AGENDA
Africa Open for Business is a forum which provides an opportunity to explore how business should be done and labor opportunities should be created in Africa, including its diaspora, and for diverse stakeholders to share perspectives. This includes the ideas, the experiences and initiatives of the private sector, high level representatives from international organizations, governments, civil society, art and culture, and academia. Additionally, with the African diaspora as the sixth region of Africa, the Summit serves as an enabling environment for discourse between those inside and outside the continent.

Building on the Women of the Diaspora Summit Series, initiated in 2020 by ARDN, in collaboration with the Republic of Costa Rica, UNFPA and UN Women, the theme of this year’s Africa Open for Business is Economic Empowerment of Women through AfCFTA, and will focus particularly on the following Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs):

- **Sustainable Development Goal #5**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- **Sustainable Development Goal #8**: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- **Sustainable Development Goal #9**: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

**Sustainable Development Goal #17**: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The format of the Summit will be divided into four distinct sections:
- Addresses by the guest of honour and keynote speaker.
- Interventions by high level representatives from international organizations, government, and the private sector.
- A conversation with representatives from the private sector, local government, youth, arts and culture, civil society and academia.
- Recognition of selected champions whose efforts have served to advance the achievement of the SDGs in Africa and the diaspora.

OBJECTIVES
- Showcase the potential and promise of Africa, and highlight the positive narrative of the continent.
- Illustrate how investment and trade opportunities through AfCFTA can empower women and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, and how the African diaspora can benefit and be of support.
- Inspire and empower women leadership in the private sector, as well as other sectors of society.
- Explore and develop cross-sector and cross-border partnerships for sustainable business and sustainable development.
- Bring attention to and popularize the SDGs, particularly goals 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and 17 (Partnership for the Goals), in tandem with Africa Agenda 2063.
- Create and formulate solutions, initiatives and opportunities for achieving a better, more equitable world, through and with the support of business.

OUTCOME
The Summit is intended to serve as the beginning of the dialogue and not the end. It is hoped that the relationships built and the connections reinforced, amongst participants, through the Summit will lead to the development of opportunities for better business and a better world; and that commitments made at the Summit will encourage stronger representation of women in leadership positions in the private sector and other societal sectors, and equitable economic opportunities for women and girls.

CO-ORGANIZERS AND SPONSORS
Organized by African Renaissance and Diaspora Network (ARDN) in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations, UNFPA, UNDP Africa Bureau, UN Women and UN Habitat sponsored by HRH Prince Randy Koussou Alam-Sogan, [final list of sponsors TBD]

RED CARD CAMPAIGN
Women’s rights are human rights. In the game of football (soccer), a red card symbolizes a significant infraction of the rules. ARDN Red Card Campaign seeks to mobilize individuals from all sectors of society to commit to giving a red card to all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

The Red Card Campaign falls within the framework of the Pathway to Solution’s Initiative, an international, multilateral special project for the United Nations, spearheaded by ARDN, to popularize the SDGs, in collaboration with United Nations system entities, the international community, civil society, the private sector, academia, the world of sport and culture and governments.

To sign the Red Card Pledge: https://www.redcardpledge.com
For more about Pathway to Solutions: https://www.ardn.ngo/pathway/