



Absa BEN-Africa Conference

Agenda 2063 and a sustainable Africa:
The role of ethical businesses

7 - 8 NOVEMBER 2024

Host



www.benafrica.org



CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference is an international platform for stakeholders from the private sector, public sector, non-profit organisations, and academia to come together and reflect on, discuss, and respond to the opportunities and challenges related to conducting inclusive and principled business in Africa. BEN-Africa's stated mission is to strengthen the commitment and competence of Africans to do business with moral integrity.

As we convene for our 23rd annual conference in Accra, Ghana, we invite you to join us for a two-day event to explore "Agenda 2063 and a sustainable Africa: The role of ethical businesses", featuring keynote speakers, panel discussions and track presentations.

ABOUT THE THEME

Pick up just about any report to society from any business operating in Africa and chances are very good that the SDGs (the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainability) will be a central guiding framework for discussion. This is probably not surprising given:

- a. the broad popularity, bordering on global popular consensus that the SDGs enjoy;
- b. the central role played by corporates in formulating the SDGs as a business-friendly sustainable development agenda (Eccles and van der Merwe, 2020).

The same cannot be said of the African Union's Agenda 2063. Anecdotally, this seems to seldom get a mention in corporate reports to society. And certainly, we have never seen this as the central guiding framework for reporting. It is almost as though that which is of our continent is an "Invisible Man" (Ellison, 2014). And not just an "invisible man" in the eyes of those from elsewhere. Also, in our own eyes.

Our selection of the theme "The AU Agenda 2063 and a sustainable Africa - the role of ethical businesses" is therefore, in many ways, an act of consciousness raising. Our aim is to render our own continental development agenda visible to ourselves as a community interested in business ethics in Africa by reflecting directly on the Agenda 2063 aspirations of:

1. "A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
2. An integrated continent, politically united based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law
4. A peaceful and secure Africa
5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values, and ethics
6. An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children
7. Africa as a strong, united, resilient, and influential global player and partner" (AU Commission, 2015)

References:

AU Commission, 2015, Agenda 2063. The Africa we want. Available at: https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/36204-doc-agenda2063_popular_version_en.pdf Last accessed 6 March 2024.

Eccles, N.S. & van der Merwe B. 2020. "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs and corporations: A critical reflection." In: Rendtorff, J.D. (Ed). Handbook of Business Legitimacy. Springer.

Ellison, R. 2014. Invisible Man. Penguin, London.

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The conference language is English, however, papers in other languages spoken on the continent are welcome, and we will endeavour to provide a suitable forum for such papers to be presented at the conference.

SUBMISSIONS

Scholars and other experts from around the world are invited to submit industry and academic papers and posters that address the theme of “**Agenda 2063 and a sustainable Africa: The role of ethical businesses**” (please see below for suggested sub-themes). However, any papers dealing with business or organisational ethics in Africa will be considered.

The conference will take a hybrid format – both virtual and face-to-face presentations will be conducted.

Submission of academic papers may be in **abstract format** for presentation at the conference only, or as a **full paper**. Only full paper will be considered for publication in the Conference Proceedings. Full paper authors may be selected and invited to submit their papers for publication in the African Journal of Business Ethics (English)– subject to the journal’s publishing protocols.

a. Posters

Posters should be submitted in JPEG format with an abstract in Word of 500-1000 words. Posters accepted for the conference must be provided in physical format and be transported, at the author’s cost, to the conference. All Posters should be about A0 in size. Authors are encouraged to be creative. Authors are expected to present (explain) their posters at the conference in person or virtually.

Submissions should be submitted via email to **info@benafrika.org**. Timelines are the same as abstract submissions.

The best conference poster will be awarded the Arum Lily prize. Posters may be selected for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings.

b. Abstracts

The abstract of the papers will be reviewed for relevance and rigour. The word count for abstracts should be between 500-1000 words. Accepted abstracts will allow for a paper presentation of a paper during the conference track sessions but will NOT allow for full paper publication. Should you wish to submit a full paper, please see section c. below.

Abstract submissions should be submitted via email to **info@benafrika.org**. Submissions should be in Word format and contain a version with author/s’ details and a second version without author/s’ details suitable for double blind peer review.

c. Full Papers

Full paper submissions (5000-8000 words) for possible inclusion in the Conference Proceedings or the African Journal of Business Ethics (English) will be reviewed by at least three reviewers following a double-blind peer review process.

Full paper authors **may** be selected and invited to submit their papers for publication in the African Journal of Business Ethics (English) or Ethique et Societé (French) subject to the respective journal’s review and publishing protocols.

By submitting a full paper, you agree to blind peer review three other full paper submission and being on the Conference Editorial Board. Papers should be anonymised prior to submission.

Conference Proceedings ISBN Title: Absa BEN-Africa’s 23rd Annual Conference: Conference Proceedings 2024

Conference Proceedings ISBN Number: ISBN: 978-0-7961-5938-0(electronic)

Please follow the author guidelines for the African Journal of Business Ethics for both Conference Proceedings and for African Journal of Business Ethics submissions:

<https://ajobe.journals.ac.za/index.php/pub/about/submissions#authorGuidelines>

South African authors: Please note that while the Conference Proceedings are published in accordance with the South African DHET requirements for subsidy purposes, BEN-Africa and the Conference organisers do NOT provide any undertaking or guarantee that the Conference Proceedings will qualify for DHET subsidy purposes.

Only unpublished papers, not submitted elsewhere, will be considered. All accepted papers must be presented in person or virtually at the conference. A maximum of two papers may be submitted by an author.

Full paper submission should be submitted via email to info@benafrika.org. Submissions should be in Word format and contain a version with author/s' details and a second version without author/s' details suitable for double blind peer review.

TIMELINE

- August 12, 2024: Deadline for abstract submissions (500-1,000 words) and for full papers for potential publication in the Conference Proceedings and the African Journal of Business Ethics (English) or Ethique et Societé (French)*.
- September 9, 2024: Confirmation of acceptance to present at the Conference.
- October 7, 2024: Submission of final papers after review.
- November 7-8, 2024: Conference.
- 31 May 2025. Planned publication of Conference proceedings.

For papers selected for the African Journal of Business Ethics (English) or Ethique et Societé (French) (these are selected and invited to submit to the journal at the Editor-in chief's discretion):

- September to December 2024: Authors will be invited to submit their papers in the journal's submission portal. Papers will undergo a further review process to determine acceptance for the journal. Unsuccessful articles will be published in the Conference Proceedings.
- January 31, 2025: Completion of external review, and feedback to authors.
- 2025: Publication of papers.

* Please note that abstract submissions are adequate if you only intend on presenting at the conference. If, however, you are interested in publishing your paper in the Conference Proceedings or the African Journal of Business Ethics, the above deadlines must please be adhered to.

ALOE AWARD

We are also pleased to announce the Aloe award for the best conference paper. The winner will be announced at the conference. To be eligible for this award, your FULL paper must be submitted by 12 August 2024. BEN-Africa reserves the right not to make the award should an insufficient number of full papers be received by the deadline.

Registration and registration fees

Presenters are required to register and pay for the conference, as below and to make their own way to the conference.

SUB-THEMES

The conference theme is 'Agenda 2063 and a sustainable Africa: the role of ethical businesses'. Any paper that addresses this theme, or the wider theme of business ethics in Africa, will be considered.

Suggested sub-themes include:

- TBA

WIDER THEMES

- Developments in business ethics teaching and practice
- Defining the business ethics agenda for Africa: Contextual challenges and opportunities
- Managing ethics in African companies and organisations
- Poverty and sustainability: defining the challenges and the way forward



Absa BEN-Africa 23rd Annual Conference

REGISTRATION FORM

7 - 8 NOVEMBER 2024

Once completed please email registration form to:

info@benafrica.org

The registration fees are as follows:

- Early Bird special (registration and payment by 1 August 2024): USD 200 / R3000
- BEN-Africa paid member, TEI or USB-ED member: USD 235 / R3500
- Standard Registration: USD275 / R4000

TITLE FIRST NAME SURNAME

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL?

EMAIL ADDRESS

INSTITUTION / UNIVERSITY / COMPANY

FACULTY / DEPARTMENT / SCHOOL

JOB TITLE / POSITION

TELEPHONE NUMBER (COUNTRY CODE + NUMBER)

INVOICE MADE OUT TO (PERSON)

INVOICING ADDRESS

VAT NUMBER
(PLEASE NOTE BEN-AFRICA IS NOT A VAT VENDOR)

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL COMMENTS

Empowered by



**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**

Terms and conditions

1. Bookings are only confirmed on receipt of a registration form and full payment unless arrangements have been made with the conference organisers.
2. Payments can either be made per EFT or online on our conference page: <https://www.benafrika.org/conferences-and-forums/>
3. Registrations close one week before a Conference starts. All registrations not paid one week prior to the event will be cancelled to accommodate people from the waiting list.
4. Cancellations two weeks prior incur a 30% penalty. No refunds will be made on cancellations incurred one week prior to the programme. Applicants who have made payment may be substituted by another person at any time prior to the event without incurring an additional fee. BEN-Africa must be notified of any changes in writing.
5. Late registrations will have a 24-hour window period to confirm their registration and payment.
6. All registrations not conforming to these terms and conditions will be cancelled at no cost to BEN-Africa.

ACCEPTANCE OF T&C'S*

- I acknowledge that I am aware of the terms and conditions.
*Acceptance of affiliation validation**
- If I have indicated that I am a member of partner organisations, I accept that this will be verified.

DATE

SIGNATURE (PRINT IN NAME)*

**Thank You! We look forward to seeing you at the
23rd Annual Absa BEN-Africa Conference!**

Empowered by



**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**