



Left to Right: Mr. Piet Colruyt, EVPA Member, Ms. Katja Nwator, Ms. Margaret Olele, Ms. Toyin Adegbite-Moore, AVPA's Executive Director for West Africa, Mr. Yemi Cardoso, AVPA's Chairman of the board and Mrs. Jamy Goewie, EVPA's Community and Market Development Director

Partnering for Good

The African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA) recently launched its first convening in a series of quarterly events dubbed: The Power of Partnerships: Investing for Social Impact.

The event was held in Lagos, Nigeria and co-hosts included the European Venture Philanthropy Alliance (EVPA); Social Impact through Sustainable Investment Fund (SI2 Fund); American Business Council (ABC); and Ford Foundation.

The two-day gathering was attended by representatives from large corporate and social sector players like: Ms. Osayi Allie, CEO of ACT Foundation, Ms. Funke Shonkan, CEO Nexus and Ms. Katja Schiller Nwator, Philanthropy Advisor and Founder Philanthropic Circuit.

AVPA's Board Chair, Mr. Yemi Cardoso was in attendance along with Mrs. Uwa Osa-Oboh and Mr. Kyari Bukar who also sit on the AVPA Nigeria board. The stage was set by AVPA's Executive Director for West Africa, Ms. Oluwatoyin Adegbite-Moore who opened the conference by saying: "It is time to go beyond Aid!"

Mrs. Jamy Goewie, Community & Market Development Director for EVPA (a partner association of AVPA) was one of the guest speakers during the event. In her presentation she outlined the "power of partnership" as experienced through EVPA's network model that strategically combines the soul of philanthropy with the spirit of investing. Jamy spoke about the convergence happening around the social investment space that is pointing to the need for more strategic philanthropy, targeted at innovative and robust social enterprises.

Mr. Piet Colruyt, Founder of Social Impact through Sustainable Investments Fund (SI2 Fund) took to the stage and spoke about the benefits of being a member of EVPA. Piet is an active social investor who founded a co-working space called the Impact House – home to various organisations that represent the continuum of capital and work together to advance social impact. Piet's speech truly demonstrated the "power of partnerships" that have helped advance positive social impact.

The Colruyt family owns one of Belgium's largest retail corporation (founded in 1925) and is a leading investor in the renewable energy space – investing in ocean windmills since the late 90s.

The two-day event ended with an inspirational "Call to Action" from Kyari Bukar, co-Chair of the Nigerian Humanitarian and Prof. Patrick Utomi, Founder & CEO of the Center for Values Leadership. Both encouraged conference participants to harness the power of partnerships by supporting AVPA's mission and by taking the lead in joining the #GoodnessCompany Movement.

"It is time to go beyond Aid!"

Ms. Oluwatoyin Adegbite-Moore

African Economic Outlook 2019

Macroeconomic performance and prospects

Jobs, growth, and firm dynamism

Integration for Africa's economic prosperity



A closer look at the African Economy 2019

According to a report by the African Development Bank on Africa's macroeconomic prospects, economic growth across the continent continues to strengthen, reaching an estimated 3.5 percent in 2018 (up 1.4 percentage points from 2016). East Africa led with GDP growth estimated at 5.7 percent in 2018, followed by North Africa at 4.9 percent, West Africa at 3.3 percent, Central Africa at 2.2 percent, and Southern Africa at 1.2 percent. Analysis clearly points to the fact that all African countries would fare better with well-designed integration than without it.

Interestingly enough strategic integration and co-creation is what AVPA is all about. We believe that African countries can benefit exponentially if we collaborate, pull together resources and in a disciplined, strategic manner put our capital towards solving Africa's most pressing issues.

To read the full African Development Bank report use the following link: <https://www.afdb.org/en/knowledge/publications/african-economic-outlook/>

"We believe that African countries can benefit exponentially if we collaborate"

McKinsey Quarterly

Africa's overlooked business revolution

Booming Business Revolution

If you were asked: "How many companies in Africa earn annual revenues of \$1 billion or more, would your answer be 50, 100?" McKinsey & Company (US management consulting firm) surveyed over one thousand business executives (both in Africa and across the globe) and 50 was the maximum number chosen by most respondents. The reality is, there are 400 companies in Africa that can boast such revenue figures. Furthermore, these companies are on average more profitable and growing faster than their global peers. Read this report if you don't want to miss out on one of the 21st century's great growth opportunities:

<https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/middle-east-and-africa/africas-overlooked-business-revolution?cid=soc-web>

"400 companies in Africa boast of \$1 billion or more of annual revenue"

Evidence To Help Shape Policy

According to Ms. Manuela Geleng, of the European Commission, data provided by AVPA's partner association the European Venture Philanthropy Association (EVPA) "constitute much-needed evidence and contribute to shaping EU policy and initiatives." Ms Geleng holds the position of Director of the "Skills" Directorate, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

One of the reports Ms. Geleng was referring to is entitled: Investing for Impact – The EVPA Survey 2017/2018. The report analyses data collected from 110 European Investors for impact, that support social purpose organisations both in Europe and across the globe, through the core practices of the Venture Philanthropy approach (i.e. tailored financing, non-financial support and impact measurement and management). Some of the key findings of this report are captured below:

For 2018, European venture philanthropy and social investment organisations report growing budgets coming from a diverse group of funders, more stable and professional human resources, and an improved pipeline management. Relevant key data and trends include:

- European investors for impact help social purpose organisations (SPOs) get through the early stages of their growth, with half of the respondents providing on average €200,000 or less per SPO.
- Equity is the most patient form of capital with almost all respondents using this financial instrument to support SPOs for more than four years.
- The large majority of European investors for impact that have positive financial return expectations, seek moderated financial returns: respondents deploying equity having expectations not exceeding +10%, and those using debt expecting returns from 0% to +5%.

These are the types of reports AVPA's Knowledge Centre will be producing for our members across Sub-Saharan Africa. To download the report produced by our partner association EVPA use this link:

<https://evpa.eu.com/knowledge-centre/publications/investing-for-impact-the-evpa-survey-2017-2018>



From left to right: Mr. Pat Pillai, CEO at LifeCo UnLtd South Africa and one of AVPA's Strategic Advisors, Ms. Oluwatoyin Adegbite-Moore AVPA's Executive Director for West Africa, Ms. Nancy Kairo AVPA's Executive Director for East Africa, and Dr. Michael Schaefer, Chairman of the BMW Foundation Board.



From left to right: Ms. Nancy Kairo AVPA's Executive Director for East Africa, Mr. Pat Pillai CEO at LifeCo UnLtd South Africa and one of AVPA's Strategic Advisors, Ms. Oluwatoyin Adegbite-Moore AVPA's Executive Director for West Africa and Dr. Annette Kleinbrod, Advisor For International Cooperation at the Association of German Foundations.

Co-Creating with German Foundations

The German foundation and philanthropy landscape is changing – in a way affecting the collaboration between key German stakeholders and their African partners.

To explore the changing landscape and co-create new ways of working together while achieving one of the Association of German Foundations and the Robert Bosch Foundation (one of Germany's largest foundations and one of AVPA's founding partners) recently organized The Africa Workshop 2019 in Berlin. The workshop's overarching topic was: Exploring New Ways for Philanthropy in Cooperating with Africa. More than 50 experts from across Germany and Africa participated in the two-day workshop.

Nancy Kairo, AVPA's Executive Director for East Africa described the gathering by saying, "It was the perfect forum for development partners to explore opportunities for new forms of collaboration with our German partners."

Participants were asked to choose from one of five pre-selected challenges and then use the two days to deliberate on viable solutions. Several prototypes were developed and it's hoped that at least one or two prototypes will be implemented this year.

While in Germany, members of AVPA's senior executive team also had the opportunity to attend a cocktail party organized by the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt (one of AVPA's Founding Partners), Dr. Michael Schaefer, Chairman of the BMW Foundation Board, officially opened the gathering and called for more intentional, responsible leadership as we address the global, social challenges of our time.

Coalition To Address Youth Employment

AVPA is joining forces with Village Capital, Mercy Corps and other like-minded organizations concerned with the rising figures of youth unemployment/underemployment across Africa.

Nancy Kairo, AVPA's Executive Director for East Africa, recently spoke about the issue during a breakfast meeting organized by Village Capital and Mercy Corps dubbed: Fueling Youth Employment & Workforce Development in Africa through Entrepreneurship. In her address Nancy said, "The onus is on us to solve this pressing challenge that some see as a ticking time bomb but others, like myself, view as a great opportunity to harness the hearts and minds of Africa's future leaders. AVPA is a network for social investors who are interested in deploying their financial, human or intellectual capital to address social issues. It is my personal belief that the most pressing issue of our time, and one that cuts across every sector, is the issue of youth employment. We must do all that we can, collectively, to make sure that the youth of Africa have viable, productive activities to engage in ... activities that will help them become more self-sufficient and allow them to thrive."

The primary topic of discussion for the roundtable breakfast event was the role of early stage entrepreneurship in addressing youth employment and the future of work on the continent. Participants (who were made up of service providers, intermediaries and funders) discussed strategies for eliminating barriers for entrepreneurs to scale businesses, create jobs and address critical challenges.

At the end of the gathering, participants pledged to join the coalition that will specifically focus on supporting early-stage entrepreneurs with the critical social, financial, and human capital they need to grow their businesses and create new jobs for Africa's youth.

A Success Story – Investing in Organic Cotton!

Find out how CottonConnect works to transform the cotton industry for good by creating a more transparent supply chain and providing training for local farmers in agro-economic practices. See how a member of the European Venture Philanthropy Association (EVPA – one of AVPA's partner associations) has been supporting CottonConnect for the past 10 years with significant financial and non-financial support!

Article and photo courtesy of EVPA, CottonConnect and Ben Langdon for C&A Foundation

Read full story here

<https://stories.evpa.eu.com/cottonconnect-candafoundation/>



Invitations On the Way:

It's exciting news for our new Pan African network – we are organizing several exciting events so keep an eye out for the following invitations in your email inbox:

- Joint AVPA & EVPA Symposium (Kenya): Building a local ecosystem of Venture Philanthropy – May 2019
- AVPA & USIU Regional Agribusiness Conference (Kenya): Strategic Social Investment & Youth Employment in Agribusiness – May 2019
- AVPA and I-Ban 3-Country Road Show (Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria): Building Robust Policy Environments for Increased Social-Investment & Inclusive Business Development – August 2019
- "Unlocking the Potential of Philanthropy and Impact Investments for the SDGs" – AVPA in partnership with UNDP SDG Philanthropy Platform Ghana, Philanthropy and Impact Investors Network - March 2019
- "The Power of Partnerships: Investing for Social Impact" Series on Healthcare (March) with Ford Foundation, American Business Council & Philanthropic Circuit (Nigeria)
- "Evening with Friends of AVPA" – hosted by Board members and/or founding partners (Nigeria and Ghana) – March/April/May 2019