



"Moving the Conversations Forward on Africa's Digital Economy with Leaders at the Forefront"

Date: 24th September, 2024

Venue: Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice, New York, USA

AGENDA

10:00am – Arrival (30mins)

10:30 am – Opening Remarks (5mins)

- Hannah Awuku, Executive Director, Convene Africa

10:35am – Panel 1: Windows of Opportunity: Innovating for Shared Prosperity through Remittances and Global Connections (40mins)

This panel will explore the transformative potential of remittances in driving economic growth and fostering shared prosperity across Africa. By examining recent trends, challenges, and opportunities, panellists will discuss how remittances can be leveraged to empower communities, strengthen financial inclusion, and promote regional integration, as well as global connections.

- Benjamin Fernandes, CEO, Nala
- Faheen Allibhoy, Managing Director & Global Head for Multilateral & Development Institutions, JP Morgan
- Michael Wallis-Brown, Global Head of Financial Services, Ericsson
- Olugbenga Agboola (GB), CEO, Flutterwave
- Anita Erskine, CEO, Anita Erskine Media (*Moderator*)

11:15am – Remarks (5mins)

- Prince Adjei, CEO, Development Bank Ghana Guarantee

11:20am – Remarks (5mins)

- H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AfCFTA Secretariat

11:25am – Keynote Remarks (10mins)

- H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana

11:35am – Panel 2: Cross-sector Collaborations: Investing in Critical Digital Public Infrastructure and Strategic Partnerships to Advance a Unified Digital Economy (40mins)

This panel will examine the crucial role of public-private partnerships in developing the essential digital infrastructure needed to propel Africa's unified digital economy. Industry leaders and policymakers will discuss how collaborative efforts can foster innovation, promote financial inclusion, and drive sustainable economic growth. The conversation will highlight the importance of aligning regulatory frameworks with private sector innovation to create scalable, interoperable digital solutions that benefit all segments of society.

- Sola Yomi-Ajayi, CEO, UBA America
- Ebenezer Twum Asante, Senior Vice President, Markets, MTN Group
- Osaruyi Orobosa-Ogbeide, Senior Vice President & Head, Project Development, Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)
- Dr. Amany Asfour, President, Africa Business Council
- Innocent Isichei, Director, ACIOE Associates (*Moderator*)

12:15pm – A Conversation with Leaders at the Forefront – Towards Economic Integration, Harnessing the Power of Data Interoperability (20mins)

This high-level conversation will explore how data interoperability can accelerate economic integration across Africa. By bringing together key leaders in policy, trade, and technology, the panel will focus on how governments and private sector entities can collaborate to ensure seamless data flow across borders, enabling more efficient trade, financial services, and economic growth. The discussion will also touch on the need for regulatory harmonization and policy support, as well as the alignment of public and private sector goals to unlock the full potential of a unified African market.

- H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AfCFTA Secretariat
- Peter Ndegwa, Group CEO, Safaricom Group
- Joy Kategekwa, Director, Regional Integration, AfDB Group (*Moderator*)

12:35pm – Highlighting Women and Youth in the Digital Ecosystem (10mins)

This fireside chat will focus on leveraging the potential of Africa's women and youth for digital transformation. The discussion will explore investing in women and youth for digital transformation, the impact of digital inclusion on women's economic empowerment, the role of youth in driving digital entrepreneurship and innovation, and successful initiatives promoting digital skills development and entrepreneurship.

- Jules Ngankam, Group CEO, African Guarantee Fund
- Fadilah Tchoumba, CEO, ABAN
- Tonisha Tagoe, Founder, Baobab Intelligence (*Moderator*)

12:45pm – Launch of the Women in Digital Trade Initiative (10mins)

- H.E. Fatoumatta Bah Barrow, First Lady of the Republic of the Gambia
- Jules Ngankam, Group CEO, African Guarantee Fund
- Michelle Chivunga, Founder & CEO, Global Policy House (*Moderator*)

12:55pm – Closing Remarks (5mins)

- Dr. Nkiru Balonwu, CEO, Africa Soft Power Group & Hannah Awuku, Executive Director, Convene Africa

Compère:

Anita Erskine, CEO, Anita Erskine Media