



FORWARD AFRICA LEADERS SYMPOSIUM

THEME:

**MOVING THE CONVERSATIONS FORWARD
ON AFRICA'S DIGITAL ECONOMY WITH
LEADERS AT THE FOREFRONT**



24TH

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**FORD FOUNDATION
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USA**



HOSTED BY

ORGANISING PARTNER

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



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BACKGROUND

1. As the world recovers from economic setbacks following the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing geo-political tensions, the African Economic Outlook projects an average growth rate of 4.0 percent in 2024-2025 for Africa.
2. However, many African countries are still struggling to resolve heightened insecurities such as persistent increase in the cost of food and energy, currency volatility, unemployment, and political instability.
3. Incidentally, Africa's Digital Economy has grown steadily over the past years witnessing huge investments in Digital Public Infrastructure to drive the burgeoning sector.
4. The African Union Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030), underlines the importance of harnessing digital technologies and economy for driving sustainable growth, with a vision of "An integrated and inclusive digital society and economy in Africa that improves the quality of life of Africa's citizens, strengthens the existing economic sector, enable its diversification and development, and ensure continental ownership with Africa as a producer and not only as a consumer in the global economy"
5. Africa's Digital Economy has grown steadily over the past years witnessing huge investments in Digital Public Infrastructure to drive the burgeoning sector.

6. The Digital Economy for Africa Initiative (DE4A) by the World Bank underscores that achieving digital economic transformation will require the collective commitment by all African countries, development partners and the private sector and further highlights that commitments at the national level will require concentrated efforts to build the core foundations of the digital economy such as digital infrastructure and platforms, digital skills, digital financial services and a conducive environment to support investments. Continentwide, renewing cross border integration of digital markets, such as a Single Digital Market (SDM) for Africa is essential to attain continental interoperability and enhance data accessibility to promote investments in Africa's digital economy to advance trade.

7. The 3i Africa Summit held in Accra-Ghana in May 2024 among other platforms have also called for the need to develop robust and conducive regulatory frameworks to drive Africa's Digital Economy to harness its full potential.

It is in the above context that the organising partners of the Forward Africa Leaders Symposium will convene stakeholders with the resources and mandate on the side lines of the UNGA to explore strategies and collaborations to consolidate the gains towards achieving a robust and integrated digital economy to drive sustainable development in Africa.

THEME

The leaders meeting will be held under the theme:

"Moving the conversations forward on Africa's Digital Economy with Leaders at the Forefront."

It will bring together key stakeholders to commit to bridging the gap between conversations and action on harnessing Africa's digital economy for sustainable socio-economic development



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OBJECTIVES

The proposed leaders symposium will:

- Inspire stakeholder's commitment (Regulation, policy and private sector) to actionalise a common regulatory framework for Africa's Digital Economy to promote Financial Stability and Economic Integration.
- Promote strategic partnerships to advance digital payments and connectivity in Africa.
- Establish a working group of stakeholders to champion the integration of Africa's Digital Economy to promote the African Union Digital Transformation.
- Call for equitable and affordable digital services to promote financial inclusion.
- Drive investment for Digital infrastructure in Africa.
- Identify approaches and opportunities to harness economic relations with Global Africa through an integrated digital economy.
- Initiate strategic partnerships to advance digital payments and connectivity in Africa and Global Africa.

WHO IS ATTENDING

- Heads of State participating in the UNGA
- Heads of Central Banks
- Heads of multi-lateral network and Digital services organisations
- Investors and Entrepreneurs in the digital and financial sectors
- CSOs and NGOs championing digital transformation in Africa
- Policy and social sector leaders
- Executives of Development Institutions and development finance institutions
- Executives of the African Union
- The media

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Pan-African collaboration to drive growth through digitalisation
- Consensus on timelines to adopting an integrated payment structure.
- Forging Strategic Partnerships for implementation of the Digital Trade Protocol
- Stakeholder working group to champion the processes and frame work for a continental interoperability.
- Commitment from participating central banks to address regulatory hurdles and invest in infrastructure for standardization.
- Metrics for measuring success and implementation
- Partnerships for investments in Africa's Digital Infrastructure

TOPICS

The symposium will engage leaders on topical issues such as:

1. Digital integration and interoperability
2. Harmonising Regulatory frameworks for digital integration
3. Investing in critical Digital Public Infrastructure
4. Youth, Women, and digital economy
5. Emerging Technology Regulation and Adoption
6. Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Climate resilience
7. Implementation of Digital Trade Protocol for Sustainable growth

HIGHLIGHTS

- Power panels and fireside conversations
- Policy makers dialogue
- Investor spotlight presentation
- Innovator spotlight Demos
- Questions and answers
- Signing of MOUs and Action pact
- Networking cocktail

PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

- Africa Soft Power
- Global Policy House
- Africa Business Council
- Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC)
- Apples and Pears Holdings Ltd
- Development Bank Ghana

ABOUT THE FORWARD AFRICA LEADERS SYMPOSIUM

Forward Africa Leaders Symposium is a platform committed to forging strategic partnerships for advancing sustainable development initiatives.

Mission

To serve as a platform for promoting sustainable development and transformative change, advancing impactful policy initiatives that foster equitable growth. We strive to bridge the gap between the conversations and action, by connecting stakeholders evidence-based solutions to drive lasting progress and improve lives world-wide.

Vision

Harness the power of collective action to drive sustainable development and stewardship.

Objectives:

- **Stakeholder engagements:** Collaborate with diverse stakeholders, including communities, governments, and civil society to ensure inclusive policy making.
- **Policy dialogues:** Host conferences, seminars, and workshops to facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing on policy issues
- **Advocacy:** Form strategic partnerships with like-minded organisations and platforms to amplify policy demands and leverage collective influence.



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