The PIA executive members meet at 3 plenary meetings per year including an annual meeting in Washington DC (Bretton Woods institutions) and on the African continent.

2014
Abidjan
Côte d’Ivoire

2015
Maputo
Mozambique

2016
Luanda
Angola

2017
Lusaka
Zambia

2018
Harare
Zimbabwe

2019
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

For more information about PIA membership, please consult our website www.privateinvestorsforafrica.org
Private investors for Africa (PIA) is a business coalition that was founded 19 years ago and brings together ethically like-minded companies, with the objective of tapping into their corporate experience in Africa to improve the business climate and tangibly contribute to the continent’s future.

The PIA currently brings together several member companies operating in Africa. The coalition is comprised of the most senior Africa executives of each of the member companies.

A note from our Chairperson

The PIA’s commitment is to promote new investment in Africa by facilitating the most effective ways of improving the business environment at a country and continental level. While many of our member companies have a strong presence in Africa, we believe that ‘there is strength in numbers’. We have found that the PIA provides an excellent platform to openly engage with our peers regarding the realities of operating on the African continent. Furthermore, the PIA provides strong leverage for critical messages directed at key decision makers and can play an important role in representing Africa’s interests, particularly in our dealings with multilateral organisations and African governments.

The PIA has developed a strong reputation among international institutions, most notably the Bretton Woods institutions, as an influential voice of the private sector. Annually we meet with the most senior executives at these institutions, who have placed increased attention and value to the coordinated business input we provide. The PIA also conducts visits to specific countries of focus, at least once a year, where we engage with the governments at the highest level regarding the opportunities and challenges of private sector investment in their respective countries.

Looking ahead, the broad-based slowdown in sub-Saharan Africa is easing with GDP growth of over 3% expected in the medium term. The pickup reflects one-off factors, notably a recovery in oil production in Nigeria and the easing of drought conditions in eastern and southern Africa. The external environment has also improved with an easing of external financial market pressures but the underlying situation remains difficult with rising public debt across the region, including in the fast-growing economies.

Despite a number of challenges, Africa has a significant opportunity for meaningful inclusive and sustainable growth. We believe the PIA can play a vital role in advocating for the private sector being a key driver of this growth.

Sola David-Borha
Chief Executive
Africa Region Standard Bank Group

The PIA’s activities include

- Dialogue with institutions and national governments
- Practice sharing (including dedicated task forces)
- Networking opportunities at external forums
- Private sector in the continent and the role of private sector in these efforts. Africa’s growth is closely linked with the business climate on the continent. The PIA has found that the PIA provides an excellent platform to openly engage with our peers regarding the realities of operating on the African continent. Furthermore, the PIA provides strong leverage for critical messages directed at key decision makers and can play an important role in representing Africa’s interests, particularly in our dealings with multilateral organisations and African governments.

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The recent PIA meetings

PIA in South Africa (26th of October)

On 7 October the PIA hosted Dr. David MASENDI, the Deputy Minister of Finance of the Republic of South Africa and a number of leaders of multinational companies that have interests in the country and across the African continent. The dialogue was candid and engaging and touched on the economic recovery plans for South Africa and the private sector’s involvement.

PIA in Washington (20 – 22 May 2019)

On 21 and 22 May, the PIA executives held their annual meetings with the Bretton Woods and other key institutions in Washington, DC. The group met with representatives including: Tenorio C. Ramos, Deputy Managing Director, IMF; Stephanie von Steuben, Chief Operating Officer IFC as well as Matthew Harrington Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, US State Department.

During the visit we held constructive discussions regarding the various institutions’ strategies and plans to support the continent and the role of private sector in these efforts. Africa’s growth is closely linked with the business climate on the continent. The dialogue was candid and engaging and touched on the economic recovery plans for South Africa and the private sector’s involvement.

PIA in Zimbabwe (21 – 23 November 2018)

The PIA visited Zimbabwe from 21–23 November, where the group met with senior government officials, notably the President of Zimbabwe and key institutions, including the IMF and World Bank. It was a constructive visit with key discussions around the reforms to turn Zimbabwe’s economy around. The country is also opening up to private sector investment with a number of important initiatives including the establishment of a one stop investment services centre. While access to finance is a significant challenge, the PIA remains committed to Zimbabwe and will continue to engage with the Government on this matter and partner and invest in the country.

PIA focus areas

Over the years, the PIA has made significant strides in influencing the business climate on the continent, particularly in the areas of power, health & safety, jobs & skills development and agriculture.

The PIA achieves this by providing business input to international institutions as well as by sharing best practices amongst its members.

For a number of focus areas, dedicated task forces have been established, comprised of the corporate experts responsible for implementation at company level.

Power

The lack of power infrastructure has greatly affected the development of Africa. The PIA has been successful in providing pro-bono advisory services to select African utilities to strengthen power utility management. Furthermore, the PIA collaborates with the African Development Bank (AFDB) and other multilateral institutions.