



Call for applications



Africa 2050 Forum

12 and 13 June 2023

Africa at the heart of International Geneva

The annual meeting of actors committed to sustainable development in Africa

Context

Since the creation of the UN, Africa has been the geographical area where the challenges to its action are most acute. This is why the UN system is fully mobilised, through its main bodies, its numerous funds, programmes, and specialised agencies, in favour of and alongside Africans and all partners committed to the continent.

One of the proofs of this general mobilisation is obviously the important place of Africa in the work of International Geneva. "Although the *UN headquarters is in New York, it is from Geneva that the UN conducts most of its operations*": humanitarian operations, environmental and climate issues, the fight against epidemics, the fight against human rights violations, negotiations, and agreements by governments on trade, issues related to disarmament, conflict resolution¹, new technologies, water, risk management, etc. In all these areas, Africa is in the front line because of its history, the youth of its states and the challenges it faces. This is a fact that has been noted by UN actors and other experts who analyse the deployment of UN action throughout the world.

*"Not a week goes by without the issue of Africa's development being discussed in international Geneva, whether in the context of the work being done at the UN or in a symposium organised by an NGO."*²

This shows how much Africa is at the heart of international Geneva since it is the main object of work, reflection, and action of the various actors of the Geneva of action.

¹ See the Presentation of *International Geneva* via <https://geneve-int.ch/fr/geneveinternationale>

² See the words of Geneva academic Didier Péclard, reported by Alain Jourdain in his article, "L'Afrique émerge, mais cela reste compliqué", published in 2016 and accessed in August 2022, via the link <https://www.tdg.ch/lafrique-emerge-mais-cela-reste-complique-683049710897>





Located in the heart of international Geneva, *Africa 21* is a think tank that aims to be the driving force behind reflection and exchange on the practices of actors in the field of sustainable development on the African continent. Within the framework of its mandate, it intends to launch an annual meeting where all the actors of international Geneva committed to Africa can dialogue, exchange, share experiences, visions, points of view and reflections for greater coordination, coherence, and success, but also reflect on the future of the continent and the evolution of practices and trends that will shape the Africa of tomorrow.

The themes on the programme of the 1st edition of the Africa Forum, with their respective round tables.

📄 **Water challenges in Africa**

- o Sharing water in fragile contexts, issues around peace and transboundary water management
- o Water and ecosystem protection, the dangers and inequalities of gold mining
- o Water-related knowledge: towards a new approach to climate-water data and the challenges of groundwater resources

📄 **African cities and lifestyles**

- o Digital: a tool to transform and improve living conditions in African cities?
- o The development of the commons in Africa, a viable urban alternative?
- o African cities facing climate change: what challenges for what resilience?

📄 **The African Continental Free Trade Area, crises, and economic recovery**

- o Economic potential of the AfCFTA by 2050, post-COVID state of play and green recovery, what does it mean in concrete terms ?
- o Can the AfCFTA foster the development of a continental green hydrogen industry?
- o The AfCFTA and agribusiness in Africa, what impacts on local agriculture and food security?

Throughout the discussions, two cross-cutting topics will be addressed: impacts and adaptations to the effects of climate change, and new African technologies and innovations. A special focus will be placed on the issue of water, following the UN Water Conference in New York.

Candidates wanted

We are looking for speakers, whether they are experts, researchers, practitioners working on or towards the African continent for Geneva-based International Organisations, Universities, Think Tanks, NGOs or from the private sector, with ideas and experience to share, as well as a reflection on the future of the African continent by 2030 or 2050.





Depending on the constitution of the round tables, the language of expression may be French or English.

[How to register](#)

To apply, please send an email by **Sunday 21 May 2023**, to info@africa21.org containing:

- A photo
- A biography
- Your contact details: email address, WhatsApp number, possibly your LinkedIn profile
- A motivation email indicating the choice of the round table on which you wish to speak and the reasons for this choice. We expect you to include in this message your vision of the future as well as a few brief points of the elements you would like to develop during your intervention (no more than one page maximum).

