DRC Forum USA 2026: Proposed Agenda

Nov 17, 2026 ·

The forum runs online via Zoom on Friday, November 20, 2026, at 8:00 AM PT / 11:00 AM ET. The official agenda is not yet published, so this is a proposed draft.

Schedule

All times are Pacific (add three hours for Eastern).

Time (PT)	Session	Format	Suggested speakers / lead
8:00–8:15 AM	Welcome and opening remarks	Keynote	Otokonda Mboyo Ble, Chairwoman & Co-Founder
8:15–8:45	Keynote: US–Africa trade and investment priorities	Keynote	Gabriela Zelaya, US International Trade Administration
8:45–9:30	Critical minerals and energy transition	Panel	Geoff Atkins (Strategic Minerals Group), Andres Blanco (Xcalibur Multiphysics), Jean Paul Beleshay (Bridge Advisors)
9:30–10:00	Infrastructure, technology and digital transformation	Panel	Diana Joseph, Sinka Mohinder (Sensitel), Stephen M. Samuel, PE (Design Visionaries)
10:00–10:15	Break		
10:15–10:45	Investment session: verified project presentations	Investment session	Project owners and capital providers (TBC)
10:45–11:15	Africa Talent showcase and recruiter briefing	Africa Talent	Talent directory members and recruiter partners (TBC)
11:15–11:45	Finance, trade and strategic partnerships	Panel	Dale Nesbitt (ArrowHead), Loren Stoddard (Veridicor), Jean Jacques Njoh Ewane (American Export Council)
11:45–12:15	Diaspora leadership and women's empowerment	Panel	Anne-Marie Lynda (Fondation AML), Ishmael Evonlah Whajah (JEW Construction)
12:15–12:30	Closing remarks and next steps	Keynote	Otokonda Mboyo Ble and forum leadership

Time (PT)	Session	Format	Suggested speakers / lead
12:30–1:30 (optional)	Networking and private meeting slots	Networking / Private meetings	Pre-scheduled B2B, B2G and investor meetings for confirmed participants

Speaker time slots

Times are proposed and may change once the organizers confirm the agenda. Eastern times are in brackets.

Time (PT)	Speaker	Affiliation	Role
8:00–8:15 AM (11:00–11:15 ET)	Otokonda Mboyo Ble	Chairwoman & Co-Founder, DRC Forum USA	Opening remarks
8:15–8:45 (11:15–11:45)	Gabriela Zelaya	International Trade Administration, US Department of Commerce	Keynote
8:45–8:50 (11:45–11:50)	Moderator (TBC)		Introduces critical minerals panel
8:50–9:02 (11:50–12:02)	Geoff Atkins	CEO, Strategic Minerals Group	Panelist
9:02–9:14 (12:02–12:14)	Andres Blanco	CEO, Xcalibur Multiphysics	Panelist
9:14–9:26 (12:14–12:26)	Jean Paul Beleshay	CEO and Electrical Engineer, Bridge Advisors	Panelist
9:26–9:30 (12:26–12:30)	All panelists		Discussion and close
9:30–9:33 (12:30–12:33)	Moderator (TBC)		Introduces infrastructure and technology panel
9:33–9:43 (12:33–12:43)	Diana Joseph	AI, Science Professor and Author, Corporate Accelerator Forum	Panelist
9:43–9:53 (12:43–12:53)	Sinka Mohinder	CEO and Engineer, Sensitel	Panelist
9:53–10:00 (12:53–1:00)	Stephen M. Samuel, PE	CEO, Design Visionaries	Panelist and close
10:00–10:15 (1:00–1:15)	Break		

Time (PT)	Speaker	Affiliation	Role
10:15–10:25 (1:15–1:25)	Presenter 1 (TBC)	Investment session	Project presentation
10:25–10:35 (1:25–1:35)	Presenter 2 (TBC)	Investment session	Project presentation
10:35–10:45 (1:35–1:45)	Presenter 3 (TBC)	Investment session	Project presentation
10:45–10:50 (1:45–1:50)	Host (TBC)	Africa Talent	Opens showcase
10:50–11:00 (1:50–2:00)	Recruiter partner (TBC)	Africa Talent	Recruiter briefing
11:00–11:15 (2:00–2:15)	Talent showcase (TBC)	Africa Talent	Talent presentations
11:15–11:20 (2:15–2:20)	Moderator (TBC)		Introduces finance panel
11:20–11:28 (2:20–2:28)	Dale Nesbitt	CEO, ArrowHead; Lecturer, ArrowHead Economics & Stanford University	Panelist
11:28–11:36 (2:28–2:36)	Loren Stoddard	Founder and CEO, Veridicor	Panelist
11:36–11:43 (2:36–2:43)	Jean Jacques Njoh Ewane	President & Founder, The American Export Council	Panelist
11:43–11:45 (2:43–2:45)	All panelists		Close
11:45–11:47 (2:45–2:47)	Moderator (TBC)		Introduces diaspora panel
11:47–11:57 (2:47–2:57)	Anne-Marie Lynda	Founder, Fondation AML – The Amlite Way (DRC)	Panelist
11:57–12:07 (2:57–3:07)	Ishmael Evonlah Whajah	CEO, JEW Construction Ltd (Ghana)	Panelist
12:07–12:15 (3:07–3:15)	All panelists		Discussion and close
12:15–12:30 (3:15–3:30)	Otokonda Mboyo Ble	Chairwoman & Co-Founder, DRC Forum USA	Closing remarks and next steps

Time (PT)	Speaker	Affiliation	Role
12:30–1:30 (3:30–4:30)	Networking		Private meeting slots for confirmed participants

Session details

Opening and keynote (8:00–8:45 AM PT). Welcome from the chair, then a keynote on US–Africa trade and investment priorities. Covers theme 06, Trade & Industry.

Critical minerals and energy transition (8:45–9:30 AM PT). Cobalt, copper, lithium and power for industry. Covers themes 01 and 02.

Infrastructure, technology and digital transformation (9:30–10:00 AM PT). Transport corridors, digital infrastructure and fintech. Covers themes 03 and 04.

Investment session (10:15–10:45 AM PT). Verified project presentations for capital providers. Covers theme 05, Finance & Investment. Presenters are TBC.

Africa Talent (10:45–11:15 AM PT). Recruiter briefing and talent showcase connecting African professionals with global organizations. Covers theme 11, Talent & Skills.

Finance, trade and strategic partnerships (11:15–11:45 AM PT). Capital markets, trade corridors and institutional alliances. Covers themes 05, 06 and 12.

Diaspora leadership (11:45 AM–12:15 PM PT). Diaspora networks, women's leadership and philanthropy. Covers theme 10, African Diaspora.

Closing (12:15–12:30 PM PT). Summary of outcomes and next steps.

Networking and private meetings (12:30–1:30 PM PT, optional). Pre-scheduled one-to-one virtual meetings between investors, partners, talent recruiters and project owners.

Registration and access

- Format: global online gathering on Zoom. Registration is mandatory.
- Register at drcforum-usa.com/register.
- Questions: info@drcforum-usa.com or +1 (650) 669-2832.
- The Zoom link and access instructions will be sent to registered participants.

Notes before publishing

- ☐ Confirm each speaker's slot and title with the organizers; the site lists speakers but no session assignments.
- ☐ Name presenters for the 10:15 investment session and the Africa Talent showcase; both are placeholders.
- ☐ Add the workshops and investment track if the organizers confirm them.
- ☐ Add the Zoom link and access instructions once registration opens; registration is mandatory.

Sources

- DRC Forum USA homepage: event date, time, format and speaker list.
- DRC Forum USA program page: session formats; the detailed agenda is marked as not yet published.