



Concept Note

ATC 2025

Conference Theme

In early 2024, the world watched as Kenya secured a landmark \$1 billion investment in technology and innovation, underscoring its growing stature as an economic powerhouse. Across the continent, South Africa led the way in sustainable energy, securing \$2.5 billion in major international partnerships aimed at reducing carbon emissions. In Nigeria, tech giants continue to set the pace for the digital economy, with investments surpassing \$3 billion in the country's tech sector alone. Over in Egypt, the Suez Canal expansion brought \$9 billion in investments, further solidifying its role as a central hub for trade and logistics, reshaping global economic flows. These events highlight how the Big Four are not just leading Africa's economic growth but defining its role on the global stage.

Yet, Africa's story is far more complex than the narrative of just four countries. The **Cambridge Africa Together Conference (ATC) 2025**, organised by the **African Society of Cambridge University (ASCU)**, was founded with this vision: to provide a platform where the full breadth of Africa's potential could be explored. Since 2014, the ATC has brought together the continent's brightest minds to challenge norms, elevate African voices, and create a shared vision for Africa's future. What began as an annual gathering has grown into a movement, a dynamic space for intellectual exchange and leadership that spans across Africa's diverse regions and sectors.

Conference Theme (cont'd)

This year, ATC 2025 will be guided by the theme, “**Flames of the Big Four, Shining with Many More.**” While Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, and Kenya drive much of Africa’s economic momentum, the conference will emphasise that the continent’s strength and brilliance lie not just in these four countries but in the contributions of every African nation. “Shining with Many More” highlights the contributions of countries like Ghana, whose cultural influence continues to enrich the continent’s identity, Rwanda, which is redefining healthcare innovation, and the Sahel nations, leading the charge in governance reforms and regional autonomy.

Set to take place on the **9th and 10th of May 2025** at the historic **St. John’s College at the University of Cambridge**, this two-day conference will gather an exceptional audience of 250 guests, including policymakers, business executives, academics, and students. Through a series of powerful panels, we will explore the diverse forces that fuel the continent’s progress and illuminate the shared values that unite it. ATC 2025 will serve as a catalyst for bold conversations and strategic partnerships, offering unparalleled opportunities for networking, exposure, and collaboration that will amplify Africa’s influence on the global stage.

Focus Areas

The Big Four theme celebrates both the leadership of Africa's largest economies and the four key forces driving the continent's growth. As the cornerstone of the conference, this theme will shape a dynamic range of panels, with each panel addressing specific issues under four guiding subthemes: economic resilience and market access, infrastructure and innovation, human capital and education, and governance and regional autonomy.

(1) Economic Resilience and Market Access

A resilient economy requires strong financial systems, easy access to global markets, and a thriving private sector. By fostering entrepreneurship and improving trade relationships, African economies can drive sustainable growth and increase global competitiveness.

Key aspects: Access to finance, trade and market access, private sector growth, entrepreneurship.

(2) Infrastructure and Innovation

Robust infrastructure, including transport, energy, and digital connectivity, is vital for economic growth and business efficiency. Innovation in technology and economic diversification drives competitiveness, creating opportunities across sectors and supporting long-term development.

Key aspects: Infrastructure development, digital connectivity, economic diversification, technological innovation.

Focus Areas (cont'd)

(3) Human Capital and Education

A healthy, educated, and skilled workforce is the foundation of a strong economy, driving productivity and innovation. Investing in education, healthcare, and global health initiatives ensures Africa's workforce is capable, adaptable, and competitive on the global stage.

Key aspects: Education, vocational training, healthcare, global health initiatives, workforce development.

(4) Governance and Regional Autonomy

Africa is increasingly prioritising local aspirations and regional autonomy, emphasising self-determination and national sovereignty. This shift strengthens governance systems that allow countries to address their challenges independently, fostering Pan-African unity and collaboration.

Key aspects: National sovereignty, local governance, regional autonomy, Pan-African unity.

By anchoring these four subthemes into the conference's panels, we will explore the multifaceted opportunities and challenges shaping Africa's growth, sparking meaningful conversations that illuminate how the continent's diverse strengths—from the Big Four to every nation—collectively light the way forward.

Get Involved

As we move toward ATC 2025, we call on you to be part of the collective force driving Africa’s future. The “**Flames of the Big Four, Shining with Many More**” are a powerful testament to the continent’s diverse strengths. Now, we invite you to fuel this movement—whether through collaboration, sponsorship, or participation—by contributing to the sparks of change that will illuminate Africa’s path forward.

Your engagement will help kindle a space where ideas, solutions, and networks converge to empower Africa’s brightest minds and most influential leaders. Together, we can ensure that these flames of progress burn brighter, fueling not just economic growth, but the shared aspirations of a continent poised for global transformation.

We welcome your participation in making ATC 2025 a defining moment in Africa’s journey toward greater unity and prosperity.

Sincerely,



Samuel Agyapong
President



Amirah Mimano
Conference Chair



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