



US/UK-Africa
Business Council
DRC

DRC Investment Meeting: Partnership for Economic Growth and Job Creation Event Report

**Held in Washington DC,
October 15th 2025**

For more information :

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Summary of Main Takeaways: Delivering Strategic Impact and Defining Key Outcomes

The **DRC Investment Meeting**, convened by the US/UK-Africa DRC Business Council in partnership with George Washington University, served as a **strategic platform to translate dialogue into tangible investment and sustainable job creation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**. By uniting senior government officials, private sector leaders, and institutional partners, the forum functioned as a **bridge between policy, capital, and innovation**, spotlighting concrete opportunities for U.S.-DRC collaboration and inclusive economic growth.

The event featured top-tier leadership from government, academia, and industry, including:

Name	Full Title and Affiliation
Dr. Serge Tshibangu	Founder and Chairman, US/UK-Africa Business Council
H.E. Louis Watum Kabamba	Minister of Mining , Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
H.E. Dr. Kamba Mulanda	Minister of Public Health, Hygiene, and Social Security , Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
Hon. O. Felix Obi	U.S. Trade Representative, Executive Office of the United States President
Liz Calvey	Head of Environmental & Responsible Minerals, Google
Paul Hinks	Chairman and CEO, Symbion Power
Michael Balint	Regional Director Africa, Vitol
Hervé Claude Ntumba Batukonke	Director General, DR Congo Industrial Promotion Fund (FPI)
Dr. Danny Leipziger	Former Vice President, World Bank ; Managing Director, Growth Dialogue; Professor, GW Business School
Dr. Djordjija Petkoski	Lecturer and Senior Fellow, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Dr. Vanessa Gail Perry	Vice Dean; Professor of Marketing; Professor of Strategic Management & Public Policy, GW Business School
Aisha Bond	President, Greater Washington Black Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Josefina Echavarría Álvarez	Director of the Peace Accords Matrix, University of Notre Dame

Key participation also included companies like **Glencore** and the **British Embassy** in Washington DC.



Key Outcomes

- **Landmark MOU:** Established a framework with the Greater Washington Black Chamber of Commerce to advance **joint business initiatives, trade, and capacity-building**.
- **Trade Mission Commitment:** Agreement to organize a **U.S. trade mission to the DRC in December 2025**, fostering direct investor engagement with Congolese businesses.
- **Strengthened Partnerships:** Expanded networks among government, private sector, and institutional stakeholders, reinforcing confidence in the DRC's investment environment.

Next Steps

- **Sector-Focused Working Groups:** Advance initiatives in **critical minerals, energy, and infrastructure**.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Track progress on agreements and partnerships.
- **Follow-Up Engagement:** A **three-day conference (April 13-16, World Bank Spring Meetings)** will sustain momentum and deepen strategic collaboration.

Outlook

The Council will continue to convene **high-level forums**, support agreement implementation, and expand engagement with **investors, diaspora networks, and development partners**, serving as a central platform to promote inclusive economic growth and sustainable job creation in the DRC.



Dr. Serge Tshibangu, Founder and Chairman, US/UK-Africa Business Council



Cross-sector collaboration: Leading figures from government, business, and educational institutions convened for a critical dialogue on responsible investment in DRC and Africa



The DC Mayor's Office hosts the US/UK Africa Business Council, FPI, and Congolese business leaders for discussions on US business opportunities

Forging the Future: Driving Collaboration and Shaping the Path Forward

The DRC Investment Meeting, hosted by the US/UK-Africa DRC Business Council in partnership with George Washington University on October 15, 2025, brought together senior government officials, investors, and private sector leaders to advance strategic engagement between the United States and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Held near the World Bank and IMF headquarters and aligned with their Annual Meetings, the forum highlighted investment opportunities, promoted sustainable job creation, and reinforced the Council's role as a **catalyst for collaboration**, bridging policy, capital, and innovation.

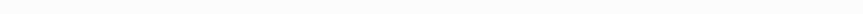
This high-level event laid the groundwork for tangible agreements and future initiatives, strengthening bilateral dialogue and partnerships, and marking a significant step forward in advancing the DRC's development agenda.

Unlocking Potential: Why This Dialogue Matters

The event contributed to advancing the Democratic Republic of Congo's objective of fostering stronger partnerships between the government and the international private sector to stimulate investment and employment. Aligned with the Council's mandate, it served as a catalyst for dialogue and collaboration aimed at improving the business climate and promoting inclusive growth.

Key outcomes included:

- **Investment Opportunities:** Presentation of flagship projects such as the Grand Inga hydro-power initiative and strategic ventures in critical minerals, emphasizing their contribution to the global energy transition and job creation.
- **High-Level Dialogue:** Engagement of senior government officials, corporate executives, and institutional investors on measures to enhance the investment environment and workforce development.
- **Private Sector Perspectives:** Sharing of insights by business leaders on the employment and socioeconomic impacts of their investments in the DRC.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Strengthened networks and commitments to pursue further collaboration on investment initiatives supporting sustainable job creation.





Hervé Claude Ntumba Batukonke, Director General,
DR Congo Industrial Promotion Fund (FPI)



Hon. O. Felix Obi, U.S. Trade Representative,
Executive Office of the United States President

Highlights at a Glance

The event commenced with a strong show of institutional commitment, with Dr. Serge Tshibangu, Founder and Chairman of the US/UK-Africa Business Council, receiving a warm and official welcome from top GWU leadership, including Mike Glazer, Vice Provost of Finance, and Vanessa Perry, Vice Dean of Research for Strategic Initiatives.

In her opening, Vice Dean Vanessa Perry celebrated the new opportunities for collaboration with American academia and businesses, setting an ambitious tone. Vice Provost Mike Glazer powerfully emphasized the "untapped potential" between premier American academia and the African continent, highlighting the DRC's diverse economic sectors as a prime focus.

Dr. Tshibangu then delivered a crucial address, articulating the strategic imperative of the partnership. He detailed how the USA's strengths in technology advancement, renewable energy, and financial potential are the perfect complement to the DRC's vast potential in critical natural resources, advocating for a partnership built on mutual benefit and essential knowledge transfer.

Further underscoring the national and private-sector buy-in, key addresses were delivered by:

- Hon. O. Felix Obi, U.S. Trade Representative from the Executive Office of the United States President, who strategically stressed the often-overlooked value of engaging U.S. local and state governments for their critical expertise in infrastructure management (e.g., airports, utilities).
- Paul Hinks, Chairman and CEO of Symbion Power, whose insights on his company's investments affirmed a strong confidence in the DRC's future prosperity through responsible resource utilization.



Dagmawit Moges Bekele, Director, Secretariat African Union Peace Fund

Andrew Brown, CEO, Canmore Capital

Dr. Djordjija Petkoski, Lecturer and Senior Fellow, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Voices That Moved the Conversation

The forum's exceptional impact was defined by its distinguished roster of participants. The conference successfully brought together an authoritative mix of government officials, major private sector players, and academic thought leaders. Liz Calvey, Head of Environmental & Responsible Minerals at Google, was a key speaker, driving home the critical importance of sustainability in all future ventures.

The robust private sector presence included representatives from companies such as Glencore, alongside officials from the British Embassy in Washington DC, showcasing broad diplomatic and industry engagement.

Four specialized panels provided a deep dive into crucial areas, accelerating strategic thinking:

- Finance Panel: Moderated by Dr. Djordjija Petkoski, Lecturer and Senior Fellow at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, the discussion centered on financial innovation with panelists including key figures like Hervé Claude Ntumba Batukonke (Director General, DR Congo Industrial Promotion Fund - FPI) and Michael Balint (Regional Director Africa, Vitol), offering a vital industry perspective.
- Ministerial Panel: Led by Dr. Danny Leipziger (former Vice President of the World Bank Group), this high-caliber session featured H.E. Louis Watum Kabamba, Minister of Mining, DRC, and H.E. Dr. Kamba Mulanda, Minister of Public Health, Hygiene, and Social Security, providing direct government insight.

- Private Sector Panel: Focused on unlocking opportunities through collaboration between academia, the private sector, and development banks.
- Final Panel: Centered on the indispensable need for risk mitigation, the potential of diaspora investment, and the call for patient capital in natural resource development



Dr. Danny Leipziger, Former Vice President, World Bank; Professor, GW Business School

Distinguished Panelists:

H.E. Louis Kabumba Watum, Minister of Mining, DRC

Dr. Kamba Mulanda, Minister of Public Health, Hygiene and Social Security

The Power of Partnership: What We Achieved Together

The forum's impact was demonstrated through tangible outcomes that strengthened collaboration and investment between the U.S. and DRC:

1. **Landmark MOU:** The signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between the US/UK-Africa Business Council and the Greater Washington Black Chamber of Commerce. This agreement establishes a framework to **facilitate joint business initiatives, promote trade, and streamline collaboration between U.S. and Congolese enterprises**, creating new opportunities for investment, market access, and capacity-building for participating stakeholders.
2. **Trade Mission Commitment:** A high-level working session the following day with the **D.C. Mayor's Office, the Greater Washington Black Chamber of Commerce, the Washington Economic Partnership**, and key Congolese leaders **led to the agreement to organize a U.S. trade mission to the DRC in December 2025**, demonstrating strong cross-sector collaboration and commitment to fostering direct investment opportunities.
3. **Strengthened Partnerships and Commitments:** The event brought together senior government officials, private sector leaders, and institutional partners, **building trust, expanding networks, and creating a foundation for future collaboration**. The dialogue reinforced confidence in the DRC's investment climate and highlighted the shared commitment to **sustainable job creation and inclusive economic growth**.

Pathways Forward: Turning Dialogue into Action

The DRC Investment Meeting laid the foundation for concrete follow-up initiatives to translate dialogue into measurable impact:

- **U.S.-DRC Trade Mission:** A December 2025 trade mission will enable direct engagement between investors and Congolese businesses, converting discussions into actionable investment opportunities and partnerships. This mission will **enable direct engagement between investors and Congolese businesses, foster strategic partnerships, and accelerate investment projects that generate sustainable jobs and economic growth.**
- **Implementation of the MOU:** The framework between the Business Council and the Greater Washington Black Chamber of Commerce will guide joint business initiatives, promote trade, and support capacity-building programs.
- **Working Groups and Follow-up Meetings:** Sector-specific working sessions are planned to advance projects in critical minerals, energy, infrastructure and health.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** A structured mechanism will track progress on agreements, partnerships, and investment leads, ensuring accountability and sustained momentum.
- **Next Strategic Engagement:** The success of the forum, which brought together the Congolese and U.S. private sectors, academia, and government leaders, has already set the stage for a **three-day follow-up conference from April 13-16 during the World Bank Spring Meetings**, reinforcing the depth and enduring nature of this emerging strategic partnership.

Our Partners and Champions

The event brought together a diverse and influential mix of stakeholders whose engagement was critical to its success:

- **Government Leadership:** Senior officials from the DRC and U.S. Trade Representatives provided strategic guidance and policy insights.
- **Private Sector Leaders:** Companies including **Symbion Power, Glencore, and Google** shared expertise and committed to sustainable investments.
- **Academic and Institutional Partners:** **George Washington University** and key thought leaders supported knowledge exchange and research-backed solutions.
- **Development and Diplomatic Partners:** Representatives from the **British Embassy** and development organizations reinforced cross-sector collaboration.

These partners collectively strengthened the Council's platform as a trusted facilitator for investment, partnerships, and job creation in the DRC.

Looking Ahead: Building on the Momentum

The DRC Investment Meeting underscored the transformative potential of U.S.-DRC collaboration. Moving forward, the Council will:

- Continue convening high-level forums to sustain dialogue and foster actionable investment opportunities.
- Track and support the implementation of agreements and trade initiatives, ensuring tangible benefits for local communities and businesses.
- Expand engagement with diaspora networks, private investors, and development partners to leverage expertise, capital, and innovation for inclusive growth.
- Position itself as a central hub for strategic partnerships, enabling long-term economic development and sustainable job creation in the DRC.



US investors active in DR Congo and Africa share experience and success stories



High level participants included former NBA champion D.J. Mbenga (Didier Mbenga)



Mimy MONGA NUMBI, Managing Director, National Office for Agricultural Products of the Democratic Republic of Congo, responsible for regulating and promoting agricultural products like coffee and cocoa

Organizers & event partners



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OF AFRICAN DESCENT





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