Bogotá DC, January 30th, 2026

Mr.
THOMAS SVANIKIER
Chairman of the Advisory Board
Fidelity Bank Ghana
Accra

Subject: Bi-regional Economic Forum in the framework of the High-Level Forum of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and Africa.

Dear Mr. Svanikier,

I have the honor of writing to you today regarding the High-Level Forum of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and Africa, which will be held from March 18 to 21, 2026, in Bogotá, D.C., under Colombia's Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC. Within the framework of this High-Level Forum, the Office of the Vice President of the Republic, in coordination with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism, will hold the “Bi-regional Economic Forum” as a strategic platform for dialogue, coordination, and economic cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean, and the African continent, with the participation of high-level representatives from governments, regional development banks, and regional economic communities, among others.

This event will become a milestone in strengthening high-level bi-regional political dialogue between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the African continent. It will be an exceptional opportunity to renew the ties that unite the two continents and move toward a shared future based on equity, sustainability, and historical justice.

This space is also strategically important for the projection of a solid alliance between two regions of the Global South, coordinated around priority issues such as the defense of multilateralism, the promotion of social and racial justice, energy and environmental transition, the promotion of education and knowledge as drivers of transformation, scientific and technological development and the creation of new connections –air, sea, and trade– that help strengthen integration, among other issues of common interest.

Within the framework of the High-Level Forum of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and Africa, the Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Colombia, in coordination with our Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism, will hold the “Bi-regional Economic Forum” as a strategic platform for dialogue, coordination, and economic cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and the African continent. It will include the participation of high-level representatives from governments, regional development banks, and regional economic communities, among others.

The “Bi-regional Economic Forum” seeks to promote a bi-regional economic agenda, strengthen financial cooperation and access to finance, promote coordination between African Regional Economic Communities and Latin American and Caribbean integration mechanisms, and contribute to the identification of specific, action-oriented outcomes that will feed into the work of the CELAC–Africa High-Level Forum.

Accordingly, I am honored to extend an invitation to you to join the “Bi-regional Economic Forum” as a panelist in the session “Joint Investment and Private Financing,” which will be held within the framework of the CELAC–Africa High-Level Forum on March 20, 2026.

I look forward to the honor of your participation and take this opportunity to reiterate my highest and most distinguished regards.

Francia Elena Márquez Mina
Vice President of the Republic of Colombia