



**WESTMINSTER
AFRICA**
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Business Newsletter October 2025

WABA Lunch gets us off to a great start



Andrew Rosindell MP, Chairman of WABA, attended the Association's recent sell out lunch at the Carlton Club.

Andrew said that he was pleased to have taken on the Chairmanship of the re-formed Association and very much looked forward to working with all the members.

Andrew has travelled a lot through Africa and said that the opportunities on that continent are massive.

"There are so many opportunities for the UK to take advantage of our position as a leading member of the Commonwealth and to expand our operations throughout all of Africa.

"However, as yet, we are not fully taking advantage of the freedom which comes with our position of being outside the EU and we will lose out to countries such as China if we don't do so.

"We need to make sure that, as well as exporting to Africa, that we enable African countries to export to the UK without hindrance.

"This Association can play a leading role in advancing the UK's case in Africa and I very much look forward to playing a part in that work".



I was very pleased to host WABA's lunch at the Carlton Club on 23rd September and particularly pleased that it was a sell out. Apologies to those who we could not accommodate, but we look forward to seeing you at future events.

I was particularly pleased to welcome our Chairman, Andrew Rosindell MP, to the lunch and to re-introduce him to so many people whom he already knew.

The Carlton Club is associated with the Conservative Party, but we are, of course, politically neutral and welcome members with any or no political views! And many of our events will be held in Parliament.

In fact, we are pleased that so many new people are joining us as members and we look forward to welcoming many more.

We have many more events planned – please see separate panel - and hope to see you at as many of these as possible.

Laurence Robertson
Chief Executive



Export Finance Webinar

Steven Gray OBE, gave such an interesting and informative talk on export finance.

Steve works closely with UK Export Finance and was able to provide a great deal of advice on a webinar he held for us recently.

The presentation slides Steve used are available and we will gladly supply them to anyone who would like to receive them.



Trade Missions

We are considering which Trade Missions we should arrange.

There is considerable interest in visiting the DRC and a meeting with His Excellency the DRC Ambassador to the UK is currently being sought to discuss this.

There is also interest in visiting Uganda – please see below.

Please do get in touch to let us know where your interest lies and if you would like to join a Trade Mission.

Westminster Africa Business Association
secretariat@waba.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 7725 617043

Savannah Energy signs important deals

It was very good to attend WABA member Savannah Energy's official signing ceremony of a number of energy deals which they have agreed across Africa.

Hosted by CEO Andrew Knott and ably presented by Head of Renewables Julian Horn, the ceremony was held at Savannah Energy's offices in Canary Wharf. It was attended by His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Africa John Humphrey, as well as Oystein Oyehaug, who is the Investment Director Clean Energy of partner company, Norfund.

The projects which Savannah Energy have agreed will enable them to help increase green electricity generation in Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Malawi and the DRC.

Her Excellency the Ugandan High Commissioner to the UK, Nimisha Madhvani, welcomed the deals: "We are pleased to be welcoming Savannah Energy into these energy projects and look forward to their being able to boost the generation of clean energy in Uganda and the surrounding countries."

Trade Commissioner John Humphrey pointed out that many people across Africa had no access to electricity, and that projects such as these would help to increase the coverage.



Oystein Oyehaug of Norfund, Andrew Knott, John Humphrey and Laurence Robertson

Did You know?

You can sponsor any of our events.

Sponsoring our events gives you a higher profile at the event itself, on our website and in social media posts.

We are planning Receptions, Dinners and Lunches and we would be happy to discuss sponsorship opportunities with you.

Please contact: secretariat@waba.org.uk



Future Events

Lunch at the Conservative Party Conference

Monday 6th October 2025 at 12.30pm
If interested, please contact us asap.

Parliamentary Reception

Monday 17th November 2025
in Westminster 6pm to 8pm

Parliamentary Reception & Dinner

Monday 8th December 2025
House of Commons. From 6pm

Reception – Speaker's State Rooms House of Commons

Tuesday 3rd February 2026 6pm–8pm

In addition to the above events we will also be holding meetings and webinars with various people in connection with our Africa work.

Westminster Africa Business Association

secretariat@waba.org.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 7765 254998



Togo Francophone Conference

12th and 13th November 2025

Our members Atam Sandhu and Steve Gray are organising and promoting the UK-Francophone West and Central Africa Forum.

This Forum will welcome over 800 participants in Lomé, Togo on November 12–13, 2025.

With the support of HM Government and the Togolese Government, the event will welcome 10 country delegations from Mauritania, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Gabon, DRC, Benin, Togo, RoC and Cameroon. Delegates will benefit from waived visa fees and VIP transport.

We are hoping that several WABA members will attend.

Anyone wishing to attend can contact Jake Lumsden direct at

jake@developingmarkets.com

Or you can contact us if you are interested in taking part.

Meeting Uganda's Prime Minister

It was a pleasure to hold a private meeting with the Prime Minister of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, on behalf of the Westminster Africa Business Association (WABA).

Along with WABA's Chairman, Andrew Rosindell MP and his staff, we met the Prime Minister along with the Director General of the [Uganda Investment Authority](#), [Robert Mukiza](#), to discuss the opportunities which exist for British businesses and investors in Uganda.

We were hosted by Her Excellency the Ugandan High Commissioner to London, Mrs Namisha Madhvani, who is very effective in promoting her country.

Uganda has a young population and is very much open for business. There are many sectors which WABA covers and we can certainly introduce a number of companies to the opportunities which exist in the country.

We discussed the possibility of leading a Trade Mission to Uganda and this was met with enthusiasm by all in attendance. We will look to start putting this in place very soon.



Parliamentary Report

Parliament is currently on the Conference recess, meaning that neither House is sitting at this time. Both Houses will return on Monday 13th October.

The Labour Party conference has just taken place, and the Conservative Party Conference is being held in Manchester 5th to 8th October.

When Parliament returns, legislation to watch out for includes the Employment Rights Bill, which could have cost and management implications for many businesses. This is currently going through Parliament.

The Budget is planned for 26th November and may well have implications for businesses.

Please let us know if you would like to receive detailed briefings on any of these issues.

Diplomats from Lesotho High Commission visit Ishida Europe



Following meetings we had with diplomats at the Lesotho High Commission, we were pleased to arrange for them to visit WABA member Ishida Europe Ltd at their factory near Birmingham.

Ishida Europe manufactures machinery which weighs, packages and tests solid foods and other products and already has a presence in Africa. However, the company is looking to increase their sales across the continent.

Welcomed by Marketing Director Steve Jones and Regional Marketing Specialist Gnamien Yao, the diplomats were enthusiastic about the prospects of doing business and would welcome a trade visit to Lesotho.