



Delegation of the Niger State. Mr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu holds the Special contribution award

Mining industry in Africa Forum in Brussels

[Karina Georgieva](#)

Last Friday the Crans Montana Forum organized a high-level panel dedicated to the challenges of the mining industry. The main focus of the conference was the African mining industry.

An exceptional guest of the Crans Montana Forum was the Governor of the Niger State Mr Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu. At the end of the conference the Governor was awarded a special price for his leadership and contribution to the economic development of the Niger State.

The Niger State is one of the 36 states of Nigeria and due to its location, climate and soil it is one of the largest and most fertile agriculture lands in the country. According to Mr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu one of the biggest mistakes of the Niger State is that the agriculture has been left aside because the people there rely so much on oil. An important step to make now is to pay more attention to agriculture and therefore “ to be able to feed the population and to be able to export food”.

Because of the large population of the continent some of the biggest challenges Africa is facing today are poverty, education and also electricity. Speaking about these issues, Mr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu pointed out that development would be possible only if the African women were empowered.

According to the Governor the best way to make all of these changes come true is leadership - “the leadership needs a lot of honesty, it is a sacrifice. Leadership is not about the individual. It's not about the comfort of the individual. It's about the people that are serving - particularly those of us who have been elected to the offices”.

The Crans Montana Forum is an international organization, established in 1986 and works in close cooperation with institutional partners such as UN, UNIDO, ISESCO, UNESCO, NATO, the European Union, the Council of Europe and major international groups.

On Friday, 15 November governments, international and regional organizations as well as heads of companies shared their experience and vision of crucial challenges for Africa's future. Indeed the mining resources are invaluable wealth that could foster a dynamic and sustainable growth in Africa and all over the world.

The topics discussed at the conference were (i) Dealing with natural resources: need for competence, professional experience and a globally improved governance at the state level. (ii) The need for ethical policies at the corporate level. Africa needs to make money "in a responsible manner", points out the CEO of Mwana Africa Kalaa Mpinga (iii) The need for a more equitable sharing of mining resources and a better social framework and (iv) The need for protecting the environment.