Dear partners, friends and allies,

While 2021 may feel like a continuation of 2020, there is something significant about marking the start of a new year. As we get into our programming rhythm in the new year, we would like to reach out to you with an update. A new year brings with it, new possibilities and new imperatives for becoming a healthier, more just and decent society. We know you, as partners, friends and communities to be in solidarity with communities who are working tirelessly with hope for justice, particularly in emergency periods and in times of different conditions across the continent.

Thus, we have some essential questions regarding urgent action this year, and we are also privileged to be working across communities who are responding to the challenges of this time with integrity, strength and passion. And we look forward to sharing some of these stories with you throughout the year.

WHAT WE'RE THINKING ABOUT IN THIS SEASON

As the year 2021 starts peaking up, we are sitting with questions of justice and solidarity around the COVID-19 vaccine and how to use the process to restore solidarity and unity to our global community. We cannot allow another entire generation to be left behind coming out of this pandemic. At TrustAfrica, we are one of the pre-eminent global institutions working on inclusive vaccine distribution. With the swift pace of vaccine rollouts across the continent, we also believe that we have the opportunity to build on the gains made so far in terms of inclusivity in vaccine rollouts.

Another burning question for us at TrustAfrica lies at the crux of questions of wellbeing, health and justice. We are deeply concerned as we watch the legacy of the climate crisis grow, and the interconnected dysfunctionality of food systems that excludes local communities from healthy diets to consume and decent work within an agriculture system that is highly dependent on the environment. This is why we decided to be part of a global conversation this year under the Resilience Workshops. Where are we all going to somehow find inclusive and sustainable supply chains and trade as well as protect the interests of farmers, workers and consumers in sustainable use of natural resources, decent work, fair value distribution and sustainable consumption?

Finally, we continue to be concerned about the growing threat to democracy worldwide and the rising impunity across the continent. The years of 2020 were unprecedented as an alarming year. This makes our work to strengthen social movements and deepen collective action across Africa increasingly important, as well as critical conversations among activists such as the Political Economy Watchers and civil society leaders that we are launching a join in Zimbabwe.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO ALREADY IN 2021

We have been engaging in some thought leadership on important strategic areas including:

Higher Education Advocacy

As speaker at the “West and Knowledge Justice” hosted by the Stern School of Business in New York, we have furthered advocacy on higher education. Our work is supported by the United Nations University and the Alliance of Universities for a Sustainable Development.

African Philanthropy

As part of the African Philanthropy Forum, we have been supporting and advocating on African Philanthropy and its impact on the continent.

Equitable Development and Illicit Financial Flows

As part of the 2021 Africa Unionなどを通じて、Equitable Development and Illicit Financial Flows are discussed and supported by the Africa Union and other African organizations. For more information, please visit the Africa Union website.
- Celebrate women’s rights with us from February 18 to March 8, when we convene women leaders in Richmond, Virginia for an all-star panel to address their unique challenges to women’s equality, how to amplify women’s voices, inclusive leadership and inclusive innovation; the women leaders will be selected by additional capacity building and training. To support advocacy efforts through evidenced-based models.

- If you're a journalist or civil society working on accountability issues around oil, gas, mining, land and financial crisis, get in touch with us to participate in the Multi-stakeholder Journalists and Civil Action Convening. We are collaborating with Freedom of the Press Foundation.

- The COVID-19 Pandemic has clearly hit and impacted human rights. We joined a coalition to convene an academic and public forum to discuss what to do now and next. We are organizing an Academic and Public forum to discuss what to do now and next.

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- Finally, we are excited about the World Economic Forum which is due for the year 2023. We are partnering with community leaders and community solutions which need to be prioritized globally as part of the development agenda. Watch the space for more information.

Wishing you all a healthy and inspiring year!

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- Executive Director, Trust Africa