AFRICA SEZ GLOBAL FORUM

CONNECT · INVEST · TRANSFORM

CONCEPT NOTE

OVERVIEW

Africa is entering a decisive decade of industrialisation. With abundant natural resources, strategic logistics corridors, and a young, expanding workforce, the continent is positioning itself as the next frontier for global manufacturing and sustainable value-chain integration.

The Africa SEZ Global Investment Forum World Tour 2026/2027 is a high-level international engagement platform designed to connect Africa's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) with global manufacturers, investors, policymakers, and trade institutions.

The Forum will present Africa as a unified investment bloc, showcasing industrial opportunities, infrastructure readiness, and competitive incentives that make African SEZs the most strategic entry point for investors seeking cost-efficient production and access to the 1.4-billion-person AfCFTA market.

OBJECTIVES

- Promote African SEZs as prime destinations for foreign direct investment (FDI) and industrial partnerships.
- Position SEZs as launchpads for global manufacturers targeting new markets.
- Highlight Africa's competitive edge in raw materials, workforce, and logistics.
- Strengthen collaboration between SEZ authorities, private developers, DFIs, and multinational corporations.
- Facilitate deal-making, knowledge transfer, and policy alignment through curated B2B interactions.

KEY SECTORS OF FOCUS

- Raw Materials & Processing: mining, beneficiation, agro-processing, textiles, petrochemicals.
- Manufacturing & Industry: automotive, electronics, pharmaceuticals, machinery.
- Green Energy & Transition: solar, wind, hydrogen, and green minerals supply chains.
- Logistics & Trade Corridors: integrated port, airport, and dry-port SEZ infrastructure.

Key Indicator	Verified Data	Source
Market Access	1.4 billion consumers; combined GDP ≈ USD 3.4 trillion under the AfCFTA	UNCTAD (2023); World Bank (2023)
SEZ Footprint	Over 200 operational SEZs; 70 + under development across 40 + countries	UNIDO & AEZO Outlook (2023)
Mineral Wealth	30 % of global reserves: 55 % cobalt (DRC), 46 % manganese, 21 % graphite, 9 % copper	World Bank (2023); IMF (2024)
Human Capital	60 % of the population is under 25; median age 18.8 years	UN Population Prospects (2024)

These factors create unmatched leverage for manufacturers seeking resource proximity, cost efficiency, and intra-continental trade reach.

FORUM STRUCTURE & ROADSHOW ITINERARY

The World Tour will be segmented by region to maximize targeted engagement:

- **Q4 2026 – India & Middle East** Mumbai , Riyadh, Abu Dhabi (19th - 26th Nov 2026)
- **Q1 2027 – Asia & Pacific**: Singapore, Shanghai, Tokyo (15th - 23rd March 2027)
- **Q2 2027 – USA** NewYork, Houston, Silicon Valley (21st- 29th June 2027)
- **Q3 2027 – Europe** London, Paris, Frankfurt (20th- 28th September 2027)

Each engagement will feature:

- **SEZ Exhibitions & Investment Showcases**
- **High-Level Investor Forums & Keynote Dialogues**
- **Private B2B and B2G Matchmaking Sessions**
- **Deal-Signing and MoU Ceremonies**

This structure ensures focused investor interaction, tangible outcomes, and enduring strategic partnerships.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased FDI inflows into African SEZs and industrial parks.
- New strategic partnerships with global manufacturers, financiers, and logistics players.
- Strengthened global perception of Africa as a manufacturing and supply-chain hub.
- Enhanced policy coherence, knowledge sharing, and industrial linkages among SEZ stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

The SEZ Global Investment Forum World Tour 2026/2027 is more than a promotional event; it is a continental investment mission. By uniting Africa's SEZs under a single, strategic platform, the Forum will accelerate industrial partnerships, unlock FDI pipelines, and position Africa at the centre of global supply-chain diversification. Africa has the land, labour, logistics, and leadership. Now is the time to turn zone potential into global production power.