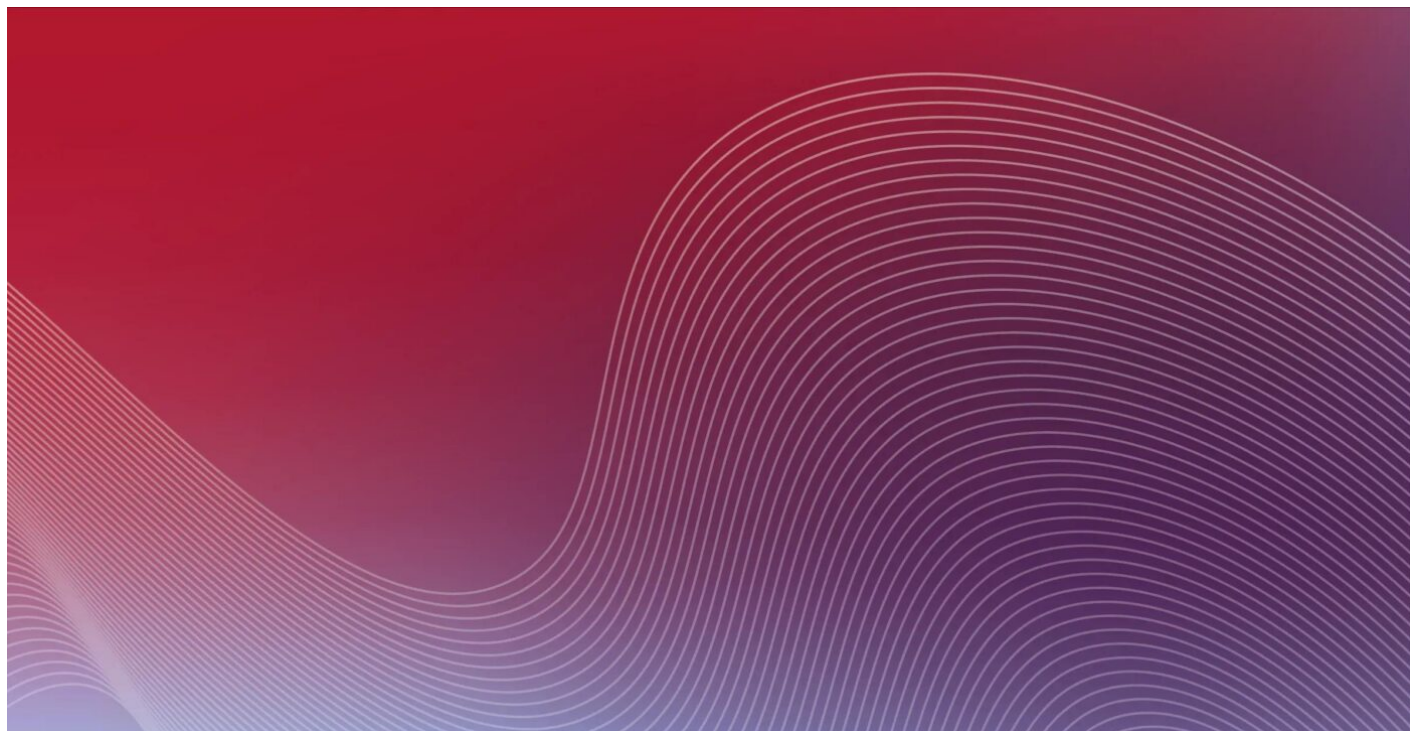




AFRICA **CEO** FORUM
ANNUAL SUMMIT



Abidjan

12 AND 13 MAY 2025



OPENING CEREMONY

Speakers

- Eleni GIOKOS / Correspondent, CNN
- H.E. Alassane OUATTARA / President, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Makhtar DIOP / Managing Director, IFC

OPENING PANEL

Can a New Deal between state and private sector deliver the continent a winning hand?

The global resurgence of economic nationalism is shaping Africa's growth prospects, giving fresh urgency to reshape the partnership between private and public sectors. The continent's resilience remains tied to agricultural self-sufficiency, financial innovation, digital acceleration, and industrial capacity, but its success depends on a strengthened synergy between the public and private sectors. Historically, nations that have successfully undergone economic transformation have combined strategic public investment with entrepreneurial dynamism. In this context, how can Africa structure a "New Deal" between the state and the private sector to accelerate its development?

Key points:

- Improvement of governance and accountability: How can African governments foster a more business-minded approach to policymaking?
- How should Africa act now to capitalise on a closing industrialisation window in energy, labour and manufacturing?
- Accelerated Continental Free Trade Agreement implementation: Can the AfCFTA pool African economic power in a confrontational world?

Speakers

- Eleni GIOKOS / Correspondent, CNN
- Acha LEKE / Senior Partner and Chairman, McKinsey & Company, Africa
- Amir BEN YAHMED / CEO, Jeune Afrique Media Group
- Christel HEYDEMANN / CEO, Orange
- Ethiopis TAFARA / Regional Vice President for Africa, IFC
- Edha NAHDI / Group Managing Director, Amsons Group of Companies

PRESIDENTIAL PANEL

Towards a powerful Africa: The road to economic, political and commercial integration?

A shifting global balance, driven by the return of economic sovereignty and the resurgence of trade wars, demands a common African response. Questions remain whether the institutions and mechanisms devised over several decades, from the African Union to regional economic zones and including the AfCFTA, have delivered the expected levers of power and growth. It also remains unclear whether the private sector has found the conditions it needs to thrive—let alone emerge as a leading economic force. Five African Presidents discuss the required reforms and how the state and private sector must work together to build a sovereign and sustainable continental power.

Key points:

- Public-private new deal: How can African companies become the engine of the continent's power?
- Deglobalisation: What is the future of the AfCFTA?
- Financial institutions, the African Union...: Which entities will best defend African interests on the global stage?

Speakers

- Larry MADOWO / International Correspondent, CNN
- H.E Paul KAGAME / President, Republic of Rwanda
- H.E. Tiémoko Meyliet KONE / Vice-President, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- H.E Cyril RAMAPHOSA / President, Republic of South Africa
- H.E. Mohamed Cheikh EL-GHAZOUANI / President, Islamic Republic of Mauritania

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

From factory to port: Why infrastructure will drive Africa's industrial revolution

Several African industrial success stories rely on the proximity of production sites to ports, railways, and major roadways. Tanger Med in Morocco, the Tema Export Processing Zone in Ghana, and others benefit from logistical infrastructure that connects production sites to markets, reduces costs, and improves competitiveness. Many African countries still struggle to replicate this model, often due to high costs of infrastructure construction, while limited access to reliable and competitive utilities further hinder the development of competitive industries. How can the continent put logistics at the core of its industrialisation acceleration?

Key points:

- Access to raw materials, energy infrastructure, and logistics: What mechanisms can help build integrated industrial ecosystems from upstream to downstream?
- Public-private governance: How can regulatory frameworks be structured to encourage investments while ensuring fair local value?
- Regional cooperation: Following the example of the CEMAC tri-border SEZ project, how can countries develop synergies for cross-border value chains?

Speakers

- Jennifer ZABASAJJA / Chief Africa Correspondent & Anchor, Bloomberg TV
- Mehdi TAZI RIFFI / CEO, Tanger Med
- Adesuwa LADOJA / Managing Director & CEO, Lagos Free Zone (Tolaram)
- Gerard RHEINBERGER / Managing Director - Simandou Project, Rio Tinto
- Mohamed SAMARA / CEO MPS - Ghana, AGL
- Gérard KOUASSI / Managing Director, Porteo BTP Côte d'Ivoire

SIDE EVENT GAVI

A Winning Hand: Leveraging Private Sector Innovation and Capital for Health Impact in Africa

Access by invitation only.

Africa, with its rapidly growing population and increasing demand for quality healthcare, is at a pivotal moment. Health is not only a development priority but also a key driver of long-term economic resilience. Despite bearing 25% of the global disease burden, Africa accounts for less than 2% of global health expenditure. Public funding alone is insufficient to bridge this gap. Meeting Africa's health challenges at scale requires a stronger role for the private sector—not just in financing, but also in delivering innovation, infrastructure, and technology. However, scaling health systems innovations faces significant barriers, including market discovery, procurement challenges, and financing gaps. The Gavi Scale-Up Fund (SUF) aims to address these barriers by accelerating the adoption of transformative innovations across Gavi-supported countries, leveraging performance-based payments and proactive backing of innovative actors. This session will explore how blended finance, digital health tools, and local entrepreneurship can unlock transformative impact—expanding access to vaccines and strengthening health systems across the continent.

Speakers

- Matthews MMOPI / Partner, Leader of Life Sciences Practice, McKinsey & Company, Africa
- Walid SHETA / Zone President, Middle East & Africa, Schneider Electric
- Farid FEZOUA / Global Director for Disruptive Technologies, Services, and Funds, IFC
- Oghenetega IORTIM / CEO, Figorr
- Xavier GREUSARD / Vice President Africa, Zipline International
- Augustin FLORY / Managing Director - Development Finance & Innovative Partnerships , GAVI ALLIANCE
- Marie-Ange SARAHA-YAO / Chief Officer for Resource Mobilisation & Growth, GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance
- H.E. Pierre DIMBA / Minister of Health, Hygiene, and Universal Health Coverage, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Mildred Nadah PITA / Responsable des affaires publiques Science et durabilité, Afrique, Bayer

INVEST IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

As the foremost annual meeting of the private sector on the continent, the Africa CEO Forum is the leading platform for public-private dialogue. 'Invest In' sessions allow CEOs and investors to meet with high-level African government officials to gain deeper insight into their countries' economic development strategies. These sessions provide exposure to a variety of key sectors, business environments, and public and private investment opportunities.

Speakers

- Marc WABI / Managing Partner , ADENKA
- H.E. Nialé KABA / Minister of Economy, Planning and Development, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- H.E. Robert BEUGRE MAMBE / Prime Minister, Head of Government, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- H.E. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA / Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- H.E. Moussa SANOGO / Minister of State Assets, Public Holdings and State-Owned Enterprises, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- H.E. Adama COULIBALY / Minister of Finance and Budget, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Partheeban THEODORE / President, Regional Director, Olam Agri



CONVERSATION WITH

Can Africa make the tax system work for local businesses?

The average African pays less than \$200 annually in taxes, compared to over \$15,000 in advanced economies, while tax mobilisation is further undermined by illicit financial flows and base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) by multinational enterprises. This contributes to a tax burden that falls disproportionately on African homegrown businesses. How can multinational companies be more effectively taxed where they create value? How can governments strike the balance between taxing domestic and international firms? And how can international organisations promote certainty for businesses while ensuring African tax bases are protected? In an exclusive interview, Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General of the OECD outlines how African nations can rebalance the tax burden.

Speakers

- Catherine BYARUHANGA / Presenter, BBC News
- Mathias CORMANN / Secretary-General, OECD

SIDE EVENT EBRD

Partnering for progress: Public-private synergies for Africa's transformation

Access by invitation only.

EBRD's expanding presence in Sub-Saharan Africa is playing a central role in strengthening public-private partnerships (PPPs) and supporting development efforts across the region. With an annual financing gap exceeding \$100 billion, strategic collaboration between public and private stakeholders is essential to mobilize the resources needed to foster inclusive and sustainable growth. This session will bring together experts and stakeholders to explore how such partnerships can overcome challenges, promote innovation, and unlock Africa's vast economic potential. Aligned with the Africa CEO Forum's 2025 theme — "Can a new deal between state and private sector deliver the continent a winning hand?" — this panel will examine how to structure and implement partnerships that effectively address Africa's most pressing needs, while leveraging public-private synergies for long-term, inclusive development.

Speakers

- Heike HARMGART / Managing Director, Sub-Saharan Africa, EBRD
- Coura Carine SENE / Regional Director, Wave Mobile Money Group
- Rachel MORE-OSHODI / Managing Director & CEO, ARM-Harith
- Youssef ROUISSI / General Manager, CIB, Attijariwafa Bank
- Marco ARCELLI / CEO, ACWA Power

PANEL

AI as a catalyst for a new public-private deal in Africa

Digital technologies—especially Artificial Intelligence—could unlock up to \$1.5 trillion in economic growth for Africa by 2030. Yet this potential remains hampered by gaps in infrastructure, skills, and strategic coordination. To turn AI into a driver of productivity and inclusion, public and private actors must work hand in hand. This panel brings together leading policymakers and business leaders to lay the foundations of a high-performing, sovereign, and inclusive African AI ecosystem.

Key points:

- How can public-private partnerships be designed to accelerate AI adoption in key sectors like health, finance, and agriculture?
- What regulatory frameworks and tax incentives are needed to attract private investment in AI?
- From connectivity to talent: What conditions must be in place to build globally competitive AI hubs across the continent?

Speakers

- Aymen MTIMET / Associé Consulting, Deloitte
- Daniel Kwadwo OWUSU / Managing Partner, Deloitte
- Mark-Alexandre DOUMBA / Minister of Digital Economy and Innovation, Gabonese Republic
- Sanda OJIAMBO / Assistant General Secretary & CEO, UN Global Compact
- Karim CHIOUAR / CEO, Holmarcom Group
- Annick SAKHO / Director Public & Government Affairs - Africa, Oracle

STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE

The African Oil & Gas Coalition

From players to powerhouses: The era of African Oil & Gas actors

Access via sign-up on the event app or by invitation only. Reserved for participants in the Oil&Gas Industry and Media.

For decades, Africa's hydrocarbon resources have been shaped by global market trends—from the OPEC era to today's energy transition discourse. Too often, the continent's hydrocarbon potential has been seen as a global reservoir rather than a driver of African growth. But with global perceptions shifting over the nature and timing of the transition, Africa's Oil & Gas industry has a renewed opportunity: to power the continent's energy future and industrial expansion.

The African Oil and Gas Coalition gathers African actors from all hydrocarbon sectors, together with National Oil Companies and representatives of the public sector to tackle the most important question: how can African hydrocarbons become the flame sparking Africa's growth?

Key Points:

- African Capital for African projects? How to better access African financing for hydrocarbon projects in the era of expensive capital and uncertain geopolitical scenarios?
- Public-Private Push: As various National Oil Companies push for greater efficiency and privatisation, how can African private sector players assist and support this trend?
- Friends, not Foes: IOCs remain major players in Africa. What are the best strategies for fostering win-win joint ventures that drive African-led growth?

Speakers

- Felicia DJIBO / President, AMCHAM CÔTE D'IVOIRE
- Mamadou Sangafowa COULIBALY / Minister of Mine, Petroleum and Energy, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- H.E. Gwede MANTASHE / Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Republic of South Africa
- Joe SANG / CEO, Kenya Pipeline Company
- Ayo OTULAYO / CEO, Prime Atlantic Nigeria
- René HOUNSINOU / President, Benin Petro SA
- Kamel KONE / President, GESPETROGAS-CI
- Olu VERHEIJEN / Special Adviser to the President on Energy, Republic of Nigeria
- Sid'Ahmed Ould BOUH / Minister of Finance and the Economy, Islamic Republic of Mauritania

SIDE EVENT IFC

AgriConnect: Partnering to boost Africa's food security

Access by invitation only.

This high-level engagement aims to foster a collaborative environment where private sector CEOs and World Bank Group leaders can engage on the African agribusiness sector. The CEOs will hear from five Directors from the World Bank and IFC about their projects to address public goods, enabling environments and business opportunities for the private sector. The session will emphasize interactive discussions, allowing participants to explore potential synergies with their operations and supply chains and brainstorm opportunities for collaboration with the World Bank Group. The goal is to initiate follow-up discussions that can lead to real projects and partnerships to strengthen food security and farmer incomes in Africa.

Speakers

- Henrik E. PEDERSEN / Regional Industry Director, Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Services, Africa, IFC
- Aliou MAIGA / Africa Regional Industry Director, Financial Institutions, IFC
- Anna WELLENSTEIN / Regional Practice Director for Sustainable Development, East and Southern Africa, World Bank
- Chakib JENANE / Regional Practice Director for Sustainable Development, West and Central Africa, World Bank
- Muhamet BAMBA FALL / Director for Industries, MIGA, IFC



WFC STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE

Rethinking power: Women's leadership as a competitive edge

Gender-diverse leadership is no longer just a moral imperative—it's a performance driver. Companies with more women in executive roles are 25% more likely to deliver above-average profitability. And yet, across Africa, women remain underrepresented in the top tiers of corporate power, despite leading in entrepreneurship and innovation. This closed-door roundtable will bring together a cross-section of male and female CEOs, board directors, and investors for a candid exchange: how can businesses move from ambition to execution when it comes to women's leadership? What practical levers—governance models, talent pipelines, capital allocation—can unlock real, sustainable progress? And what shared responsibility must senior leadership take to accelerate this shift?

Key points:

- From ambition to architecture: Embedding gender equity into corporate design
- Power sharing: Enabling women's access to capital, influence, and key decisions
- Accountability at the top: How to hardwire gender equity into governance

Speakers

- Yasmina Ndella BILEOMA / PR Regional Director , Wave
- Noellie TIENDREBEOGO / CEO , Ecobank Burkina

PANEL

The tax test: How to increase revenues without a popular backlash?

Kenya, Somalia, and Nigeria's 2024 tax protests highlight the challenges in raising Africa's 16.5% tax-to-GDP ratio toward the OECD's 34%. While Mauritius and Rwanda streamlined processes and embraced digital collection, businesses elsewhere felt under-consulted. BUA Group's Abdulsamad Rabi'u has argued that reforms need time to yield results. But critics warn of a return to the harsh "shock therapy" of the '80s and '90s, with fears that tax revenues will be funnelled to debt servicing over infrastructure or business development. With President Ruto backtracking on Kenya's finance bill and Ethiopia pursuing its own tax reforms, how can states better engage the private sector to avoid further unrest?

Key points:

- Improving industry-government consultation: When and how to get feedback
- Staple foods & mobile money: Which sectors should be untouchable or taxed more smartly?
- Beyond debt service: How can savings also be directed to sustainable economic growth?

Speakers

- Julians AMBOKO / Host - Business Redefined & CFO Chat, Nation Media Group
- Martin OCHIEN'G / Group Managing Director, Sasini PLC
- Diane KARUSISI / CEO, Bank of Kigali Plc
- Henry OROH / Executive Director, Zenith Bank Plc
- Ebenezer ASANTE / Senior Vice President, MTN Group



COCKTAIL Disrupters Club & 20 Future Champions of Tech

Scaling up African startups: Unlocking corporate partnerships and regional markets

African startups raised \$3.2B in 2024, signaling renewed investor confidence after a turbulent year. But while capital is slowly returning, startups now face a deeper challenge: accessing large-scale markets. From corporate procurement and B2B distribution to regional expansion, commercial traction remains one of the biggest bottlenecks to growth. In parallel, large African corporates are increasingly seeking agile partners to accelerate their digital transformation agendas — yet too many collaborations remain at pilot stage, with limited long-term impact. In this exclusive cocktail hosted by VISA, Jeune Afrique and The Africa Report, top startup founders and corporate CEOs will come together to explore how to build high-value partnerships, unlock access to key markets, and turn African innovation into scalable business success.

Speakers

- Eleni GIOKOS / Correspondent, CNN
- Anta NDIAYE / Principal, Sawari Ventures
- Nathan NWACHUKU / CEO & Co-founder, Terrahaptix
- Ted Pantone / CEO & Co-Founder, Turaco
- Sophie KAFUTI / Senior Director - General Manager Visa DR Congo, VISA
- Youssef ROUISSI / General Manager, CIB, Attijariwafa Bank

STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE

To build, partner or rent: Who holds the keys to Africa's digital transformation?

Access via sign-up on the event app or by invitation only.

Africa's digital future depends on the seamless fusion of connectivity, cloud, telecom towers, and digital infrastructure—but the road is anything but smooth. A 13% mobile broadband gap leaves millions unconnected, while high energy costs, currency fluctuations, and taxation threaten investment. Regulatory deadlocks, like the Vodacom-Maziv merger, stall consolidation. Yet, as data demand surges, the key question is: how can Africa strengthen its digital backbone, accelerate cloud adoption, and build strategic partnerships for long-term financial sustainability? This roundtable will bring together industry leaders to explore funding models, towerco-MNO collaboration, and investment-friendly regulation to drive expansion.

Key Points:

- Expanding digital infrastructure: What strategies can enhance the resilience of high-capacity networks and accelerate telecom infrastructure deployment, particularly in underserved areas?
- Rethinking investment and ownership: With the private sector leading the charge, how can new financing models, strategic partnerships, and towerco-MNO collaboration drive sustainable, inclusive infrastructure growth?
- The regulatory landscape: What role should policymakers play in fostering an investment-friendly environment that accelerates digital transformation?

Speakers

- Tolu OYEKAN / Managing Director and Partner, Head of BCG Nigeria, Boston Consulting Group
- Dr. Jumoke ODUWOLE / Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Marek BUSFY / Senior Vice President & CEO, American Tower - Africa & Asia
- Sarvesh SURI / Regional Industry Director, IFC
- Mitwa NG'AMBI / CEO, MTN Côte d'Ivoire
- Karim BENARRAS / Deputy Director, Porteo BTP
- Dr. Jumoke ODUWOLE / Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Federal Republic of Nigeria

STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE

Patient capital, scalable impact: The future of development finance

Access via sign-up on the event app or by invitation only.

Is traditional aid gone for good? In this era, the lines between philanthropy, private capital, public finance and development finance are blurring, with funders prioritising bankable, result-driven models. As a result, philanthropy is also undergoing a radical transformation – one that prioritises strategic investment over charity, financial sustainability over dependency, and results over rhetoric. Growing evidence shows that social returns and profitability can go hand in hand. But how can development become truly bankable?

Key points:

- The business case for development: Can social initiatives be structured to attract investors while delivering measurable, scalable impact?
- Rethinking private capital: With traditional aid declining, can private investors, philanthropists, and businesses step up to finance solutions at scale?
- From grants to growth capital: How can philanthropy leverage investment principles to drive sustained impact without losing sight of its mission?

Speakers

- Mezuo NWUNELI / Managing Partner, Sahel Capital
- Jonathan BERMAN / CEO, Shell Foundation
- Eng. Faisal ALKHATANI / Deputy CEO, Saudi Development Fund
- Maria HÅKANSSON / CEO, Swedfund
- Marie-Ange SARAHA-YAO / Chief Officer for Resource Mobilisation & Growth, GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance
- John HUMPHREY / His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Africa, United Kingdom Department for Business and Trade (British High Commission South Africa)
- Amb. Troy FITRELL / Senior Official for African Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- Harold TAVARES / Executive Director for the Africa Group II, World Bank Group's Board of Directors
- Antoine RESK DIOMANDÉ / Group Director ESG, Impact & Fondation, Atlantic Group SA



Conversation With

African Digital Sovereignty: Mirage or Revolution in the Making?

As data, technological infrastructure, and digital platforms reshape global power dynamics, digital sovereignty has become a strategic priority for Africa. In this exclusive conversation with Marwane Ben Yahmed, Editor-in-Chief of Jeune Afrique, Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye shares his vision for a technological New Deal on the continent.

From the imperative of mastering digital infrastructure to reducing dependency on foreign tech actors—and implementing reforms to make digital transformation a true lever for structural change—the President outlines Senegal's strategic choices and the path toward a sustainable African digital sovereignty.

Speakers

- Marwane BEN YAHMED / Director of publication, Jeune Afrique
- S.E Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar FAYE / President, Republic of Senegal



CONVERSATION WITH

Built to last

According to Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, co-founder of Tengen Family Office, Africa's inability to build enduring Family-Owned Businesses (FOBs) is a major barrier to its economic development. In this exclusive conversation with Acha Leke, Senior partner & Chairman of McKinsey's Africa, the two leaders explore key drivers of long-term success—governance, philanthropy, structured succession. How can African FOBs shift from survival to legacy and build generational champions?

Speakers

- Acha LEKE / Senior Partner and Chairman, McKinsey & Company, Africa
- Aigboje AIG-IMOUKHUEDE / Chairman, Access Holdings and Coronation Group

PANEL

Frugal or prodigal AI: What is the African model?

International regulation of AI is only just beginning to take shape, but three distinct and opposing models are becoming clear: With its 100 billion AI Initiative, the United States has opted for unlimited funding and self-regulation of the sector; Europe, with its AI Act, is taking the lead in regulation; while China's Deepseek pursues a frugal AI approach building on rival models. Does Africa hold the key to the fourth alternative?

Key points:

- How will African governance of AI ensure that the continent is not disadvantaged by how other countries use technology?
- What will AI for Africa look like given the continent's uncompetitive energy and cloud supply deficit?
- Actionable AI: how will African businesses benefit from AI now?

Speakers

- Manal BERNOUSSI / Founder & Managing Director, Leaders on Purpose
- Adrian CLAMP / Global Head of Consulting Strategy & Investments, KPMG International
- Catherine MURAGA / Managing Director, Microsoft Africa Development Center
- Geoffrey ODUNDO / CEO, Nation Media Group
- Hardy PEMHIWA / Président & CEO, Cassava Technologies

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

No grid, no growth: How to solve Africa's power transmission problem

Underdeveloped regional power pools and poor infrastructure cause bottlenecks in power transmission and distribution in Africa. The installed capacity of the continent – just 150 000 km of transmission lines – is well below present and future energy needs and is crippled by low operational capacity. Addressing these inefficiencies in energy transmission losses is essential to unlocking reliable energy access sustaining and boosting a new age of African development. The age of electricity is upon us: how can African institutions and businesses bolster the continent's power self-sufficiency?

Key points:

- Regional power pools in a transactional world: Do they infringe or shore up national energy sovereignty?
- Will rising consumer demand and PPP success stories like Africa50 & Powergrid Corporation in Kenya turn the tide on private capital shortage in transmission projects?
- As private investments pile up in power generation projects across the continent, how can DFI funds help re-equilibrate portfolio allocation towards the equally important energy transmission?

Speakers

- Julien WAGNER / Head of Media Diversification and Rankings, Jeune Afrique Media Group
- Adwoa BANFUL / Partner, BCG
- Ahmadou BAKAYOKO / CEO, CIE
- Ali HJAIEJ / Vice President, Karpowership
- Walid SHETA / Zone President, Middle East & Africa, Schneider Electric
- Marco ARCELLI / CEO, ACWA Power
- Rachel MORE-OSHODI / Managing Director & CEO, ARM-Harith
- Ousmane DIONE / Regional Vice-President, Middle East and North Africa, World Bank

PANEL

Built to last: Learning from the secrets of out-performing family-owned businesses (FOBs)

A recent study reveals that FOBs account for nearly three-quarters of global GDP and 60 % of global employment. However, only 3% of FOBs in Africa (5% globally) survive beyond the third generation, partly due to generational tensions regarding vision and choices about diversification, talent, and governance. For the next generation stepping into a FOB, what strategies and mindsets can they adopt to ensure sustainability? And what can they learn from FOBs that have made this transition successfully?

Key points:

- The diversification imperative: How can FOBs unlock access to new technologies, industries, and geographies through M&As and other means?
- Strengthening governance: From independent boards to the establishment of family offices, what are the key success factors for effective FOB governance?
- Beyond attraction: How can FOBs identify, train, and develop top talent to ensure long-term retention?

Speakers

- Rufai OSENI / Journalist presenter, Arise TV
- Acha LEKE / Senior Partner and Chairman, McKinsey & Company, Africa
- Jean KACOU DIAGOU / Founder & President, NSIA Group
- Marième NGOM / Managing Director, Sertem Property Management
- Guillaume DALAIS / Group Chief Executive, CIEL Group
- Pierre FAUVET / Managing Director, Creadev Africa
- Thomas FISCHER / Président, MANN+HUMMEL

PANEL

Cost of capital crisis: How can African business turn geopolitical shifts to its advantage?

High interest rates are straining African companies seeking capital for expansion, projects, M&A, and balance-sheet optimisation. Yet capital flows are shifting as the US and Gulf states pivot toward more private-sector-driven funding strategies. How can businesses leverage this shift while overcoming perceived macroeconomic instability, governance concerns, and currency volatility that have deterred investors? And can credit enhancements and concessional DFI finance scale beyond project-specific interventions to lift Africa above its current 0.3% share of the global private credit market?

Key points:

- How can African businesses position themselves to capture capital from US, Gulf, and European funds targeting private-sector expansion?
- Can local institutional capital and mezzanine finance offer a scalable solution for balance-sheet optimisation and private-sector funding?
- What practical steps are needed to scale blended finance and concessional funding beyond project-specific solutions?

Speakers

- David PILLING / Africa Editor, Financial Times
- Marie DIRON / Managing Director - Sovereign Risk, Moody's
- Karim NOUJAIM / Fondateur et associé gérant, Skykapital
- Jyoti JEETUN / Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning, Republic of Mauritius
- Paul ABIAGAM / CEO, Coronation Merchant Bank

SIDE EVENT GABI

Connect. Empower. Prosper: The big push for digital Africa

Access by invitation only.

This multi-stakeholder dialogue and private sector roundtable consultation by the Global Africa Business Initiative aims to highlight how digital transformation can drive Africa's economic growth and explore solutions and opportunities for achieving this. The GABI Bridge at the Africa CEO Forum will focus on several key objectives: highlight the importance of expanding digital infrastructure through financing and investment; promote collaboration between key stakeholders by fostering partnership among governments, the private sector, development partners, investors and technology providers to drive digital transformation efforts; explore the challenges and opportunities by addressing the barriers to digital adoption across the continent and identifying practical solutions to overcome these challenges; and encourage investment in the digital economy by highlighting opportunities in digital infrastructure, tech startups, and innovation hubs across the continent.

Speakers

- George ASAMANI / Managing Director, Sub-Saharan Africa, Projet Management Institute
- Sanda OJIAMBO / Assistant General Secretary & CEO, UN Global Compact
- Catherine MURAGA / Managing Director, Microsoft Africa Development Center
- Acha LEKE / Senior Partner and Chairman, McKinsey & Company, Africa
- Benjamin FERNANDES / Fondateur & CEO, NALA
- Cynthia GNASSINGBE-ESSONAM / Senior Advisor , African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Mine, not yours: Are hard-ball tactics yielding results for African nations?

African states are reforming their mining codes to better leverage their vast resources, particularly in critical minerals where global demand is expected to reach \$16 trillion by 2050. States like Ghana, Mali, Cameroon, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Guinea, and Namibia have asked for greater profit-sharing, increased taxes, and more technology transfers, while at the same time placing greater emphasis on local processing. These economic policies can cause conflict with investors, while foregoing foreign finance and expertise is not an option. How can Africa reconcile local content and investment participation?

Key points:

- Royalties, taxes, and equity participation: How to ensure a fair distribution of revenue between states and international mining companies?
- Export bans, human capital training, Special Economic Zones, energy production: What economically viable levers can be pulled to boost local processing?
- AfCFTA: How can cross-border value chains provide the economies of scale needed to catalyze investments?

Speakers

- Louise MARGOLIN / Deputy editor-in-chief, Africa Business+, Jeune Afrique Media Group
- Christian MION / Partner, EY
- Seydou COULIBALY / Director General of Mines and Geology, Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of Côte d'Ivoire
- Pascal AGBOYIBOR / Managing Partner, Asafo & Co
- Lawrence DECHAMBENOIT / Head of Group Government Relations and Civil Society, Rio Tinto
- Steven FOX / Executive Chairman and Founder, Veracity Worldwide
- Valerie LEVKOV / Global Industry Director, Energy & Mining, IFC

STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE

One app to rule them all? The fight to supercharge Africa's digital economy

Access via sign-up on the event app or by invitation only.

Africa's digital economy is undergoing a seismic shift as super apps and fintechs compete with banks and telecoms to dominate the digital wallet. The region's unique market—high mobile penetration and fragmented financial infrastructure—has accelerated the rise of mobile-first platforms. With over 800 million mobile money accounts across Africa, super apps like M-Pesa and Tingga are pushing the envelope, offering integrated services ranging from mobile payments to e-commerce. However, traditional banks and telecoms still dominate network reach and consumer trust. How will innovation, regulation, and strategic partnerships determine who wins?

Key points:

- The battle for consumer trust in a fragmented market: How can fintechs and super apps build credibility in a market where banks and telecoms have deep historical roots?
- Innovation as a competitive advantage: How are emerging technologies like AI, blockchain, and mobile-first platforms disrupting traditional financial services and enabling new business models?
- Collaboration or competition? Will fintechs and incumbents form partnerships to expand their reach, or will the competition drive innovation and capture the market?

Speakers

- Marshal LUUSA / Partner | Technology & Innovation | Practice Lead, Africa, KPMG
- Raphael DANA / Co-founder & Co-CEO, Gozem
- Cyril CASANOVA / CEO, Sharp Vision
- Coura Carine SENE / Regional Director, Wave Mobile Money Group
- Babacar SECK / Founder & Managing Partner, Askya Investment Partners
- Olukayode AKINBINU / Head of Strategy, Zenith Bank Plc
- Ibrahim Kalil KONATE / Minister of Digital Transition and Digitalization, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Aurélie ADAM SOULE ZOUMAROU / Minister of Digital Economy and Communication, Republic of Benin

DEAL ROOM

Maroc

INVEST IN GUINEA

As the foremost annual meeting of the private sector on the continent, the Africa CEO Forum is the leading platform for public-private dialogue. 'Invest In' sessions allow CEOs and investors to meet with high-level African government officials to gain deeper insight into their countries' economic development strategies. These sessions provide exposure to a variety of key sectors, business environments, and public and private investment opportunities.

Speakers

- Olivier BUYOYA / Regional Director West Africa, IFC
- H.E. Amadou Oury BAH / Prime Minister, Head of Government, Republic of Guinea
- Abdoul Karim DIALLO / CEO, SONOCO
- Ismael DIAKITE / High Representative of the WINNING Consortium, SMB
- Aguibou Saada LY / CEO, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS GROUP
- Aboubacar KOULIBALY / Head of Country, RIO TINTO GUINEE



WORKSHOP

Leading entrepreneurial families: Governance and succession for long-term success

What are the two vital pillars of family enterprise success? This workshop is designed for family business leaders committed to building enduring legacies. It explores how to create family unity and clarity of purpose, and how to handle succession within the family. Through the sharing of best practices in governance and succession planning, participants will gain actionable insights to strengthen cohesion, ensure continuity, and foster the longevity of their businesses across generations.

Hosted by IESE Business School, in collaboration with Strathmore Business School (Kenya) and MDE Business School (Côte d'Ivoire).

Speakers

- Heinrich LIECHTENSTEIN / Academic Director, Africa Initiative, IESE Business School

SIDE EVENT IFC

Dialogue with Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs): Developing a pipeline of bankable projects with IFC's newly launched Africa IPA Network

Access by event app sign up or invitation only.

IPAs play a critical role in structuring private sector investments and are actively building a pipeline of bankable projects across the continent. However, stronger financial modeling, appraisal, and risk analysis would improve the quantity and quality of investment-ready opportunities. How can IFC partner with IPAs to increase the supply of bankable projects in Africa?

Key Points:

- Moving from reactive promotion to proactively showcasing bankable projects.
- What makes a project bankable, and how can IFC help IPAs build a pipeline of bankable projects?
- Strategies for engaging additional partners to develop and expand the pipeline.

Speakers

- Dahlia KHALIFA / Regional Director, Central Africa & Anglophone West Africa, IFC
- Mohamed GOULED / Vice President of Industries, IFC

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Breaking new ground: Can African O&G turn divestments into dominance?

As international O&G companies divest towards African deepwater assets, domestic companies are snapping up prime onshore assets. From Algeria to Angola, and Mozambique to Mauritania, states have long tried to build homegrown extractive industries, yet truly competitive African O&G players are relatively rare, influenced by factors such as limited expertise and challenges related to governance. However, a new wave of champions: Oando, Renaissance, Seplat: all have one distinct advantage: they are pure private players, in a volatile world in which energy is power. Will Africa's homegrown O&G industry seize the moment — and turn today's M&A wave into a catalyst for innovation, resilience, and real value creation?

Key points:

- Domestic dollar: Will African O&G financiers, like the emerging African Energy Bank, boost the rise of African O&G champions?
- Are decades of local content policies finally yielding results, with a technical workforce and experienced suppliers?
- Diversify or die: Should African oil and gas players emulate the diversification strategies of European majors, adopt the pure-play focus of their American counterparts — or pursue alternative paths to maximize the value of Africa's assets?

Speakers

- Jennifer ZABASAJJA / Chief Africa Correspondent & Anchor, Bloomberg TV
- Cyril RUCHONNET / Associate Director - Upstream Research, S&P Global Commodity Insights
- H.E. Gwede MANTASHE / Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Republic of South Africa
- Thierry HEBRAUD / CEO, Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB)
- Nimit SHAH / CFO, Vivo Energy
- Joe SANG / CEO, Kenya Pipeline Company
- Luca VIGNATI / Upstream Director, ENI

SIDE EVENT IFC

Disruptive Solutions for Africa

No media please.

This special gathering will feature a group of 15 young leaders and content creators coming from all across the continent. On this occasion, selected attendees will have the opportunity to present new ideas or 'disruptive approaches' that accelerate Africa's development, while WBG representatives will react to these proposals.

Speakers

- Just Ivy MUNGO / Content Creator
- Mary PORTER PESCHKA / Regional Director, Eastern Africa Hub, IFC
- Olivier BUYOYA / Regional Director West Africa, IFC
- Marie-Chantal UWANYILIGIRA / Division Director for Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Guinea, and Togo, World Bank
- Siby DIABIRA / Senior Manager, Western Europe, IFC

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Sovereign Ratings: Is Africa rated fairly?

Credit rating agencies play a key role in granting African countries access to financing, but their methods are often criticized for systemic biases that drive up debt costs and hinder investment. According to a UNDP study, Africa bears an estimated cost of \$74.5 billion in excessive interest payments and lost financing opportunities. On the other hand, rating agencies like Moody's argue that their assessments are based on objective criteria and real risk evaluation. This unfiltered face-off will challenge these opposing perspectives, clarifying the impact of credit ratings on Africa's development and exploring possible pathways for constructive change.

Speakers

- Ramah NYANG / Journalist, CGTN/Bloomberg
- Marie DIRON / Managing Director - Sovereign Risk, Moody's
- Stanislas ZEZE-BAYARD / CEO & Chairman, Bloomfield Investment Corporation

CONVERSATION WITH

Fast-tracking African integration: The private sector imperative

Wamkele Mene, Secretary General of the AfCFTA, Samaila Zubairu, President & CEO of Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), and Roosevelt Ogbonna, Managing Director & CEO of Access Bank, are united in their belief that the private sector holds the key to accelerating continental integration. Mene highlights tangible progress through tools like the e-Tariff Book and the AfCFTA Adjustment Fund, designed to address economic disparities. Zubairu, newly appointed head of the Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions, is calling for deeper synergy between public capital and private investment to finance Africa's development priorities. Ogbonna brings the perspective of a leading pan-African bank actively supporting cross-border trade and regional financial integration. In this exclusive conversation, the three leaders share their vision of an integration agenda driven by African enterprise—at a time when trade is increasingly used as a tool of geopolitical power.

Speakers

- Trudi MAKHAYA / Partner, BCG
- Samaila ZUBAIRU / President & CEO, Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)
- H.E. Wamkele MENE / Secretary General, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- Roosevelt OGBONNA / Managing Director & CEO, Access Bank

SIDE EVENT Africa Re

Insurance: Africa's hidden engine for growth and resilience

Insurance is not a luxury – it's a necessity for any economy seeking resilience, inclusion, and long-term growth. Yet in Africa, despite having operational markets in every country, insurance remains vastly underutilized. In 2000, Africa with GDP per capita of US\$ 1,624 was on par with emerging Asia with GDP per capita of US\$ 1,724. By 2020, emerging Asia had nearly tripled its GDP per capita to US\$ 5,697, while Africa's had barely doubled to US\$ 2,022.

Insurance Penetration Rates (insurance premiums / GDP) are low, capital pools shallow, protection gaps are wide and public strategies largely silent on the sector's transformative potential. This neglect has real consequences: the continent has fallen behind in both financial development and economic performance. And yet, the sector's value is clear – insurance mobilizes patient capital, stabilizes budgets, de-risks investment, and enables innovation. If treated as a strategic lever rather than an afterthought, insurance can become a cornerstone of Africa's next growth cycle.

Key Points

- Insurance as Public Finance Strategy: How can risk transfer tools help African governments manage fiscal volatility and climate shocks more efficiently?
- Catalyst for Long-Term Investment: In what ways can insurance pools unlock patient capital for infrastructure, SMEs, and innovation?
- Safety Net for Growing and Aging Population: How can short and long-term life insurance prepare a safety net for tomorrow's growing and aging populations?
- A Sector Deserving Priority: What reforms, partnerships, or incentives are needed to boost penetration and integrate insurance into national economic planning?

Speakers

- Tunde AKINDELE / Global Head of Strategy, S&P Global
- Corneille KAREKEZI / Group Managing Director & CEO, AFRICA RE
- Jonas MUSHOSHO / PDG, Afrexinsure
- Almamy TIMITE / Deputy COO, NSIA Group
- Sharif Mahmud KHALID / Economic Advisor to the Vice Presidency, Presidency of Ghana
- Jyoti JEETUN / Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning, Republic of Mauritius

DISRUPTERS CLUB

Beyond the hype: How investors can identify lasting start-up potential

Over the past decade, Africa's tech ecosystem has been a rollercoaster—rapid growth, billion-dollar valuations, and sudden collapses. The downfall of high-profile start-ups like 54Gene, Dash, and Sendy, despite collectively raising over \$200 million, raised urgent questions about sustainability. Yet, successes like Moniepoint, Paystack and Yoco prove lasting potential exists for those who know where to look. Emerging sectors, fueled by Generative AI and evolving markets, are capturing investor attention. The stakes are high, and the pressure is on for strategic investors to separate fleeting hype from real opportunity. How can investors avoid the pitfalls of hype and make smarter decisions in this volatile ecosystem? What is the secret to spotting lasting potential?

Key points:

- Red flags, due diligence, best practices: With several African start-ups closing down due to fraud and poor market fit, how can investors assess financial health, founder integrity, and scalability ?
- The resilience formula: What common characteristics distinguish thriving start-ups, and how can investors identify these early to ensure lasting success?
- Where should investors bet in 2025: How will the rise of GenAI and evolving market dynamics shape the next wave of high-impact opportunities?

Speakers

- Katharina LINK / CEO, Pulse Africa
- Bongani SITHOLE / CEO, 54 Collective
- Lina KACYEM / Managing Partner Francophone Africa, Launch Africa Ventures
- Aïda DIARRA / Senior Vice President , Visa
- Benjamin FERNANDES / Fondateur & CEO, NALA
- Farid FEZOUA / Global Director for Disruptive Technologies, Services, and Funds, IFC

PANEL

End of aid? How can local financing and philanthropy fill the void

With the US government retracting most of its foreign aid to Africa at the beginning of this year, the domino effect of other countries following suit is well underway. An opportunity has opened for philanthropy to step in and reconfigure the entire development finance space of the continent. Bottlenecks are preventing private foundations from fulfilling their development potential. More than ever Africans must look to themselves for both financing and driving transformative local impact. How will African-grown solutions and resources react to the retreat of some global partners?

Key points:

- What is the new role of international philanthropic organisations in this rapidly changing ecosystem?
- How can businesses and governments push for grassroots, community-driven initiatives to fill the economic development gap?
- What innovative models and partnerships are emerging to drive sustainable development and social impact beyond traditional international aid?

Speakers

- John McDERMOTT / Chief Africa correspondent, The Economist
- Mills SCHENCK / Managing Director & Senior Partner, Head of BCG Kenya, BCG
- Solomon ZEWDU / CEO, The END Fund
- Gbenga OYEBODE / Chairman, Africa Philanthropy Forum
- Fatim CISSE / CEO, IHS Cote d'Ivoire
- Swazi TSHABALALA / Candidate, Presidency of AfDB

CASE STUDY

How 70+ CEOs of the Africa Business Leaders Coalition (ABLC) are elevating Africa's global voice

Open for all attendees – but seating limited, early arrival a few mins before the start time recommended

As global dynamics continue to evolve, calls for a New Deal between the public and private sectors are growing. This session presents the Africa Business Leaders Coalition (ABLC) as a case study in how Africa's CEOs are responding – through coordinated action on climate, gender equality, and economic transformation. Featuring leaders from the Coalition, the session will explore ABLC's engagement in global forums like COP and UNGA, share lessons from members shaping investment and policy, and examine how Africa's private sector can speak with one voice to shape the global directions

Speakers

- Qahir DHANANI / Managing Director & Partner, BCG
- Martin OCHIEN'G / Group Managing Director, Sasini PLC
- Sanda OJIAMBO / Assistant General Secretary & CEO, UN Global Compact
- Mustafa RAWJI / CEO, Rawbank
- Tom GITOGO / Group MD & CEO, Britam Holdings PLC

PRIME MINISTERS PANEL

A New Deal: Forging win-win state-private sector partnerships

Nearly two-thirds of ministers surveyed globally (60%) predict that future governments will collaborate more closely with the private sector. Yet despite legislation in almost all African states governing business-state partnerships, many private sector leaders remain dissatisfied with public policies. With rapid population growth, budgetary constraints, urgent industrialisation goals, and regional integration at stake —what collaboration models will ensure both public interest and lasting investor appeal? Prime Ministers from Cote d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Cameroon and Guinea tackle the question with The Africa Report's Patrick Smith.

Key points:

- Smarter public policies: How can governments harness private-sector expertise in tech and strategic management?
- Could the China Development Bank model be leveraged by African development banks to fuel industrial growth?
- AfCFTA: What policy initiatives are needed to fast-track the private sector benefits?

Speakers

- Patrick SMITH / Editor, The Africa Report
- H.E. Robert BEUGRE MAMBE / Prime Minister, Head of Government, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- H.E. Amadou Oury BAH / Prime Minister, Head of Government, Republic of Guinea
- Kassim Majaliwa MAJALIWA / Prime Minister, United Republic of Tanzania
- H.E. Dr. Joseph DION NGUTE / Prime Minister, Head of Government, Republic of Cameroon



HEAD-TO-HEAD

Is nuclear the right bet, or should Africa prioritise renewables?

Africa's nuclear ambitions are accelerating, with Egypt and South Africa leading the way, and emerging players like Nigeria, Ghana, Morocco, and Kenya following suit. Nuclear offers a low-carbon baseload solution, but with multi-billion-dollar price tags, enormous financing challenges, and decades-long construction timelines, its feasibility in Africa remains uncertain. On the other hand, solar and wind costs have plummeted—by 90% and 70% respectively in the past decade—offering faster deployment and attracting more private investment but facing intermittent and grid stability issues. As Africa's energy demand is set to triple by 2050, should the continent take the nuclear leap or fast-track to renewables?

Speakers

- Julians AMBOKO / Host - Business Redefined & CFO Chat, Nation Media Group
- Tony TIYOU / President, Renewables in Africa
- Loyiso TYABASHE / Group CEO, South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa)



Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony

Speakers

- Rayana ASSI / Head of Marketing and Communications, Paynah



SIDE EVENT AMCHAM

A New Paradigm to U.S. Business Partnerships with Africa

As Africa emerges as a key strategic priority for U.S. businesses, AmCham invites senior leaders to a high-level breakfast focused on reshaping transatlantic economic ties. Held under the theme “A New Paradigm to U.S. Business Partnerships with Africa”, the session will convene U.S. government officials, development finance institutions, and executives from leading corporations to explore actionable pathways for investment and growth.

Speakers

- Amb. Troy FITRELL / Senior Official for African Affairs , U.S. Department of State
- Felicia DJIBO / President, AMCHAM CÔTE D'IVOIRE
- Jessica Davis BA / US Ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire , United States Government
- Kendra GAITHER / President U.S.-Africa Business Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

SIDE EVENT UNDP timbuktoo

Driving economic growth through African venture capital

Access by invitation only.

Africa's entrepreneurial ecosystem is rapidly advancing, driven by innovators delivering impactful solutions across agriculture, fintech, healthcare, energy, and education. These homegrown innovations not only tackle urgent local challenges but also enhance the global competitiveness of African startups. The UNDP's flagship initiative, timbuktoo, accelerates this progress by establishing innovation hubs, offering world-class mentorship, and creating cross-border funding linkages that enable startups to scale rapidly. Timbuktoo aims to mobilize and \$1 billion blend catalytic and commercial capital, addressing critical ecosystem gaps and fostering collaboration among governments, investors, corporates, and universities to support Africa's startup landscape.

This session—moderated by Joan Manda, timbuktoo's Global Lead—will ignite a dynamic conversation on catalytic investing and the power of transformative partnerships. The morning will open with a networking breakfast, followed by a keynote address from the Japanese government and a high-level panel focused on unlocking Africa's venture capital potential.

Speakers

- Joan MANDA / Global lead, timbuktoo
- Takehiko MATSUO / Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry, Japan
- Fadilah TCHOUMBA / CEO, African Business Angel Networks
- Clare AKAMANZI / CEO, NBA AFRICA
- Sinazo SIBISI / Chief Investment Officer, timbuktoo Foundation
- BOUM III JR / CEO et Co-Founder, Daba Finance
- Osamu KANEDA / CEO, YO-REN



CONVERSATION WITH

Oil and renewable energy: A dual bet for Ghana's future

As Ghana sets its sights on becoming West Africa's leading petrochemical hub through its \$60 billion Petroleum Hub project, it is also advancing its energy transition with President John Dramani Mahama announcing a Renewable Energy Investment Fund earlier this year. But how can Ghana strike a balance between energy sovereignty and climate commitments—especially amid strict fiscal policies tackling the country's debt crisis? In an exclusive conversation, the President unveils Ghana's energy mix strategy and how it could drive the nation's structural economic transformation.

Speakers

- Jennifer ZABASAJJA / Chief Africa Correspondent & Anchor, Bloomberg TV
- H.E John Dramani MAHAMA / President, Republic of Ghana

TV SHOW

CNN Connecting Africa: Special edition from the Africa CEO Forum

Join CNN's Connecting Africa for an exclusive live special hosted by Eleni Giokos, filmed from the heart of the Africa CEO Forum Annual Summit. As Africa's premier business show, we bring you in-depth conversations with industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators shaping the continent's economic future. From investment opportunities to intra-African trade and industrial growth, this special edition dives into the key discussions driving Africa's transformation.

Speakers

- Eleni GIOKOS / Correspondent, CNN
- Ebenezer ASANTE / Senior Vice President, MTN Group

SIDE EVENT Cassava Technologies

Localising AI: Building the Foundations for African-Led Innovation

Access by invitation only.

As Artificial Intelligence becomes a core driver of global competitiveness, Africa's ability to localise AI development is no longer optional — it's strategic. Despite representing nearly 20% of the world's population, the continent accounts for less than 1% of global AI research output. Bridging this gap requires more than adoption; it calls for the creation of AI solutions that reflect African realities, and infrastructure that ensures digital sovereignty. This session will explore how the continent can build and scale AI technologies on its own terms — through accessible computing capacity, localised models, talent development, and regulatory frameworks tailored to Africa's priorities. Taking as a point of departure initiatives such as Cassava Technologies launching the Cassava AI Factory to expand AI infrastructure on the continent, the conversation will focus on unlocking AI's potential to solve African problems — from healthcare and agriculture to financial services and public governance.

Speakers

- Uhabia OJIKE / Managing Partner, Forvis Mazars
- Prince ABUDU / Head of Technology AI, Cassava Technologies
- Yvonne IKE / Managing Director and Head of Sub-Saharan Africa, Bank of America
- Adrian CLAMP / Global Head of Consulting Strategy & Investments, KPMG International

PANEL

Powering progress: Unlocking the Industrialisation of Africa

African steel, cement, automotive and petrochemicals all have the potential to feed the continent's growth while reducing reliance on imports. Success stories are worth replicating – like the cement industry that could reach an impressive 500 million tons by 2034. But for African manufacturing to truly become cost-competitive, local industries must overcome transport bottlenecks, fragmented markets, high energy costs, and lack of infrastructure that hinder the development of a strong internal market. How can African policymakers and industrial leaders build competitive, self-sustaining heavy industries?

Key points:

- Hybrid power systems: How can Green Manufacturing lower the cost of production?
- Unlocking economies of scale: Why can't industrial tariffs be harmonised across borders to stimulate intra-continental trade?
- How can regional industrial hubs and integrating extractive and transformation industries offset Africa's logistical and energy constraints?

Speakers

- Aruoture ODDIRI / TV Host, Arise TV
- Diaretou Madina GAYE DIENG / Cluster President French Speaking Africa & Islands, Schneider Electric
- Hatim SENHAJI / CEO, Maghreb Steel
- Sionlé YEO / CEO Groupe, AFG Holding
- Eric MELET / CEO - Railways & Logistics International, AGL
- Ndiame DIOP / Regional Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, World Bank

INVEST IN GABON

As the foremost annual meeting of the private sector on the continent, the Africa CEO Forum is the leading platform for public-private dialogue. 'Invest In' sessions allow CEOs and investors to meet with high-level African government officials to gain deeper insight into their countries' economic development strategies. These sessions provide exposure to a variety of key sectors, business environments, and public and private investment opportunities.

Speakers

- Mustapha MOURAHIB / Managing Partner, Casablanca, and co-head of the Africa Group, Clifford Chance
- Mark-Alexandre DOUMBA / Minister of Digital Economy and Innovation, Gabonese Republic
- Philippe OSSOUCAH / CEO, GABON POWER COMPANY
- Fabrice ASSOUMOU ESSONO / CEO, FONDS OKOUMÉ CAPITAL
- Hashir MABIGNATH SALL / Deputy CEO, National Agency for Investment Promotion of Gabon (ANPI-Gabon)
- Edward KALAZJIC / CEO, IVINDO IRON

BUSINESS CASE

Women in the Workplace: A growth imperative for African economies

Despite representing half of the working-age population, women hold less than a third of leadership roles in the formal sector globally—a gap that stifles inclusive growth and undermines economic potential. Gender diversity is not just about fairness; it's a proven driver of performance, innovation, and development. In this session, McKinsey & Company unveils the latest insights from its Women in the Workplace research, newly expanded to include Nigeria and Kenya, shedding light on persistent barriers and untapped opportunities for gender parity in African leadership.

Key Points:

- Breaking the Glass Ceiling: What structural and cultural barriers still prevent women from reaching leadership positions?
- The Business Case for Inclusion: How does gender diversity directly impact company performance and national development?
- From Data to Action: What strategies are working to close the gender gap in Nigeria, Kenya, and beyond—and how can they be scaled?

Speakers

- Mayowa KUYORO / Partner and Head of Africa Financial Services Group and EEMA Fintech and Payments Practice Leader , McKinsey & Company



CONVERSATION WITH

New corridors of power: Turning global shipping turbulence to Africa's advantage

The Global South, including Africa through its 54-nation African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), could play a more prominent role in world trade as geopolitical shifts disrupt international shipping. MSC CEO Søren Toft is increasing investment and vessel capacity across West Africa, betting on its potential as a resilient trade gateway. From addressing piracy and fragmented customs regimes to underinvestment in port connectivity, the shipping leader assesses how Africa can sharpen its competitiveness in global trade.

Speakers

- Ramah NYANG / Journalist, CGTN/Bloomberg
- Søren TOFT / CEO, MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company

STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE

Unearthing potential: Can the mining sector catalyse infrastructure investments across Africa?

Global demand for minerals like copper, iron ore, bauxite and lithium is expected to quadruple by 2040. Africa, which holds around 30% of the world's remaining mineral resources, should be at the heart of this surge. But lack of cheap and reliable energy and infrastructure have been major bottlenecks to accelerated mineral development in Africa. Can this be changing and could the mining sector be a catalyst for energy and infrastructure development for itself but also for broader development of the continent?

Key points:

- Powering the pits: With energy costs consuming up to 50% of operational expenses, how can African mines leverage smarter, more innovative, energy solutions to drive down costs and enhance competitiveness?
- Upgrading infrastructure: Rail, road, water and port infrastructures need to be upgraded to deliver more minerals to markets. How can government and private sector work together in Africa to fund and execute these required investments?
- Could all this investment, required to develop the sector, be used to generate broader benefits to the economy or other stakeholders like local communities or downstream industry?

Speakers

- Samira MENSAH / Managing Director Research & Analytics Africa and Country Head - South Africa, S&P Global
- H.E. Gwede MANTASHE / Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Republic of South Africa
- Valerie LEVKOV / Global Industry Director, Energy & Mining, IFC
- Samuel GAHIGI / Head of Government Relations, Africa Region, Rio Tinto
- Ifeanyi ODOH / Country President, Schneider Electric East Africa

SIDE EVENT Huawei

Banking on Digital: How Technology is Reshaping Financial Growth in Africa

Africa's financial sector is undergoing a profound transformation, driven by rapid digitalisation and rising demand for more inclusive, accessible services. With the continent's digital payments economy projected to reach \$1.5 trillion by 2030, the shift toward tech-enabled financial services is opening new opportunities for growth, innovation, and cross-border business. Huawei, a long-term technology partner to African financial institutions, plays a key role in supporting this evolution—providing the infrastructure and solutions needed to power real-time transactions, cloud-based services, and AI-driven decision-making. In this session, Huawei brings together financial and technology leaders to explore key trends in financial digitalisation, the importance of fintech cooperation, and the role of innovation in shaping the future of banking. Drawing on real-world case studies and market insights, the conversation will examine how technology can expand access, improve efficiency, and accelerate sustainable growth across the African financial landscape.

Speakers

- Colin HU / President, Enterprise of Huawei Northern Africa (North, West & Central Africa), Huawei
- Jean SUN / Vice President, Huawei Northern Africa Enterprise, Huawei
- El Mehdi EL JAIR / CTO of Digital Finance BU, Huawei Northern Africa , Huawei
- Louis LYU / Vice President of Enterprise Business Development, Huawei Northern Africa, Huawei

SIDE EVENT AFC

Infrastructure unleashed: Building the backbone of Africa's structural economic transformation

Access by invitation only.

Africa's ambition to become an industrial powerhouse relies on one key pillar—robust, interconnected infrastructure. From powering economies to driving industrialization and boosting trade, the right infrastructure is essential to realizing Africa's growth potential. In this exclusive roundtable convened by the Africa Finance Corporation, we'll dive into the transformative trends shaping Africa's infrastructure landscape. We'll explore critical sectors—energy, transport, trade corridors, industrial infrastructure, and telecommunications—and discuss the investment opportunities that are propelling the continent forward. As Africa intensifies regional integration and value addition, the big question is: How can infrastructure not only support but also multiply growth across the continent? Join AFC and industry leaders as we unpack the strategic imperatives for building resilient systems, unlocking private capital, and ensuring that Africa's infrastructure development keeps pace with its economic aspirations.

Speakers

- Samaila ZUBAIRU / President & CEO, Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)
- Dr. Rita BABIHUGA-NSANZE / Chief Economist, Director of Research & Strategy, Africa Finance Corporation

CEO TALK

Playing Africa's winning hand: Private sector as the continent's economic ace

In a world of intensifying economic nationalism, Africa's private sector emerges as its most strategic asset. This high-level panel brings together visionary CEOs to explore how a reimagined public-private partnership can transform continental challenges into opportunities. As financing becomes more challenging and traditional development models falter, how can business leaders partner with governments to deliver resilient growth and prosperity?

Key points:

- Strategic governance partnership: How can CEOs collaborate with governments to create accountability frameworks that unlock investment and drive policy effectiveness?
- Value chain transformation: Which industrial priorities and productivity innovations should African businesses champion to capitalize on closing windows of opportunity in manufacturing and energy?
- Continental market integration: What concrete private sector initiatives can accelerate AfCFTA implementation and position African businesses to thrive in an increasingly fragmented global economy?

Speakers

- Acha LEKE / Senior Partner and Chairman, McKinsey & Company, Africa
- Christian STAMMKOETTER / President Asia, Africa and Middle East, Danone
- Mustafa RAWJI / CEO, Rawbank
- Gagan GUPTA / CEO Fondateur, ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms (ARISE IIP)

SIDE EVENT GAVI

A Winning Hand: Leveraging Private Sector Innovation and Capital for Health Impact in Africa

Access by invitation only.

Africa, with its rapidly growing population and increasing demand for quality healthcare, is at a pivotal moment. Health is not only a development priority but also a key driver of long-term economic resilience. Despite bearing 25% of the global disease burden, Africa accounts for less than 2% of global health expenditure. Public funding alone is insufficient to bridge this gap. Meeting Africa's health challenges at scale requires a stronger role for the private sector—not just in financing, but also in delivering innovation, infrastructure, and technology. However, scaling health systems innovations faces significant barriers, including market discovery, procurement challenges, and financing gaps. The Gavi Scale-Up Fund (SUF) aims to address these barriers by accelerating the adoption of transformative innovations across Gavi-supported countries, leveraging performance-based payments and proactive backing of innovative actors. This session will explore how blended finance, digital health tools, and local entrepreneurship can unlock transformative impact—expanding access to vaccines and strengthening health systems across the continent.

Speakers

- Matthews MMOPI / Partner, Leader of Life Sciences Practice, McKinsey & Company, Africa
- Walid SHETA / Zone President, Middle East & Africa, Schneider Electric
- Farid FEZOUA / Global Director for Disruptive Technologies, Services, and Funds, IFC
- Oghenetega IORTIM / CEO, Figorr
- Xavier GREUSARD / Vice President Africa, Zipline International
- Augustin FLORY / Managing Director - Development Finance & Innovative Partnerships , GAVI ALLIANCE
- Marie-Ange SARAHA-YAO / Chief Officer for Resource Mobilisation & Growth, GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance
- H.E. Pierre DIMBA / Minister of Health, Hygiene, and Universal Health Coverage, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Mildred Nadah PITA / Responsable des affaires publiques Science et durabilité, Afrique, Bayer

SIDE EVENT BADEA

Forging African economic autonomy: From vision to reality

Africa's journey toward economic self-reliance demands a strategic shift from external dependency to self-directed growth. This transformation requires leveraging the continent's abundant resources through value addition rather than raw exports, dramatically expanding intra-African trade beyond its current 15% level, and strengthening financial sovereignty through domestic resource mobilization.

Digital transformation offers Africa the opportunity to leapfrog traditional development stages, while targeted investments in human capital will create the skilled workforce essential for autonomous growth. With bold leadership and strategic implementation, African nations can transform potential into prosperity that genuinely benefits their citizens and reshapes the continent's economic future.

In this side-event, The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), who plays a pivotal role in this vision through its strategic ambitions focused on enhancing regional integration, developing critical infrastructure and supporting private sector growth, invites prominent speakers to make African economic autonomy a reality.

Keypoints

- Governance reboot: Implementing transparent, accountable governance systems that prioritize long-term development over short-term political gains
- Strategic industrialization: Developing targeted industries aligned with African competitive advantages and future global demand
- Knowledge sovereignty: Building Africa-centric research capacity and indigenous innovation ecosystems that address uniquely African challenges

Speakers

- Abdou DIOP / Managing Partner, MAZARS
- H.E. Wamkele MENE / Secretary General, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- Serge EKUE / President, WADB
- Tshepelayi KABATA / Director of Private Sector and Trade, BADEA
- H.E. Dr. Cassiel ATO FORSON / Minister of Finance, Republic of Ghana

SIDE EVENT OLAM AGRI

Bridging sectors, building resilience: Public-private cooperation for a food-secure Africa

Access by invitation only.

From trade barriers and regulatory fragmentation to currency volatility and inflation, Africa's agricultural sector is navigating a perfect storm of challenges. These hurdles weigh on productivity, distort markets, and threaten food security for millions. Yet they also underscore a unique opportunity: forging deeper partnerships between governments, businesses, and investors to build a more resilient food system. As global shocks persist and climate risks intensify, how can public-private collaboration unlock capital, streamline regulation, and catalyse innovation across the agricultural value chain?

Key points:

- Policy and trade alignment: How can harmonised regulations and regional trade agreements unlock agribusiness growth and cross-border value chains?
- Financing agriculture: What role can blended finance and risk-sharing instruments play in scaling investment for smallholders and agri-SMEs?
- Stabilising food systems: How can policymakers and financiers address inflation, currency devaluation, and market volatility?

Speakers

- Wagner ALBUQUERQUE DE ALMEIDA / Global Director - Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Forestry, IFC
- Partheeban THEODORE / President, Regional Director, Olam Agri
- Hendrik BORN / General Manager for Sub-Saharan Africa, Danone
- William SEARS / CCO Logistics Africa, DP World

PANEL

Creative competition: How can Africa claim its place in the global entertainment industry?

Nollywood is slated to generate \$14.8 billion in 2025, as the African creative economy is gaining attention around the world. On the continent, national competition is heating up to be home to the next Hollywood – with the expected benefits of job creation, vast ancillary industries and cultural influence – while global investors hope to serve Africa's growing consumer market for film, music and video games. But how can government incentives, investor financing and homegrown productions combine to create the conditions for an entertainment ecosystem?

Key points:

- Show me the money: Is the venture capital model a solution to the creative industries' financing challenges?
- Film editing, game design, post-production: What are the first steps to building a creative ecosystem, and ensuring local value addition?
- How can a growing consumer market serve as a catalyst for international influence, utilising Africa's creative sectors as a tool for soft power?

Speakers

- Catherine BYARUHANGA / Presenter, BBC News
- S.E Françoise REMARCK / Ministre de la Culture et de la Francophonie, République de Côte d'Ivoire
- Akunna COOK / CEO, Next Narrative Africa
- Aziz DIALLO / CEO PAY-TV French-speaking Africa, CANAL+
- Farid FEZOUA / Global Director for Disruptive Technologies, Services, and Funds, IFC
- David 'Davido' ADELEKE / CEO & Recording Artiste, Davido Music Worldwide

CONVERSATION WITH

Can Africa industrialise through trade – and on its own terms?

As the global trade landscape fractures and supply chains shift, Africa faces a pivotal question: can it leverage trade as a driver of industrialisation rather than a channel for exporting raw materials? This high-level conversation brings together Benedict Oramah, President of Afreximbank and a key architect of the AfCFTA's financial infrastructure, and Nicholas Norbrook, Editor in Chief, The Africa Report. Together, they explore how Africa can harness trade as a powerful engine for industrial transformation, value creation, and economic sovereignty.

Speakers

- Nicholas NORBROOK / Managing Editor, The Africa Report
- Benedict ORAMAH / President, Afreximbank



INVEST IN RWANDA

As the foremost annual meeting of the private sector on the continent, the Africa CEO Forum is the leading platform for public-private dialogue. 'Invest In' sessions allow CEOs and investors to meet with high-level African government officials to gain deeper insight into their countries' economic development strategies. These sessions provide exposure to a variety of key sectors, business environments, and public and private investment opportunities.

Speakers

- Benson NDUNG'U / East Africa CEO , KPMG Africa
- Rahul MITTAL / Cluster Director, Arise IIP
- Jean Guy AFRIKA / CEO, RDB
- Anish JAIN / Group CEO, EQUITANE
- Stanislas DE SAINT LOUVENT / CEO Africa Logistics & Shipping, Africa Global Logistics
- Alain EBOBISSE / President and CEO, Africa50
- Mary PORTER PESCHKA / Regional Director, Eastern Africa Hub, IFC
- Michelle UMURUNGI / Chief Investment Officer, RDB

STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE

Africa in a transactional climate: The road to COP30

Access via sign-up on the event app or by invitation only.

The USA has withdrawn from the Paris agreement. The appetite for greater climate funding has dissipated in Europe. And the richer countries of the Global South are unprepared to contribute. With COP30 on the horizon, Africa's \$3 trillion financing gap seems out of reach. How will Africa decide between prioritising the green economy or the extractive industries? And what negotiating leverage does Africa have?

Key points:

- African climate mitigation and adaptation is not a global priority. How can Africa's climate ambassadors ensure that it becomes one?
- From carbon markets to PPAs and renewables: How can African businesses and institutions position energy projects to attract competitive international financing?
- Lobbying for Africa: Following the EU's delay of its carbon border adjustment mechanism, can African business ensure further wins at COP30?

Speakers

- Yinka IBUKUN / Senior Africa Reporter, Bloomberg News
- Thierry HEBRAUD / CEO, Mauritius Commercial Bank (MCB)
- Ali MOHAMED / Former Chair, Africa Group of Negotiators
- Chris CHIJIUTOMI / Managing Director and Head of Africa, British International Investment (BII)
- Marie AGLERT / Chief Investment Officer, Swedfund
- Lucy MUIGAI / CEO, B Lab Africa
- H.E. Kgosientsho RAMOKGOPA / Minister of Electricity and Energy, South Africa
- H.E. Jacques Assahoré KONAN / Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

WFC PANEL

Africa's growth engine: Women, capital and jobs

As Africa navigates an increasingly complicated economic landscape, women-led enterprises are emerging as key power players — particularly in high-growth sectors such as digital technology, the creative economy, and social enterprise. These sectors hold immense potential for job creation, especially for young women. Yet women entrepreneurs face persistent financing gaps that limit their ability to scale and generate employment at the pace Africa needs. How can smarter financing strategies and capital serve as a catalyst for women's success as business leaders and economic transformation across the continent?

The session ends with the launch of the Women LEAD Alliance — a new initiative by IFC to bring together a select group of influential African leaders from across industries, to accelerate economic opportunities for young women entrepreneurs across the continent.

Key points:

- Mapping future opportunity: Which sectors hold the greatest potential for young women entrepreneurs to drive economic growth and job creation in Africa?
- Capital where it counts: How can financial products be adapted to meet the real needs of women-led businesses — from early-stage capital to flexible growth financing?
- What role can the private sector and DFIs, play in closing the financing gap for women-led businesses.

Speakers

- Anita ERSKINE / Executive Director, Erskine Global Communications
- Nathalie KOUASSI AKON / Global Director, Gender, and Economic Inclusion, IFC
- Chilufya MUTALE-MWILA / Co-Founder & CEO, eShandi
- Catherine MURAGA / Managing Director, Microsoft Africa Development Center
- Paul-Harry AITHNARD / Directeur Régional Exécutif, UEMOA, Ecobank
- Clare AKAMANZI / CEO, NBA AFRICA
- Mohamed GOULED / Vice President of Industries, IFC

DISRUPTERS CLUB STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE

Corporate venturing: Fast-tracking deep tech into legacy industries

Access via sign-up on the event app or by invitation only.

Africa's traditional business sectors – from financial services to agriculture and transport – are poised for huge efficiency gains by innovating with deep tech startups, particularly in AI. While funding for African startups declined (-7% YOY in 2024), corporate investment in startups continues to grow. How in this context can corporations identify, test, and scale the most transformative startups' technologies — those that deliver real operational value — and through which models: corporate accelerators, corporate investment, or venture clients? In a closed-door roundtable, large corporations, private investors, and startups will discuss how to gain an edge in deep tech.

Key points:

- Corporate venture squads, venture-client models and accelerators: What are the optimal approaches for speed and cost to identify and scale deep tech startups and AI technologies?
- How can regulators build effective ecosystems for startups, venture capital investors, and corporate innovators?
- How can corporations in legacy industries successfully integrate a startups' tech?

Speakers

- Josemaria SIOTA / Executive Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center, IESE Business School
- Takehiko MATSUO / Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry, Japan
- Tidjane DEME / Director General, Partech Africa
- Karim Mehanvais KONE / Deputy CEO - Banking Business, Atlantic Financial Group (AFG Holding)
- Ismahill DIABY / Vice President Western & Central Africa, Visa
- David AKININ / Founder & CEO, JABU
- Amine HOUSSAIM / CEO, Innovx
- Henok Teferra SHAWL / Managing Director, Boeing Africa

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Charting new trade routes: Strengthening the resilience of African supply chains

Geopolitical tensions, trade wars, disruptions in the Red Sea: global trade is undergoing a major transformation, with established trade routes shifting and new land and maritime routes emerging. However, Africa still struggles to capture these flows due to logistical bottlenecks, insufficient infrastructure, and challenges in effectively implementing the AfCFTA. In light of nearshoring efforts in the Global West and the growth of South-South trade, how should the continent position its strategic logistical corridors and enhance the attractiveness of African hubs to seize opportunities in this new economic order?

Key points:

- Strategic intelligence, decision-making, capital allocation: How can stakeholders strengthen their ability to respond to geopolitical crises?
- Dependence on foreign logistics hubs: What levers can be used to build an efficient network of African platforms?
- Regional integration: What priority actions are needed to remove barriers to the AfCFTA and accelerate intra-African trade?

Speakers

- David PILLING / Africa Editor, Financial Times
- Aboubaker OMAR HADI / Chairman, Djibouti Ports & Free Zones Authority – Great Horn Investment Holding (DPFZA-GHIH)
- Igor VAN DEN ESSEN / Chief Executive Africa & Europe, APM Terminals
- Samuel MAIMBO / Candidate, Presidency of AfDB
- Mathieu FRIEDBERG / Chief Executive Officer, CEVA Logistics
- Hien Yacouba SIE / Managing Director, Port Autonome d'Abidjan

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

FMCG in Africa: Transforming the consumer boom into a development drive

By the end of the decade, Africa's consumer goods sector is expected to achieve an average annual growth of 8.5%. Driven by a young population and rapid urbanisation, the continent will become the largest consumer market globally by 2050, accelerating the transition from export-based economic models to demand-driven growth. For states, international brands, and local private players, this is a momentous opportunity, provided they can structure the FMCG sector to meet consumer expectations. How can the value chain be improved, from sourcing inputs to industrial and logistical infrastructure and opening regional markets?

Key points:

- Between analysing consumer needs, digitalisation, and choosing the right channels, how can we build efficient and profitable distribution networks?
- Quality, supply chain security, traceability: How to facilitate effective partnerships between FMCG companies and local producers?
- Taxation, customs tariffs, competition rules: What regulatory frameworks should be established to energise the sector?

Speakers

- Kanika SAIGAL / Business Editor, The Africa Report
- Damian HATTINGH / Partner, Consumer and Retail, McKinsey & Company Afrique
- Rita Maria ZNIBER / Chairman & CEO, Diana Holding
- Adeline GABILLAUD / Regional Director West Africa , CMA CGM Group
- Deepankar RUSTAGI / Founder & CEO, OmniRetail Technology
- Hendrik BORN / General Manager for Sub-Saharan Africa, Danone



WFC COCKTAIL

From spending to building: Rethinking wealth for women

In a TED-style, high-energy talk, Korede Odjo-Bella, Head Consumer Banking at Ecobank, will challenge conventional narratives around women's relationship with money. Drawing from Ecobank's Wealth Management expertise, this session will spotlight the importance of financial planning, investment, and long-term wealth strategies tailored for women. No more "yogurt pot" economy—this is about shifting from spending to building. A must-attend for women ready to take control of their financial future.

Speakers

- Korédé ODJO-BELLA / Consumer Banking Director, Ecobank Côte d'Ivoire
- Amir BEN YAHMED / CEO, Jeune Afrique Media Group
- H.E Dominique OUATTARA / First Lady, Republic Côte d'Ivoire

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Healthy returns: Why hasn't corporate Africa woken up to the RoI on health?

What are the investment returns of defeating a disease? If malaria is eradicated by 2030 the RoI is 4000%. Other examples abound that show how money spent to avert sickness, disability, and death helps improve workforce productivity and ultimately drive economic prosperity. However, these measurable returns, arguably better than in most other sectors, have not proven enough to garner sufficient private sector support for investment in African health. How can specialised finance mobilisation open business channels for health investments?

Key points:

- Innovative returns: What is the business case for supporting healthcare innovation?
- Pulling together: How can private sector resources be pooled together to create funding mechanisms that improve health equity across entire populations?
- Action counts: What are the current focus areas in African public health that need and yield the most?

Speakers

- Kanika SAIGAL / Business Editor, The Africa Report
- Matthews MMOPI / Partner, Leader of Life Sciences Practice, McKinsey & Company, Africa
- Dr Lutz HEGEMANN / President, Global Health & Swiss Country Affairs, Novartis
- Joy PHUMAPHI / Executive Secretary, African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA)
- Karim BENDHAOU / African Director, Merck
- H.E. Dr Jean KASEYA / Managing Director, Africa CDC

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Scaling up smallholders: Fertilisers, finance, and the future of African farming

African economies remain deeply rooted in agriculture, with smallholder farmers contributing at least 70% of the continent's food production, making them essential to food security. Despite wide-ranging efforts, Africa has the lowest agricultural yields in the world. Central to improving smallholder farming outcomes is bringing more land under irrigation, increasing water availability, and improving the accessibility and effective use of fertilisers and seeds. The AU's recent Kampala Declaration points to climate-smart technologies to modernise the sector. With so many targets, how can agricultural experts, policymakers and entrepreneurs create more stable food systems to improve smallholder farmer productivity?

Key points:

- Weather forecasts, soil water monitoring, pest management: How can digital technologies improve smallholders' productivity?
- Stronger value chains: How to create efficient farm-to-market flows for smallholder produce?
- Micro-finance, cooperative models, and access to credit: What financial instruments work best to support higher productivity?

Speakers

- Estelle MAUSSION / Journalist, Jeune Afrique
- Françoise LOMBARD / CEO, Proparco
- H.E. Amadou Oury BAH / Prime Minister, Head of Government, Republic of Guinea
- Omid KASSIRI / Partner, McKinsey Afrique
- Debra MALLOWAH / Directeur Afrique | Sciences des cultures, Bayer
- Julie GREENE / Senior Vice President & CSO, Olam Agri
- Mohamed HETTITI / CEO, OCP Africa
- Asta-Rosa CISSÉ / Regional CEO, Côte d'Ivoire-Burkina Faso, AGL
- Henrik E. PEDERSEN / Regional Industry Director, Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Services, Africa, IFC

INVEST IN BENIN

As the foremost annual meeting of the private sector on the continent, the Africa CEO Forum is the leading platform for public-private dialogue. 'Invest In' sessions allow CEOs and investors to meet with high-level African government officials to gain deeper insight into their countries' economic development strategies. These sessions provide exposure to a variety of key sectors, business environments, and public and private investment opportunities.

Speakers

- Marc WABI / Managing Partner , ADENKA
- Rayana ASSI / Head of Marketing and Communications, Paynah
- Sindé CHEKETE / CEO, BENIN PROMOTION AGENCY
- Juliette PERON / Managing Director, SOFITEL COTONOU MARINA HOTEL & SPA
- Oswald LOUÉKÉ / Chairman of the Board of Directors, OGL HOLDING LTD
- Vireshwar R. JOSHI / CEO, BENIN TEXTILE

STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE

Urban mobility: Moving from motorcycle, minibus mayhem to a modern gig economy

Access via sign-up on the event app or by invitation only.

Ride-hailing (+11% value growth by 2029), Bus Rapid Transit, and EVs (\$28bn in Africa by 2030) offer the private sector a chance to build profitable, safer and greener urban transport—creating a gig economy that formalises the oversupply of unregulated, untaxed, and unsafe minibus and motorcycle taxis. While Rwanda has successfully regulated moto taxis and built a modern city bus system in Kigali, elsewhere poor roads and electricity shortages are preventing sustainable urban transport companies from scaling faster. With 900m new urban residents set to be added to African cities by 2050, a roundtable of public officials and private sector actors envisage how to modernise urban mobility.

Key points:

- Digitising and financing fleet upgrades: What scalable solutions genuinely work for informal transport?
- Technology, energy, and infrastructure: What will help sustainable transport companies scale faster?
- Taxable gig economy workforce: How can thousands of informal moto-taxi and minibus drivers be part of private sector and government plans?

Speakers

- Felicia DJIBO / President, AMCHAM CÔTE D'IVOIRE
- Kaushik BURMAN / CEO, Spiro
- Axel PEYRIERE / Co-founder & CEO, AUTO24.africa
- Aboubaker OMAR HADI / Chairman, Djibouti Ports & Free Zones Authority – Great Horn Investment Holding (DPFZA-GHIH)
- Damilola OLOKESUSI / Cofounder & CEO, Shuttlers
- Chief Diana CHEN / Chairman/Group CEO, CHOICE INTERNATIONAL GROUP
- Linda MUNYENGETERWA / Global Director PPPs, Investment Banking, IFC
- Cedric DACKAM / President & General manager Automotive Aftermarket, MANN+HUMMEL GmbH
- H.E. Amadou KONE / Minister of Transport, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE

A workforce for digital and industrial growth: Realising ROI in talent development

Access via sign-up on the event app or by invitation only.

Digital and AI acumen to innovate and vocational skills to drive Africa's industrialisation may be the key employee traits to unlock serious agriculture, banking, mining, oil & gas and telecoms business growth. But why should companies invest to nurture these skills if talent later moves overseas, joins competitors or leaves for the informal sector? In Kenya, just 600 apprenticeships are offered annually for 90,000 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) enrolments amid a preference for cheaper short-term hires. This roundtable unpicks insights from a survey of major CEO and C-level HR executives on talent development, followed by a discussion on making employee education investments worthwhile.

Key points:

- How to tangibly measure the ROI of TVET and executive education actions
- What form of tax incentives and PPP models will incentivise private sector education investments?
- Stopping the brain drain: Strategies for training academies to keep talent local and out of the informal sector

Speakers

- Serge LAFRANCE / Associate Professor & Director of Executive Education, HEC Montréal
- Debbie GOODMAN / CEO, Jack Hammer Global
- Hicham EL HABTI / President, University Mohamed VI Polytechnic (UM6P)
- Folawe OMIKUNLE / Ambassador - Africa, Teach for All
- Nglan LEKE NIAT / Group Chief Human Resources Officer, Dangote Industries
- Erika ACHUM / CEO, Falcon Aerospace Limited
- Cheikh Mohamed ELKARACHI / Président & CEO, Elkarachi Holdings

INVEST IN SOUTH AFRICA

As the foremost annual meeting of the private sector on the continent, the Africa CEO Forum is the leading platform for public-private dialogue. 'Invest In' sessions allow CEOs and investors to meet with high-level African government officials to gain deeper insight into their countries' economic development strategies. These sessions provide exposure to a variety of key sectors, business environments, and public and private investment opportunities.

Speakers

- Neville MATJIE / CEO, Brand South Africa
- Dr. Anthony COSTA / Head of Secretariat, B20 South Africa
- Nana PHIRI / Head of Corporate Client Group, Rand Merchant Bank
- H.E. Kgosientsho RAMOKGOPA / Minister of Electricity and Energy, South Africa
- Zuko GODLIMPI / Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Republic of South Africa
- Mmakgoshi LEKHETHE / CEO, IDC South Africa

LEAD STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE

AI-powered African governments: Future vision or pipe dream?

Access via sign-up on the event app or by invitation only.

African countries are increasingly adopting AI technologies to enhance government service delivery: Rwanda, Kenya, Botswana, Ghana and Egypt to name a few. With promises to automate administrative tasks and increase efficiency – why wouldn't they? But the cyber-challenges specific to the public sector, like AI bias, data protection and ownership, and cybersecurity, require tailored solutions and legal frameworks to give governments peace of mind to board the AI train. As the US government forges ahead with AI convergence, will Africa follow suit?

Key points:

- How can states pool cloud infrastructure to reduce costs and secure data?
- Regulation and protection: What are the barriers to entry that hinder African public sector players from utilising AI?
- Cross-border advantages: How will existing and proposed governance frameworks for cross-border collaboration be implemented?

Speakers

- Chioma NJOKU / Director of Programmes, Aig-Imoukhuede Foundation
- Uhabia OJIKE / Managing Partner, Forvis Mazars
- Khalid BADDU / Director of Institutional Affairs at University Mohammed VI Polytechnic , University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P)
- Agnès DIALLO / Chairwoman & CEO, IN Groupe
- Vincent LUCIANI / Executive Chairman & Co Founder, Artefact
- H.E. Samuel NARTEY GEORGE / Minister of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations , Republic of Ghana

PANEL

Independent Power Producers: How can they be a catalyst for accelerating Africa's electrification?

Sub-Saharan Africa needs to mobilise over \$200 billion to achieve universal electricity access, a challenge that requires strong private sector involvement. Independent Power Producers (IPPs) are pivotal players, capable of attracting capital and accelerating the deployment of renewable energy, as demonstrated in Kenya, Morocco, and Côte d'Ivoire. However, their expansion remains constrained by complex contracts, often denominated in foreign currency, which—if poorly managed—can strain public finances and increase electricity costs for consumers. From regulatory reforms to tailored financial mechanisms, how can IPPs become true catalysts for Africa's electrification?

Key points:

- Stability, predictability, and transparency: How can regulatory frameworks be made more attractive to investors?
- From technology training to complex project management: What will strengthen the capacity of local project developers and public sector counterparts?
- Financing costs, currency risks, competition with subsidised energy, and payment defaults: Which strategies can improve government-IPP risk sharing?

Speakers

- Amaury DE FELIGONDE / CEO, Okan Partners
- H.E. John Abdulai JINAPOR / Minister of Energy, Republic of Ghana
- Tarik HAMANE / CEO, Office National de l'Électricité et de l'Eau potable (ONEE)
- Emmanuel MUNDELA / Directeur Afrique de l'Ouest, Meridiam
- Mahamane SOW / Vice President - West and Central Africa, EDF

CASE STUDY

Turning AI into a driver of profitable sustainability

As African economies face growing pressure to build sustainable and resilient growth models while boosting productivity, the promise of artificial intelligence has taken center stage. From intelligent payment systems to network optimization, AI is already reshaping business operations — but scaling these innovations remains a challenge. With gaps in data infrastructure, limited cross-sector collaboration, and uncertain ROI, the path to profitable sustainability is still being paved. Brelotte Ba, Deputy CEO of ORANGE Middle East and Africa, and Abdeslam Alaoui Smaili, CEO of HPS, examine how Africa's telecom and fintech pioneers can move from pilots to performance, using AI not only to drive efficiency and sustainable impact but to unlock long-term business value across the continent.

Speakers

- Médéric CHOMEL / Managing Partner, Artefact Africa
- Abdeslam ALAOUI SMAILI / CEO, HPS
- Brelotte BA / Deputy CEO, Orange Middle East and Africa

THE GREAT DEBATE

Shaping Africa's financial future: AfDB presidency candidates debate

Africa stands at a crossroads, grappling with global economic upheavals and unprecedented opportunities. Who will lead the continent's premier financial institution through these critical times? At the Africa CEO Forum 2025, watch the five candidates for the presidency of the African Development Bank go head-to-head. These leaders-in-waiting will outline bold strategies, debate governance reforms, and propose clear paths to bolster institutional effectiveness. Join this high-stakes debate and hear firsthand how each candidate plans to drive Africa's economic development and financial transformation for the next five years.

Key points:

- Economic Transformation: Strategies for accelerating industrialization, digital innovation, and regional integration through the AfCFTA
- Energy Access and Transition: Approaches to expanding energy infrastructure while balancing climate commitments and sustainable development priorities
- Private Capital Mobilization: Innovative mechanisms to strengthen the Bank's financial capacity and catalyze private investment across the continent

Speakers

- Nicholas NORBROOK / Managing Editor, The Africa Report
- Swazi TSHABALALA / Candidate, Presidency of AfDB
- Amadou HOTT / Candidate, Presidency of AfDB
- Sidi Ould TAH / Candidate, Presidency of AfDB



Closing Ceremony

Speakers

- Eleni GIOKOS / Correspondent, CNN