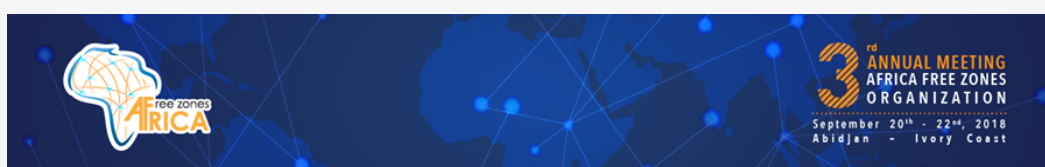




After two first editions in Tangier, Morocco, in 2015 and 2016, the 3rd Annual meeting of Africa Free Zones Organization has successfully concluded its work on Saturday 22nd September 2018, in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. This meeting gathered 100 C-Level participants, 18 international experts, and 35 Economic Zones and Free Zones to discuss "Economic Zones and Free Zones contribution to sustainable Economic development in Africa". The participants had the opportunity to develop network and business alliances with Economic Zones and Free Zones community.

More than 30 countries were represented during this event: Burkina Faso, Botswana, Chad, Uganda, Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sudan, Senegal, Togo, etc.



The AFZO 3rd annual meeting started with welcoming and Opening speech by his excellency **Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA** Minister of Industry Trade and SMEs Development of the republic of Ivory Coast, and M. **Fouad BRINI**, president of Tanger Med Special Agency.



Mr Souleymane Diarrassouba, Minister of industry Trade and SMEs Development of the republic of Ivory Coast highlighted the Importance of sustainable industrialization as a key instrument to foster economic diversification, create job and reduce poverty. He suggested that African leaders should enhance investment climate and offer favorable conditions for business settlement and Special Economic Zones development.



Mr Fouad Brini, chairman of Tanger Med - Morocco expressed his gratitude to the government of Ivory Coast for its contribution and support in organizing and hosting the 3rd annual meeting of Africa Free Zones Organization. He also recalled that the AFZO association was founded in 2015 on the initiative of Tanger Med, with the objective to provide strategic and technical assistance, identify business opportunities and promote sustainable economic development models and best practices to AFZO community.



Mr Akinwumi Adesina, president of African Development Bank.

"Special Economic Zones and Free Zones will play a major role to transform the economic landscape of Africa... and contribute to continuous and successful industrialization of the continent."



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The Africa Free Zones Organization

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