



# LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR JOBS IN AFRICA:

Core Infrastructure & Business Environments

March 4, 2026 | 4:15 PM | Palazzo Koch, Via Nazionale 91, Rome

## Time Activity

*Moderated by Lukwesa Burak, BBC News Presenter*

4:15 PM

### WELCOME

- Fabio Panetta, Governor, Banca d'Italia

4:25 PM

### FRAMING KEYNOTES

- H.E. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President, Republic of Singapore
- Ajay Banga, President, World Bank Group

4:45 PM

### EVIDENCE & FINDINGS FROM THE KNOWLEDGE BANK

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

5:00 PM

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

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

5:30 PM

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

- James Mwangi, Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Equity Group Holdings Plc.
- Nonkululeko Nyembezi, Chairperson, Standard Bank Group
- Claudio Descalzi, Chief Executive Officer, Eni S.p.A. (ENI)
- Sidi Ould Tah, President, African Development Bank Group

6:00 PM

### CLOSING REMARKS

- H.E. Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of the Italian Republic