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ORAL STATEMENT OF THE BUSINESS SUMMIT

PRESENTED BY

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**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
11th SUMMIT OACPS HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026
MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

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Presentation of the Key Recommendations

1. At the conclusion of the OACPS Business Summit, held in Malabo on the margins of the 11th Summit, a clear direction has emerged: to fundamentally transform our economies.
2. In a global context marked by crises, technological disruptions, and economic tensions, it is no longer possible to rely on models based on the export of raw materials. OACPS States must take a decisive step forward and become integrated centres of production, local processing, and innovation.
3. This transformation is within reach, but it will not happen without a key driving force: the private sector. It must be placed at the heart of this dynamic, as a strategic partner, a creator of value, and a lever for sustainable transformation.
4. The high-level dialogue highlighted a clear imperative: to redefine the partnership between States and the private sector around a genuine pact of trust, based on predictable rules, stable regulatory frameworks, and a results-oriented culture.
5. The time for declarations of intent has passed. The priority now is to make a decisive shift by translating political ambitions into concrete, credible, and bankable projects capable of attracting and mobilising large-scale financing.
6. The thematic discussions identified three major priorities:
 - **Industrialisation and local transformation:** accelerating the added-value processing of natural resources, promoting regional value chains, and supporting sustainable industrialisation.
 - **Digitalisation and innovation:** investing in infrastructure, skills, and regulatory frameworks to make digital transformation a cross-cutting driver of competitiveness.
 - **SMEs and inclusive finance:** improving access to financing, strengthening guarantee mechanisms, and supporting entrepreneurship, particularly among youth and women.
7. In this regard, the experience of Gabon's National Development and Growth Plan illustrated the importance of a clear strategic vision supported by credible implementation mechanisms.
8. At the conclusion of the discussions, the following key recommendations were shared:
 - i. Making local resource transformation a strategic priority;
 - ii. Strengthening public-private partnerships as operational tools for financing and implementation;
 - iii. Investing massively in digitalisation, innovation, and skills;
 - iv. Developing financial instruments tailored to SMEs;
 - v. Deepening South-South and triangular cooperation;
 - vi. Emphasising measurable results monitored over time.

9. The Summit strongly reiterated a simple requirement: without rigorous monitoring mechanisms, our commitments will remain ineffective. We must now embed our actions over the long term, with clear frameworks that translate dialogue into concrete, measurable, and sustainable partnerships. It also underscored the importance of follow-up mechanisms to ensure that exchanges lead to tangible and lasting partnerships.
10. Ultimately, this Summit confirms that the OACPS must take a decisive step forward and become an action-oriented organisation, capable of creating real opportunities for its Member States and delivering tangible improvements in the lives of our populations. In this dynamic, the private sector will be a key driving force.