

AFRICA FORWARD SUMMIT

AFRICA - FRANCE PARTNERSHIPS
FOR INNOVATION AND GROWTH

MAY 11-12, 2026 NAIROBI, KENYA



AFRICA-FRANCE PARTNERSHIPS FOR INNOVATION AND GROWTH SUMMIT

Kenya and France will jointly hold the “Africa Forward Summit: Africa-France Partnerships for Innovation and Growth” in Nairobi on 11 and 12 May 2026. The President of the French Republic, the President of the Republic of Kenya and other African heads of State and Government will attend.

The African Forward Summit is a milestone in relations between France and the African continent, nearly ten years after the speech of the French President’s speech in Ouagadougou.

This is the first summit of its kind to be hosted and co-chaired with an English-speaking country. It reflects robust and balanced Africa-France partnerships built in support of each country’s economic development – because they are based on real complementarities – and to the benefit of populations. These partnerships must

also contribute to fairer and more inclusive global governance, which rejects bloc mindsets, predation and new imperialist tendencies and are now more than ever proving their worth.

The Africa Forward Summit will illustrate the rich and dynamic relations between the African continent and France through the diversity of participants, which include States, business leaders, young people, artists, civil societies and diasporas. It will be an opportunity to highlight the commitment of France, Kenya and other African countries to stepping up mutual investment and to building and financing tangible solutions to common challenges, including health system strengthening, food sovereignty, digital competitiveness, energy access and connectivity.



AGENDA

Monday, May 11th 2026 Africa Forward: Inspire and Connect

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

8:30 – 18:00 / Africa Forward : Inspire and Connect – Business Forum

MAIN LIBRARY

The forum, co-organised by BPI France, Business France and Proparco, will bring together around 2000 high-level participants, including major African and French companies' top leaders as well as SMME executives and young entrepreneurs.

- > **8:30 / Opening ceremony by the French and Kenyan Foreign Affairs Ministers**
- > **11:30 – 13:00 / Africa Forward: Creation in Motion**
Following the success of the Creation Africa forums, a high-level session will focus on cultural and creative industries as a field of economic opportunities and as a driver for promoting the continent's new imaginaries and narratives.
The visit of an immersive art display will be accessible to the Summit participants after the presidential inauguration.
- > **14:00 – 15:00 / Africa Forward: Sport for Sustainable Investment**
This session supported by the AFD will highlight sport as a key pillar of the renewed partnership between Africa and France and as a driver of economic opportunities, favoring an inclusive and sustainable development. Leading players in the world of French and African sport - athletes, public and private actors top executives, sport federations – will be at the heart of the event.
- > **15:30 – 16:30 / Sports demonstrations**
Athletics, basketball and football demonstrations.
- > **17:00 – 18:00 / Closing speeches of the Business Forum by the president of the French Republic and the president of the Kenyan Republic**

9:15 – 10:15 / Africa Forward: Future Makers

AMPHITHEATER TAIFA – IN PARALLEL WITH THE BUSINESS FORUM

450 young talents, from across the African continent and France, leading high-impact projects, will gather in Nairobi to make the voices of young African and French leaders heard and to share their ideas for the future of the African continent.

19:00 / Official Dinner

STATE HOUSE

Tuesday, 12 May 2026 Africa Forward

KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER

9:15 – 10:00 / Opening ceremony

Opening speech by the president of the French Republic, the president of the Kenyan Republic, the president of Burundi, president of the AU, and the secretary-general of the United Nations.

10:30 – 12:00 / Plenary session with CEOs on energy transition and green industrialization

The session will bring together the Heads of State and Government and a coalition of 30 to 40 French and African CEOs. It will address in particular the themes of green industrialization and energy transition.

12:30 – 14:30 / Working Lunch on the reform of the international financial architecture

The luncheon will address the reform of the international financial architecture, with a view to enhancing the mobilisation of private capital — both domestic and international — for the development of the African continent.

15:00 – 16:30 / Plenary session on Peace and Security

The session will be devoted to peace and security issues in support of African mediation and the actions of the African Union.

17:00 – 18:00 / Roundtable

- 1/ health
- 2/ artificial intelligence
- 3/ agriculture
- 4/ blue economy

18:30 – 19:30 / Closing ceremony

Closing speeches by the President of the French Republic and the President of the Kenyan Republic – followed by a press conference by the two Presidents.

21:00 / Closing concert organized by Trace

KASARANI INDOOR ARENA

