

*The George Washington University School of Business, The Growth Dialogue, the Institute for International Economic Policy (IIEP) at the Elliott School of International Affairs, CCDL, IAfS, GSI Fulbright, Global Impact Industries, and Africa House present:*

# THE FUTURE OF FINANCE AND TRADE IN AFRICA 2.0

**Dates:**  
**April 20 - 24th, 2025**

**Location:**  
**University Student Center  
Grand Ballroom  
800 21st St, NW  
Washington, DC 20052**

During the World Bank/International Monetary Fund (WB/IMF) Spring Meeting 2025, The George Washington University is hosting a high-level conference during a time of rapid technological innovation and global uncertainty, bringing together Central Bank Governors, State Governors, Ministers, private sector Executives, technology leaders, members of the African diaspora, and academics. Building on the success of its inaugural event in April 2024, this conference will examine critical challenges and opportunities facing Africa, particularly in the area of digital transformation and its applications in national and regional economies. Key topics will include emerging technologies, trade prospects, natural resources, investment opportunities, and climate finance, with a focus on innovative financial solutions to drive sustainable and inclusive growth. The event will also highlight opportunities for advanced economies to strengthen trade and investment ties with Africa, fostering collaboration among policymakers, practitioners, and thought leaders committed to advancing the continent's progress.

In addition to the main conference, the initiative will feature two days of sideline activities, powered by Global Industries Impact, Graphclit, Canopy Group, and The Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce, which will consist of seminars and networking events, designed to provide participants with practical, actionable insights and investment opportunities.



## Itinerary Summary

### Day 1: Sunday, April 20

- Arrival at Dulles International Airport
- Transportation from Dulles International Airport to Capital Hilton
- Check-in at Capital Hilton
- Welcome Reception at Capital Hilton

### Day 2: Monday, April 21

- Accessing Financing Seminars
- Catered Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
- GWU Sponsored Event – Selected Participants Only
- Dinner/Networking Venue: The Park at 14th

### Day 3: Tuesday - Included

- Accessing Global Markets and Financing
- Catered Breakfast and Lunch
- Investor-Business Matchmaking



#### **Day 4: Wednesday- Included**

- Full-day Conference

#### **-Panel Topics Cover:**

- Digital Economy
- Keynote Statements by Distinguished Government Officials and CEOs
- Climate Finance and Financial Innovation
- Development Strategies, New Technologies, and Innovation
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Driving Africa's Growth
- Conversation With Central Bank Governors and Minister of Finances
- Statements by Honorable Members of Congress
- Company Exhibitions
- Digital Transformation

#### **-Gala Dinner**



#### **Day 5: Thursday – Included**

- Departure and check-out from Capital Hilton by 12:00 pm ET
- Transportation:  
Limousine Bus from April 20, 2025 – April 24, 2025 - Included

Hotel Accommodation:  
1001 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20036

# THREE-DAY AGENDA

## Building Financial Knowledge and Networks

### DAY 1

#### Theme: Shaping Africa's Future: Addressing Challenges and Driving Transformative Policies

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Speaker's Panel I - Pan African Council, The African Think Tank, AGOA FY25 DRC, Cyber Alliance, & U.S. Commercial Services Education

Join the African diaspora in a dynamic conference exploring key challenges and opportunities for Africa's growth. Engage with academic initiatives, legislative policymakers, and practitioners on topics like the future of the African ecosystem, the transformative role of education, and strategies to enhance infrastructure development, trade, and investment in international cooperation. Together, we'll drive sustainable growth and unlock Africa's full potential.

Moderator:

Panelists: Dr. Sidone Niba, Dr. Joel Nshisso, Kendral Felder, CEO & Co-Founder

10:00 Am – 10:15 AM: Coffee Break

#### 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM: **Farm Lab Africa, Planet Defense AI Innovation, Ovawa-Swan Solutions Entrepreneurial Presentations**

Presenters:

The conference will feature dynamic entrepreneurial presentations showcasing innovative ideas, strategies, and success stories from industry leaders and rising entrepreneurs. These sessions aim to inspire and equip attendees with practical insights into business expansion growth in the United States strengthening ties with Africa, foreign direct investment, market trends, and overcoming challenges in competitive industries. Topics range from launching startups and scaling businesses to leveraging technology and fostering sustainable practices. Attendees will gain valuable knowledge, actionable takeaways, and the opportunity to engage with speakers, and, fostering connections and collaboration within the entrepreneurial community.



#### Lunch Session 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM **Building Generational Wealth CONVERSATION WITH DANIEL FOMBO, WORLD FINANCIAL GROUP**

Join world-renowned Daniel Fombo for an engaging discussion on strategies for African professionals to build, grow, and preserve wealth. Key topics include investment opportunities, financial literacy for generational wealth, and overcoming challenges faced by professionals abroad. A networking session with the speaker will follow.

1:00 PM – 1:15 PM: Break

#### **Theme: Accessing Global Markets and Financing**

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM: The Business Wellness Toolkit

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM: Credit Solutions - Project & Global Funding Resources

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM: Coffee Break

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM: Mergers & Acquisitions

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM: Digital Marketing-Effectively Using Social Media

6:00 PM – 9:30 PM: Welcome Networking Reception Dinner

## Day 2: The Global Funding capacity building

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM: Opening Statements

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM **THE DEAL ROOM**

Vetted businesses will meet with funding sources “to get a deal done.”

Matchmaking (multiple experts - sectors) pre-arranged and ad-hoc one-on-one meetings between U.S. and African business leaders, facilitated by the international trade expert team.

Catered Lunch

### Full-day Conference 9:00-10:00

**Master of Ceremonies: Bernard Height, Senior Director, SAIC**

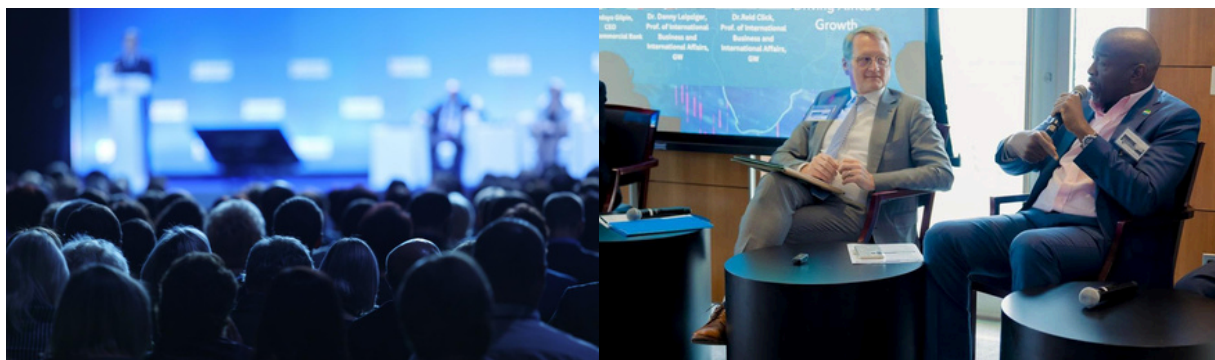
Opening welcome messages from the Dean, GWSB and the Vice Provost of the University.

### **OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: 9:15 - 10:00**

**SESSION ONE: 10:05 – 10:45**

#### **PIONEERING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA AND BEYOND FEATURING: NGSER**

Join the CEO of NGSER in this fireside chat to explore the company’s journey from its 2007 founding in Côte d’Ivoire to becoming a leader in Africa’s digital transformation. Operating in over 10 African countries, NGSER has delivered innovative solutions across sectors like telecom, banking, healthcare, and energy, leveraging technologies such as AI, blockchain, and IoT. Discover how NGSER’s tailored strategies have driven market dominance, from smart grid innovations to digital ticketing for marquee events like the Africa Cup of Nations. As NGSER expands into the U.S., the CEO will share plans to bridge Africa and the U.S., fostering cross-continental partnerships through collaborations with the Center for Cyber Diplomacy and George Washington University. Learn how NGSER’s success highlights the transformative potential of digital innovation for global growth and the emergence of African firms on the world stage.



**Moderator: Ambassador Omar Arouna, Co-Founder and Board Chair, Center for Cyber Diplomacy and Leadership**

**Panelists:**

Coffee Break: 10:45 - 11:00

**SESSION TWO: 11:05 - 12:05**

#### **DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES, NEW TECHNOLOGIES, AND INNOVATION**

This session will focus on new ideas to drive equitable and sustainable growth in Africa. The conversation aims to increase awareness of the potential new technologies and financial innovations have to spur economic growth, while also focusing on the needed advances in human capital and capacity-building. Panelists will reflect on the role the financial sector can have in advancing a greener and more sustainable future for African and the role major metropolitan areas can play. The panel will examine strategies and opportunities available through further developments in policy and partnerships and it will include private sector providers of new digital solutions as well as development practitioners and finance specialists.

**Moderator: Femi Akinrebiyo, Global Manager, Manufacturing Investment & Trade IFC**

**Panelists:**

**LUNCH SESSION: 12:10 - 1:20**

**CONVERSATION WITH CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS AND MINISTERS OF FINANCE**

The fireside chat will feature distinguished participants from Central Banks and/or Ministries of Finance engaging in an open and intimate conversation about the future of Africa. The participants will share insights, experiences, and strategies for unlocking the full potential of finance in Africa while ensuring stability and promoting both social and environmental sustainability. Topics will include the role of central banking institutions in laying the groundwork for greater financial innovation, providing regulatory frameworks to support emerging technologies, and driving financial inclusion. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect directly with the speakers following the conclusion of the session.

**Moderator: Prof. Danny Leipziger, The George Washington University, School of Business**

**Panelists:**



**SESSION FOUR: 1:25 – 2:30**

**AFRICA MARKET ENTRY STRATEGIES AND OPPORTUNITIES: NIGERIA, ANGOLA, AND GABON**

This panel will explore strategic approaches to investing in Africa, using Nigeria, Angola, and Gabon as case studies. Discussions will focus on best practices for navigating market entry, identifying high-growth sectors, and leveraging existing frameworks to drive sustainable investment. Panelists will highlight Nigeria's robust investment ecosystem, including its vast natural resources, growing infrastructure, and position as Africa's largest economy. Angola's emerging opportunities in oil and gas, agriculture, and renewable energy will also take center stage, demonstrating the potential for transformative investments in these sectors. Gabon will be showcased as a model of green development, with its strategic emphasis on sustainable forestry, eco-tourism, and renewable energy, making it an attractive destination for investors focused on sustainability and long-term growth. The session will underscore the pivotal roles of governance, policy stability, and the support of investment promotion agencies such as the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission in facilitating successful ventures. Attendees will gain insights into harnessing local resources, fostering partnerships, and creating value that aligns with Africa's development goals while addressing poverty reduction and economic diversification. Panelists will include senior officials from the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, Gabonese government representatives, investment experts, and leaders from global corporations with successful operations in African markets.

**Moderator: Aisha Rimi, The Executive Secretary/CEO, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC)**

**Panelists:**

Coffee break 2:30 – 2:45

**SESSION FIVE: 2:45 - 3:45**  
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION DRIVING AFRICA'S GROWTH**

This discussion will explore dynamic entrepreneurial programs and collaborations between the United States and Africa. We will explore and discuss programs including the State Department's African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP), Maryland's Global Gateway, and the DC government's International Soft-Landing initiative. These programs are supporting fair and resilient economic growth within Africa, greater integration of African/US businesses into both markets. Panelists will discuss how local, national, and regional ecosystems can collaborate to advance trade, investment, and innovation across diverse sectors. Topics will include enhancing access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), education and knowledge transfer, and addressing regulatory and logistical challenges that impede international expansion. The panel will outline actionable steps to build stronger, more inclusive economic ties between the U.S. and Africa and will include senior USG representatives.

**Moderator: Aisha Bond, President, The Greater Washington Black Chamber of Commerce**

Panelists:

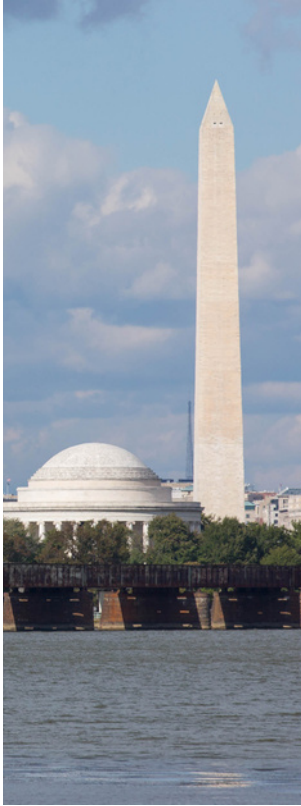


**SESSION FIVE: 3:45 - 4:45**  
**FUNDING INNOVATIONS TO BOOST CLIMATE FINANCE**

Innovation and new funding models are urgently needed to meet the continent's climate financing gap. According to the UN, developing countries need to spend an estimated \$160-\$340 billion on climate adaptation by 2030, yet the amount of international funding flowing to developing countries is far below this number. This panel will discuss transformative climate finance innovations that could play an important role in unlocking new sources of funding to create sustainable value chains and increase developmental projects on the African continent. Strategies discussed will include impact investment funds, sustainability linked loans and bonds, sustainable taxonomy projects (such as the Green Bond Taxonomy of the Climate Bonds Initiative, and the EU taxonomy for Sustainable Activities), and other innovative financial instruments that will be pivotal in advancing a greener and more sustainable future for the African continent. The conversation will aim to increase awareness and knowledge about the potential of financial innovation and capacity-building to mobilize resources for climate activities and increase collaboration, knowledge sharing, and policy reforms that contribute to climate finance solutions. Panelists will be drawn from the investment community, international organizations, and academia.

**Moderator: Romi Bhatia, Investment, Prosper Africa**

Panelists:



## **CLOSING SESSION: 4:45 – 5:15**

### **Summary Remarks and Closing Statements**

## **COCKTAILS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS 5:15-6:15**

**VIP Gala Dinner (Africa House – Africa Night): 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm for Selected Invited Guests**  
The VIP Gala Dinner will be a closed session for the African Central Bank Governors, State Governors, Business Delegation, Investors, Speakers, and Sponsors with their Guests.



For participation fee, sponsorship, and partnership contact [kimberly@globalimpactindustries.com](mailto:kimberly@globalimpactindustries.com) and [tkafuti@gwu.edu](mailto:tkafuti@gwu.edu)