



Casablanca Maroc

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PROGRAMME

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Opening Ceremony

Speakers

- Sérgio PIMENTA / Vice President, Africa, IFC
- Amir BEN YAHMED / CEO, Jeune Afrique Media Group

Moderator

- Eric M'BOUA / Master of Ceremonies / Moderator, AfroVFX

Opening Panel | A new era: Time to mobilise Africa's financial power

Africa's financial destiny and the continent's capacity to finance its economic needs require swift and strong action from regional and pan-African leaders. In the wake of a subdued international financial presence on the continent, African champions must now lead the way in establishing the continent's economic prosperity, from supporting trade finance and infrastructure projects to backing industrial, extractive, and renewable energy ventures. Key industry stakeholders discuss the regulatory environment and top priorities for scaled-up African financial institutions to drive economic growth and gain a foothold in global financial centres.

Key points:

- How will Africa's financial industry be consolidated?
- From facilitating payment interoperability, to bringing financial products to the informal workforce, how can industry leaders further enable technological advances?
- Which human capital development strategy best supports the technical skills needed for the financial sector?

Speakers

- Jules NGANKAM / Group CEO, African Guarantee Fund
- Sérgio PIMENTA / Vice President, Africa, IFC
- Nadia FETTAH / Minister of the Economy & Finance, Kingdom of Morocco
- Jeremy AWORI / CEO, Ecobank Group
- Mohamed El KETTANI / CEO, Attijariwafa Bank

State of the Industry | Africa Financial Industry Barometer 2024

Deloitte and the Africa Financial Industry Summit – AFIS unpack insights from the 4th African Financial Industry Barometer. The annual survey of financial sector executives offers a deep dive into the industry's stance on regulations, sustainable finance, and the obstacles to financial inclusion. Discover how banks, insurers, fintechs, and capital market players are structuring their businesses, strengthening governance, and responding to regulatory shifts.

Speakers

- Ramatoulaye GOUDIABY / Director AFIS, Jeune Afrique Media Group
- Hicham BELEMQADEM / Managing Partner, Audit & Insurance, Maroc, Deloitte

Macroeconomic Outlook 2025 | The building blocks for African financial institutions to scale up

Prof Carlos Lopes of the University of Cape Town has sounded the alarm that a biased global financial system, a crippling debt dependency cycle, and unfair credit ratings are coming together to accelerate international banking exits from Africa. With domestic financial institutions picking up the mantle, the economist looks at conditions they'll need to succeed as Africa edges towards a modest recovery in 2025 (4.3% vs. 3.7% in 2024).

Speakers

- Carlos LOPES / Professor, University of Cape Town

Networking Break

Energy, private equity, real estate: How can African institutional investors better exploit these opportunities?

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

African institutional investors are looking to diversify their portfolios into alternative assets such as private equity, real estate and infrastructure to optimise their risk-return profile. But alternative assets represent just 3% of total assets under management due to a lack of properly adapted local products, limited risk management and regulatory constraints. This is despite efforts by regulators in Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria to raise investment limits in a push to encourage more ambitious allocations. A roundtable bringing together pension and sovereign funds, insurers and regulators will discuss strategies to stimulate investment in alternative assets.

Key points:

- Valuation of complex financial instruments, due diligence, risk management: How to strengthen the capabilities of industry players
- Restrictive investment limits, taxonomy and reporting standards, taxation: What reforms are needed to create a favourable regulatory environment?
- How can the industry develop diversified and appropriate product offerings?

Speakers

- Jad HAJJ / Senior Analyst, Corporate Finance, Africa, SkyKapital
- Nabil TAHARI / Managing Director, IB Holding
- Denis Charles KOUASSI / Managing Director, IPS CNPS
- Stéphane MBADINGA DITENGOU / CEO, Gabonese Fund for Strategic Investments (FGIS)

Moderator

- Pascal AGBOYIBOR / Managing Partner, ASAFO & CO

Unified market, uneven rules: How deep can insurance integration go under AfCFTA?

A draft AfCFTA framework on financial services could, if approved, drive regulators, including in insurance, to harmonise prudential measures. While Africa's insurance sector has made strides in aligning minimum capital requirements and domestication policies in the CIMA zone, other harmonisation initiatives – such as cross-border motor accident cover in West and East Africa – have stalled due to poor recognition by member states, low public awareness, and delays in claims settlement. Furthermore, many African markets continue to impose residency requirements for insurers and reinsurers or mandate risk-sharing with domestic firms to protect national interests. How can such policies be reconciled with AfCFTA integration? What measures should regulators take to protect their markets while advancing the common market?

Key points:

- Common licensing and risk-based capital approaches: The next steps to align prudential measures in anticipation of the AfCFTA framework
- Domestication policies: Fundamental to protect national interests or incompatible with AfCFTA integration?
- How to design a governance structure fit to harmonise prudential measures in insurance?

Speakers

- Namakau MUNDIA NTINI / CEO, Autorité des pensions et des assurances, République de Zambie
- Hope MURERA / Managing Director and CEO, ZEP-RE
- Abderrahim CHAFFAI / President, Supervisory Authority of Insurance and Social Welfare (ACAPS), Kingdom of Morocco
- Alain KANINDA NGALULA / Managing Director, Autorité de Régulation et de Contrôle des Assurances (ARCA)

Moderator

- Ramah NYANG / Journalist, CGTN/Bloomberg

Trade finance: Bridging Africa's correspondent banking gap

African commercial banks based in low-credit-rating countries are finding it difficult to establish appropriate correspondent banking relationships with international banks, many of which have withdrawn from Africa. Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, President of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and Admassu Tadesse, President and CEO of Eastern and Southern Africa's Trade and Development Bank (TDB), and Michael Jongeneel, CEO of FMO discuss how expanded DFI trade finance guarantees and payment risk cover could bridge the gap and enable partnerships between African banks and global financial institutions.

Speakers

- Admassu TADESSE / Group Chair & Managing Director, TDB Group
- H.E Dr. Sidi Ould TAH / President, BADEA
- Michael JONGENEEL / CEO, FMO

Moderator

- Nathalie LOUAT / Director, Global Trade & Supply Chain, IFC

Central Bank Governors | From monetary tightening to easing: Is a pivot on the horizon?

Business magnate Aliko Dangote in July warned that “no growth will happen” in Nigeria with interest rates at a record 26% high. Policy rates hit three-year or historical highs in many African markets in 2024 as African central banks did not follow the global cycle of monetary easing, instead maintaining or raising rates. At what point will a prolonged tight monetary policy hurt credit access to MSMEs? When and to what extent will they adjust policy rates to stimulate the real economy?

Key points

- Why are central banks in many African countries struggling to control inflation?
- Do credit guarantee policies and other support measures go far enough to aid agricultural and micro-enterprises?
- Commercial banks meeting higher capital requirements: Will central bank borrowing be an option at attractive repo rates?

Speakers

- Denny H. KALYALYA / Governor, Bank of Zambia

Moderator

- Nicholas NORBROOK / Managing Editor, The Africa Report

SME finance: Strategic partnerships for the digital age

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Small and medium enterprises are the backbone of African economies, central to employment, innovation, and economic growth. The financial industry has often considered such businesses too risky and too costly to serve, leaving a huge market opportunity unexplored. In recent years however, the adoption of digital channels, enhanced data analytics, and innovative business models have allowed forward-looking financial services providers to take their SME banking to the next level. Partnerships between new and old players have proved essential to bringing such innovation to fruition, in some ways upending the established financial industry playing field. This Strategic Roundtable session will explore what makes for successful SME finance partnerships in the digital age, drawing on the varied perspectives of commercial banks, fintechs, telcos, and regulators.

Speakers

- Michael ATINGI-EGO / Deputy Governor, Bank of Uganda
- Erik SANDERSEN / Executive Vice President - Financial Institutions, Norfund

Orchestrating pan-African interoperability for mobile money

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BCEAO's pilot interoperable instant payment system marks a decisive turning point in progressing mobile money interoperability on the continent. While West Africa is accelerating interoperability projects, the rest of the continent is lagging. Ambitions for continental interoperability remain thwarted by diverse financial regulations, cumbersome negotiations between stakeholders and difficult decisions on distributing the cost of the digital infrastructure needed. This closed-door roundtable brings together regulators, mobile money operators, fintechs and banking institutions to define the conditions for setting up Pan-African mobile money interoperability.

Key points:

- Harmonisation and standardisation: How to meet the challenge of fragmented African regulations?
- Mobile operators, mobile money services, banks and governments: What types of partnership should be favoured?
- Digitisation & financial inclusion: Could payment interoperability be the tool for pan-African economic integration?

Speakers

- Yamungu KAYANDABILA / Deputy Governor, Bank of Tanzania
- Shaibu HARUNA / CEO, MTN MobileMoney LTD
- Coura Carine SENE / Regional Director, Wave Mobile Money Group
- Abdeslam Alaoui SMAILI / CEO, HPS
- Malek ATRISSI / Group COO and Telecel Mobile CEO, Telecel
- Erwan GELEBART / CEO, AXIAN Open Innovation & Fintech

CBDCs: Maximising the potential for cross-border payments and financial inclusion

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Egypt, Ethiopia, and Rwanda this year joined a growing list of African nations exploring CBDC launches. Nigeria's eNaira wallet, integrated by some fintechs and commercial banks, shows the potential for offline services to the unbanked – although only 0.5% of Nigerians were using the eNaira within a year of its 2021 launch. Elsewhere, global pilots suggest interoperable wholesale CBDCs could offer instant cross-currency payments, an opportunity for African states to consider. A roundtable of central bank governors and financial institutions discusses how CBDCs can catalyse financial inclusion and ease cross-border payments.

Key points:

- Ensuring retail CBDCs bring value to underbanked communities and achieve uptake goals
- Debit cards, mobile wallets, bill payments: What CBDC innovations can commercial banks, fintechs and mobile money develop to increase penetration?
- Working towards interoperable CBDCs for cross-border payments that co-exist with regional payment systems and the PAPSS – Pan-African Payment and Settlement System

Speakers

- Óscar Humberto ÉVORA SANTOS / Governor, Banco de Cabo Verde
- Aivo ANDRIANARIVELO / Governor, Central Bank Madagascar
- Fintan BYRNE / CEO, CR2
- Franck ADJAGBA / Group Director of Business Development, African Guarantee Fund
- Soraya M. HAKUZIYAREMYE / Deputy Governor, National Bank of Rwanda
- Vincent FLEURIET / Head of Africa and Development Department, Bank of France

Moderator

- Mik KABEYA / VP, Senior Analyst, African Banks, Moody's Ratings

Connected capital markets: Unlocking intra-Africa stock trading

Intra-African trade has seen growth, yet it remains only 15% of total trade—far below Europe’s 68%. The African Exchanges Linkage Project (AELP), launched in December 2022, connects over 2,000 companies with a combined market capitalisation of \$1.5 trillion, aiming to facilitate cross-border securities trading and boost market transparency across seven African exchanges. Through increased liquidity and investment attraction, AELP has the potential to drive economic growth. However, challenges such as regulatory fragmentation, settlement and clearing complexities, and infrastructure gaps must be addressed to unlock its full potential. How can the AELP advance its goals while fostering essential regulatory and settlement reforms to build long-term competitiveness?

Key points:

- How can the AELP enhance the global competitiveness of African capital markets?
- What regulatory and monetary reforms are needed to maximize the platform’s impact on intra-African trade?
- How can we ensure that SMEs and other small businesses fully benefit from the integration of African stock exchanges?

Chair

- Nezha HAYAT / President, Moroccan Capital Market Authority

Speakers

- Felix AMENOUNVE / Managing Director, BRVM
- Emomotimi John AGAMA / Director General, Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Expert

- Kaouthar MEHREZ / Managing Partner, Galite Partners

Moderator

- Ramatoulaye GOUDIABY / Director AFIS, Jeune Afrique Media Group

Women in Finance | Can gender bonds and innovative mobile products unlock a \$2.5 trillion opportunity?

Gender bonds and mobile apps offering advanced capital to women hold new hope to empower female entrepreneurs, who could add \$2.5 trillion to Africa's GDP by 2025. But the continent has the lowest gender bond issuance globally, and the digital tools designed for women-led MSMEs still face challenges of digital literacy, internet connectivity, and access to financial services. In 2022, South Africa's Rand Merchant Bank was the first to issue a US\$58mn gender-linked bond on the continent. But the financing tool is viewed as complex due to the lack of a 'go to' reference on the processes and precedent on investor returns. How can financial institutions better design innovative financing tools such as gender bonds and digitalisation of collateral to help bridge Africa's gender finance gap?

Key Points:

- Better inclusivity: What challenges do financial institutions face when offering digital or mobile products designed for women?
- Better design: How can gender bonds entice investor return?
- Lessons learned: How do successfully issued gender bonds and digital products for women in other countries apply to Africa?

Speakers

- Kwamina DUKER / CEO, Development Bank Ghana
- Ilham LAHLOU / General Insurance Executive - Personal Lines, SanlamAllianz
- Josephine ANAN-ANKOMAH / Managing Director – Ecobank Kenya & Regional Executive – Central, Eastern & Southern Africa, Ecobank
- Hadiza AMBURSA / Executive Director, Commercial Banking, Access Bank
- Nathalie AKON GABALA / Director, Gender and Economic Inclusion, IFC

Expert

- Zineb SQALLI / Managing Director & Partner, BCG

Moderator

- Anjani TRIVEDI / Global Business Correspondent, The Economist

Conversation With | Broadening Africa's access to international capital markets

International markets will be critical to funding Africa's most ambitious development projects following the withdrawal of many large international banks from the continent. Yet, the number of African banks licensed in Europe, or the United States is less than ten and there are very few African companies listed on global markets. In this high-level conversation, Edward Knight, Nasdaq's Executive Vice Chairman discusses how Africa can build big corporates and financial institutions at home that encourage the public-private trust needed to attract their international counterparts.

Speakers

- Edward KNIGHT / Executive Vice Chairman, Nasdaq

Moderator

- Nicholas NORBROOK / Managing Editor, The Africa Report

Conversation With | Small business, big impact: What is the optimal government approach to MSME lending?

Governments could play a crucial role in helping MSMEs access affordable formal credit, but some past efforts have fallen short of expectations. Defaults on Kenya's 'Hustler Fund', an initiative to provide citizens with access to credit at lower rates than commercial banks, now exceed 50%. Kenya's National Treasury, under Cabinet Secretary Dr John MBADI, plans to shift the focus from direct lending to MSMEs to expanding credit guarantees and is creating a credit guarantee policy framework. Will this fresh approach be enough to convince risk-averse commercial banks to increase SME lending?

Speakers

- John MBADI / Cabinet Secretary of the National Treasury, Republic of Kenya

Networking Break

Insurance's role in a climate-altered future: From risk to resilience

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

Weather-related disasters impacting Africa surged by 75% from 2014 to 2023, exacerbating the disaster risk insurance gap. Insurers could play a crucial role in helping businesses and individuals absorb losses from flood, drought and climate-induced epidemics. But data gaps, limited risk transfer tools, and a lack of regulations for transferring risk hinder climate insurance growth. Regulatory authorities, underwriting insurers and development finance institutions convene in a roundtable to ensure the insurance sector is prepared to cover losses for millions that could be affected by climate change.

Key points:

- What kind of regulatory framework is needed to help the insurance sector absorb climatic risks?
- How could development finance institutions bring new instruments for risk transfer?
- What can insurers do to optimise underwriting and risk strategies?

Chair

- Mamadou DEME / Director of Insurance, Ministry of Finance and Budget, Republic of Senegal

Speakers

- Imen EL ARBI / Director of Research, Macro-Prudential Supervision, and International Cooperation, General Insurance Committee, Republic Of Tunisia
- Renata DE LEERS / Regional Coordinator for MENA/CIMA, A2ii
- Ibrahima DIOUF / Member of the Executive Committee, BOAD
- Alaa EL ZOHEIRY / Managing Director, GIG Egypt
- Tom GITOGO / Group MD & CEO, Britam Holdings PLC
- Abderrahim CHAFFAI / President, Supervisory Authority of Insurance and Social Welfare (ACAPS), Kingdom of Morocco
- Alain KANINDA NGALULA / Managing Director, Autorité de Régulation et de Contrôle des Assurances (ARCA)

Moderator

- Sana ATTIG / Director, Insurance, Francophone Africa, Deloitte

Critical Infrastructure: Increasing the supply of patient capital

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Patient capital with a 10–20-year horizon is crucial to bridge Africa’s \$108 billion annual infrastructure gap. In 2023, only 3% of global infrastructure investments reached sub-Saharan Africa as institutional investors prioritise stable, low perceived risk destinations with clear regulations. Capturing just 1% of global institutional assets or unlocking \$150-\$240 billion in domestic savings from insurance and sovereign wealth funds could uplift Africa’s infrastructure landscape. How can stakeholders align policies, mitigate risks, and direct patient capital towards essential long-term infrastructure projects?

Key points:

- Stable and predictable returns: Optimising capital structures, transparency and governance to derisk investments and attract institutional investors
- Moving towards supportive regulatory frameworks for blended finance and better public/private sectors risk sharing
- How can institutional investors be engaged and educated about the long-term value of African infrastructure investments?

Speakers

- Papa Demba DIALLO / Managing Director, Head of Project Development, Africa50
- Ouns LEMSEFFER / Partner and Co-Head of Francophone Africa, Clifford Chance
- DJIOWA Caline / Advisor, SOLVER SX S.A.
- Cheick-Oumar SYLLA / Regional Director for North Africa and Horn of Africa, IFC

Moderator

- Mohamed HAMMOUCH / Director - Project Finance - Energy and Infrastructure, Forvis Mazars

Disrupters Club | Innovating under pressure: The future of African fintech payments

Africa's mobile payments market is on the cusp of explosive growth—750 million users and revenue jumping from \$3.5 billion to \$20 billion by next year. But in the past six months, new regulations have started to shake the fintech landscape. Kenya's recent data protection fines targeting major players could restrict access to vital cross-border data, risking the competitiveness of local fintechs in an increasingly global marketplace, while Nigeria's e-payment tax and South Africa's expanded consumer protection laws could threaten the pace of digital innovation. As these regulations tighten, many industry leaders warn that the current regulatory environment is not just a hurdle—it's a barrier to survival. Can African fintechs adapt and thrive amidst growing regulatory pressures, or are they reaching a critical breaking point?

Key Points:

- Balancing stringent data compliance with the need for agile, innovative solutions
- Which data regulatory practices will attract international investors to the mobile banking payment market?
- What lessons can be learned from successful partnerships between governments, financial institutions, fintechs, and mobile network operators?

Chair

- Aivo ANDRIANARIVELO / Governor, Central Bank Madagascar
- Rogério ZANDAMELA / Governor, Banco de Moçambique

Speakers

- David AKININ / Founder & CEO, JABU
- Pawel SWIATEK / Chief Operating Officer, Moniepoint
- Michael ATINGI-EGO / Deputy Governor, Bank of Uganda
- Aïda DIARRA / Senior Vice President and Head of Sub Saharan Africa, Visa

Expert

- Ziad BADDOU / Director, Deloitte Consulting Morocco

Moderator

- Aby AGINA / Senior Producer and Anchor, CNBC Africa

New International Economic Order: Where do African financial institutions weigh in?

To defend African interests and strengthen its position in the global financial landscape, the African Union convened the continent's multilateral heavyweights to join the 'Africa Club'. With its capital of \$65 billion, the Africa Club aims to leverage its combined influence to reform the global financial architecture, while encouraging the mobilisation of funds nationally and regionally. Can these efforts at emancipation survive pressure from international institutions seeking to maintain the status quo, or even strip Africa Club members of their privileged creditor status?

Key points:

- Following 50 years of attempts to reform the international financial architecture, how is Africa now better placed to defend its interests?
- African resource mobilisation: How can global taxation reform, savings rates, and new sources of catalytic capital move the needle?
- Governance: What strategies can be implemented to promote collaboration among the institutions of the Africa Club?

Speakers

- H.E Dr. Sidi Ould TAH / President, BADEA
- Serge EKUE / President, BOAD
- Tarik SENHAJI / CEO, Bourse de Casablanca

Expert

- Mik KABEYA / VP, Senior Analyst, African Banks, Moody's Ratings

Moderator

- Aruoture ODDIRI / TV Host, Arise Media Group

The role of stock exchanges in accelerating the climate transition

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

Green bonds have become a widespread practice globally for financing green projects, reaching \$588bn in 2023, but bond issuance in Africa remains low (\$2bn in 2023), and highly concentrated in a few countries. Last year, the AfDB issued four green bonds totalling \$517m, the Tanzanian government issued a \$20m bond, and Nedbank issued a green bond of around \$118m. Certain governments are taking actions but face an uphill task to mobilise green bond capital. A roundtable of supranational institutions, capital market players, commercial banks and public sector representatives discuss how to accelerate successful green bond issuance on Africa's stock exchanges.

Key points:

- How can financial markets promote the structuring of green bonds to state-owned enterprises and corporates?
- What's needed to enhance green bond regulatory frameworks?
- How could Africa's green finance products be more attractive to global investors?

Chair

- Nezha HAYAT / President, Moroccan Capital Market Authority

Speakers

- Isaac KWAKU FOKUO, JR / Founder & CEO, Amahoro Coalition and Botho Emerging Markets Group
- Badanam PATOKI / President, Financial Markets Authority of the West African Monetary Union

Moderator

- Damien JACQUART / Leader Financial Advisory, Francophone Africa, Deloitte

Disrupters Club | Eliminating bottlenecks in the \$40bn embedded finance space

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Africa and the Middle East's industry to embed payments, credit, savings, investing and insurance products on non-financial platforms is set to almost triple in value by 2029 to around \$40 billion. South African retailer Woolworths saw profits in its financial services segment double in FY 2024, through a joint venture with Absa offering in-store credit, credit cards, personal loans and short-term insurance. Embedded finance could bring essential services to the underbanked, but the segment remains constrained by fragmented regulatory frameworks, inconsistent digital infrastructure, lengthy licensing procedures and challenges integrating with legacy systems. In a closed-doors roundtable, traditional financial players, fintechs and regulators discuss developing a regulatory environment to capitalise on a booming sector that could revolutionise financial inclusion.

Key points:

- From telco to e-commerce platforms: Overcoming tech hurdles to embed exciting financial products in digital consumer channels
- Streamlining approvals and oversight for embedded finance: Balancing consumer protection with efficient licensing processes and a purpose-built regulatory framework
- Winning consumer trust: Developing a strategy for widespread adoption

Speakers

- Leila SERHAN / Senior VP and Head of North Africa, Visa
- Shaibu HARUNA / CEO, MTN MobileMoney LTD
- Hamza NACIRI / CEO Morocco, Glovo

Moderator

- Mayowa KUYORO / Partner and Head of Fintech and Payments for East Europe, Middle East, and Africa, McKinsey & Company

AgTech: Financing the transformation of Africa's agriculture and food systems

Africa needs to significantly improve productivity in its food value chains to meet the current and growing demand of an increasing population and achieve food security. Agricultural Technology (agTech) presents an opportunity to transform agriculture and food systems in Africa in the way Fintech has transformed financial inclusion in the past decade. AgTechs connect smallholder farmers to mechanization, quality inputs, and a range of digital services to improve farming, making it possible to de-risk, reduce the cost of servicing, and increase the productivity of small-scale agriculture to a point where it can be financed commercially, with support from blended finance along the way. How can policymakers, regulators, agTech companies, and the financial industry create the ecosystems needed to transform Africa's agriculture and food systems, and generate domestic revenues for African countries?

Speakers

- Nabil TAHARI / Managing Director, IB Holding
- Aliou MAIGA / Africa Director, Financial Institutions, IFC

Moderator

- Aruoture ODDIRI / TV Host, Arise Media Group

Networking Break

Beyond restructuring: How to build an equitable architecture for African debt?

Africa faces the highest external public debt borrowing and servicing costs in the world, with debt service obligations of \$163 billion this year. According to a number of experts, this is partly due to an unfairly inflated perception of credit risk and inappropriate international banking rules. At the same time, restructuring mechanisms such as the G20 Common Framework are proving ineffective, as seen in Ghana, Zambia and Ethiopia. With the African Union calling for more concessional financing from multilateral banks, how can creditors and debtors work together to stem the tide of defaults?

Key points:

- Paris Club and G20 Common Framework: What reforms are needed to make restructuring mechanisms fairer?
- Special Drawing Rights, capital increases, local currency loans, liquidity support: How can the IMF and multilateral banks contribute to more favourable financing?
- Pan-African rating agency, Big Three reforms: How to correct the African risk premium

Speakers

- Carlos LOPES / Professor, University of Cape Town
- Adama COULIBALY / Minister of Finance and Budget, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Bihi Iman EGEH / Minister of Finance, Federal Republic of Somalia
- Dr Patrick NJOROGE / Co-Chair, Debt Relief for Green and Inclusive Recovery

Expert

- Charles DE BOISRIOU / Partner & Member of the African Board, Forvis Mazars

Moderator

- John EVERINGTON / Middle East and Africa Editor, The Banker

Data-driven microfinance: What more can institutions and banks do to elevate impact?

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

With one of the most extensive points of sale and agent networks in the continent (e.g. 1,700 PoS in Morocco), microfinance institutions are hindered by heavy reliance on physical infrastructure. Partnerships with traditional institutions could diversify microfinance offerings (e.g. savings, payments, insurance), yet micro-lending prevails as the focus for low-income populations. High allowable microfinance interest rates, face growing scrutiny over their poverty reduction impact. As African regulators seek to enhance microfinance institutions' role, a roundtable of stakeholders assesses how to better serve the low-income segment.

Key points:

- Moving from people-intensive distribution models to a leaner digital and data-based approach
- Achieving lower interest rates through expanded AI & machine learning credit scoring
- Using micro-credit as an anchor to serve consumer micro-savings & micro-insurance needs

Speakers

- Mumbi Annstella / Directeur général Kenya, TALA
- Philip SIGWART / CEO, Baobab Group
- Simplex Chithyola BANDA / Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Republic of Malawi
- Thomas GIROD / Investment Director, British International Investment
- Emmanuelle RIEDEL-DROUIN / Global Head of Lending Operations, Proparco
- Chilufya MUTALE / Co-Founder & CEO, eShandi
- Uzoma DOZIE / Chief Sparkler, Sparkle
- Mahmoud EL SAKKA / Advisor, Office of the Prime Minister, Arab Republic of Egypt
- Ismail DOUIRI / Deputy CEO, Attijariwafa Bank

Moderator

- Othman OMARY / Managing Director & Partner, BCG Casablanca

CEO Talk | Building African banking powerhouses in global financial hubs

Following international banking exits across African markets, continental banks have an historic opportunity to become truly global banks in key financial centres, from London to Hong Kong. Such an expansion could mobilise funding and foster cross-border trade to Africa, yet few African banks have made this leap. Companies like Access Bank, First Bank of Nigeria and Bank of Africa are exceptions. The former recently raised \$1.8 billion to expand globally with eyes on US market entry by 2026. CEOs of top African banks discuss the strategic imperative of global expansion.

Key points:

- Navigating regulatory hurdles for banking licenses and local compliance
- Correspondent banking: Can African banks really be viable alternatives to international banks?
- What business models will help African banks succeed internationally?

Speakers

- Olusegun ALEBIOSU / Managing Director and CEO, FirstBank Group
- Roosevelt OGBONNA / Managing Director & CEO, Access Bank
- Amine BOUABID / CEO, Bank of Africa

Moderator

- Ramah NYANG / Journalist, CGTN/Bloomberg

Conversation With | Balancing economic and social reforms

Social safety nets like universal healthcare require financing. Ambitious projects, like those undertaken by the Moroccan National Social Security Fund (CNSS) illustrate the challenges and opportunities of aligning financial investments with social development initiatives. Understanding this delicate balance between financial considerations and social development goals is imperative to create strategies for sustainable and inclusive growth for the continent. A conversation with Hassan Boubrik, Managing Director of CNSS looks at best practices, and successful partnerships between the private, public and non-profit sectors.

Speakers

- Hassan BOUBRIK / Managing Director, Caisse Nationale de Sécurité Sociale

Women in Finance Workshop | Future-proof training: Upskilling women for the evolving digital landscape

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Women are significantly underrepresented in Africa's fintech scene, making up only 27% of roles across the continent, and even less in leadership positions. Only 3.2% of fintech firms are female-led and despite a growing wave of female entrepreneurs, there is a persistent gender gap in access to crucial resources and sector-specific training. From mastering blockchain for secure payment systems to harnessing AI for personalised banking solutions, what skills and support do women need to be at the forefront of fintech's future and to break through leadership barriers?

Key points:

- Bridging the skills gap: What targeted educational programs and mentorship networks can equip women to lead in Africa's growing fintech ecosystem?
- Building inclusive fintech ecosystems: How can innovative partnerships between financial institutions, tech firms, and women's organisations create a supportive environment for female fintech entrepreneurs?
- Championing female leadership: What role does sponsorship play in advancing women into leadership positions within fintech, and how can these networks be strengthened?

Speakers

- Zineb BENMOUSSA / Human Capital Director - General Insurance & Reinsurance, SanlamAllianz
- Sokhna Maïmouna DIOP / Deputy CEO, CBAO Group, Attijariwafa Bank
- Myriam ADOTEVI / Managing Director, SUNU Investment Holding
- Aissata Koné SIDIBE / CEO, CBI Mali

Moderator

- Ibukun BEECROFT / Partner – Risk Advisory, Deloitte & Touche Nigeria

Capital markets: Connecting the dots between investors and issuers with fintech

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GenZ investors are increasingly turning to low-entry-point investment apps like Trove, Bamboo, and Cowrywise. These platforms provide AI-driven insights and access to African stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, potentially boosting capital markets. Commercial banks could adopt similar models through fintech partnerships, but few have acted. Widespread investment scams and limited financial literacy threaten the adoption of existing apps. Almost no regulatory guidelines specific to investing apps exist, forcing fintechs to rely on decades-old broker regulations that overlook key issues like cross-border investing. A roundtable of fintechs, regulators, and capital market stakeholders lay out the groundwork for digital investing to achieve critical mass.

Key points:

- Developing a digital investment culture: Drawing in investors and issuers
- Building scale: Enticing traditional banks to embed digital investing products
- From sandboxes to regular fintech-regulator dialogue: What should bespoke, co-created regulatory guidelines for investing apps look like?

Speakers

- BOUM III JR / CEO & Co-founder, Daba
- Aigbovbioise AIG-IMOUKHUEDE / Managing Director, Coronation Asset Management
- Mohamed Farid SALEH / Chairman, Financial Regulatory Authority, the Arab Republic of Egypt
- Emomotimi John AGAMA / Director General, Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Ridah MEFTAH / Partner , EY
- Richmond BASSEY / Co-founder & CEO, Bamboo

Moderator

- Anass BENSRRHIR / Senior Director, McKinsey & Company

SWIFT alternatives: Fuelling faster and cheaper international payments

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

Stable coins, PAPSS, regional payment systems like Buna, fintech providers, a BRICS payment system, blockchain and CBDCs have all been put forward as alternatives to SWIFT, the world's dominant method to facilitate cross-border payments. These options offer possibilities to tackle inconsistent and often high fees charged by financial institutions to businesses under SWIFT, and to reduce the up to five days settlement time. Could the many alternatives create a fragmented landscape that will cause interoperability challenges, or will multiple solutions stimulate innovation and cater to different types of cross-border transactions? Regulators, and SWIFT alternative providers, banks, and fintechs discuss how to achieve a thriving cross-border payment environment for Africa.

Key points:

- Craving compatibility: How to ensure interoperability between the many cross-border payment system infrastructures?
- Role of regulation: How can AfCFTA facilitate technical coordination and regulatory cohesion between central banks and national regulators with independently designed payment platforms?
- CBDCs, fintechs and cryptocurrencies: With so many payment options, where do these new players fit into the equation and how are they transforming cross-border payments?

Speakers

- Obi EMETAROM / Co-Founder & CEO, Zone
- Naima ISSAWI / Director of Performances and Network, Rawbank
- Andy JURY / Group CEO, Mukuru
- Rogério ZANDAMELA / Governor, Banco de Moçambique

How can commercial banks build a climate agenda with real impact for Africa?

Dominated by international funders and development banks, African climate finance faces an estimated annual funding gap of \$250 billion – a gap that African commercial banks could help bridge. Increased participation from these banks could mobilise domestic and regional resources, optimise private sector capital reserves, and more effectively direct funding towards local projects. However, a lack of experience in climate data capturing and modelling processes poses challenges for African groups. Following in the footsteps of the African Green Banks Initiative, how can collective and pan-African strategies be implemented?

Key Points:

- COP, the Marrakech Declarations, the African Green Banks Initiative: How are African banks taking the lead?
- Stress tests, solvency rules, macro and micro-supervision: How can regulators and supervisors better support banks?
- Bankable projects and local initiatives: Are commercial banks having real impact?

Chair

- Óscar Humberto ÉVORA SANTOS / Governor, Banco de Cabo Verde

Speakers

- Laila NORDINE / Senior Manager, Sustainable Finance, Financial Institutions Group, IFC
- El-Hassana KABA / Founder & CEO, MANSA BANK
- Mustafa RAWJI / CEO, Rawbank
- YOUNOUSSI Abdoul-Moumoune / Managing Director, Coris Bank International, Côte d'Ivoire
- Annastacia KIMTAI / Managing Director, KCB Bank Kenya
- Bongwiwe KUNENE / Managing Director, Banking Association of South Africa

Expert

- Souad EL OUAZZANI / Partner, Forvis Mazars

Moderator

- John EVERINGTON / Middle East and Africa Editor, The Banker

Turning consumer savings into productive investments via capital markets

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

Channeling Africa's savings into productive investments that drive economic growth remains a critical challenge. Success stories like M-Pesa in Kenya, and South Africa's Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSAs) have increased financial inclusion, and abroad Singapore's Central Provident Fund (CPF) and India's Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) have channeled massive savings by providing citizens with accessible investment options. But many commercial banks are hindered by regulatory constraints. How can this challenge be addressed from both sides: providing a strong regulatory framework that protects investors' interests while encouraging innovation towards diversified, user-friendly and accessible investment platforms?

Key points:

- Incentives and tax benefits: How can governments further encourage investments in capital markets?
- Financial literacy: How important are digital tools like robo-advisors to help consumers understand the benefits and risks of investing in capital markets?
- What is the role of regulation to strengthen customer protection and oversee market conduct?

Speakers

- Oulimata NDIAYE DIASSE / Managing Director, UMOA-TITRES
- Josephine OSSIYA / CEO, Capital Market Authority- Uganda
- Philip K. CHITALU / Secretary and Chief Executive, Securities and Exchange Commission - Zambia
- Nicodemus MKAMA / CEO, Capital Market Authority and Securities Authority-Tanzania
- Sydney TEIXEIRA / Executive Director, Comissão do Mercado de Capitais- Angola
- Césaire MEH / Manager of Macro and Market Risk, IFC

Moderator

- Taha FERDAOUS / Partner, Forvis Mazars

Cracking the code on expanding insurance to the informal sector

Embedded insurance on mobile money and banking apps holds vast potential to expand access to health, crop, and personal accident cover for informal workers, 83% of Africa's workforce. While partnerships are growing in the space, insurers are still grappling with tech integration hurdles, data gaps on informal sector risks, pricing strategies for a segment with irregular incomes, and complex multi-regulator compliance with central banks, insurance, and telco regulators. Banks and telcos are meanwhile questioning if the revenue potential outweighs the implementation effort. What critical moves will enable embedded insurance to transform Africa's sub-3% insurance penetration rate?

Key points:

- Increased uptake and retention: Have embedded products to date met financial inclusion and profit expectations?
- Product design and tech integration: Deepening data on informal sector needs, and streamlining integration with or without insurtech intermediaries
- Harmonised oversight: Achieving convergence on embedded finance across regulators

Chair

- Jean KACOU DIAGOU / Founder & President, Groupe NSIA
- Baghayo SAQWARE / Commissioner and Director General, Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority

Speakers

- Gildas N'ZOUBA / Managing Director SUNU Assurances VIE Ivory Coast, Groupe SUNU
- Ashok SHAH / CEO, Apollo Investments / APA Insurance
- Jean-Louis Menann-Kouamé / CEO, Orange Bank

Expert

- Sana ATTIG / Director, Insurance, Francophone Africa, Deloitte

Moderator

- Gaëlle ARENSON / Editor-In-Chief, Africa Business+

Networking Break

Conversation With | Building African unicorns with global reach

Access Bank Group Chair Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede said in September that if Africa aspires to have high-value investor stocks like Apple that have propelled Warren Buffet to stardom “we have to build our own gazelles and unicorns”. In an exclusive interview, Mr Aig-Imoukhuede discusses the political and financial infrastructure for African corporations to excel at a global level.

Speakers

- Aigboje AIG-IMOUKHUEDE / Chair, Access Bank

Moderator

- Anjani TRIVEDI / Global Business Correspondent, The Economist

Central Bank Governors: Forging a consolidated financial landscape

Nigeria and Kenya are spearheading financial sector consolidation by proposing to increase minimum banking capital requirements tenfold. In other countries, similar initiatives are emerging more timidly. This leaves many markets full of smaller players that lack the means to fund complex, growth-essential projects. How can central banks achieve consolidation without hurting MSME lending in the short term and creating a race for scarce capital that could hurt industry profits?

Key points:

- How can central banks optimise capital adequacy for commercial banks?
- Risk-based capital or increased minimum capital: Which approach best protects financial systems?
- Time for tailor-made capital adequacy frameworks for big fintechs and neobanks?

Speakers

- Jean-Claude Kassi BROU / Governor, BCEAO
- Mamo MIHRETU / Governor, National Bank of Ethiopia
- Harvesh Kumar SEEGOLAM / Governor, Bank of Mauritius

Moderator

- Ramah NYANG / Journalist, CGTN/Bloomberg

Closing Ceremony
