

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

2021 → 2022

Dear American Business Council Members and Partners,

2021 was the year we all looked forward to following the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the light at the end of the very gloomy tunnel.

It was indeed worth the anticipation. The Council ended the year with 67 members, a significant double-digit growth from the previous year.

The year brought with it a renewed commitment for the American Business Council to support the existence of an enabling business environment for American businesses and private sector in Nigeria. This was done through the following successful initiatives:

The Business Exchange Podcast: The Council published 22 podcast episodes with expert insights on how business works in Nigeria. These episodes cut across a variety of topics including data protection and regulation, supply chain management, US-Africa relations, copyright protection, the Petroleum Industry Act 2021, Nigeria's animation industry and a host of others. The podcast has become an informative medium on key economic issues for members of the Council and the general public. The podcast plays across its streaming platforms (Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Soundcloud) have increased by over 130% since its inception in November 2020.

Key Events: To create an avenue for expert discussions, capacity building, and key stakeholder engagement on topical issues affecting the Nigerian business environment, the Council hosted a number of key events with over 2000 persons in attendance. These included:



**AMERICAN
BUSINESS COUNCIL**
Promoting Nigeria-America Economic
Partnership

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

2021 → *2022*

1. A discourse on the International Monetary Fund's Article IV on Nigeria in collaboration with the Lagos Business School, Pan-Atlantic University.
2. Economic Updates on Nigeria's Consumer Product Sector and the Future of Energy in Nigeria.
3. Trade and Investment Series in collaboration with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the African Development Bank on Opportunities for US Companies.
4. Webinars on US-Africa Trade Relations under the Biden-Harris Administration, the Evolving Role of the Private Sector in Public Health, Digital Trade to enable MSME Ecommerce in Nigeria, the Imperatives of Peace for a Successful Economy, and Preparing for Success in International Trade.
5. Roundtables with The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Africa and Middle East, Camille Richardson, for Female CEOs of US Companies and another with CEOs representing key sectors.
6. A visit to the Lagos Free Trade Zone led by the US Consul General and the President of the American Business Council to view the foreign direct investment of US Companies in the Zone.
7. The 2021 Cybersecurity Conference and Hackathon in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, United States' Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), and other private sector partners.
8. A Virtual Mixer for MSMEs and American Entrepreneurs doing business in Nigeria.



**AMERICAN
BUSINESS COUNCIL**
Promoting Nigeria-America Economic
Partnership

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

2021 → 2022

Key Partnerships: In implementing its initiatives for the year targeted at the continued growth of the Nigerian economy, the Council partnered with the United States' Department of Commerce, Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, United States' Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), the African Development Bank, Lagos Business School and the Enterprise Development Centre of the Pan-Atlantic University, United States' Department of Justice, United States' Chamber of Commerce, American Chambers of Commerce in South Africa, Ghana, and Kenya, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and private sector partners within and outside the Council's membership.

We saw clear outcomes in advocacy through government engagements including the resolution of foreign exchange restrictions on Maize for some member companies and the on-going issues around the postal Bill.

I would like to thank the Secretariat and you all for supporting the Council's growth this past year.

The Council is looking forward to creating even more impact in the year 2022 by fostering the continued growth of the Nigerian economy and of American businesses in Nigeria.

Here's wishing you compliments of the season and a splendid year 2022.



Dipo Faulkner
President, American
Business Council



**AMERICAN
BUSINESS COUNCIL**
Promoting Nigeria-America Economic
Partnership