

Hungley: Africa needs confidence, capital and strong institutions to unlock its potential

Réduit, 8 October 2026 - Africa's vast potential must be matched by stronger institutions, greater confidence and the mobilisation of capital towards investment-ready opportunities, Acting President of the Republic H.E. Jean Yvan Robert Hungley said during a courtesy call by Ms Ahunna Eziakonwa, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Special Adviser on Africa to the UN Secretary-General, on 7 October.

Welcoming Ms Eziakonwa, who was accompanied by UN Resident Coordinator Lisa Simrique-Singh and Jean-Paul Adam, Director for Policy, Monitoring and Advocacy in the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, H.E. Hungley stressed that Mauritius, as an African Small Islands Developing State, sees its future as closely connected to that of the continent.

“There is a great potential across Africa,” the Acting President said, emphasising that unlocking it would require integrity, transparency and strong institutions capable of building confidence in Africa's economies and systems.

H.E. Hungley stressed that mobilising capital must go hand in hand with developing projects capable of attracting and sustaining investment. Stronger project preparation, risk-sharing mechanisms, guarantees and blended finance, combined with deeper public-private collaboration, can help channel more African and private capital towards productive opportunities across the continent.

He highlighted the contribution Mauritius can make through its financial expertise, investment structures and international connectivity, particularly in support of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The Acting President also pointed to digitalisation as a potential accelerator of African integration. Drawing on Mauritius' experience in customs and logistics, he noted that digital systems could contribute to a more efficient continental customs architecture, facilitate the movement of goods and people, strengthen revenue collection and support cross-border trade.

He further underlined the importance of greater South-South cooperation and of strengthening Africa's voice in global decision-making. Mauritius, he said, remained committed to working with African partners to build greater confidence in the continent's institutions and economic potential.

Ms Eziakonwa welcomed Mauritius' strategic position within AfCFTA's emerging continental market of some 1.5 billion people, describing the country as well placed to connect Africa with Asia and Europe. She also highlighted opportunities in tourism, trade and investment and commended Mauritius for the resilience it has built as a small island economy.

She noted the importance of strengthening Africa's capacity to negotiate on its own terms, including by equipping African negotiating committees with evidence of the continent's

readiness and supporting efforts to demonstrate the value and potential of African youth and enterprises, including SMEs.

The discussions also covered cooperation in digitalisation, artificial intelligence, health procurement and drug control, with the UN Resident Coordinator recalling the UN's support to Mauritius in areas including its digital blueprint, AI strategy and National Drug Control Master Plan.

H.E. Hungley reaffirmed Mauritius' support for AU Agenda 2063 and expressed appreciation for the African Union's solidarity on the Chagos issue.

The Acting President and Ms Eziakonwa agreed that a stronger, more integrated and more self-confident Africa will require African countries, institutions, the private sector and international partners to work together towards a common purpose.

As Ms Eziakonwa put it: "The Africa we want is the one we build and the Africa the world needs."