



## Shaping the Future We Want For Africa



The Covid-19 pandemic exposed, at a global level, the abnormalcy of prevailing social, economic and political systems – particularly their failure to protect the most vulnerable. At TrustAfrica, we are clear that there is no going back to the old normal. Accordingly, our current focus is on building forward better. We need new models across our economic, social and political systems that will protect the most marginalized and work for everyone. Earlier this month we concluded our strategic retreat, where we reaffirmed the theme of our strategic plan for the period 2020-2024 as Shaping the Future we Want for Africa! Fifteen years ago now, TrustAfrica was birthed as a vehicle to mobilize the big resources required to support African Agency in setting priorities and championing responses to the most pressing issues facing the continent. This remains the most important purpose behind our existence. Our *raison d'être*!

As we reflect on the way ahead, two priorities particularly come to the fore for us as the key questions of our time and therefore the overarching themes defining all our work – ACCOUNTABILITY and EQUITY! Together these two add up to and speak to our commitment to JUSTICE in everything that matters for the continent's development and humanity's progress. The global dynamics at play makes it critical to ensure that we are Shaping the Future We Want for Africa and that Africa is not left behind in the big project to build forward better.

To read more of our **strategic plan for 2020-2024**, please go to our website [here](#).

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## AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY

### Community As A Response: Communities Organizing for their Development

In March 2021, the [World Communities Forum](#) brought together organizations working with local communities to reflect on the past year and how Covid-19 has impacted the work that they do. TrustAfrica hosted a breakout session on "Community as a Response: Communities Organizing for their Development" on Day 1 of the virtual conference to tease out what are the enablers in supporting local communities in self-organizing for their development. The breakout session was facilitated by development practitioners and community leaders [Ese Emerhi](#) (TrustAfrica - Nigeria), [Florence Kayemba](#) (Stakeholders Democracy Network - Nigeria), and [Charles Kojo Vandyck](#) (West Africa Civil Society Institute – Ghana). [This follow-up article](#) elevates key recommendations offered during the breakout session.

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## DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

### COVID 19: TrustAfrica promotes security sector accountability

TrustAfrica with the support from Open Society Foundations (OSF) will be implementing a pan-African project to strengthen the voices of citizens and advocate for accountability of the security sector during and post COVID 19 lockdown measures.

The Security Sector Accountability (SPaCVOSSA) project will commence on May 1, 2021, until October 31, 2021 and be implemented with four civil society partners in countries distributed across different regions of the continent.

The project will conduct country-level and pan-African level interventions that include research into the impact of securitised lockdown measures on vulnerable communities, citizen forums, and advocacy initiatives targeting government agencies and African institutions.

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## Board Spotlight

### COUMBA TOURE

Ms. Coumba Toure is the board chairperson of TrustAfrica. Coumba is a loving mother, sister, and daughter to many! She feels like she is always living an exciting life! As a member of the African Feminist Forum and the Per Ankh Writers' Cooperative, Coumba believes that feminism has the potential to nurture justice, peace, happiness and joy in both public and private spheres. Women have different ways of being and relating and can ultimately drive the positive change needed to transform our world. Presently Coumba serves as one of the Coordinators for Africans Rising for peace justice and dignity based in Dakar and is also writer and storyteller. [Read More](#)

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



### COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER *Communications and Advocacy Officer*

Abdarahmane Wone, known to us as Abda, joined TrustAfrica as a Communications Officer in November 2018. He is an experienced journalist and a communications specialist who has been engaged in a full spectrum of communications roles and activities for over two

decades, both within and outside Africa. He has worked with key players, sectors and organizations implementing programmes for the benefit of the African Social Science community and in support of the Africa citizenry. In addition to the communications aspect, he is also currently managing Social Movements Program (SMP) and the Discrimination Based on Work and Descent and the Slavery portfolio at TrustAfrica.

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## Events For Trust Africa in May

MAY 29

### Centenary of Professor Amadou Mahtar Mbow

On May 29, TrustAfrica will host a webinar titled "Amadou Mahtar Mbow and the Emancipation of Peoples in Africa and Around the World." The webinar, which will feature a panel discussion with TrustAfrica's Executive Director, Dr Ebrima Sall, Dr Jean-Bernard Ouedraogo, journalist Barka Ba, and Vincent Foucher, is part of a series that started on March 27, 2021 [Read more](#)

## Events Trust Africa hosted and participated in May 2021

### [Mindshift Growth that Matters Participatory Conference](#)

Gateway Zimbabwe, a collaborative culture-shifting initiative of Kufunda Learning Village, ORAP and TrustAfrica, hosted a session "How can inner work unleash new energy and resources when working in challenging contexts?" during the Mindshift Growth that Matters Participatory Conference on May 12th from 9:50am-11am (CAT). The Conference looked at the Inner Development Goals (IDGs) as a way of tracking the qualities and shifts needed for sustainable ambition towards a healthier society.

### [Sub-Regional Training in Data-Driven Advocacy for Women Champions leaders](#)

TrustAfrica in collaboration with EM2030 jointly hosted a virtual training in data driving advocacy, on May 3-4-5, 2021. Many women's rights organizations face resource and capacity gaps that prevent them from effectively doing their work. How to collect and effectively use data and evidence is one of the pressing issue they face to strengthen their advocacy. During the three day training, 18 champions have seen their gender advocates skills strengthening in the basics of data research, analysis and evaluation. They now have a clearer understanding of how to use data in their advocacy work.

### [Africa Day 2021](#)

To commemorate Africa Day 2021, TrustAfrica is pleased to share two video messages with you: one from our Chair, [Coumba Touré](#) and another video from our Executive Director, [Dr Ebrima Sall](#). Your feedback will be appreciated as partners in the progress and development of the African continent.

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