



LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR JOBS IN AFRICA:

Core Infrastructure & Business Environments

March 4, 2026 | 16:00 – 17:30 | Palazzo Koch, Via Nazionale 91, Rome

Time

Activity

Moderated by Lukwesa Burak, BBC News Presenter

4:00 PM

WELCOME

- Mr. Fabio Panetta, Governor, Banca d'Italia

4:05 PM

FRAMING KEYNOTES

- H.E. Ms. Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of the Italian Republic
- H.E. Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President, Republic of Singapore
- Mr. Ajay Banga, President, World Bank Group

4:25 PM

EVIDENCE & FINDINGS FROM THE KNOWLEDGE BANK

- Mr. Paschal Donohoe, Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer, World Bank Group

4:35 PM

PANEL 1 - BUSINESS-FRIENDLY REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTS THAT UNLOCK INVESTMENT AT SCALE (AGRIBUSINESS)

- Hon. Eric Opoku, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Republic of Ghana
- Mr. Alvaro Lario, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Mr. Federico Vecchioni, Chief Executive Officer, Bonifiche Ferraresi (BF S.p.A.)
- Mr. Denis Minev, Chief Executive Officer, Bemol
- Ms. Nonkululeko Nyembezi, Chairperson, Standard Bank Group

5:00 PM

PANEL 2 - FOUNDATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SKILLS THAT ENABLE JOB CREATION (ENERGY)

- Republic of Angola (TBC)
- Mr. James Mwangi, Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Equity Group Holdings Plc.
- Mr. Claudio Descalzi, Chief Executive Officer, Eni S.p.A.
- Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, President, African Development Bank Group

5:25 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

- Mr. Paschal Donohoe, Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer, World Bank Group