



A new era dawns

“We must develop a comprehensive and globally shared view ... There has never been a time of greater promise, or greater peril.” — Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum

The 28th World Economic Forum (WEF) on Africa will hold its annual regional summit in Cape Town from 4-6 September 2019 under the theme “Shaping Inclusive Growth and Shared Futures in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)”. The event will convene more than 1 000 regional and global leaders from politics, business, civil society, and academia to shape regional and industry agendas in the year ahead.

Africa, the world’s youngest continent, has a positive economic outlook, however, with some of the fastest-growing emerging and developing countries, the continent still faces many challenges from political to climate-related environment vulnerability.

According to WEF, 4IR signals a new era for regional partnerships and entrepreneurial and agile leadership to create pathways for shared prosperity and drive a sustainable future. The programme in Cape Town, South Africa, aims to tackle these issues by focusing on how to scale up the transformation of regional architecture related to smart institutions, investment, integration, industry, and innovation.

With elections taking place in more than 20 African countries in 2019, the world’s youngest continent is facing a new era. While significant political and economic progress has been made, the continent continues to face significant challenges.

The WEF on Africa aims to tackle these issues by focusing on how to scale up the transformation of regional architecture related to smart institutions, investment, integration, industry, and innovation. In addition to building on the launch of the first African Affiliate Centre for 4IR in SA, the meeting will address the African Union’s Agenda 2063 regional strategic priorities under four programme tracks:

- Innovation: Readiness for the Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Cooperation: Sustainable Development & Environmental Stewardship
- Growth: Digitalization & Competitive Industries
- Stability: Leadership & Institutional Governance.

This edition of *African Independent* aims to provide insights that support the discussions on these topics and includes commentary from key industry players. Our sister publication, *Business Report*, will also cover the summit, participate in a series of panel discussions and industry partnerships as well as host side events and various engagements with entrepreneurs and relevant ministers.

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