



AFRICAN RENAISSANCE AND DIASPORA NETWORK

MEDIA ADVISORY
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FIVE OUTSTANDING WOMEN ARE WINNERS OF THE 2021 AFRICA: OPEN FOR BUSINESS AWARDS.

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - 28 September 2021 - The African Renaissance and Diaspora Network (ARDN) announced today the names of the winners of the 2021 edition of the Africa: Open for Business Awards, a virtual summit presented at the margins of the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

This year's winners, as presented by Hon. Constance B. Newman, Chair of the ARDN Board, are:

- **Ms. Jackie Joyner-Kersey** for the ***Sport and Philanthropy award*** - in recognition of world-renowned excellence in track and field as well as profound dedication to assisting young people in both academic and athletic pursuits. Through her foundation and the grace with which she has shared her time and legacy, Jackie Joyner-Kersey has been an inspiration to young and old alike.

- **Ms. Samrawit Fikru** for the ***Business Visionary Award*** recognizing her efforts in identifying a need and persisting in overcoming opposition and bias against women to create Hybrid Design and RIDE, an app to provide the most popular taxi hailing service in Ethiopia.

- **Dra. Rosario Lozana Peña** for the ***Leadership and Public Health Award*** in recognition of her outstanding contributions in creating profoundly effective and inspirational organizations providing critically important mental health services in Latin America.

- **Hon. Diane Abbott** for ***Leadership in Government*** for outstanding contributions as a Member of Parliament, advocate for the rights of women world-wide, and champion for the well-being of all peoples of the Diaspora.

- **Ms. Adriana Barbosa** for ***Leadership in Nurturing Afro-Brazilian Entrepreneurship*** for influencing municipal and federal public policies, creating Feira Preta and now PretaHub, a project to extend the reach of Afro-entrepreneurs onto the world stage.

“I salute and congratulate these outstanding five Women Champions whose efforts will definitely advance the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa and the Diaspora” said Dr. Djibril Diallo, President and CEO of the African Renaissance and Diaspora Network.

The **Africa Open for Business** Summit is an annual forum which provides opportunities to review how business should be done and labor opportunities created in Africa and the Diaspora. The 2021 edition of the Summit considered the impediments facing women in Africa and the Diaspora as well as strategies to advance their empowerment in the context of the private sector.

Previous ARDN awardees at the Africa: Open for Business Summits have include H.E. Ms. Epsy Campbell Barr, First Vice President of Costa Rica, H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, former President of the Republic of Liberia; Hon. Rev. Jesse Jackson, Civil Rights Leader and CEO of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition; Ms. Fatma Samoura, Secretary-General of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA); Mr. Aliko Dangote, businessman and owner of the Dangote Group; Mr. Aliaune Damala Badara Akon Thiam, singer and Songwriter.

ARDN
AFRICAN RENAISSANCE AND DIASPORA NETWORK

Event Registration: "2021 Africa Open for Business Summit: Women of Africa and the Diaspora"

With This Invitation
You are cordially invited to
Africa: Open for Business
Wednesday, 22 September, 2021
A High-Level Summit During the UN General Assembly, New York City

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021
11:00 AM (-4 GMT)

AWARDS

AWARDS PRESENTED BY
Hon. Constance B. Newman
Chair of the Board, ARDN,
United States of America

Business Visionary
Ms. Samrawit Fikru
CEO of RIDE,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Leadership in Business and Public Health
Ms. Rosario Lozano Peña
Founder & Manager, Clínica del Sistema Nervioso Renovar,
Republic of Colombia

Sports & Philanthropy
Ms. Jackie Joyner-Kersey
Chairwoman, Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation; Olympian; United States of America

Nurturing Afro-Brazilian Entrepreneurship
Ms. Adriana Barbosa
Founder of Feira & Chief Executive Officer, of PretaHub,
Federative Republic of Brazil

Leadership in Government
Rt. Hon. Diane Julie Abbott
Member of Parliament for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

<https://ardn.ngo/rsvp/aob2021/>

WEDDAYS
zoom

The African Renaissance and Diaspora Network (ARDN) is an internationally operating NGO headquartered in New York, with the status of a United States 501(c)(3) public charity. ARDN's mission is to accelerate the attainment of the African renaissance by advocating for and supporting United Nations programs and priorities. To this end, ARDN mobilizes the passion of government, educators, artists, intellectuals, the private sector, civil society and youth, using the power of art, sport and culture as vectors for creating a better world. ARDN serves as the Secretariat for the Global Alliance of Mayors and Leaders from Africa and of African Descent.

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