



CAMBRIDGE
Africa Together
CONFERENCE
EST. 2014

PROGRAMME

Africa In the Age of Disruption



22nd - 23rd May 2026



The Cambridge Union

african@cambridgesu.co.uk | <https://www.africansocietycambridge.co.uk/atc> | Cambridge, United Kingdom





Day 1

 Cambridge Union , 9A Bridge St, Cambridge CB2 1UB

4:00 - 5:00 PM



Registration

5:00 - 5:30 PM



Opening Ceremony

Welcome Address - Junior L. Kika, ASCU President

Remarks - Michelle Hadebe, ATC Chair

Opening Address - University Rep

5:30 - 6:30 PM



Opening Keynote & Fireside

Africa in the Age of Disruption:
Power, Agency, and Strategic Choice

Distinguished Speaker: H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of Sierra Leone

Moderators: Dr. Othman Cole
Ms. Michelle Hadebe

6:30 - 7: 45 PM



Opening Remarks

Beyond Debt and Dependence:
Africa's Path to Development and
Industrial Transformation

Distinguished Speaker: H.E. Wamkele Mene

Secretary-General of the African
Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
Secretariat

Expert Panel

H.E. Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas

Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPA

Hon. Cawaale Shirwac

Former Minister of Planning & National
Development, Somaliland

Mr. Armando Manuel

Chairman of the Angola Sovereign Wealth
Fund

Moderator: Olabanji Ogunjobi

8:00 - 10:00 PM



DRINKS RECEPTION

 Fairfax Rhodes Room and Keynes Library



**Saturday
23rd May**

Day 2 Morning

📍 Debating Chambers + Snooker Room (within Cambridge Union)

9:00 - 9:30 AM



Arrival & Refreshment

📍 Fairfax Rhodes Room and Keynes Library

9:30 - 10:30 AM



Diplomatic Roundtable

Rupture and Realignment: Africa's Place in a Fragmenting World Order

H.E. Mr. Maurice Makoloo
High Commissioner, Kenya

H.E. Ms. Macenje Mazoka
High Commissioner, Zambia

Mr. Adébissi Djogan
CEO, Public Affairs Africa

Moderator: Michelle Hadebe

📍 Debating Chamber

10:30 - 11:30 AM



Session A: Parallel Panels

Energy Security and Climate Ambitions: Tensions and Trade-offs in Africa's Green Transition

Mr. Verner Ayukegba
Senior Vice President, African Energy Chamber

Dr. Ese Owie
Senior Advisor & President, Cavendish Institute

📍 Debating Chamber

Africa's Demographic Dividend: Youth as the Engine of Transformation

Dr. Abena Nyarkoa
Founder, Nkunim Education Project

Dr. Kwabena Bempah Tandoh
Founder & CEO, The Orpington Group

Dr. Memuna Williams
Founder and Executive Director on Empowering Sustainable Change & Champs for Change

Moderator: Daisy Moraa

📍 Snooker room

11:30 - 11:45 AM



Tea Break

📍 Fairfax Rhodes Room and Keynes Library



Saturday
23rd May

Day 2 *Afternoon*

📍 Debating Chambers + Snooker Room (within Cambridge Union)

11:45 - 12:45 PM



Session B: Parallel Panels

Africa at a Cross-roads: Youth Insights on Geopolitics, Democracy, and Governance

Fireside Chat with Mr. Ivor Ichikowitz
Chairman, Ichikowitz Foundation

Moderator: Jihane Cherif

📍 *Debating Chamber*

Africa in the Algorithm

Ms. Karen Emelu
Founder & CEO, Black Girls in Tech
Ms. Lolia Etomi
Head of Legal & Privacy, SpreeAI
Ms. Laurence Feza
Head of DFI Development, Rawbank

Moderator: Chidera Ezenwanne

📍 *Snooker Room*

1:00 - 2:00 PM



Lunch

📍 *Fairfax Rhodes Room and Keynes Library*

2:00 - 3:00 PM



Session C: Parallel Panels

Rewriting Africa's Story: Culture, Narrative, and Soft Power

Ms. Mandisa Nakana-Taylor
Media & Youth Development
Mr. Emmanuel Kirunda
Founder, 4th Heritage
Dr. King SMADE
Co-founder of Afronation
Ms. Bisi Akins
Founder of All Things Africa

Moderator: Fola Pinheiro

📍 *Snooker Room*

Financing Africa's Future: Mobilising Domestic Capital and Diaspora Wealth

Mr. Mark Okoye II
MD & CEO, South East Development Commission (SEDC)
Dr. Patricia Nzolantima
Chairwoman, Bizzoly Holdings
Mr. Paul Onwuanibe
CEO, Landmark Africa
Mr. Joe Kinvi
Founder, Borderless

Moderator: Shamim Ibrahim


📍 *Debating Chambers*




**Saturday
23rd May**

Day 2 *Afternoon* (Continued)

📍 Debating Chambers + Snooker Room (within Cambridge Union)

3:00 - 4:00 PM	 Session D: Parallel Panels	
	<p>Africa and the AI Frontier</p> <hr/> <p>Mr. Ade Famoti Global Senior Director, AI Research, Microsoft</p> <p>Moderator: Adebayo Abdulrahman 📍 <i>Snooker Room</i></p>	<p>Africa's Fintech Disruption: How Fintech Can Unlock Africa's Economic Potential</p> <hr/> <p>Ms. Lucia Okafor Head, Global Operations, Flutterwave</p> <p>Ms. Laurence Feza Head of DFI Development, Rawbank</p> <p>Ms. Gabrielle Patrick CEO, Knabu</p> <p>Moderator: Sebastian Obeta 📍 <i>Debating Chambers</i></p>

4:00 - 5:00 PM	<p> Closing Ceremony</p> <p>Entertainment</p> <p>Closing Remarks & Commitments - Michelle Hadebe, ATC Chair</p> <hr/> <p>Closing Keynote</p> <p>Africa Beyond Disruption: Charting the Vision for a Resilient Future</p> <p>His Royal Majesty Drolor Bosso Adamtey I</p> <p>📍 <i>Debating Chambers</i></p>
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7:00 - 10:00 PM	<p> Gala & Exclusive Film Screening</p> <p>University Arms Hotel</p> <p>📍 University Arms Hotel</p>
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