TAF ECONOMY BREAKOUT DISCUSSION BRIEF

TAF UBUNTU 2026 ANNUAL GATHERING, 28 November 2026

THE AFRICAN FEDERATION

Annual theme: Creating Our Common Future • 28 November 2026 • 45-minute breakout
Purpose: Review three possible initiatives and select ONE primary initiative to advance during 2027. This brief is both advance reading for participants and the live facilitator guide.

1. Background and rationale

Africa's economic transformation depends on enterprises being able to produce, add value, access markets and participate in regional trade. Micro, small and medium enterprises, including youth- and women-led businesses, face constraints involving finance, market access, regulatory requirements, technology and production capacity. TAF Economy can convene its Chapters and members to examine shared challenges and foster practical cross-country cooperation. Given current capacity, the 2027 initiative should begin with a focused, achievable output rather than a major new delivery institution.

2. Three proposed initiatives for 2027

Option A - African Enterprise and Value Chain Dialogue

A structured dialogue involving entrepreneurs, business associations, researchers and practitioners to identify barriers to enterprise development, intra-African market access and local value addition. A possible first-year output is a concise, evidence-informed issues brief with practical recommendations drawn from participating Chapters.

Option B - Local Production and Value Chain Collaboration

Select one promising product or sector and map the practical constraints to sourcing, processing, standards, packaging and cross-border trade. Convene relevant producers and specialists to identify one feasible collaboration or referral pathway. This would be a targeted learning and partnership exercise, not a TAF manufacturing project.

Option C - African Economic Cooperation and Knowledge Exchange

Create a modest cross-Chapter mechanism for sharing tested approaches to enterprise support and economic participation. Possible outputs include a small set of country case studies, practitioner exchanges and a practical resource brief for member organizations. This option emphasizes transferable knowledge rather than business services.

3. How participants should assess the options

Consider: (1) relevance to shared African economic challenges; (2) a clear and distinct contribution for TAF, without duplicating existing enterprise networks; (3) feasibility with volunteer capacity and partners; (4) a measurable first deliverable; and (5) genuine willingness to lead and contribute. Participants may propose a stronger alternative, but the room should select one primary initiative.

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4. Live breakout discussion (45 minutes)

Time	Discussion	Facilitator instructions
0–5 min	Welcome and purpose	Introduce the three options, decision criteria and expected outputs; do not reread the brief.
5–15 min	Compare and select	Invite concise views on the three options. Identify one primary 2027 initiative by consensus where possible; record any unresolved concerns.
15–30 min	Shape the initiative	Define the problem, intended beneficiaries, feasible activities, first deliverable and how progress could be measured.
30–40 min	Secure commitments	Identify provisional lead, volunteers, participating Chapters, potential partners and a follow-up date. Do not assign absent people.
40–45 min	Confirm and prepare	Read back decisions, identify the rapporteur and select the presenter for the three-minute plenary report-back.

5. Ubuntu in Action: 2027 commitment record

Rapporteur captures decisions during the session. Where agreement or volunteers are missing, record this transparently rather than treating the initiative as approved.

Selected primary initiative and why:

Specific 2027 objective and intended beneficiaries:

First deliverable and target date:

Provisional coordinating lead and volunteers:

Participating TAF Chapters and potential partners:

First follow-up meeting/date:

Measure(s) of progress for the 2027 gathering:

Three-minute report-back presenter:

Plenary report-back (3 minutes):

- selected initiative
- intended outcome
- first deliverable
- people committed
- next steps

Facilitator note: The broader TAF Governance priority policies are not being formally amended in this session. Maintain constructive, evidence-based and nonpartisan discussion.

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Following the gathering, the volunteer team validate feasibility and prepare a detailed implementation plan. Other ideas remain on the future opportunities list; they are not additional 2027 commitments.