

TFi4SD
AFRICA

Trade, FDI and Innovation
for
Sustainable Development

2018

**2018
ANNUAL
ECONOMIC
SUMMIT**

HEALTHCARE
INNOVATIONS
SESSION

DISCUSSION PAPER

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Las Palmas de Gran Canaria,
Canary Islands



GLOBAL
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1.0 BACKGROUND

The travel in search of medical care that is either unavailable, unaffordable or proscribed at home is widely described as medical tourism. Medical tourism continues to attract attention in contemporary healthcare discourses in Africa.

The continent's medical tourism market is expanding; without appropriate mechanisms to facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building, it is obvious that Africa will continue to lose billions of dollars in overseas medical services. This will, no doubt, undermine the continent's quest for sustainable development.

2.0 FOCUS

Medical tourism is big business. While destination countries continue to reap huge economic benefits, source markets without the necessary frameworks to ensure backward linkages will be worse off. One of the main reasons Africa is a net loser in the global medical tourism market is the lack of capacity to develop a healthcare innovation ecosystem with long-term beneficial partnerships capable of spurring cutting-edge medical technologies, techniques and best practices in the continent's healthcare delivery.

The themes for the session are drawn from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹. Through our highly interactive session, achieved through a combination of masterful facilitation, expert panelists and to-the-point questions, key issues will be addressed. Particularly, issues tied directly to SDGs 3, 9, 10 and 12 will be prioritized.

¹<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

3.0 SPEAKERS

Five speakers will provide useful insights, perspectives and experiences that may help advance the points outlined in the preceding section.

Among others, these may include:

- Practitioners: Two medical practitioners with a good knowledge of innovation ecosystems in the African and Western healthcare delivery systems
- High profile medical tourism destination – A representative from a country where medical tourism is a major economic driver, in addition to helping to manage and sustain its growth and benefits.
- Funding partners – One or two representatives from multilateral development financial institutions such as the World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Canadian Development Finance Institute or the African Development Bank.
- Model medical tourism destination – A representative from an African nation that has adopted the SDG principles and is charting its route towards becoming a sustainable medical tourism destination.

4.0 INTENDED SESSION OUTCOMES

The proposed outcomes from this session include:

- Determine the drivers, barriers and opportunities related to sustainability in medical tourism partnership programming.
- In a bid to identify strategic recommendations – which can be used to inform policy and decision-making by governments and industry, respectively – create multiple scenarios for the future of the African healthcare sector based on the outcome of the panel discussion.

- Devise a coherent strategy that can help advance healthcare knowledge sharing and capacity building efforts.
- Identify and present to funding partners key initiatives targeted at ensuring maximum benefits accrue to African economies through backward linkages from medical tourism.
- Identify what the regional, continental and international markets are currently valuing in the African healthcare sector, and how that may change in the future. As well, there will be a discussion about how best to address the SDGs, while highlighting the role of the African diaspora in sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Working with major partners, a framework will be developed to help identify strategic long-term goals for entities in a consortium of countries willing to participate in the United Nations' Global Registry of Voluntary Commitments & Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships.

For further information, including opportunities for collaborations and partnerships, please email: fluegel@econinstitute.org



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