



WESTMINSTER AFRICA

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Business Newsletter September 2025

LATE SUMMER LUNCH WITH ANDREW ROSINDELL MP



The Cabinet Room, Carlton Club,
St James's, London

Tuesday 23rd September 2025
1200 to 1500

To attend, please email:
secretariat@waba.org.uk

Places are limited,
so please book early.

BUSINESS FINANCE WEBINAR with Steven Gray OBE

Friday 19th September 2025
9.30am to 10.30am

Steve works with
UK Export Finance
and is an expert in his field. He
can help direct your business to
the export finance it needs.

Please email
secretariat@waba.org.uk

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Association**
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Laurence Robertson Chief Executive



We recently launched the Westminster Africa Business Association and are pleased to be publishing our first Newsletter!

Many of us previously worked with the Westminster Africa Business Group which I chaired for over 20 years.

However, following a vote of members, a number of us took the decision to re-form, professionalise and expand activities so we formed this new Association.

ABOUT WABA

Westminster Africa Business Association Ltd is a company limited by guarantee. Our Chairman is Andrew Rosindell MP. I am the CEO and Deputy Chairman. And Annie will be providing the professional, experienced Secretariat. In addition, Steve Jones and Tim Johnsen are Directors and we have a small Management Committee. We will bring politicians, governments, diplomats and businesses together in the interests of Africa and the UK in terms of trade and good governance.

We will carry out the following:

Parliamentary Engagement

- Host lunches, dinners and receptions in Parliament.
- Hold regular meetings with MPs, Ministers, Ambassadors and High Commissioners in London.

Political & Diplomatic Outreach

- Organise webinars with politicians and diplomats based across the African continent.

Trade Missions

- Organise two trade missions each year to African countries.

Communications & Visibility

- Publish a monthly newsletter highlighting developments and opportunities.
- Regularly update the WABA website with news about our activities, government policies, legislation and trade opportunities relevant to our members

Membership of WABA

We have three membership levels:

Individual Membership

for professionals seeking to build networks and gain insights into UK–Africa trade.

Corporate Membership

for businesses aiming to increase visibility, engage with policymakers and access African markets

Premier Membership

for organisations looking for enhanced involvement, greater visibility and bespoke opportunities.

We also have

sponsorship opportunities

for people or organisations looking to support our Association by sponsoring one of our dinners, lunches or receptions.

Welcome to Andrew Rosindell MP

We are very pleased that Andrew Rosindell MP has agreed to join us as WABA's Chairman.

Andrew has been the Member of Parliament for Romford since 2001 and has a long association with many of us.

Andrew is currently the Shadow Minister for the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and is a former Trade Envoy to Tanzania.

Andrew has travelled widely and takes a deep and active interest in international affairs. He is a very valuable addition to our team and we very much look forward to working with him.



Forthcoming WABA Events

Export Finance

A webinar with Steven Gray OBE
Friday 19th September 2025 at 9.30am
Steve works with UK Export Finance and can offer expert guidance to those looking to raise money for their projects.

Late Autumn Lunch

Tuesday 23rd September 2025
with Andrew Rosindell MP
12 noon to 3pm
Cabinet Room, Carlton Club, St James's.

Parliamentary Reception

Monday 10th November 2025
in Westminster 6pm to 8pm

Parliamentary Reception & Dinner

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

To attend any of these events please email secretariat@waba.org.uk

British Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce



Theoc Consultancy helped organise an event at the Ethiopian Embassy to recognise this Chamber. Hosted by His Excellency the Ethiopian Ambassador, over 130 people were present.

Anyone wishing to join the Chamber can contact Annie at annie@britishethiopianchamber.com

Trade Mission to Ethiopia June 2025

In June 2025 Laurence and Annie organised and took part in a Trade Mission to Ethiopia with WABA member Steve Jones of Ishida Europe Ltd.

It was a very busy time in Addis Ababa. We visited a number of food manufacturing companies, as well as the Ethiopian Investment Commission, the Capital Markets Authority, the Agriculture Transformation Institute, Ethiopian Airlines, CBE Capital Bank and other organisations.

We also held meetings with the British Ambassador to Ethiopia, as well as his trade staff in Addis.

It was a very useful visit which we hope to follow up.



At a food manufacturer in Addis Ababa

Opportunities in Zimbabwe

We attended the Zimbabwe Investment Event in London at the end of August.

This was a useful conference which highlighted the opportunities which exist in Zimbabwe.

Mining was one of the industries highlighted, but there were also impressive presentations made regarding opportunities at the airports in terms of providing renewable energy and infrastructure, opportunities in the financial sector and the capital markets.

Laurence and Annie visited Zimbabwe in January 2024 with WABA members Korab Toplica and Tim and Erik Johnsen and found the country to be very much open for business.



Your At the conference on Zimbabwe text

Forthcoming Conference

Africa Business Chamber (AfBC) UK Africa Business Forum 2025 (UABF2025)

The event designed to strengthen economic relations, trade and investment between the UK and African markets.

Date: 24–25 September 2025

Location/Venue: De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms, London

Theme: Redefining Growth: A New Era for UK–Africa Economic Relations, Trade and Investment

#AfricanBusinessChamber #AfBCForum
#UABF2025

Laurence is speaking at this event on Thursday 24th September.

Let us have your news!

You are welcome to place your business on our future Newsletters.

Please let us have your news. Or we would be happy to carry a company profile for you.

Please contact us:

secretariat@waba.org.uk

Trade News

In July 2025, the UK expanded its **Developing Countries Trading Scheme** (DCTS), easing the rules of origin for African exporters.

Exporters can now source inputs from anywhere within Africa without losing tariff-free status when exporting to the UK.

This shift supports pan-African supply chains—for instance, Ghanaian processors can include materials from Côte d'Ivoire or South Africa while retaining trade preferences.

The UK also introduced technical assistance (training, digital tools, workshops) to help African SMEs meet regulatory, labelling, and certification requirements.

The reforms extend to service sectors—easing access for digital tech, legal, and financial services in future bilateral agreements.

South Africa

On 28 July 2025, the UK announced a flagship trade partnership aimed at enhancing British trade, investment, and export opportunities with South Africa.

Kenya

The UK and Kenya formalised a Strategic Partnership for 2025–2030 on 2 July 2025, setting the stage for expanded cooperation in trade, green growth, technology, climate, and security

African partners

In late 2024, the UK Foreign Secretary initiated a five-month consultation with African partners across 47 governments and 25 multilateral institutions, gathering input from over 600 organisations.

A summary released in June 2025 emphasised forming relationships based on mutual respect, equality, and real partnerships, aligning with African priorities such as the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The government's final "Africa Approach" strategy is expected to be formally launched, covering trade, sustainable growth, security, climate, migration, and cultural ties.