

6 NOVEMBER 2024



BOOST AFRICA 2.0

*A POTENTIAL JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN AfDB AND EIB FOR AFRICAN UNITY
2026 AND AFRICAN UNITY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE*

EUSL
CARE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

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Boost Africa 2.0: A Strategic Proposal to Advance Sustainable African Development

Proposed by the European Social Label (EUSL) for the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) in Collaboration with the European Investment Bank (EIB)

Executive Summary

The success of the original *Boost Africa* initiative is a testament to AfDB's dedication to fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable development across Africa. Building upon this foundation, we propose *Boost Africa 2.0*, a multidimensional program that amplifies the impact of the original Boost Africa and further aligns with Africa's strategic development agenda, **Agenda 2063**. This initiative not only represents a step forward in achieving social, economic, and environmental goals, but it also positions AfDB as the vanguard of transformative change for a prosperous and sustainable Africa.

Boost Africa 2.0 introduces a *multidimensional envelope* approach that combines four development dimensions, each designed to address the critical needs facing Africa today. Our intention is for AfDB to champion this initiative, gaining heightened visibility and public acknowledgment, with support from EIB and EUSL, thereby transforming Boost Africa 2.0 into a hallmark of AfDB's leadership in sustainable African development.

The initiative's structure, which we believe will capture the interest of a broad array of stakeholders, is organized into four dimensions:

1. **Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP):** A high-impact, socially focused program designed to address food security, technological innovation, and skill development.
2. **African Unity 2063:** A suite of ten principal programs, including SDEP and fully in alignment with Agenda 2063, complemented by five supporting programs that collectively span areas such as education, health, digital economy, and environmental resilience. Focus areas are implementation of strategies, job creation and fulfillment of various agendas.
3. **African Unity Centre for Excellence (AUCE):** A premier research and development hub encompassing 18 specialized divisions, fostering innovation and collaboration across Africa and Europe through partnerships with leading universities.
4. **ECHO Platform for a Sustainable Africa:** A digital resource platform empowering COMESA and its member states with real-time data and tools for sustainable resource management and policy decision-making.

Chapter 1: Strategic Alignment and Vision

Boost Africa 2.0 builds on the remarkable achievements of the initial Boost Africa project, expanding its focus to meet the continent's growing and diverse needs. We envision Boost Africa 2.0 as a dynamic platform that provides AfDB with an opportunity to lead this multifaceted effort, creating real and lasting impacts across Africa.

Vision and Goals



Our aim is to introduce Boost Africa 2.0 as a uniquely structured multidimensional envelope, representing a comprehensive solution to address Africa’s developmental needs in a highly visible and impactful way. This approach aligns directly with AfDB’s core mission and supports key Agenda 2063 targets through a streamlined and focused structure. Boost Africa 2.0 is more than just a program—it is a partnership-led movement for sustainable growth that reinforces AfDB’s standing as a foremost leader in Africa’s development.

Key objectives include:

- **Empowering African Economies:** Boost Africa 2.0 seeks to promote economic growth and resilience through four interconnected dimensions that support regional markets, boost digital innovation, and drive sustainable job creation.
- **Strengthening AfDB’s Public Role:** With Boost Africa 2.0, AfDB can lead by example, visibly championing a comprehensive initiative that embodies the Bank’s commitment to Africa’s future.
- **Expanding Collaborative Opportunities:** This initiative reinforces AfDB’s relationships with EIB, EUSL, and other potential partners, creating a stronger foundation for collaboration and investment while supporting public-private partnerships.

Chapter 2: The Four Dimensions of Boost Africa 2.0

Boost Africa 2.0 is intentionally designed as a *multidimensional envelope* of initiatives, each dedicated to driving measurable and impactful outcomes. The following four dimensions, carefully structured to address Africa’s unique challenges and opportunities, represent our suggested strategic areas of focus for AfDB:

1. Dimension One – Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP)

- *Objective:* The SDEP initiative aims to combat food insecurity, foster technological integration, and improve vocational training to create skilled job opportunities.
- *Implementation:* Employing EUSL’s “Charity as a Business” model, SDEP is structured to achieve self-sustainability, allowing for scalable growth and broader community impacts across key regions in Africa.
- *Impact:* With targeted support, SDEP will enhance agricultural innovation, generate technology-driven employment, and establish a robust skill-building ecosystem that supports both rural and urban communities.

2. Dimension Two – African Unity 2063

- *Objective:* African Unity 2063 encompasses ten principal programs including SDEP, directly contributing to Agenda 2063’s vision, with five supporting programs that cover essential areas such as education, healthcare, digital connectivity, and climate resilience.
- *Focus Areas:* Each program in African Unity 2063 aims to strengthen vital sectors, improve infrastructure, and expand access to services, fostering a collaborative environment that enables cross-border economic cooperation.



- *Outcomes:* This dimension encourages African unity and connectivity, positioning the continent as a cohesive, competitive force on the global stage. Through these programs, AfDB will help stimulate regional cooperation, bolster educational systems, and improve healthcare accessibility.

3. Dimension Three – African Unity Center of Excellence (AUCE)

- *Objective:* AUCE aims to become a global research powerhouse, fostering innovation across 18 critical fields, from renewable energy to agritech, in partnership with 20 esteemed universities in Europe and Africa.
- *Partnerships:* With collaborations established with top-ranking academic institutions, AUCE will drive technological and scientific advances that directly benefit African communities.
- *Impact:* AUCE is structured to position Africa as a knowledge leader, with practical research and innovative outputs contributing to local economies, improving living standards, and creating competitive markets across Africa.

4. Dimension Four – ECHO Platform for a Sustainable Africa

- *Objective:* ECHO provides a real-time, data-rich platform that enables COMESA and its member states to monitor sustainable development goals, track resource management, and optimize decision-making processes.
- *Implementation:* By incorporating ECHO, AfDB can enhance data-driven governance and foster a cooperative environment where sustainability metrics are prioritized across sectors.
- *Outcomes:* ECHO becomes a vital tool for African policymakers, driving actionable insights for sustainable development, reducing environmental impact, and ensuring effective resource management across borders.

Through this proposal, we at EUSL respectfully present Boost Africa 2.0 as an evolution of the original Boost Africa initiative, with each dimension tailored to address specific developmental needs of African communities. With AfDB's leadership, Boost Africa 2.0 will serve as a flagship program underlining the Bank's role as a catalyst for sustainable African development, solidifying its public reputation while accelerating progress toward Agenda 2063.

Chapter 3: Operational Framework for Boost Africa 2.0

To achieve the transformative goals of Boost Africa 2.0, EUSL proposes an operational framework that ensures the program's multidimensional envelope structure is both manageable and impactful. The framework emphasizes targeted execution, cross-institutional collaboration, and an emphasis on measurable outcomes. This structured approach allows AfDB to maintain leadership oversight while fostering a coordinated network of partners committed to Africa's long-term development.

Key Operational Pillars

1. **Governance and Leadership:** AfDB will establish a centralized governance structure that oversees all four dimensions of Boost Africa 2.0. This structure will ensure each program area operates cohesively, adhering to shared guidelines, goals, and timelines. AfDB's direct

involvement will not only enhance decision-making efficiency but also reinforce its public position as the driving force behind Boost Africa 2.0.

2. **Collaborative Partnerships:** AfDB will lead the coordination between EIB, EUSL, academic institutions, and additional stakeholders, ensuring each dimension receives the specialized support needed for implementation. Establishing defined roles and responsibilities for each partner will be critical in maintaining program efficiency and promoting accountability.
3. **Local and Regional Empowerment:** Boost Africa 2.0's operational framework will prioritize local and regional partnerships, particularly for the African Union 2063 and AUCE dimensions, empowering regional institutions and stakeholders to lead program execution on the ground. This approach fosters capacity building, encourages regional expertise, and ensures that program benefits are deeply rooted within the communities they serve.
4. **Evaluation and Reporting:** A core component of Boost Africa 2.0's operational success will be transparent monitoring and evaluation. EUSL suggests implementing biannual progress reviews, coupled with an annual public report detailing achievements, challenges, and strategic adjustments. This commitment to transparency will reinforce AfDB's leadership reputation and build confidence among program stakeholders.

Outcome-Driven Strategy

Each dimension of Boost Africa 2.0 is tied to a specific set of outcome-based objectives. To enhance the program's overall impact, AfDB can adopt an adaptive management approach, allowing for modifications based on real-time feedback and regional conditions. This outcome-driven focus ensures that Boost Africa 2.0 remains both dynamic and responsive, adapting as Africa's development landscape evolves.

Chapter 4: Financial Structure and Funding Mechanisms

For Boost Africa 2.0 to succeed, EUSL proposes a robust financial structure that aligns with AfDB's strategic vision and fosters sustainable growth across the continent. The financial strategy is designed to ensure sufficient resources are allocated to each dimension, with a focus on sustainability, risk management, and diversified funding sources.

Multidimensional Envelope Funding

Each of the four Boost Africa 2.0 dimensions—SDEP, African Union 2063, AUCE, and ECHO—will require dedicated financial streams that allow for scalable growth over time. EUSL recommends that AfDB establish separate budget lines for each dimension, managed under a unified Boost Africa 2.0 envelope. This multidimensional funding approach provides flexibility, allowing AfDB to allocate resources as needs evolve across different program areas.

Leveraging Joint Financing

AfDB's partnership with EIB will be instrumental in securing joint financing options, leveraging both institutions' resources to achieve greater impact. Joint financing can support projects that align with shared goals under Boost Africa 2.0, reducing financial risk while enhancing program sustainability. EUSL also encourages exploring co-financing opportunities with other international institutions, fostering a diverse funding base that amplifies AfDB's investment.

Engaging Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)



Boost Africa 2.0's financial strategy emphasizes the importance of public-private partnerships, particularly for the African Unity 2063 and AUCE dimensions. By engaging private sector partners, AfDB can diversify its funding streams, attract additional expertise, and promote innovation within each program area. These partnerships will be crucial for scaling projects and ensuring that Boost Africa 2.0 benefits from cutting-edge solutions and sustainable business models.

Establishing a Sustainable Investment Fund

To support long-term growth and mitigate funding volatility, EUSL proposes that AfDB establish a Boost Africa 2.0 Sustainable Investment Fund. This fund would pool resources from AfDB, EIB, private investors, and other international stakeholders, creating a stable financial foundation for ongoing program expansion. The fund can operate as an evergreen source of capital, reinvesting returns to support Boost Africa 2.0's initiatives and ensuring their sustainability well into the future.

Chapter 5: Pathways to Legacy and Public Engagement

The long-term success of Boost Africa 2.0 hinges on its ability to leave a lasting legacy that benefits African communities for generations to come. This chapter outlines the pathways through which AfDB can cement its leadership in sustainable African development, enhance public engagement, and create a legacy that resonates across the continent and beyond.

Building a Legacy of Empowerment

EUSL envisions Boost Africa 2.0 as an initiative that not only meets Africa's present needs but also lays the foundation for future prosperity. Each of the four dimensions contributes to this legacy by addressing key sectors—agriculture, education, digital infrastructure, and environmental management. AfDB's leadership will ensure that these sectors are transformed into pillars of empowerment, fostering economic growth and improving quality of life across Africa.

Fostering a Positive Public Image for AfDB

AfDB's role as the driving force behind Boost Africa 2.0 will allow the institution to strengthen its public image as a champion of African progress. By aligning Boost Africa 2.0 with Agenda 2063 and showcasing AfDB's commitment to sustainable development, the Bank can reinforce its reputation and build trust with stakeholders. EUSL encourages AfDB to invest in public communication efforts, including press releases, social media campaigns, and partnerships with African media outlets, to highlight program milestones and celebrate achievements.

Engaging African Communities

Community engagement is essential to the success of Boost Africa 2.0. AfDB can foster strong relationships with local communities by ensuring they are active participants in program planning, implementation, and evaluation. This community-driven approach not only empowers individuals but also creates a sense of ownership, encouraging communities to take pride in the program's achievements and contribute to its long-term sustainability.

Showcasing Milestones and Success Stories

To celebrate Boost Africa 2.0's progress, EUSL recommends that AfDB host annual "Milestone Forums" where stakeholders can review program achievements, share best practices, and discuss future directions. These forums can include representatives from local communities, government officials,



private sector partners, and international stakeholders, fostering a collaborative environment that enhances program visibility and encourages cross-sectoral learning.

Contributing to Global Development Goals

Finally, Boost Africa 2.0 aligns with several global development goals, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By contributing to these global priorities, AfDB can position Boost Africa 2.0 as a program of international significance, attracting global recognition and encouraging other institutions to invest in African development. This alignment with global goals will help ensure that Boost Africa 2.0's legacy extends beyond Africa, establishing it as a model for sustainable development worldwide.

Mutual Benefits of AfDB and EIB Collaboration

Introduction to Collaboration Benefits AfDB and EIB each bring unique strengths to Boost Africa 2.0, positioning them as ideal partners for a second-generation Boost Africa initiative. Their combined expertise, financial capacity, and regional influence provide a strong foundation for a joint venture that can address Africa's developmental needs through both depth and breadth. Together, AfDB and EIB can achieve a high-impact, multi-tiered program that accelerates sustainable growth while promoting both institutions' objectives in Africa.

1. Access to Expanded Networks and Expertise:

- *EIB's Benefit:* Access to AfDB's deep regional knowledge and established relationships with African institutions provides EIB with a localized perspective, enhancing the alignment of investment strategies with Africa's nuanced needs. Additionally, this partnership builds EIB's reputation and influence in high-impact areas like education and digital infrastructure.
- *AfDB's Benefit:* EIB's experience in large-scale financing and its established presence in EU member states allows AfDB to attract diversified funding sources and innovative financing models, which may be otherwise inaccessible. This partnership reinforces AfDB's standing in international finance and brings new financing capabilities to Boost Africa 2.0.

2. Complementary Financial and Technical Strengths:

- *EIB:* Known for its expertise in large-scale financing, EIB can utilize its project appraisal, risk assessment, and project finance skills, which complement AfDB's targeted regional focus. Together, these strengths reduce financial risk and enhance program sustainability.
- *AfDB:* AfDB's technical understanding of African development trends, paired with EIB's financial capabilities, allows both institutions to create a balanced, multidimensional financing model for Boost Africa 2.0, ensuring sustainable growth across various program dimensions.

3. Enhanced Public Image and Influence:

- The joint Boost Africa 2.0 initiative will serve as a flagship program, demonstrating both institutions' commitments to sustainable development in Africa. This high-visibility partnership provides AfDB and EIB an opportunity to showcase their leadership in



transforming Africa's economic landscape, while fostering trust with regional partners and the international community.

Roadmap Structure for Boost Africa 2.0

The roadmap for Boost Africa 2.0 should be designed to guide phased implementation, outlining key milestones and specifying timelines for each program dimension. This will ensure a coherent structure that balances immediate action with long-term goals.

Phase 1: Establishing the Program Foundation

1. Finalize Governance and Partnership Agreements:

- Define roles, responsibilities, and terms of engagement among AfDB, EIB, and core partners.
- Establish the joint governance structure to oversee Boost Africa 2.0's implementation.

2. Program Kick-Off and Public Launch:

- Initiate a high-profile launch event, gathering stakeholders from African governments, academic institutions, private sectors, and community organizations to raise program visibility.
- Announce key objectives, milestones, and AfDB and EIB's vision for Boost Africa 2.0.

3. Establish Pilot Projects for Each Dimension:

- Begin with select projects under each dimension (e.g., pilot zones for SDEP or initial research partnerships under AUCE), serving as scalable models for wider implementation.

Phase 2: Scaling Up

1. Expand Program Reach Across Dimensions:

- Increase project reach within each dimension, leveraging pilot successes as proof points.
- Gradually introduce additional regions and partners, scaling up both project scope and investment.

2. Implement Feedback Loops and Adaptive Management:

- Conduct semi-annual reviews of program progress, adjusting approaches based on real-time feedback and regional conditions.
- Initiate regular stakeholder meetings to address evolving challenges and refine operational approaches.

Phase 3: Consolidation and Legacy Building

1. Document and Publicize Achievements:

- Publish comprehensive reports highlighting major achievements, success stories, and areas of impact across all four dimensions.



- Host a capstone event to celebrate milestones, providing AfDB and EIB an opportunity to share Boost Africa 2.0's legacy with the public and stakeholders.

2. Ensure Long-Term Sustainability:

- Transition projects to local or regional ownership where possible, ensuring sustained impact.
- Establish frameworks for continued AfDB and EIB involvement as strategic advisors and potential co-investors in follow-on projects.

Clear Next Steps for Engagement with AfDB and EIB Leadership

To move forward with Boost Africa 2.0, EUSL suggests a structured set of initial engagements aimed at refining the program's structure, securing financial commitments, and establishing leadership buy-in.

1. Engagement Preparation:

- EUSL will prepare a detailed presentation tailored to AfDB and EIB executives, summarizing the multidimensional vision for Boost Africa 2.0, anticipated mutual benefits, and alignment with Agenda 2063.
- Preliminary talking points and Q&A briefs will be prepared to address potential queries from stakeholders on program specifics, expected timelines, and AfDB-EIB roles.

2. Roundtable Discussion:

- Arrange a high-level roundtable with AfDB and EIB leadership, allowing both institutions to review the roadmap, clarify governance roles, and discuss expectations for Boost Africa 2.0. During this meeting, AfDB and EIB can finalize shared program values and prioritize resource allocations across dimensions.
- Suggest aligning this roundtable with a key AfDB-EIB annual event or conference, leveraging the occasion for broader program announcement.

3. Securing Financial and Public Commitments:

- Propose an MOU or initial commitment letter to formalize the intent of AfDB and EIB to collaborate on Boost Africa 2.0, providing a public affirmation of the partnership.
- Following the MOU, work with each institution to finalize budget allocations, define funding sources, and establish a phased investment plan for Boost Africa 2.0.

4. Launch Communications Strategy:

- Develop a communication plan for the public announcement of Boost Africa 2.0, including press releases, media engagements, and regional outreach. This initial publicity will build awareness and momentum for the program, positioning AfDB and EIB as champions of Africa's sustainable growth.
- Suggest including African governmental and private sector stakeholders in the communication plan to foster early buy-in and encourage cross-sectoral support.

5. Regular Joint Review Sessions:



- EUSL proposes establishing quarterly joint review sessions to monitor progress, address emerging challenges, and celebrate successes across all program dimensions. These sessions provide an ongoing platform for AfDB and EIB to refine their collaborative strategy, adapting to new developments and strengthening their commitment to Boost Africa 2.0's objectives.

All in all, Boost Africa 2.0 represents a bold step forward for AfDB, EIB, and Africa's development community, but on a path that is familiar. EUSL is honored to present this proposal, recognizing AfDB as the ideal leader for this multidimensional envelope that advances Africa's journey toward sustainable growth, resilience, and self-sufficiency. Together, we can establish a legacy of empowerment and innovation that will benefit the continent for decades to come.