

The New York Forum[®]

August 28-30, 2015
Libreville, Gabon

AFRICA

New York Forum AFRICA honours transformational leadership in official opening

Three great Presidents and Nobel Peace Prize winner will speak at August summit

Libreville, Gabon, June 11 2015 – Three of the most lauded former Presidents of the last two decades have been confirmed as speakers at The New York Forum AFRICA (NYFA), the most significant pan-African business summit to be held this year. Speaking at the forum, August 28-30 2015 in Libreville, Gabon under the High Patronage of His Excellency Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic, will be Nobel Peace Prize-winner Lech Walesa, John Kufuor and Andrés Pastrana. Joining them will be another Nobel Peace Prize winner, Leymah Gbowee of Liberia.

Lech Walesa, the first democratically elected President of Poland (1990-95), won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983, having led the 10 million-strong Solidarity Labor Movement, the first independent trade union in the Soviet bloc. He presided over Poland's transformation from a communist to a post-communist state and his term in office set Poland on the way to becoming a free market democracy.

John Agyekum Kufuor was President of the Republic of Ghana (2001-2009) and Chairperson of the African Union (2007-2008). His victory in Ghana marked the first peaceful democratic transition of power in the country since it became independent 50 years earlier. He currently serves as UN Special Envoy and co-chairs the Global Panel on Climate Change and Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition. He is the Founder and Chairman of the Board of the John A. Kufuor Foundation.

Andrés Pastrana was the 30th President of Colombia, and led his country from 1998 to 2002, out of three decades of civil war, tackling corruption and drug trafficking and initiating a peace process, and negotiating US assistance in the war against drugs.

Nobel Peace Prize-winner **Leymah Gbowee** is the leader of the Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace movement. Alongside fellow winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, she helped usher in a period of peace that enabled a free election in 2005 where Johnson Sirleaf was victorious.

The New York Forum's founder **Richard Attias** said: "These great figureheads have been recognised around the world for the positive change brought about by their leadership. They will speak on the opening day, where we will discuss legacy and transformation – and each has proven they can deliver what it takes to lead a country towards peaceful democracy. Furthermore, they will share their insights with students and job-seekers from across the continent, to encourage and inspire Africa's next generation."

More than 1,500 business and political stakeholders are expected to attend this year's NYFA, alongside African youth (students, young entrepreneurs, and job-seekers). The theme of the Forum is **Invest in the Energy Continent**; it will focus on the new dynamism in the continent, from entrepreneurs and inward investment, as well as the growing energy sector. Key topics include: economic dynamism; energy sector opportunities; entrepreneurship and enterprise; job creation and economic diversification; education and innovation. **The New York Forum AFRICA is the only pan-African business summit to be held in Africa in 2015.**

The NYFA is composed of vibrant, action-orientated debates and panels, as well as sector-specific breakout sessions and workshops. In addition, the NYFA 2015 will again host the **Marketplace**, a virtual and traditional



meeting-place for participants to book one-on-one meetings with Gabonese stakeholders as well as international corporations, which will increase in size for NYFA 2015.

ABOUT NEW YORK FORUM

The New York Forum® was established with the conviction that business has arrived at a crossroads. It is crucial to send a strong optimistic message about the world economy's future, to work towards redefining corporate governance, to create long-term value, and to re-invent business models through uniting all economic stakeholders.

Our goal focuses on consolidating the link between economic growth and job creation, on the importance of cities as key drivers of dynamism and innovation, on the challenges that are business leaders have to meet within a climate of volatility and uncertainty, and on the special opportunities created by the growth of emerging economies. <http://www.ny-forum.com>