

**100% of participants in the APSS Ecosystem’s Pilot Study on the Draft Charter on Private Sector Development, Rights and Protection Environment in Africa [a.k.a Private Sector Bill of Rights - PSBoR] say “YES!” to their willingness to endorse the PSBoR!**

*Accra, Ghana* - Dr. Lucy Surhyel Newman, CEO of the Africa Private Sector Summit (APSS) LBG, presented updates on recent restructuring and succession within the APSS. The goal of the restructuring, is to enhance the APSS's governance, sustainability, and institutional capacity to deliver the next phase of the corporate pan-African nonprofit and nonpartisan organization. She also announced the findings of the APSS ecosystem's recent pilot study on the draft Charter on Private Sector Development, Rights, and Protection Environment in Africa [also known as the Private Sector Bill of Rights (PSBoR) for an enabling business environment in Africa].

The PSBoR, is an instrument that has emerged from multiple series of progressive engagements across the continent with many partners and funders. It is being advocated as an accompanying instrument to the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) protocols, for the successful implementation of the AfCFTA’s laudable objectives and Africa’s aspirations for economic integration. The Source Summit and the progressive developments have received support from various continental bodies as partners - Pan Africa Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PACCI), the Federation of West Africa Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FEWACCI), the East Africa Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Agriculture (EACCIA), the International Chamber Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), the AfCFTA Policy Network (APN), Global Institute for Strategic Planning and Development (GISPD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the European Union (EU), the Coalition of Dialogues in Africa (CoDA), the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), the Corporate Council of Africa (CCA), and the Academia.

In an effort to work in close partnership with the private sector, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat hosted a Private Sector Session in collaboration with the Africa Private Sector Summit (APSS), which led an ecosystem-based side event at the 2023 Intra-African Trade Fair [IATF] held in Cairo, Egypt. The parties in the APSS led ecosystem include the Pan Africa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI), AfCFTA Policy Network (APN) and the Africa Education Trust Fund (AETF).

It was at IATF 2023, that the survey was unveiled. The objectives of the study were to assess the degree of validation for the emerging 24 rights outlined in the Charter document available on the APSS and PACCI websites, ascertain participants’ interest in receiving future updates on the planned regional and continental vetting and validation process for the PSBoR in Africa’s 5+ 1 geographic regions, namely, North, South, East, West, Central, and Diaspora Africa. It also sought to ascertain participants’ endorsement of the PSBoR. The survey consisted of 12 questions that gathered essential demographic information, evaluated the order of priority and interest in the 24 rights, and secured consent for future contact regarding events aligned with the Charter. The survey was open from November 12, 2023 to December 31, 2023. The participant sample was random and based on interest. A total of 73 participants, largely leaders in their own organizations, operating in 19 African countries, including the diaspora, participated.



The findings indicate significant acceptance of the 24 rights, ranging from 71.23% for the right to 'Conduct business activities in RECS and AfCFTA Member States without engaging in bribery and corrupt practices' to 97.26% for the right to 'peace, security, and stability to ensure trade and investment opportunities'. Noteworthy highlights include a 100% willingness to sign the PSBoR and a 98.63% interest in receiving updates on the regional vetting and validation of the PSBoR, including its aspirational adoption at the AU Heads of States Summit in 2025. It is expected that this survey, being a pilot study, will be repeated at each of the 5+1 geographic regions with a final comprehensive survey, at the continental summit, to produce wholesome aggregated data, on the PSBoR.

The APSS CEO, Dr. Lucy Surhyel Newman further expressed the delight of the APSS ecosystem partners and leadership in the findings from this pilot study. She went on to advise that a lot is happening behind the scenes at APSS, in terms of its own internal capacity. She recounted [a] her own appointment as CEO of APSS in August 2023, [b] appointments of Mr. Fortunate Kwiringira, as the APSS Director Technical and Mr. Adedayo Dayo-Dunmoye as APSS Director Projects, [c] the nomination of Prof. Kingsley Moghalu a former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, as the Chair of an expanded 17 person APSS Advisory Board and 13 person APSS Executive Board, and successor to the APSS Founder, Mr. Judson Wendell Addy, who is now Chair Emeritus and a non-executive member of the Advisory Board. She also mentioned that Mr. Benjamin Acheampong, a co-founder of APSS, has become a non-executive member of the APSS Advisory Board and Prof. Sampson Ndogo, a co-founder of APSS, has become a non-executive member of the APSS Executive Board. Dr. Jeannine U Nicol, the former APSS treasurer, is now also a non-executive member of the APSS Executive Board, and Mr. Kingsley K.N. Asah, the former APSS Board Secretary, now has an expanded portfolio as the Board Secretary for both the Advisory Board and Executive Board as listed in the leadership section of the APSS website, at <https://africaprivatesectorsummit.org/leadership/#tab-id-15>. A joint Advisory and Executive Board Inauguration and Induction is scheduled for February 12, 2024 ahead of the planned 17th – 18th February 2024 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

In terms of the APSS agenda for 2024, Dr. Newman stated that once the new Advisory and Executive Boards are inaugurated, APSS will engage its key ecosystem partners and sponsors to align programmes for the calendar year 2024 and its strategy plan for the period 2024 to 2026. The APSS will also commence mobilisation of its ecosystem and partners to deliver APSS Series 3, which is the regional PSBoR vetting and validation summit that will be virtual. Afterwards, the regional summits will feed a major continental vetting and validation summit that is being planned as the final hybrid continental vetting and validation summit, named APSS Series 4, which Botswana has indicated interest in hosting, with Business Botswana as the partner to the APSS. The President of the Republic of Botswana attended APSS Series 1 in 2021. Therefore, Dr. Newman said, "The Republic of Botswana offering to host APSS Series 4 and the President showing keen interest in the PSBoR come as a huge compliment to the APSS and its partners in the ecosystem." She indicated that the APSS-led ecosystem will, in 2024 in its mandate as a nonpartisan, nonprofit, and pan-African corporate organization that supports the African private sector. The APSS, in partnership with its key sponsors and partners, will approach a shortlist of African presidents and heads of state whose countries score at least three out of four criteria: (a) members of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), (b) members of AfCFTA (and GTI participation), (c) have demonstrated business friendliness, and (d) have at least 60% of their citizens satisfied with their government, based on publicly available information. The APSS will request the leaders' personal endorsement of the PSBoR and consent to champion it within their respective countries and across Africa.

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