



RESS RELEASE / Africa Business Day 2023 explores Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) as key theme

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Baden, 20 June 2023 – This year’s Africa Business Day took place in Baden under the patronage of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO, bringing together 350 participants from 29 countries representing nearly 200 companies and organizations. 10 Ambassadors based in Switzerland representing African countries were also amongst attendees. The event explored the topic of ESG through keynote presentations and dedicated breakout sessions that focused on the opportunities that ESG will create on the African continent, the way in which business is partnering to create shared value, the ways in which the private sector is engaging with local communities to create positive social impact in the region and how companies are measuring and tracking ESG. An important topic throughout the day included how sustainability and ESG can be made to go beyond reporting and have a positive social impact on the African continent.

“It is critical to have a conversation about ESG standards and reporting and how this can be applied to the African context, according to local priorities. Environmental sustainability and good governance are extremely important, but it is critical to ensure that the opportunities that emerge through ESG ultimately have a positive social impact.” says Michael Rheinegger, Managing Director, Swiss-African Business Circle.

This year’s Africa Business Day also introduced innovative new formats including breakout sessions focused on its key priority sectors including agribusiness, health and infrastructure as well as a country B2B networking zone. A session was also organized to highlight the footprint of African companies in Switzerland.

Speakers who shared their insights on ESG and their company’s approach during the morning keynote sessions included: Sebastien Mazzuri, Managing Director, FSG; John Ngoru, Chief Human Resources Officer – Africa Region, Bata; Yaron Tchwelli, CEO, Mitrelli Group; and Barbara Vrede, Head Strategy, Sustainability and ESG, Novartis.

Other companies that shared their expertise and experience during breakout sessions included Wesd Capital, KliK Foundation, Vitol, The Private Infrastructure Development Fund PIDG, KPMG Germany, Swisscontact, JTI, Center for Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability CCRS, Sika, Bellevue Asset Management, ShEquity, Syngenta, Bühler Group, Bureau Veritas Switzerland, University of St Gallen, the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers IFPMA, Ferring Pharmaceuticals, R20 (consortium member of the Subnational Climate Fund), Swiss Export Risk Insurance SERV, Switzerland Global Enterprise S-GE, Swiss Business Hub Southern Africa, El Sewedy Group and Ethiopian Airlines.

About SABC

The Swiss-African Business Circle (SABC) is the leading independent association promoting business contacts and links between Switzerland and Africa. It provides its members with an influential network and a unique platform dedicated to the exchange of expertise, experience, projects and ideas, thereby fostering partnerships and opening new business perspectives. In doing so, the association advocates for Africa as an important business destination amongst the Swiss business community. More information available at: www.sabc.ch.

About the Africa Business Day

The **Africa Business Day** is the indispensable annual platform in Switzerland for doing business in and with Africa. Africa Business Day, organised by the Swiss-African Business Circle, takes place under the patronage of the **State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)** and brings together **350 participants** including CEOs, members of the Board, business development managers, export managers and investors. During the event, African Embassies/Missions present investment opportunities in their respective countries at **country desks** in the dedicated exhibition area. More information about the Africa Business Day at: www.sabc.ch/africa-business-day.

Media contact:

Helina Bischoff
Deputy Managing Director
Swiss-African Business Circle

hb@sabc.ch

+41 76 536 7877