



Word of the Director

Times of crises often present the temptation for short termism, inward-looking and even protectionist policies. But both COVID 19 and the war in Ukraine remind us that the only truly effective solutions to today's challenges lie in global solutions. With mounting economic and social challenges, we must stay the course in working to strengthen multilateralism.

In this edition of our Digest, we explore emerging narratives on doing development differently towards a #FutureSmartAfrica. From [smart urban resilience](#) and [redefining resilience](#) – both the object of the recent [High-Level Dialogue on Re-Defining Resilience](#), to new ways to engage the informal sector, [transformation will require new policy approaches](#). Bold initiatives will be required to surface the power of innovation – an area in which our [timbuktoo](#) initiative starts to chart a path.

Ahunna Eziakonwa

Turning new challenges into fresh opportunities for transformation in Africa

African countries are facing the perfect storm of at least 3 crises: COVID 19, Ukraine war impacts and the climate emergency. [Now is the time to act](#) and build a resilient Africa. UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa's [report on the impact of the war in Ukraine](#) analyses the short and longer-term effects on Africa's progress. It confirms the cost of living crisis that continues to augment and offers recommendations for immediate and medium term action towards a more resilient development trajectory that truly [enables Africa to become not only self-sufficient](#) but an equal partner contributing to the world's ability to withstand major global shocks. [Report Impact on Ukraine](#)

The future of development partnership with Africa

At a time when multilateralism is suffering heavy setbacks, and where defunding development is ongoing, redoubling advocacy efforts to keep attention to the Sustainable Development Goals is critical. UNDP's Director for the Regional Bureau for Africa conducted an official mission to Europe and to Japan – raising attention to the need to keep a focus on development. Her message: we need to stem the tide of development regression in Africa caused by the war in Ukraine. This is not a time to turn our backs on development. Rather, it is a time to build stronger investment partnerships with mutual benefits will truly enable us to leave no one behind.

[See our video summarizing these visits](#)

timX Kigali, sparking Africa's startups revolution

New, bold ideas are essential to achieving a Future Smart Africa. Aiming to bridge a critical gap in Africa's innovation ecosystem, UNDP's new initiative [timbuktoo](#) walks on the path less trodden, taking on the critical challenge of building up risk capital to the tune of 1 billion dollars, while creating an ecosystem in support for youth innovation that will power Made in Africa. Igniting a startups revolution in Africa, a first public timX event in Kigali mobilized Rwanda's vibrant innovation community and marked the beginning of a deep transformation maximizing Africa's ingenuity, resources and opportunities.

A just, green transition in Africa remains a priority

At a time when many countries are increasing fossil fuel production in response to the current energy crisis, the [Sustainable Energy for All Forum in Kigali](#) came as a stark reminder that our survival and that of the future generation lies in our ability to rapidly scale up renewable and green energy sources. With 570 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa still left behind with no access to electricity. This meeting also unpacked what a just transition looks like for [Africa](#).

[Read UNDP's call for vastly increased public and private investment to transform energy systems](#)

[Watch UNDP Africa Director and Rwanda Resident Representative's conversation with CNBC Africa](#)

Bringing Africa's SMEs centrestage for accelerated structural transformation

Discover our new episode of "Big Ideas Transforming Africa", which features an in-depth conversation with Dorothy Ng'ambi Tembo, Deputy Executive Director of the International Trade Center (ITC). With a stellar record supporting SMEs, UNDP Africa sat down with her to hear her share some recipes for success in creating export – ready SMEs.

[Watch the full conversation](#)

