hunger problem on the continent. The potential of local agricultural production is enormous. For example, experts estimate that 60% of the continent's fertile land is unused. What is needed to unlock this potential? How can Russia help Africa develop its agricultural infrastructure? Could the experience of lending to Russian agrarians become a model for African states? How can uninterrupted supplies be maintained and political risks mitigated when paying for Russian mineral fertilizers and farm machinery imports?

### Integrated Security and Sovereign Development

#### Securing the Information Space: Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation

The global digital transformation and our society's increasing dependence on communication technologies has thrust information security front and centre. Given the nature of the ICTs and the cross-border threats they pose in a world that is so thoroughly interconnected, sustainable information security can only be achieved together with others. What role should the UN play in shaping the international regulation of ICTs? How can we develop a convention against cybercrime that is all encompassing through the UN Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee? How can we create a balanced international system of Internet governance on the basis of the International Telecommunication Union and specialized forums? How can we overcome technological inequality and western corporate imperialism? What must be done to facilitate the sharing of best practices in ICT?

### Integrated Security and Sovereign Development

#### Safe Africa

Global stability and a 21st century level of security cannot be achieved by one state on its own – it will require cooperation and support from the entire international community. Threats from terrorism, cross-border crime, incitement to ethnic hatred, the use of drones for illegal purposes, and illegal Internet activity all cast a long shadow. Terrorist groups and international criminal networks are becoming increasingly capable in terms of resources, organization, technology, and information support. They use the media to conduct widespread propaganda and ideological campaigns and receive material support and training in various states. Smuggling, which wreaks such havoc on government budgets filling the coffers of organized crime, also presents a serious problem. The widespread use of drones has further facilitated the delivery of illicit goods, reconnaissance, and even acts of terrorism. And while the good the Internet brings to the world cannot be denied, it also creates new opportunities for crime. Neither is it a simple question of fraud, extortion, or hacking into corporate or government computer systems for confidential information. Nowadays, the Internet can be used to orchestrate illegal disturbances and coup attempts and manipulate public opinion with fake news. As things stand, what can we do to keep African countries and their people safe? What can we do to prevent crime and not just clean up after the deed is done? What role do outside forces play in African security? What future challenges await us? How can Russia's experience with security benefit Africa?

### Integrated Security and Sovereign Development

#### From Aid to Partnership: Working Together to Fight Epidemics

The risk of epidemics hampers Africa's ability to unlock its economic potential. However, the continent has the necessary conditions and capabilities to manage these risks themselves. Russia and Africa have a long history of cooperation in this area. Recently, joint projects have been launched with Guinea, Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo to prevent and control infections. Such cooperation could help African countries gain sovereignty in the field of biosafety. Russia is ready to provide assistance in planning and conducting joint research and development of tests and vaccines, training personnel and developing laboratory infrastructure. The result will be the gradual independence of African countries from foreign assistance in the fight against epidemics, strengthening their own capacities in this field and removing barriers to economic development caused by infections. What is the most pressing need in Africa today to develop self-reliance to fight epidemics? How can biosafety be made independent of external assistance? Can African countries shift from importing anti-epidemic technologies to developing and exporting them?

### Integrated Security and Sovereign Development

#### Electoral Systems amidst Challenges to Electoral Sovereignty: Legislation and Technology

The world is in a state of near-critical unrest. The aggressive promotion of the geopolitical interests of American hegemony and the imposition of neoliberal values alien to many traditional societies have fractured the global system, turning 'red lines' into hotbeds of hostility. The battle waged by the Anglo-Saxons and their acolytes for resources for their own industry, markets for their goods, and congregations for their ideology recognizes no bounds, driven by the ultimate goal of limiting the national sovereignty of those countries that refuse to align themselves, to destroy the institutions of their statehood and split society. Elections allow citizens to participate in the governing process and determine the course for their country's development. Elections are perhaps the most vulnerable period for any society. They are the perfect time to intervene in developing countries, where institutions are still being established. From influencing the electoral systems themselves to supporting favorable political parties, from the funding of non-profit organizations to the manipulation of social media and other communications, from biased international observation to vote-buying, foreign governments make active use of known technologies to interfere in the affairs of other nations. Russia is no stranger to practices of this kind. Its electoral system has come a long way in the past decades, developing a regulatory framework and advancing technologically. In many respects, Russian standards for accessibility, technological security, openness, and electoral accountability are trend setting. Even so, the country faces new attempts to influence the voting process with every election cycle, to distort the will of the populace and delegitimize the choices of Russians. The response to all of these challenges must come

in the form of new legislation, new security technology, and greater transparency and electoral accountability to the public.

#### Integrated Security and Sovereign Development

### **Combating anticompetitive practices of large transnational corporations, suppressing cross-border cartels and international cooperation**

Economic globalization has led to an increase in restrictive business practices by large multinational corporations that adversely affect international trade, especially that of developing economies and their growth potential. African countries, whose markets are now becoming crucial in terms of sales and production, are also being significantly affected. In this regard, an important element in enhancing the effectiveness of antitrust investigations is international and interregional cooperation, the strengthening of which is unanimously supported by the global competitive community. What is the role of international cooperation in investigating antitrust violations with a cross-border impact and in dealing with global economic anticompetitive transactions? What are the most effective cooperation mechanisms that can be identified and what examples of cooperation exist? Is there a need to improve cooperation mechanisms to enhance the effectiveness of antitrust investigations? If so, what measures appear to be most effective?

#### Cooperation in Science and Technology

### **Nuclear Technologies for African Development**

*In partnership with the State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom*

One of the key strategic tasks that every state faces in the contemporary world is the use of technologies that will ensure energy security, guarantee the sustainable development of various economic sectors and increase the scientific and human capacity of the country. A large number of African countries have already turned their focus to nuclear technologies that have positive social and economic effects on many areas of life, decarbonize the economy and facilitate the achievement of the sustainable development goals. During the session, we propose to discuss the prospects for the “atoms for peace and development” in Africa and possible ways of fruitful cooperation in this area.

#### Cooperation in Science and Technology

### **Achieving Technological Sovereignty Through Industrial Cooperation**

The unprecedented sanctions imposed by Western countries have confirmed the validity and relevance of Russia's policy of import substitution and technological sovereignty. By building up its own competencies in various areas of industry, Russian companies are able to offer advanced developments to African partners to address priority socio-economic issues. What areas of Russian–African industrial cooperation are most in demand at the moment? Do additional instruments of financial support need to be created? Are African countries prepared to offer attractive conditions for the implementation of investment projects in industry?

#### Cooperation in Science and Technology

### **Cutting-Edge Technologies for Africa's Sustainable Development**

Climate change and natural disasters pose a particular threat to Africa, a fact international climate platforms regularly draw attention to. Africa's potential for sustainable economic growth is, nevertheless, significant. Access to cutting-edge technologies and solutions capable of reducing and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, helping adapt to climate change, and improving waste management and recycling are essential. What opportunities are there for Russia and Africa to cooperate on advanced technological solutions for the sustainable development of the continent?

#### Cooperation in Science and Technology

### **Bringing Russian Prospecting and Development Technologies to Africa**

The geological industry is a fundamental part of the economy for both Russia and Africa. Known reserves of non-renewable minerals deplete over time and the conditions of extraction become more difficult. The needs of the economy inevitably lead to an intensification of prospecting, exploration and mining operations. In the Russian Federation, new technologies are being developed and implemented to improve the completeness and quality of resource data and to increase the efficiency of mining operations. At the same time, the environmental impact of exploration and mining is also significant. How can the impact of mining on the environment be reduced? Can emissions from mining be reduced? These issues highlight the need to develop and apply clean technologies and digital solutions.

### Cooperation in Science and Technology

#### **Effective Cooperation in Healthcare: Drugs, Innovation, Technology**

In the context of the current transformation taking place within the global political system, consolidated efforts in healthcare and drug policy development on the part of Russia and Africa can serve as a sustainable basis for mutually beneficial partnership. It is vital that this cooperation touch on the transfer of modern medical technologies and equipment, the adoption of advanced digital and telemedicine system solutions in healthcare, the development and launch of innovative medicines and medical products, and the improvement of mechanisms to ensure Russians and Africans can enjoy uninterrupted access to strategically important medicines and medical products. The challenge now is to improve the business climate, strengthen trust between countries, improve the regulatory framework for pharmaceutical production and increase direct investment, and increase participation in collaborative medical research and development if we hope to improve the availability of quality medicines and vaccines in Africa. What trends currently guide the development of partnerships between Russia and Africa in affordable, quality medicine? What opportunities exist for mutually beneficial cooperation in the exchange of medical technologies and scientific advances? What regulatory measures are needed to increase exports from the Russian pharmaceutical industry? What breakthrough technologies and innovations, including in the pharmaceutical sector, could potentially improve the landscape for mutually beneficial cooperation today?

### Cooperation in Science and Technology

#### **Fundamental Science: The Cornerstone of Technological Sovereignty**

The technological sovereignty of non-Western nations is of vital importance to the countries themselves and for the entire multipolar system of international relations. There can be no sustained independence in modern technology without a strong scientific foundation. Africa strives for autonomy in scientific and technological development. It is not satisfied with merely consuming ready-made Western technology or providing cheap resources bound to return in the form of ready-made technologies, goods, and services. Russia's unique proposition is to implement joint S&T development projects in Africa founded on essential research. Experience cooperating on research and training scientific personnel during the Soviet era means our country enjoys a good reputation in this respect. Scientific diplomacy is one of Russia's greatest sources of soft power in Africa. How have Russia and Africa previously collaborated in science and technology? What S&T cooperation projects have had a positive effect on socio-economic development in Africa? What areas should be earmarked for scientific cooperation in the future?

### Cooperation in Science and Technology

#### **Africa's Current Level and Prospects for Cooperation in the Space Industry with Russia**

The space industry has always been closely intertwined with politics and economics. In addition to the scientific and theoretical component of space knowledge, humanity is now developing scientific and applied space programmes that is having a symbolic effect on the economic activities of nations and the quality of life of their citizens. Today, space plays a role in virtually every aspect of human life, including communications, security, agriculture and subsurface management, navigation, cartography, materials science and much, much more. Despite the significant investments required to develop national and regional space programmes, they produce a multiplicative, synergistic effect in the economy, driving science and education to a new level, and facilitating the development of more innovative approaches to transport and logistics, agriculture and the extraction of mineral resources. With the economic benefits of the space services market and forecasts of fast growth, large private players are driving the space services industry in developing countries. Commercial space projects often conflict with the interests of nation states. Governments, including in Africa, therefore face the challenge of preserving national sovereignty whilst the space services market continues to grow, ensuring national security, and operating space services that would foster national development. How can we achieve equitable and mutually beneficial cooperation in space? How can long-term partnerships and collaboration in outer space prevail over short-term political interests? How do African countries view the future of space exploration at the continental/regional/national space agency level? What are the top priorities for African countries in terms of the utilization of space assets? Which regions and countries in the world today have the upper hand in terms of facilitating the development of Africa's space programmes? What are the challenges facing African countries in the development of their national and regional space programmes? What are the concrete steps required for African countries to overcome these challenges?

### The Humanitarian and Social Sphere: Working Together for a New Quality of Life

#### **Humanitarian Cooperation Between Russia and Africa**

The human dimension of development has been declared a priority by Russia and the African Union and its Agenda 2063 programme. In an increasingly multipolar world, cooperation in the human dimension takes on particular significance. This vast field includes many specific activities from cooperation in human security, healthcare, epidemic prevention, management of emergencies and natural disasters to cooperation in education, science and technology, culture, sports, women and youth rights and opportunities. How is the humanitarian vector of Russian–African cooperation developing today? What impediments remain to the interaction between Russia and Africa in the humanitarian sphere? What

needs to be done to effectively overcome them in the coming years? What could Russia offer the African side in this respect?

The Humanitarian and Social Sphere: Working Together for a New Quality of Life

### **Cooperation in Higher Education**

What new things does Russia offer in the field of training national personnel, collaborative applied research and technological cooperation? What mechanisms can be used to develop academic mobility of students and faculty, as well as internships and apprenticeships, today? What basic projects in the economy can be developed and launched with the involvement of leading Russian core universities?

The Humanitarian and Social Sphere: Working Together for a New Quality of Life

### **New World Order: From the Legacy of Colonialism to Sovereignty and Development**

Many of today's problems affecting the majority of the world, including Africa and Russia, are a direct consequence of the persistence of old colonialism and the imposition of renewed forms of colonialism. Conversely, the notorious prosperity of the West can be attributed to the rules of a predatory world order generated by this colonial legacy. The justifications, forms and technologies of colonialism have changed over the centuries, but to this day their disastrous consequences have not been fully overcome. The "golden billion" continue to feed their prosperity and finance the maintenance of their "freedoms and values" by siphoning off all kinds of resources from the majority of the world. This is vital for it to maintain this world order in perpetuity. Russia, Africa and most other countries do not agree to submit to such a diktat. Today it is increasingly clear that a new world order is irreversible. Its foundations are political, economic, cultural and informational sovereignty, true equality, development and prosperity of citizens, universally agreed norms of international law and mutual respect, the rejection of neocolonial plunder and of all modern forms of colonial exploitation and oppression. How does Russia see Africa's role in the new world order? What forms of new colonialism are being imposed on the global majority by the West today? How can Russia and Africa cooperate in strengthening the sovereignty of international cooperation members and countering the diktat of powers that aspire to world hegemony? Can Africa play a critical role in resolving a number of the world's problems, including the resolution of the most severe international conflicts? What place in word and deed does the West ascribe to Africa in its models of world order? Why do Western politicians' words and deeds in Africa diverge?

The Humanitarian and Social Sphere: Working Together for a New Quality of Life

### **Russia–Africa: Transferring the Best Educational Technologies for General, Vocational and Further Education**

In today's geopolitical paradigm, Russia and African countries are strategically expanding interaction across the entire spectrum of relations. Particular attention is being paid to the implementation of initiatives in the field of education. Long-standing historical ties form a solid foundation for bilateral dialogue with African countries. This work is reinforced by the keen interest of friendly states in studying the Russian language, attracting students to Russian universities and key projects in the field of education. The promotion of Russian general and secondary vocational education abroad and its highly effective methods and practices opens up new opportunities for cooperation. How can this experience be useful in implementing educational policies in African countries? How is cooperation in general and secondary vocational education expanding? Which Russian educational projects could be of interest to African countries?

The Humanitarian and Social Sphere: Working Together for a New Quality of Life

### **Cultural Products and Brands for a Creative Economy**

Creative industries are a critical driver of growth. In addition to their direct impact on the economy, they generate significant indirect effects and foster innovation. The formation of a multipolar world creates new opportunities for cooperation, the development of culture and the arts, the expansion of cultural ties and the implementation of joint creative projects between Russia and African countries. Which joint creative projects between Russia and Africa can serve as examples of cultural cooperation? Can the identity of peoples create competitive advantages for regions and countries? How can cooperation in arts, science and technology help our countries achieve socio-economic development goals?

The Humanitarian and Social Sphere: Working Together for a New Quality of Life

### **Russian and African Women for Sustainable Development and Social Progress**

The existing vision for development in Africa and the African Union's 2063 Agenda places a special emphasis on strengthening the role of women in every part of society. African development over the next 50 years will hang on women's empowerment. Women in Russia and Africa are very active in business, with nearly a third of private businesses owned by women. It is of particular importance as we face new challenges that we create new opportunities for international cooperation between women in Russia and

Africa. Traditional humanitarian cooperation is increasingly being joined by the development of social programmes and public health, economic cooperation, environmental and climate protection, and the creation of an effective system of cooperation in science and technology. What social, economic, and environmental joint programmes and projects have the women of Africa and Russia already successfully implemented, and what other areas show particular promise? What can Russia currently offer Africa in the way of scientific and educational development as part of the African Union's 2063 Agenda? What Russian-African women's initiatives will require additional support?

The Humanitarian and Social Sphere: Working Together for a New Quality of Life

### **Global Values as a Basis for Interaction in the Educational and Cultural Sphere**

Value platforms have begun to drive global development and international relations in the contemporary world. Regardless of origin, colour, or socio-cultural or religious community, everyone possesses fundamental, basic values instilled by nature. The creative power of these values to bring people together and lead humanity to an era of equitable, constructive engagement for the sake of shared prosperity is considerable. As part of the current confrontation between transnational political and military blocs, artificial, unnatural pseudo-values are actively being imposed in the media and cultural sphere, with the ultimate aim of dividing people into opposing camps, into those who would submit to a 'superior race' and those unwilling to sacrifice their traditional cultural values to the ultimatums of the new colonialism. The decisive battlefield for true values is being fought in the media and culture. Real, human art always conveys eternal values and stands above the political and ideological fray, appealing to viewers on a subconscious, emotional level. The history behind the educational and cultural links Russia shares with Africa is great and the potential for development in the very near future even greater.

The Humanitarian and Social Sphere: Working Together for a New Quality of Life

### **Sport: A Bridge of Friendship between Russia and Africa**

For young people in Africa, sport is one of the most accessible social lifelines. African countries have great potential in sport. Soviet and Russian specialists have been systematically involved in the development of sport on the continent. In the new century, cooperation has been expanded in a number of areas including joint training camps at Russian national team training centres, educational programmes for African specialists and the work of Russian coaches on the continent. Sport has become one of the bridges of friendship between Russia and Africa. It is therefore natural that African countries oppose the politicization of sport and discrimination against athletes on the basis of nationality. Africa is interested in continued cooperation. What sports projects can become a driver of socio-economic development for the region, and how can Russia's experience be useful in their implementation? How is the interaction between national Olympic committees and sports federations expanding? What opportunities are there for exchanges in the field of sports education and science? What Russian projects in the field of grassroots and school sports could be of interest to African countries?

The Humanitarian and Social Sphere: Working Together for a New Quality of Life

### **The Role of Business in Promoting Humanitarian Policy Abroad**

The strengthening of the position of large Russian businesses in Africa creates a basis for the development of public-private partnerships in the implementation of humanitarian cooperation projects between Russia and Africa. The involvement of Russian companies in humanitarian projects expands the Russian Federation's toolkit for projecting the country's soft power abroad, and helps Russian capital to create an image of a socially responsible business.

Media Forum

### **Sovereign Media and Combatting Disinformation: The Experience of Russia and African Countries**

In the modern world, it is crucial for the media to be truly sovereign and be able to convey their point of view to the audience, despite the desire of international mainstream media companies to monopolize the right to authenticity and the monopoly of Western social media. For example, the way in which Africa and Russia receive information about each other from sources in the Anglo-Saxon world often plays a role in the spread of false information. As such, strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation at all levels is now a key agenda item for representatives of the media industry around the world.

Media Forum

### **Multipolar Information World: The Role of Africa's Arab Countries in the New Realities of International Relations**

The Arab countries of Africa historically have extremely close ties with Russia across all sectors, including the information space. Such cooperation is particularly valuable in the new information reality, in which, on the one hand, more and more countries are striving for complete independence and support

the concept of a multipolar world, but, on the other hand, are meeting resistance from extra-regional players (primarily Western countries and their satellites) that are seeking to advance their own interests to the detriment of others.

Media Forum

### **Russia–Africa: Overcoming Stereotypes. The Role of the Media in Creating a Positive Image for the Two Regions**

Russian–African relations are gathering new momentum in the political, economic and social spheres, boosted by the contacts being fostered in the media sphere. One of the key challenges facing both regions' media is for Russia and African countries to overcome the stereotypes formed due to linguistic, cultural and historical differences, and the old ties that broke down after 1991, and to create a positive image for both sides. Africa is still often associated in the modern-day media landscape with numerous interstate, religious and ethnic conflicts, political and economic instability, and a host of social problems. Likewise, knowledge of modern Russia and the steps taken by its political leadership to address global challenges does not always rank high in the continent's media coverage. The picture created by some media outlets devalues the long-standing traditions of cooperation between Russia and Africa, negatively impacts on the development of Russian–African relations, and hinders the establishment of trusted contacts and mutually beneficial ties. What stereotypes about Russia and Africa exist in the global community and how do they impact on the media partnership between these regions? What joint projects and media platforms can be set up to promote a positive image for the regions? What role can media partnership play in building on the friendly relations and mutual understanding between the peoples of Russia and Africa? How important is it to factor in cultural and ethnic characteristics when using the media to shape the image of states? What sources of information about Russia are currently being used on the African continent? How reliable are Western and other sources in this regard?

Media Forum

### **The Impact of New Global Challenges and the Economics of Sanctions on the Media Partnership Between Russia and Africa: Problems and Solutions**

Each year, the partnership between Russia and Africa advances to a new level. Framework foreign policy documents, joint statements by top officials from Russia and African countries, reciprocal visits by heads of state and the implementation of joint projects attest to the continuous strengthening of Russian–African cooperation, in which the media sphere occupies a special place. Despite the positive outlook for the development of Russian–African media cooperation, the impact of the global challenges currently faced by the media sphere must be factored in. How do these challenges affect the media partnership between Russia and Africa? How should we deal with fake news and disinformation? How can we stand up to the pressure of Western sanctions? How can we effectively strengthen and develop media cooperation between Russia and African countries? What technological innovations could be introduced to advance this cooperation? How can media partnerships be effectively used to strengthen Russian–African relations and build on the mutual understanding between the peoples of Russia and Africa?

Youth Programme

### **Russia–Africa Sustainable Digital Dialogue: Emerging New Leaders for the IT Industry**

Africa is a fast-growing continent that is expected to achieve unprecedented economic growth in the next few decades. The digitalization of key economic, industrial and social sectors is one of the cornerstones of the country's innovative development. IT technologies are shaping how we communicate and facilitating integration and knowledge exchange. Russia is one of the recognized leaders in protecting digital sovereignty and is eager to share its knowledge and expertise to enhance the competitiveness and security of its strategic partners. Russia and Africa can begin the process of forging new technological and political alliances by offering the concept of sustainable digital dialogue as a benchmark for the development of digitalization and a new model of cooperation within the digital environment as a solution for strengthening statehood. Crucially, young people are the main driver and beneficiary of this process. How can we strengthen integration between Russia and Africa in IT? How can Russia help bridge the digital divide on the continent? What digital development and regulatory practices can Russia and Africa share? How can we reduce barriers to youth engagement in IT? How can we make the voice of Africa's youth louder in international digital rule-making? Is there a need for a single platform to train IT engineers, share experience, interesting cases and expertise? Which digital skills does Africa currently need?

Youth Programme

### **Initiator of Change: Youth Projects and Long-Term Cooperation**

Africa is the youngest continent on the planet, with nearly 60% of its population under 25 years old. With rapid demographic growth, the continent is predicted to have around 40% of the world's population by 2100 (currently 18%). By building mutually beneficial and respectful relations between young people in Russia and Africa, we can guarantee that we will forge successful partnerships for many years to come. Are Russian and African young people alike? How can Russia help to improve the quality of life for young

Africans, and what can African youth learn from Russia? What scope is there for joint Russian and African projects, and where can they find common ground? In what sectors can young people help each other? Do young entrepreneurs in Russia and Africa have common ground, and are joint start-ups possible? How can we improve student exchange programmes and create a talent pool of future African leaders?

Youth Programme

**Building a Common Future: Educational and Scientific Opportunities of Russia for Africa**

A core objective of today's educational authorities is to build a flexible and responsive system that will enable science and education to tackle the challenges of our fast-changing world. At the heart of this system are the Young Scientists communities, which are developing frameworks for enhancing the skills and abilities of young scientists and research teams, and a system to educate talent who can respond effectively to the global challenges posed by today's world. How can we improve scientific and student exchange programmes? Why is it important to educate Africans in Russia for both Africa and Russia? Is Russia losing out on science and education in Europe and the USA? What should be done to encourage more Africans to choose Russian universities? How can the Russian education system help its African counterpart?

**Meeting of university rectors**

**Roundtable attended by Russian and African Supreme Audit Institutions**