APRM
African Peer Review Mechanism

FORWARD
AFRICA
LEADERS
SYMPOSIUM

Forward Leaders Perspectives

SYMPOSIUM EDITION

NEW YORK | SEPTEMBER 2025

A strategic and global gathering of leaders at the forefront of Africa's Digital Transformation.

About Forward Africa Leaders Symposium 2025

Strategically set on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, the Forward Africa Leaders Symposium serves as a premier platform to spotlight and advance Africa's Digital Transformation Agenda, particularly the attainment of an integrated Digital Economy as a catalyst for inclusive and sustainable growth through high-level dialogues to facilitate and drive investments, advance strategic partnerships and facilitate actionable collaboration between state and non-state actors.

The 2025 symposium will deepen engagement between key stakeholders in the digital and financial ecosystems by spotlighting the opportunities, aligning on mutual priorities for investment and highlighting policies for long-term impact under the theme;

Advancing Africa's Digital Transformation: Inspiring Action. Accelerating Growth. Amplifying Impact.

H.E. Amb. Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre
CEO, APRM Continental Secretariat

Digital transformation is not a vision for the future, but a reality that is taking place today. Across the continent, from mobile money to digital identities, from cross-border trade platforms to youth-led innovation, Africa is blazing its own trail.

Hannah Awuku
Executive Director
Forward Africa Leaders Symposium

On the most convenient occasion we are leveraging this global convening to bring our leaders together to discuss Africa's digital transformation as a catalyst for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

What is Forward Africa Leaders Symposium (FALS)

The Forward Africa Leaders Symposium is a dedicated convening platform where innovators, developers, investors, entrepreneurs, government leaders, policy makers and experts with the resources and mandate to drive and effect change come together to share best practices to amplify impact, build meaningful and strategic partnerships to scale development and chart pathways for the future of digital transformation and innovation in Africa.

Why it matters

The Symposium connects leaders to:

- Celebrate progress made from a leadership perspective to inspire commitment for continued growth.
- Elevate conversations on common issues to accelerate action for inclusive digital advancement.
- Build collaborations to amplify impact for sustainable digital transformation.
- Project Africa's Digital Landscape for impact investing.

FORWARD AFRICA LEADERS SYMPOSIUM

APRM African Peer Review Mechanism

Strategic Partners

GSMA

ABAN african business angel network

Bi

APHRC African Population and Health Research Center Transforming lives in Africa through research.

AFRICA BUSINESS COUNCIL

Aceline BCNJ

Sponsors

KGL GROUP

Miller HOLDING

milvest

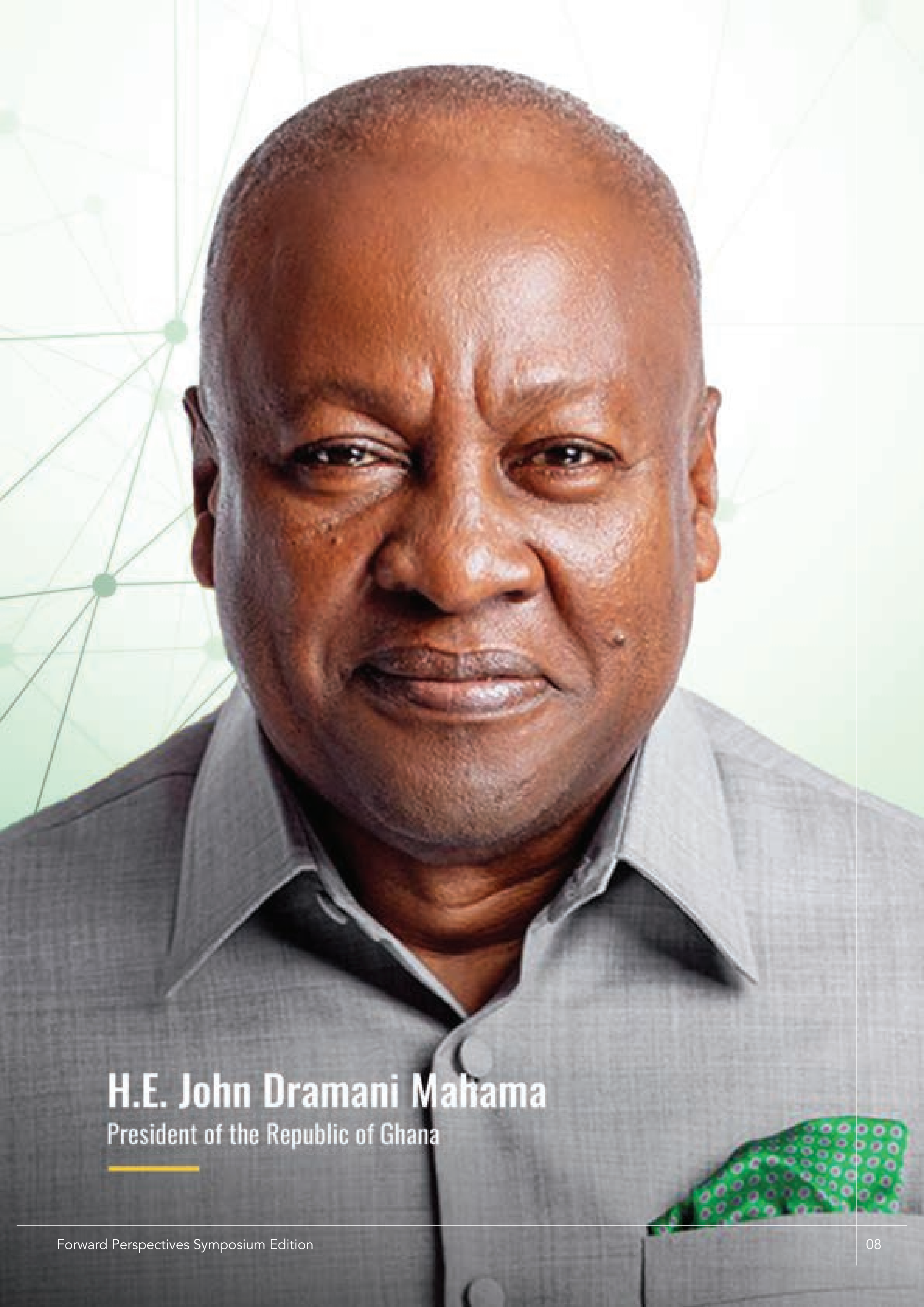
Powered by

Convene Africa

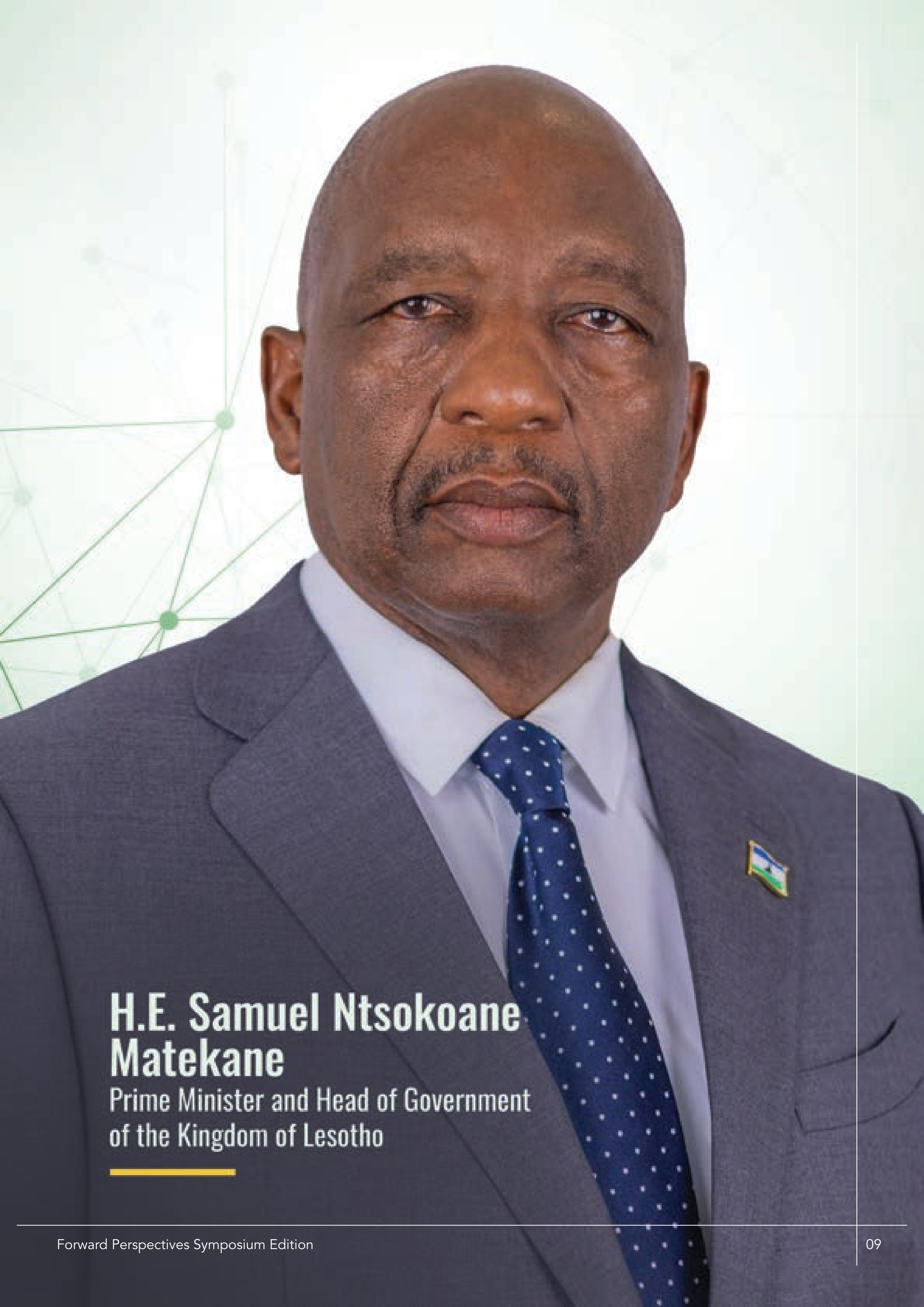

ABAN
african business angel network
CONGRESS
2025
ABAN CONGRESS
2025 IS SET
ARE YOU IN?
THEME
ACCELERATING LOCAL
CAPITAL PARTICIPATION
DATE
17TH - 18TH
OCT. 2025
LOCATION
JOHN RANDLE CENTER,
LAGOS ISLAND
#ABANCONGRESS2025 #ABANat10 #INVESTINAFRICA

Committing to continued growth.

Special Guests of Honor.

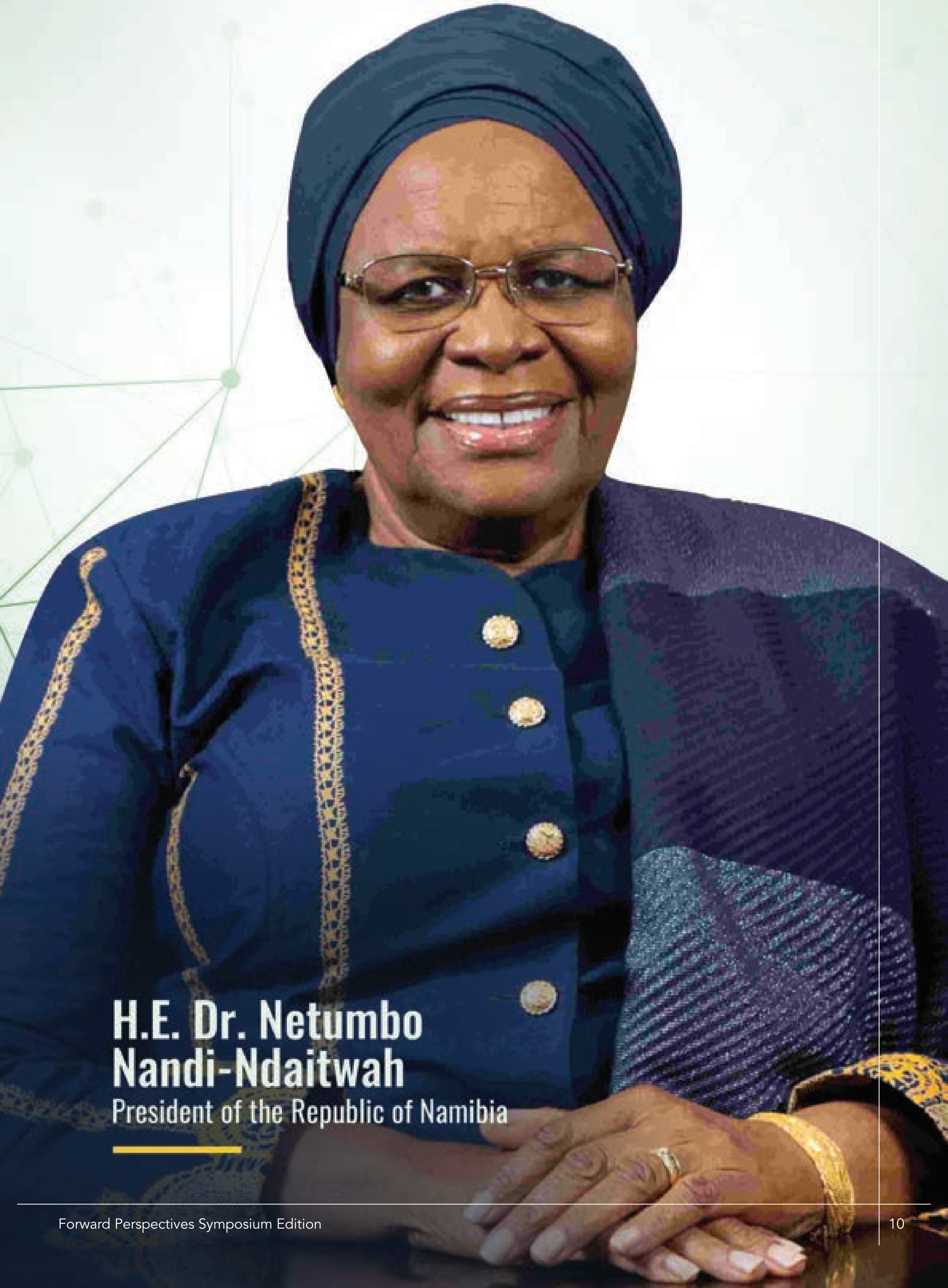


H.E. John Dramani Mahama
President of the Republic of Ghana



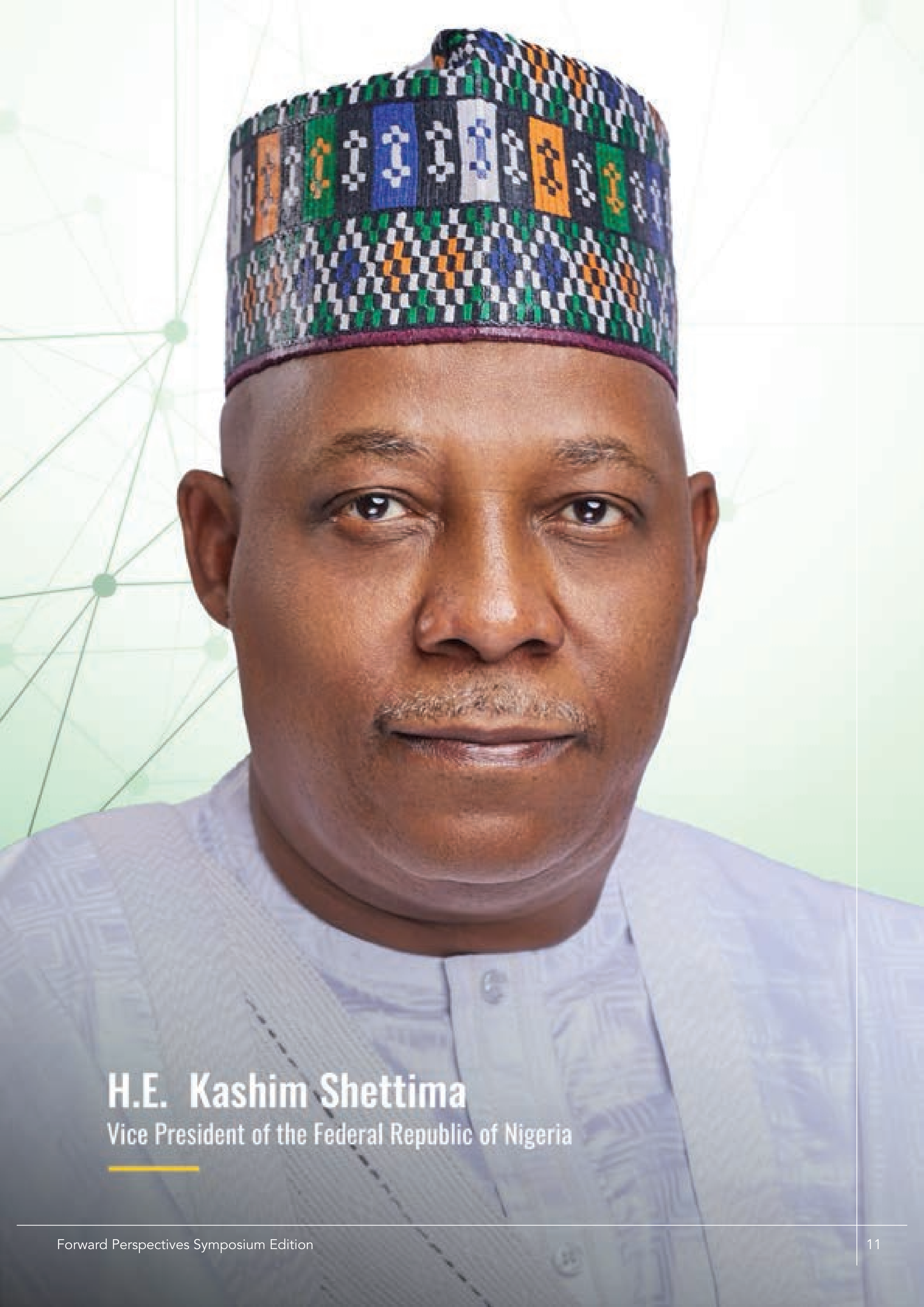
H.E. Samuel Ntsokoane Matekane

Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho

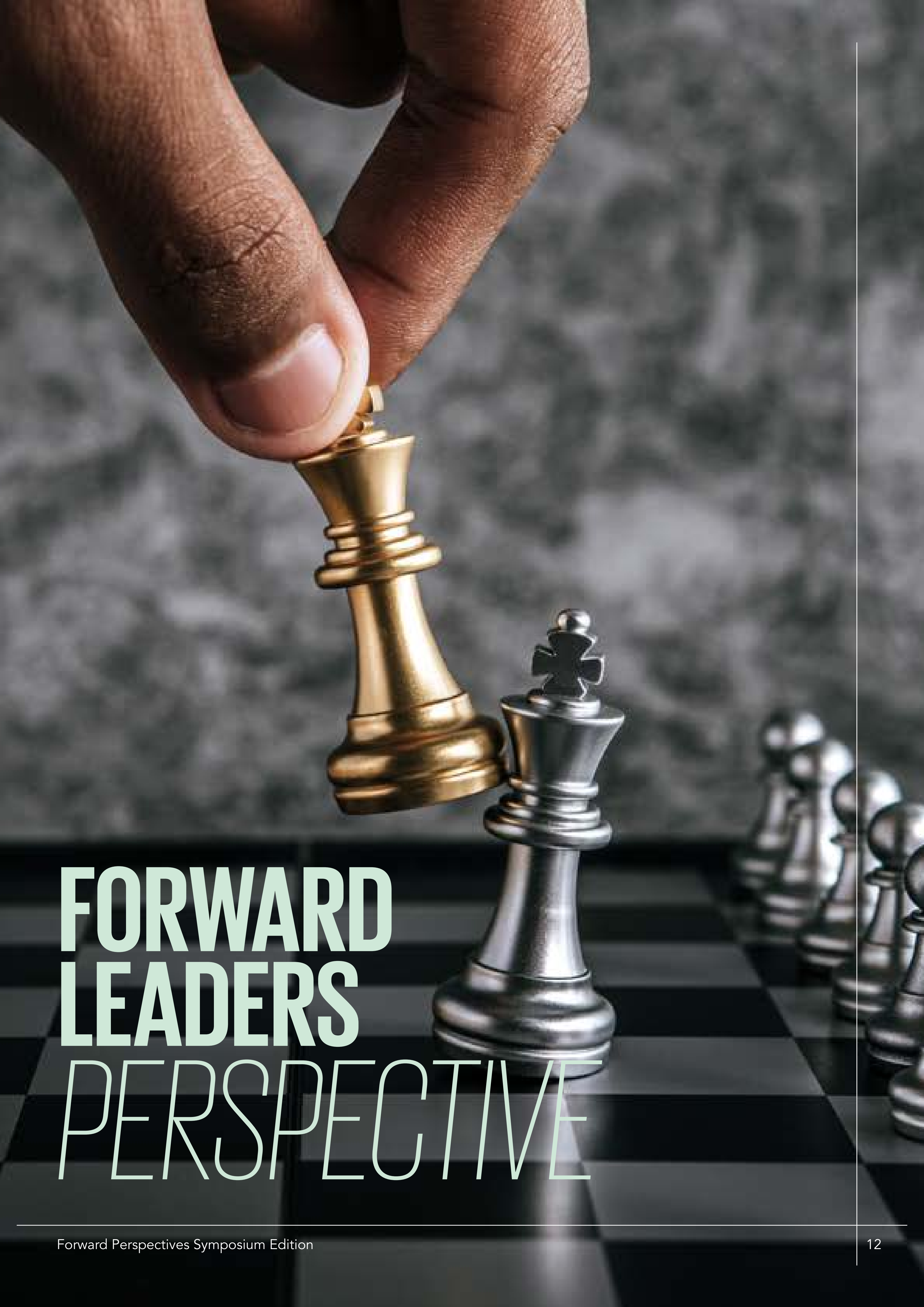


H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

President of the Republic of Namibia



H.E. Kashim Shettima
Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



FORWARD LEADERS *PERSPECTIVE*

Technology and digital platforms are critical enablers of intra-African trade and economic integration. At Afreximbank, we are committed to leveraging innovation to simplify and scale cross-border trade to unlock Africa's economic potential.

The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) is a game-changer for Africa, increasing the efficiency and reducing the risks of cross-border transactions, fostering greater financial inclusion and continental trade.

Digital transformation must be inclusive, ensuring that small and medium-sized enterprises across Africa can participate fully in the continent's growing economies.

Our vision is to drive Africa's industrialization and economic sovereignty through sustainable financing and tools that harness the power of technology for trade and infrastructure development."

Dr. Benedict Oramah

President and Chairman of the Board of Directors
Afreximbank

At MTN, we deeply believe that everybody deserves the benefits of a modern connected life. Digital infrastructure and services will enable Africa to leapfrog development challenges and make advances in education, healthcare, agriculture, and more.

On youth and skills: Africa's young population is a critical asset. To harness this potential, digital skills are fundamental to unlocking employment and innovation in the continent's growing digital economy.

Ralph Mupita

CEO and President MTN Group

Unlocking finance is central to turning Africa's enormous infrastructure potential into progress. Telecommunications and technology are critical pillars for enabling growth and sustainable development.

With the right frameworks and private sector partnerships, digital technologies can boost infrastructure efficiency, enhance service delivery, and create sustainable economic ecosystems.

Samaila Zubairu

CEO and President
Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)

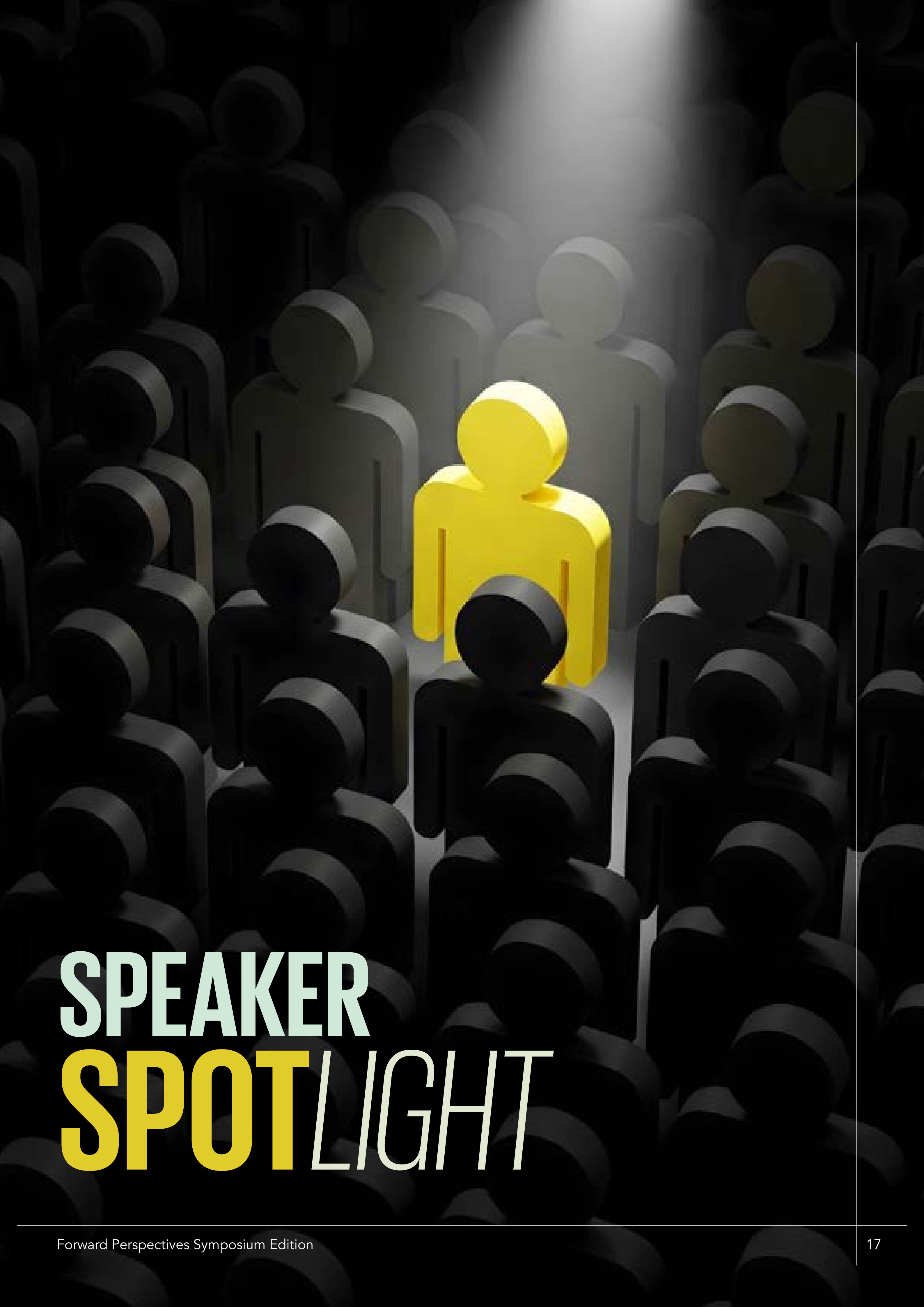
In the past decade, we have seen an unprecedented digital revolution. No business model can remain relevant today without aligning itself with this new reality—efficiency, convenience, and timeliness are now non-negotiable.

Technology is not just a tool, it’s the driver of economic growth and development. Investing in youth and enabling access to digital financial services will transform Africa’s economies sustainably.

Through Equitel, we have created a platform that democratizes banking and empowers millions, advancing financial inclusion and digitization hand-in-hand.

Dr. James Mwangi, CBS

Group Managing Director and CEO, Equity Group Holdings Plc & Executive Chairman, Equity Group Foundation



SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

H.E. Selma Malika Haddadi

H.E. Selma Malika Haddadi (Algeria) is career diplomat and legal expert. She is the former Ambassador of Algeria to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa where she served from 2024. From 2023 to 2024, she served as the Director General of Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad. 2019-2023, H.E. Haddadi was the plenipotentiary and Extraordinary Ambassador of the Republic of Algeria to Kenya. She also served in a similar position as the plenipotentiary and Extraordinary Ambassador of the Republic of Algeria to South Sudan.

Prior to that, H.E. Haddadi was the Minister Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Algeria to Ethiopia and the African Union from 2015 to 2019. She also served at Deputy Director for Social Development, General Directorate for Political Affairs and International Security.

For one year from 2012, she was the Head of the Algerian office for Refugees and Stateless Persons, General Directorate for Legal and Consular Affairs in Algeria. In the earlier years, she served as the Counselor, Head of Political Section, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations in Geneva.

H.E. Haddadi was sworn in as a lawyer and member of the Algiers Bar Association in 2002. She has Master of Art in Public and Private International Law from the Peace and Development Law Institute, Law School, Nice- Sophia Antipolis University. She also has a Master's Degree in Private Law from the Law School, Nantes University.

Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas

Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas is a visionary leader with over four decades of experience driving transformative development across Africa. As the Chief Executive Officer of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), she spearheads Africa's strategic agenda for economic growth and sustainable development leading the continent's charge towards the accomplishment of Agenda 2063—a blueprint for a united, prosperous, and self-reliant Africa. Mrs. Bekele-Thomas is the first woman to lead as CEO of AUDA-NEPAD.

Under her leadership of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063, AUDA-NEPAD is catalysing Africa's development through impactful programmes and transformative partnerships in Agriculture, Food Security, Environmental Sustainability, Infrastructure, Trade and Markets, Human Capital Institutional Development and Science Technology and Innovation.

Mrs. Bekele -Thomas is currently leading a continent-wide AUDA-NEPAD Footprint initiative to expand the organisation's national and regional presence to better support member states in the implementation of Agenda 2063. At AUDA-NEPAD, Mrs. Bekele-Thomas leads a team of over two hundred experts across diverse fields and has mobilized resources and forged strategic partnerships that has resulted into new funding streams for the agency.

Mrs Bekele-Thomas has also led AUDA-NEPAD's successful advocacy for the African Union's bid to become a permanent member of the G20, further enhancing Africa's influence on the global stage. 2025 Chairperson of the G20 South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa has recently appointed Mrs Bekele-Thomas as Champion of the Global Water Infrastructure Investment Council – a body comprising former Presidents and eminent people from across the world.

Before joining AUDA-NEPAD, Mrs. Bekele-Thomas was a highly accomplished leader having held senior leadership roles within the United Nations (UN) which included Senior Director in the Office of the Secretary-General, UN Resident Coordinator and Head of the UN System in three countries i.e., South Africa, Kenya and Benin.

She is a member of the Group of African Eminent Women and has been honoured with several prestigious awards, including the 2015 AU/DAF Women of Excellence Award, and African Business Top 100 influential leaders in Africa.

Mrs. Nardos Bekele-Thomas holds a Master's degree from New York University (NYU), is a respected author on development issues and is fluent in Amharic, French, and English.

Hon. Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi

Hon. Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi, MP is the Minister for the Public Service and Administration. He was appointed to this position by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 30 June 2024.

Inkosi Buthelezi serves as the Deputy President of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and holds the esteemed position of Inkosi (Chief) of the Buthelezi Clan at Embongongweni. He is also a Prince, as he is a direct descendant of King Mpande.

Born on 16 February 1977 in Louwsburg (Ngotshe), Inkosi Buthelezi attended Bilanyoni Primary School and Kwasa High School in Paulpietersburg, and obtained a National Diploma in Marketing and Business Management in Vryheid.

Prior to entering politics, Inkosi Buthelezi worked in various roles, including as a veterinary assistant and in the banking and finance sector. He also played an instrumental role in developing the current strategy for the People and Parks Programme of the Department of Environmental Affairs and served as the Chairperson of the KZN People and Parks Forum.

In government, Inkosi Buthelezi has served as the Mayor of the Zululand District Municipality and as a member of the KZN Provincial Legislature, where he served on the Economic Development and Finance Committees.

Since 2012, Inkosi Buthelezi has been elected to serve in Parliament as a Member of the National Assembly. He currently serves on the portfolio committees on Finance and Public Enterprises.

Inkosi Buthelezi is passionate about conservation, people development, and all matters relating to finance and state-owned enterprises. He champions small business and entrepreneurship, encourages local economic development, and supports a healthy balance of public-private partnerships.

Outside of his role in politics, Inkosi Buthelezi is the former Board Chairperson of the Ithala Game Reserve and currently serves as the Chairperson of the Co-Management Committee.

A devout Christian, Inkosi Buthelezi frequently addresses church gatherings, sharing his message of faith and unity.

Inkosi Buthelezi is a devoted husband and father, and a dedicated public servant committed to serving his country.

Amb. Bankole Adeoye

Amb. Bankole Adeoye was re-elected to head the Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) department. In March 2021, he became the first Commissioner to lead the amalgamated Political Affairs, Peace and Security portfolios, which had hitherto, been two separate departments.

He previously served as Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the AU and UNECA and Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti. He has also served as Chief of Staff for the African Union Development Agency (AUDA- NEPAD); Director of Corporate Services, and Coordinator, Partnerships & External Relations, as well as the Director in the International Organizations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

He has a Master of Science in Political Science from the University of Lagos and received a Postgraduate Certificate in Diplomatic Studies from the University of Oxford, England, as a Commonwealth Chevening and British Council Scholar.

Dr. James Mwangi (born 1962) is the Group Managing Director and CEO of Equity Group Holdings, a pan-African financial services conglomerate with over 16 million clients and operations in six African countries.

He is credited with leading one of Africa's foremost financial inclusion movements by pioneering mobile banking through Equity's Equitel platform, which integrates mobile technology with banking to extend access widely.

Dr. Mwangi is an acclaimed entrepreneur, having won multiple awards including Ernst & Young World Entrepreneur of the Year (2012) and African Banker of the Year (2010, 2011).

He has served as founding chairman of the Kenya Vision 2030 Delivery Board and holds multiple honorary doctorates. Mwangi is known for his vision to democratize economic opportunity via technology and financial services.

Role at Equitel and Digital Transformation:
Dr. Mwangi leads Equity Bank's integration of digital and mobile banking services under the Equitel brand, aiming to raise banking access to over 90% of the Kenyan population and promote a cashless economy aligned with Kenya's Vision 2030.

This platform leverages groundbreaking mobile fintech innovations to deliver efficient, convenient, and affordable financial services.

Dr. Benedict Oramah is a renowned Nigerian economist and the President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the African Export–Import Bank (Afreximbank), a position he has held since July 13, 2015.

He joined Afreximbank in 1994 as Chief Analyst and rose through the ranks to become Executive Vice President for Business Development and Corporate Banking before assuming the presidency. Dr. Oramah holds an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

Under his leadership, Afreximbank's total assets have increased more than six-fold, from about $6 billion in 2015 to over $37 billion by 2023. He has driven the bank to become a key institution supporting Africa's regional integration, industrialization, and the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). He has championed the development of digital platforms to boost intra-regional trade and revolutionize cross-border payments, notably through initiatives such as the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS).

Dr. Oramah has received numerous national and international accolades, including the Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) by Nigeria, the Knight of the Order of Valor by Cameroon, the Order of Friendship from Russia, and African Banker of the Year awards. He also chairs various boards including the Fund for Export Development in Africa (FEDA) and the African Union COVID-19 Response Fund.

Ralph Mupita is the Group President and CEO of MTN Group, Africa's leading mobile telecommunications company, a role he has held since September 2020.

He holds a BSc in Engineering (Hons) and an MBA, both from the University of Cape Town, and completed a General Management Programme at Harvard Business School. Before becoming CEO, he served as MTN's CFO from April 2017.

He has extensive leadership experience in financial services and telecommunications, notably as CEO of Old Mutual Emerging Markets, overseeing operations across 19 countries and 19 million customers. Under his leadership, MTN has refocused on fintech and digital services, strengthened its financial position, and achieved successful listings on Nigerian and Ghanaian stock exchanges.

He is deeply passionate about Africa's digital and financial inclusion and is an executive board member of the International Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner on the UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, and a World Economic Forum EDISON Alliance Champion.

Samaila Zubairu is the President and CEO of Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) since July 2018. He has over two decades of experience in finance and industrial development, having held leadership roles including CEO of Africapital Management Limited and CFO of Dangote Cement Plc.

At AFC, Zubairu leads a strategic agenda focused on attracting private capital into infrastructure sectors such as energy, transport, natural resources, heavy industries, and telecommunications/technology across Africa. Under his guidance, AFC's assets have grown from $4.1 billion to over $10.6 billion.

A Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria and Eisenhower Fellow, Zubairu is a champion for building ecosystems that support sustainable development and financial viability of projects to attract investment.

Tiffany Raspberry currently serves as the Deputy Mayor for Intergovernmental Affairs for the City of New York leading a team of professionals, who oversee the city's legislative, regulatory, and budgetary priorities across Washington, D.C., Albany, and New York City. In this capacity, she has spearheaded initiatives to engage community groups, corporate stakeholders, and advocacy organizations, fostering collaboration to advance the administration's objectives.

Tiffany is a highly accomplished executive leader with over 20 years of expertise in government relations, public affairs, community engagement, and strategic communications. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a proven ability to influence policy outcomes, build impactful coalitions, and drive meaningful change at the federal, state, and local levels. Her deep knowledge of government processes, stakeholder advocacy, and corporate partnerships has made her a trusted advisor and strategist across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Tiffany's professional journey has included leading a boutique consulting firm and roles at The Parkside Group and Wolf Block, LLP, the New York City Council and United States House of Representatives.

A graduate of Fordham University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and African American Studies, Tiffany also holds an Executive Master of Public Administration in Global Public Policy and Management jointly from New York University and University College London. Her commitment to service and excellence has earned her numerous accolades, including recognition on City & State's Power 100 lists.

Tiffany is deeply committed to public service through her work, both professionally and as a member of esteemed organizations such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, The Links, Incorporated.

Turhan Mildon is CEO and Chairman of Miller Holding and Chairman of its construction arm, Milvest Akaryakıt Finans ve Dış Ticaret A.Ş.

Miller Holding is a diversified company operating in a wide range of sectors: oil & gas, construction, infrastructure, maritime, automotive, food, aviation, international trade, mining, GRC plant, concrete batching plant and financial services.

After completing his studies in the UK in the field of international finance, he set up his own technology and media investment company in Turkiye. After a successful exit from this company, Turhan Mildon rejoined his family company Miller Holding, which already had 56 years' business experience across 11 countries: Turkiye, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Ghana, Liberia, Tanzania, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, France, Venezuela and UK.

Shortly after joining the company, he became a member of the Miller Holding's board of directors responsible for financial operations. His vision was to develop the family business in emerging markets. Miller Holding entered the African market in 2011. With road, pipeline and construction/ infrastructure projects the company was able to realize the largest logistics center on the African continent in Senegal, so Turhan Mildon's vision was always to increase business volume in Africa.

After years of success as a member of Miller Holdings Board of Directors, Turhan Mildon became Vice - Chairman of the Group's Board of Directors in 2020. Since then, the Miller Holding has grown and expanded its activities in different countries and multiplied its business volume by Turhan Mildon as a third-generation member of the family has navigated the group to new sectors. Through its business volume and capacity, the Miller Holding has become the largest construction company in the DRC, with many valuable projects. His vision is to develop projects based on Africa's strong history and clear future.

Following his persistent strategy, the renowned, international and diversified Miller Holding employs over 20.000 people directly and has over 27.000 indirect employees. The policy adopted by Turhan Mildon has enabled Miller Holding to maintain excellent relations with its counterparts for a long time. It is for this reason that he acts as a business diplomat in the countries where the group is active.

He navigates his life and his business with a single motivation, which is "if we develop the people, we develop the company."

Sola Yomi-Ajayi

Sola Yomi-Ajayi is a highly experienced banker with three decades of banking experience. Sola's experience spans Strategy, Regulatory Management, Structured Funding, Risk Management, Financial Inclusion, Corporate & Institutional Baking, Transaction Banking, Correspondent Banking, Treasury, and Operations.

As the Executive Director for International Banking, and the CEO of UBA America, Sola is responsible for strategy formulation as well as oversight for UBA Group's International business operations outside Africa, including the USA, UK, France and Dubai-DIFC. She is also responsible for strategic oversight of the Group's Diplomatic, Multilateral and Development Organization portfolios and she leads the respective teams in the execution of corporate strategy and delivery of unique best-in-class financial solutions to UBA's customers across multiple business segments in four continents.

Sola has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, and an MBA from the Aberdeen Business School, UK. Additionally, she has Executive Leadership Certificates from Harvard Business School and the Judge Business School, University of Cambridge.

She is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, UK, a Non-Executive Director of UBA UK, a member of the Board of Directors for US Non-Profit, Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) and, a Member, Board of Trustees for the US-based Institute of International Banking

Alex Apau Dadey

Alex Apau Dadey is a prominent Ghanaian entrepreneur and philanthropist with over 30 years of experience across various industries, including fintech, logistics, agriculture, property development, and commerce, particularly in the United Kingdom and Ghana.

He is the Executive Chairman of the KGL Group, a wholly owned Ghanaian conglomerate comprising seven subsidiaries operating in multiple sectors and jurisdictions.

Under his leadership, the KGL Group has achieved significant milestones, including KGL Technology being honored as the "Technology Company of the Year" at the Ghana Club 100 Awards in 2023. In addition to his corporate endeavors, Dadey served as the Board Chairman of the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC), a position he held from November 2021 to January 2025.

He is also credited with initiating the Ghana Diaspora Homecoming Summit in 2017 and the Ghana Investment and Opportunities Summit UK in 2018, both now held biennially, to promote investment in Ghana. His contributions have been recognized with several awards, including the Overall CEO of the Year (Private Sector) at the 8th Ghana CEO Summit and Excellence Awards in May 2024, marking his second consecutive win in this category. Dadey is an alumnus of Mfantsipim School in Cape Coast and holds a Bachelor of Science in Administration from the University of Ghana Business School, Legon.

He began his career in the United Kingdom in 1986, progressing from Export Sales Supervisor to Export Sales Director at Gordon Richman Textiles Limited, overseeing key accounts across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.
As a philanthropist, Dadey established the KGL Foundation, which focuses on social intervention programs in sports, health, and education in Ghana. The foundation has been involved in sponsoring the Ghana National Soccer Team—the Black Stars—in their 2021/22 AFCON and World Cup campaigns, among other initiatives.

The Group has also sponsored major events such as the Diaspora Investment Summit 2021, the GIPC Diaspora Investment Summit, Diaspora African Forum's Iconic Visit of Mother Viola Fetcher and Uncle Redd in Ghana and the Ghana Investment and Opportunities Summit 2020 in London. KGL Foundation also frequently collaborates withother charities in Ghana including the KoKroKoo Foundation, the Rebecca Foundation, Achievers Ghana Foundation and many others to pursue social interventions.

Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi

Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi (KIA), CCIE, is a distinguished technology architect and transformational leader with 20 years of experience in digital transformation across the public and private sectors. As the DG/CEO of NITDA, Nigeria's leading IT regulatory body, KIA is driving Nigeria towards becoming a digitally empowered nation.

Under KIA's leadership, NITDA is implementing an AI strategy to enhance regulatory effectiveness and drive productivity, cost savings, and efficiency across Nigeria and Africa. Key initiatives include the Digital Literacy for All (DL4ALL) programme, aiming for 95% digital literacy by 2030, and the Nigeria Startup Act, which has boosted Nigeria's tech ecosystem and attracted more investment.

KIA has also led transformative programmes like the Three Million Tech Talents (3MTT) initiative, preparing Nigerian youth for global competitiveness, and established over 648 IT centres nationwide. His commitment to online safety is evident in the development of the Code of Practice (CoP) for Interactive Computer Service Platforms/Internet Intermediaries.

A strong advocate for data protection, KIA's work at NITDA led to the establishment of the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) and improved accountability in IT governance through the IT Project Clearance programme, saving the Nigerian government over 312 billion. He is also guiding NITDA's Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0), outlining key pillars for Nigeria's digital future.

KIA's leadership has earned him numerous accolades, including the African Achievers Award, the ISACA Global Inspirational Leadership Award, and the Nigeria Excellence Award in Public Service for Digital Innovation.
Before NITDA, KIA served as a Technology Architect at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and held roles at Galaxy Backbone Ltd. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, and has completed executive education programmes at MIT, Harvard, Cambridge, and Oxford.

Edmund Green

Edmund Green is Co-Founder and Co-Chair of The Board Harbor Foundation and an accomplished board advisor with nearly 30 years of experience at the intersection of governance, strategy, and innovation.

He spent close to 19 years at KPMG, where he served as Managing Director and national co-leader of the U.S. Board Advisory Services practice, engaging with corporate directors across industries including financial services, healthcare, technology, manufacturing, and government. Earlier in his career, Edmund held senior leadership roles in corporate banking, insurance, and credit cards, including serving as Division Treasurer at Cigna.

He has advised multinational corporations, growth-stage companies, and start-ups on governance, workforce development, and strategy—including Consol-USA, a U.S. workforce platform, and international ventures in infrastructure and emerging technology. Edmund is also the Founder and CEO of Parlinum Consulting LLC, a full-service consultancy advising large and upper-middle-market corporations on Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), Growth Strategy, Performance Improvement, Cost Optimization, Business Process Outsourcing, Technology Rationalization, and International Market Entry.

He is widely recognized for his ability to distill complexity into actionable insights and for advancing conversations on how governance and investment can accelerate Africa's digital transformation. Committed to education and community impact, Edmund served for over a decade as Adjunct Professor on Enterprise Risk Management at Villanova University's School of Finance and Commerce and currently sits on the boards of the United Way of Delaware and the Wharton Club National Region.

Edmund is a Certified Treasury Professional and Certified Public Accountant, and holds degrees from the Wharton School and LaSalle University.

Catherine Kyobutungi

Dr. Catherine Kyobutungi is the Executive Director of the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) based in Nairobi, Kenya. APHRC is the continent's premier research and policy organization committed to evidence-informed decision making. Catherine has a medical background and is a trained epidemiologist with research interests at the interface between Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Health Systems Strengthening. She has led research projects ranging from the epidemiology of NCD risk factors, testing service delivery models for cardiovascular disease to the policy context for NCD prevention in several African countries.

Catherine is a strong advocate for the societal benefit of research beyond traditional research outputs. At APHRC, she has strengthened the Center's approaches to policy engagement and advocacy and supported the development of policy and advocacy models to ensure timely and effective uptake of evidence in decision making. She has published more than 150 peer-reviewed papers, sits on multiple national and global expert advisory Boards and panels.

Catherine is also the co-Director of the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) – a PhD and Post-doctoral fellowship Program to strengthen the capacity of eight public Universities in Africa to produce the next generation of African research leaders.

Catherine is a Joep Lange Chair at the University of Amsterdam where she is doing research on Chronic Disease Management as an entry point to make healthcare systems more responsive to NCDs in Africa. She is also a fellow of the African Academy of Sciences, a member of the United Nations University Council and the co-Editor in Chief of PLOS Global Public Health journal.

Ms. Laura Davis

Ms. Laura Davis is the co-founder and co-CEO of Renew Capital, bringing over 20 years of experience in investing and business development across Africa. She has backed more than 40 startups and mobilized a network of 200+ global investors to fuel the continent's entrepreneurial growth.

Ms. Davis spearheads Renew Capital's startup ecosystem activation, collaborating with cross-country teams to build strong investment pipelines and foster strategic partnerships with both public and private sector leaders across Africa. She also leads investor relations and capital mobilization, ensuring the firm's sustained growth across 13 countries. An active angel investor, Ms. Davis has invested in more than 40 African startups.

A seasoned marketing and public relations expert, Ms. Davis provides hands-on strategic guidance to Renew Capital's portfolio companies. Her branding and marketing initiatives have driven significant sales growth, increased web traffic and expanded business development opportunities. Her PR efforts have also secured major media coverage for Renew Capital and its portfolio companies in CNN, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, BBC and Private Wealth.

Ms. Davis holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business and Journalism from the University of Minnesota. She has lived in Africa for over 12 years and divides her time between Ethiopia and Rwanda.

Benjamin Fernandes

Benjamin Fernandes is an award-winning Tanzanian speaker and entrepreneur. Benjamin grew up in Tanzania then earned scholarships that took him to America for the first time at the age of 17.

At age 21, Benjamin was the youngest African in history to ever be accepted into Stanford Graduate School of Business. He holds an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business and an Exec Ed from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, being the first Tanzanian to attend both institutions.

Fernandes was previously a national television personality in Tanzania. After that, he worked at The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the United States.

Fernandes founded NALA, a fintech startup that is on a mission to build payments for the next billion. NALA operates across 21 countries in Europe, the US and the UK with nearly 150 employees. NALA raised a total of $50m backed by leading US investors such as Y Combinator, Accel, Acrew, Amplo and Bessemer Partners. NALA was listed under the Forbes Fintech 50 in 2025.

In 2020, Fernandes was listed as the 15th most influential Tanzanian. In 2022, Fernandes was listed in the inaugural ROW100 most influential technology leaders in the world. In 2023, Fernandes was listed on the Top 100 Changemakers list for Africa. In 2024, Forbes online featured Fernandes on their daily cover with a cover story.

Samuel Amanor

Samuel Amanor is a visionary leader and entrepreneur from Ghana, recognized for his profound impact on the fintech, trade, and global payments sectors across Africa. As the Founder and CEO of BlueSPACE Africa Technologies (GH & UAE), BlueSPACE Financial Cloud, and BlueSPACE Innovation Hub, Samuel has pioneered efforts to integrate advanced technological solutions with African markets, driving significant transformation across the continent.

Prior to his ventures with BlueSPACE, Samuel also led EMC and Dell's businesses in emerging markets, driving digital transformation in West Africa as CEO for Ghana. This role further cemented his expertise and leadership in navigating complex technological landscapes. With over 18 years of experience, Samuel has built and led teams that have significantly advanced the landscape of African trade, payment systems, and fintech talent development. His roles as Vice President of Funding & Partnerships at the Ghana Fintech and Payments Association, and his leadership in various tech associations, underscore his commitment to pioneering a pan-African financial ecosystem. As a managing system integration partner for global financial technology giants like FIS Global, Finastra, TreasuryHub, Kyriba, ECS Fin, OpenWay, Thought Machine, BPC, FintechOS, SKaleet, and Temenos in sub-Saharan Africa, Samuel's expertise guides banks, insurance companies, and central banks through digital transformation.

Under his leadership, BlueSPACE FinancialCLOUD provides innovative fintech solutions that enhance operational efficiency, reduce costs, and expand market access for financial service providers across Africa. Samuel also champions entrepreneurship through the Ghana Innovation Hub, which he co-founded, offering mentorship, tools, and funding to nurture early-stage companies. Samuel's dedication extends to his role in the Africa Prosperity Network Interoperability Committee and as a visionary founder of the Single Africa Payments Area (SAPA), where he plays a crucial role in unifying trade and payment systems across the continent. His efforts align with his broader vision of advancing the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and his recent appointment as a global ambassador for the 3i Africa Summit, seeking to foster collaboration among policymakers, fintech innovators, and financial service providers to advance a unified African market.

A passionate advocate for innovation, Samuel holds advisory positions focusing on AI, Agritech, and renewable energy. His educational background includes a degree in Computer Science from Wayne College, Detroit Michigan, and executive studies in Corporate Strategy & Entrepreneurship for Emerging Markets at Stanford Open University. Through his inspirational leadership and commitment, Samuel Amanor continues to drive transformative change in the fintech and global payments landscape, advocating for sustainable development and youth empowerment across Africa.

Garth Klintworth

Garth Klintworth serves as Chief Executive Officer of Absa Securities U.S. Inc. and Chief Representative of Absa Bank Limited in the United States. In this role, he works closely with Absa Group executives to shape and implement strategic initiatives, oversee regulatory responsibilities, and strengthen client relationships between U.S. and African markets.

He also manages and supervises U.S.-based staff to support Absa's growing international presence.
Garth has more than 28 years of investment banking experience. Prior to his current role, he led Absa's Global Markets business for 13 years till the end of 2025, driving growth and innovation across Africa's capital markets. From 2015 to 2020, he also served on the Board Committee of Absa Bank Ghana. Before joining Barclays Africa Group (now Absa) in 2009, Garth headed sales and trading for J.P. Morgan's Johannesburg branch, having begun his career with J.P. Morgan in London in 1997.

He holds a degree with concentrations in Business Information Systems, Commercial Law, and Accountancy, Certified as Novell Network Engineer in 2021, and in 2023 completed a Certificate in Digital Transformation through MIT Professional Education.

Angela Wamola

Angela has 20 years of business leadership experience in digital transformation environments having built a reputation for oversight in the adaption of new technologies that lend towards operational sustainability and innovative strategic thinking.

A leader, well trained in high-performance teams, she is currently the Head of Africa at the GSMA, a trade body that represents the interests of 800+ mobile operators worldwide and stakeholders in the wider ecosystem.

She is committed to digital & gender inclusion particularly in the domain of Women and Girls for Tech and facilitates collaboration for the advancement and acceleration of a digital African continent.

Angela holds an Executive Masters in Business Administration degree from University of Cape Town and a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from University of Nairobi.

Prof. Khaled Dabees
CEO, Ab-Care Medical Technologies

Gillian Darko
VP, Strategy, Yellow Card

Hon. Mohammed AbdulEnien
Deputy Speaker of the
Egyptian Parliament and Chair, Cleopatra Group

Ehi Binitie
Director, Brig& Resrv

Fatima Tambajang
Head, Developer Relations Startups,
VC for Africa & Middle East, Nvidia

H.E. Chief Fortune Charumbira
President, Pan African Parliament

Jean- Paul Adam
Director for Policy, Monitoring and Advocacy,
Office of the Special Advisor to Africa
to the UN Secretary General

Fadilah Tchoumba
CEO, ABAN

Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula
Professor of Economics,
University of Johannesburg


Miller
HOLDİNG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Leading in Digital Transformation

Closing the financial gap

Empowering Every Transfer

Nala is breaking down borders with fast, affordable cross-border money transfers that connect families, businesses, and communities. By simplifying remittances for migrants and underserved populations, Nala is putting money directly into the hands of those who need it most—fueling entrepreneurship and uplifting remote regions across East Africa.

The M-Pesa Revolution

M-Pesa isn't just a payment system; it's Africa's financial heartbeat. Since 2007, M-Pesa has vaulted over 51 million users into the formal economy, powering over 600 million monthly transactions. By delivering safe, instant financial services to the unbanked, M-Pesa has lifted hundreds of thousands out of poverty and fostered economic opportunity across Kenya and beyond—making financial exclusion a thing of the past.

Crypto for the People

Yellow Card is democratizing digital assets, bringing the future of finance to Africa's fingertips. By offering easy access to cryptocurrencies, Yellow Card unlocks new economic pathways for millions—especially youth and unbanked populations—fueling innovation, investment, and cross-border trades on a global scale.

MTN Group

Connecting Millions to Opportunity

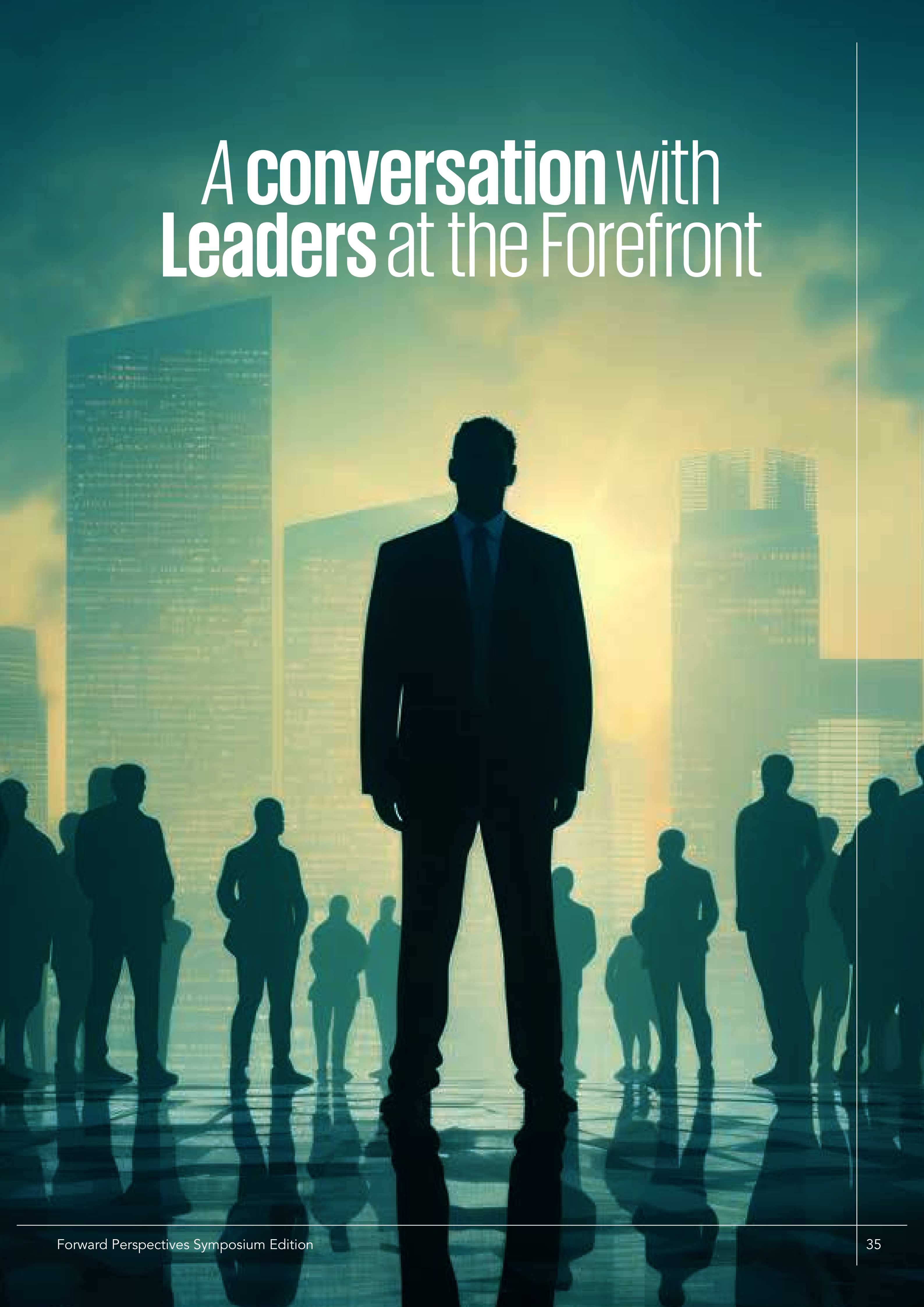
With a footprint spanning 21 countries, MTN is the network that powers Africa's digital economy. Beyond connectivity, MTN's mobile money and fintech solutions provide millions of people—especially women and rural communities—with vital financial tools. From microloans to mobile savings, MTN fuels growth and inclusion, transforming mobile phones into gateways for economic empowerment.

Equitel

Banking In Your Pocket

Equitel merges mobile and banking to put financial services in the palms of millions of Kenyans. As a one-stop mobile banking platform, Equitel breaks barriers to credit, savings, and payments, turning mobile phones into powerful tools for financial independence and inclusive growth—accelerating Kenya's rise as a digital finance powerhouse.

A **conversation** with **Leaders** at the Forefront



A Spotlight Conversation on Africa's Digital Economy

A continental Narrative of Innovation and Digital Advancement

Benjamin Fernandes
Founder Nala Money

Gillian Darko
VP, Strategy
Yellow Card

Prof. Khaled Dabees
CEO, Ab-Care Medical technologies
& Chairman, Health Industries AfBC

Ms. Laura Davis
co-founder and
co-CEO Renew Capital

Moderator:

Anita Erskine
Executive Director,
Erskine Global Communications

This celebratory session showcases Africa's most inspiring digital transformation success stories, highlighting remarkable achievements, measurable impact, and extraordinary growth across the continent. The discussions will feature compelling narratives of how African innovators, entrepreneurs, and institutions have created breakthrough solutions that are changing lives, transforming economies, and establishing Africa as a global leader in digital innovation.

From unicorn startups processing billions in transactions to central banks revolutionizing financial inclusion, from telecommunications companies connecting millions to creative platforms amplifying African voices worldwide—these are the stories that demonstrate Africa's incredible journey from digital adoption to digital leadership. Each speaker will share real impact metrics, inspiring growth trajectories, and powerful examples of how African solutions are not only serving local needs but setting global standards for innovation.

Investing in the Future – People, Infrastructure and AI

Panel Discussion

H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye
AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS)

Dr. Fatimah Elsheikh
Secretary General, BADE

Fatima Tambajang
Head, Developer Relations Startups, VC for Africa & Middle East, Nvidia

Garth Klintworth
Chief Representative Officer, ABSA USA.

Moderator:

Anita Erskine
Executive Director, Erskine Global Communications

Edmund Green
Co-Founder and Co-Chair, Board Harbor Foundation

This theme examines the essential building blocks for a sustainable and inclusive digital future: investing in skilled human capital, robust digital public infrastructure, and responsible AI adoption. The discussion highlights the critical need to invest in connectivity, data centers, and cloud capacity while developing a talent pipeline capable of building, managing, and regulating modern digital systems.

The session also explores AI's transformative potential for public services, SME empowerment, and productivity enhancement—while ensuring ethical safeguards, data privacy, and equitable access to AI tools. The central narrative focuses on aligning finance, policy, and innovation to deliver bankable projects that accelerate Africa's digital transformation.

Pathways to digital prosperity: Amplifying cross-border data flows, digital corporation, standardized identity and harmonized digital frameworks.

H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye
AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS)

Dr. Fatimah Elsheikh
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Moderator:

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Head Africa, GSMA

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Making Governance work for Tech Innovation in deepening Africa's Participation in Global Value Chains.

Panel Discussion

Jean- Paul Adam
Director for Policy, Monitoring and Advocacy, Office of the Special Advisor to Africa to the UN Secretary General

Dr. Catherine Kyobutungi
Executive Director, APHRC

Hon. Mohammed AbdulEnien
Deputy Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament and Chair, Cleopatra Group

H.E. Chief Fortune Charumbira
President, Pan African Parliament

Moderator:

Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula
Professor of Economics, University of Johannesburg

This theme focuses on governance reforms and policy frameworks that enable African businesses to advance up the technology value chain in production, services, and exports. The discussion examines how coherent regulations, predictable tax regimes, and harmonized standards can reduce barriers to scale and attract investment.

Moving beyond consumption, the session champions an industrial policy approach that nurtures local manufacturing, content creation, and tech-enabled services capable of competing globally. Public policy and e-governance are positioned as strategic tools to stimulate domestic innovation and create market certainty for local technology solutions. The overarching goal is to transform governance from a bottleneck into a catalyst for continental competitiveness through the adoption of e-governance frameworks that drives growth.

APRM

African Peer Review Mechanism

The APRM is a mutually agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by AU member States as an African self-monitoring mechanism. The APRM is often described as "Africa's unique and innovative approach to governance" with the objective of improving governance dynamics at the local, national and continental levels.

The APRM was adopted by African Heads of State and Government as a systematic peer learning and self-assessment mechanism originating from the NEPAD foundational document, the "Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance" adopted in Durban, South Africa in July 2002.

Our Vision

The vision of the APRM is the full actualisation of transformative leadership and practice for the Africa we all want.

Our Mission

The mission of the APRM is to promote the African Union's ideals and shared values of democratic governance and inclusive development by encouraging all Member States of the Union to collaborate and voluntarily participate in the home grown, credible, rigorous, independent and self driven peer review process and the implementation of its recommendations.

Our Principles

Every review exercise carried out under the authority of the Mechanism must be technically competent, credible and free of political manipulation. These stipulations together constitute the core guiding principles of the Mechanism.

Our Purpose

The primary purpose of the APRM is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practice, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs for capacity building.

Our Mandate

The mandate of the APRM is to ensure that policies and practices of participating Member States conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards contained in the African Union Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance. As a voluntary self-monitoring instrument, APRM fosters the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and best practices, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs for capacity building.

FORWARD AFRICA LEADERS SYMPOSIUM
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ORDER OF *EVENTS*

22ND SEPTEMBER 2025 | 2:30PM
NASDAQ - NEW YORK, USA

2:30pm - Arrival/Registration/Networking

3:00pm - Welcome Remarks - **Hannah Awuku,** *Executive Director, FALS*

Opening Remarks – **Mr Abdelghani MERABET,** *Director General for Multilateral Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Algiers.*

3:10pm - Presentation by GSMA – **Angela Wamola,** *Head Africa, GSMA*

3:20pm - Special Remark – **Tifanny Raspberry,** *Deputy Mayor for Inter-Governmental Affairs, New York State*

3:25pm - Spotlight Conversations on Africa's Digital Economy
A continental Narrative of Innovation and Digital Advancement

This celebratory session showcases Africa's most inspiring digital transformation success stories, highlighting remarkable achievements, measurable impact, and extraordinary growth across the continent. The discussions will feature compelling narratives of how African innovators, entrepreneurs, and institutions have created breakthrough solutions that are changing lives, transforming economies, and establishing Africa as a global leader in digital innovation.

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Panelists

- **Benjamin Fernandez,** *Founder Nala Money*
- **Gillian Darko,** *VP, Strategy and Chief of Staff Yellow Card*
- **Ms. Laura Davis,** *co-founder and co-CEO Renew Capital*
- **Prof. Khaled Dabees,** *CEO, Ab-Care Medical technologies and Chairman, Health Industries AfBC.*

Moderator: Anita Eskine, *Executive Director, Erskine Global Communication*

4:00pm

Theme: Investing in the Future – People, Infrastructure and AI

Opening Keynote: H.E. Inkosi E.M. Buthelezi, Minister, Department of Public Services and Administration, Republic of South Africa

This theme examines the essential building blocks for a sustainable and inclusive digital future: investing in skilled human capital, robust digital public infrastructure, and responsible AI adoption. The discussion highlights the critical need to invest in connectivity, data centers, and cloud capacity while developing a talent pipeline capable of building, managing, and regulating modern digital systems. The session also explores AI's transformative potential for public services, SME empowerment, and productivity enhancement—while ensuring ethical safeguards, data privacy, and equitable access to AI tools. The central narrative focuses on aligning finance, policy, and innovation to deliver bankable projects that accelerate Africa's digital transformation.

Panelists

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- **Garth Klintworth,** *Chief Representative Officer, ABSA USA*
- **Edmund Green,** *Co-Founder and Co-Chair, Board Harbor Foundation*
- **Fadilah Tchoumba,** *CEO, ABAN*

Moderator: Anita Eskine, *Executive Director, Erskine Global Communication*

4:40pm **Opening Statements**

- **Mr. Turhan Mildon,** *CEO and Chairman, Miller Holding & Chairman, Milvest*
- **Mr. Alex A. Dadey,** *Chairman, KGL Group*
- **Mr. Ralph Mupita,** *CEO and President MTN Group*
- **Prof. Benedict Oramah,** *Minister of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of Algeria*
- **H.E. Amb. Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre,** *CEO, APRM*
- **H.E. Amb. Selma Malika Haddadi,** *Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission*
- **H.E. Hon. William Kabogo Gitau,** *Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications and Digital Economy*

5:20pm - Presidential Keynotes

Theme: Committing to Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Transformation

- **H.E. Kashim Shettima,** *Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*
- **H.E. Sam Matekane,** *Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho*
- **H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah,** *President of the Republic of Namibia*
- **H.E. John Dramani Mahama,** *President of the Republic of Ghana*

5:50 pm

Theme: Pathways to digital prosperity: Amplifying cross-border data flows, digital corporation, standardized identity and harmonized digital frameworks.

This session will highlight the foundational elements of trust, interoperability, and regulatory alignment necessary to unlock Africa's digital single market. The discussion spotlights the development of interoperable digital identities, common privacy and cybersecurity baselines, and streamlined cross- border data transfer regulations.

The focus centers on enabling trade in digital goods and services under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by eliminating regulatory fragmentation and fostering mutual recognition of standards such as e-signatures and e-invoicing. This cooperative framework is designed to provide African businesses and citizens with seamless, secure access to markets and services, supporting both economic integration and digital sovereignty.

Panelists

Opening Statement: Dr. James Mwangi, *Managing Director and CEO, Equity Holdings*

- **H.E. Nardos Bekele, AUDA-NEPAD**
- **Dr. Kashifu Lawal,** *National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Nigeria*
- **Ms. Yomi-Ajayi,** *CEO, UBA International Banking*
- **Ehi Binitie,** *Director, Resrv and Brij*
- **Dr. Amany Asfour,** *President AfBC*
- **Samuel Amanor,** *Founder & CEO, Bluespace*

Moderator: Angela Wamola, *Head Africa, GSMA*

6:30 pm

Theme: Making Governance work for Tech Innovation in deepening Africa's Participation in Global Value Chains.

This theme focuses on governance reforms and policy frameworks that enable African businesses to advance up the technology value chain in production, services, and exports. The discussion examines how coherent regulations, predictable tax regimes, and harmonized standards can reduce barriers to scale and attract investment.

Moving beyond consumption, the session champions an industrial policy approach that nurtures local manufacturing, content creation, and tech-enabled services capable of competing globally. Public policy and e-governance are positioned as strategic tools to stimulate domestic innovation and create market certainty for local technology solutions. The overarching goal is to transform governance from a bottleneck into a catalyst for continental competitiveness through the adoption of e-governance frameworks that drives growth.

Opening Statement: Samaila Zubairu, *President, Africa Finance Corporation*

Panelists

- **Jean- Paul Adam,** *Director for Policy, Monitoring and Advocacy, Office of the Special Advisor to Africa to the UN Secretary General*
- **Hon. Mohammed AbdulEnien,** *Deputy Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament and Chair, Cleopatra Group*
- **Mr. Alex A. Dadey,** *Executive Chairman, KGL Group*
- **H.E. Chief Fortune Charumbira,** *President, Pan African Parliament*
- **Dr. Catherine Kyobutungi,** *Executive Director, APHRC*

Moderator: Prof. Erika Kraemer-Mbula, *Professor of Economics, University of Johannesburg*

7:00pm **Networking Reception**

IMPORTANT LOGISTICS NOTICE

Registration and Badge Collection

There will be no registration on-site, however pre-registered guests will be required to check-in and pick up badges at the protocol desk on the second floor.

Badge collection begins at 2:30pm at the designated protocol desk on the second floor.

Access to the Nasdaq for FALS 2025

- Only accredited guests (pre-registered participants) will be admitted to the event venue.
- Admission to the Nasdaq for FALS 2025 begins from 2:30pm on Monday, 22nd September 2025
- All guests must present a valid photo ID (must reflect name used for registration) for security clearance.
- There will be security screening by Nasdaq security using the guest list submitted
- Name tags will be issued to guests on the second floor following security clearance
- Guests should enter the Nasdaq through 4 Times Square, on the east side of Broadway between 42nd and 43rd Streets near the corner of Broadway and 43rd.
- If traveling via subway, you can take the B, D, F, M, Q, N, R, 1, 2, 3, 7 or S and get off at the 42nd Street Station.
- Travel and Hotel Accommodation
- Participants are responsible for booking their own accommodation and air tickets. Key locations to consider when booking accommodation around the event venue includes, Times Square, Broadway, 6thAvenue, West 42nd and 43rd St.

Contact information
For enquiry or assistance please contact

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