

# **THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE ADN POSSIBLE, A YEAR OF GRATITUDE AND IMPACT**



Thank You

## Dear Friends of the African Diaspora Network,

As we close 2025, I extend my deepest gratitude to each of you: our funders, board members, team, Executive Leadership Council, ASCE community, ABLE and BAF advisory committees, ecosystem partners, volunteers, champions, and diaspora around the globe. You are the reason that the African Diaspora Network (ADN) continues to grow, evolve, and be a trusted platform for connection, leadership, and impact.

This is **ADN's 15th year**, a milestone that you made possible. From the beginning, our vision has been rooted in partnership and collaboration. We sustain and strengthen our work by engaging the brilliance, generosity, and commitment of Africans across the globe and the many friends of Africa who believe in the power of inclusive, community-driven development.

Together, we have built a global movement that spans **entrepreneurship, investment, technology, healthcare, education, research, philanthropy, policy, climate resilience, and creative industries**. These diverse sectors and perspectives make ADN truly unique: a platform where leaders convene, co-create, and accelerate solutions that uplift Africa and its global diaspora.

### This year, we celebrated meaningful progress across our programs and partnerships:

- » The growing **African Scientific Community Engagement (ASCE)** deepened the role of diaspora scientists in accelerating research, innovation, and health equity.
- » With your support, we launched the **African Diaspora Innovation Fund (AfDIF)** - a catalytic platform to mobilize diaspora and ally capital for African and African-descendant social entrepreneurs.
- » **The Accelerating Business Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE)** program elevated Black founders and innovators.
- » **The Builders of Africa's Future (BAF)** initiative expanded its network and visibility for early-stage African entrepreneurs.
- » We developed **ground-breaking partnerships** with innovative African and U.S.-based organizations; these collaborations expand our reach, deepen our impact, and open new pathways for shared success.
- » We strengthened our internal capacity, welcoming Nicholas Bassey, our new **Chief Operations and Programs Officer**. His leadership will help us build stronger systems, deepened partnerships, and strategically scale our impact.

And now, we turn to the year ahead.

In 2026, we look forward to the **11th annual African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS26)**. ADIS26 will convene changemakers from across Africa, the U.S., and the global diaspora with a focus on innovation, investment, talent development, and new models of collaboration that move Africa forward. We give special thanks to Santa Clara University for hosting us.

We will also continue to strengthen AfDIF, expand ASCE, elevate diaspora-led science and innovation, deepen our entrepreneurship initiatives, and build new partnerships that advance shared prosperity.

None of this would be possible without your unwavering support.

**Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your belief in what we can achieve together.** The next chapter of ADN's journey is bold and exciting, and I am honored to walk this path with all of you.

We wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a hopeful, healthy New Year.

With appreciation,

Almaz



# 2025 Highlights

## ADIS25 – 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY



A decade of diaspora leadership: **300+ changemakers** came together to exchange bold ideas, spark cross-sector collaboration, and shape a shared vision for the diaspora's role, Beyond Remittances, in unlocking transformational investments in Africa.

## AFRICAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM



At ADIS25, **diaspora scientists and innovators** convened—yielding **new collaborations**, including the landmark **Bio Usawa–Yemaachi Biotech** partnership advancing African health innovation.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACCELERATOR PROGRAMS



ADN brought **Accelerating Business Leadership and Entrepreneurship** in-house, hosted our **most-attended Pitch Days**, achieved our **highest application rate ever**, boosted engagement across all programs, and launched our first **alumni impact survey**.

## AFDIF LAUNCH WITH MYRIAD USA



We introduced the **African Diaspora Innovation Fund**—a new philanthropic fund designed to **mobilize diaspora generosity into high-impact social ventures**, fueling scalable solutions across entrepreneurship and community development.

## DMV EXPANSION & POLICY ENGAGEMENT



We expanded our policy footprint through partnerships with **George Washington University, Open Society Foundations, and Humanity United**; co-hosted a **Hill Day** with Unlock Aid; and advanced advocated for transformative policy reforms to support investments in Africa.

## PARTNERSHIPS & NEW INITIATIVES



We also forged catalytic partnerships with **NIDCOM, Opella, and Africa Practice**, launching the **Intra-Africa Diaspora Mapping Study** and driving coordinated diaspora action at scale.













Thank You

# THE PEOPLE BEHIND ADN'S IMPACT!

We are deeply grateful to the incredible people who support ADN daily. Their dedication, expertise, creativity, and passion drive our programs, fuel innovation, and create lasting impact across the African diaspora. While we can't list everyone, particularly our ecosystem partners who have been so instrumental in helping us expand our reach, we'd love to give a special shout out to a few groups:








## BOARD MEMBERS

Our Board Members provide steadfast leadership and guidance, anchoring ADN's vision and driving impact across the global diaspora community.

-  **Josh Ghaim**, Ph.D. Founder and Managing Partner, Ignite Venture Studio; Board Chairman, African Diaspora Network
-  **Raj Aji**, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, BILL
-  **Twum Djin**, Head of Engineering, Payments Conversion at Stripe
-  **Dr Josephine Fubara**, Chief Science Officer, Consumer Healthcare; Sanofi
-  **Manoj Jain**, Venture Partner at 3i Partners
-  **Rick Levenson**, CTO, Rippleworks
-  **Ndeye Makalou**, BioPharma Executive
-  **Innocent Shumba**, US-West EY Private Leader and Assurance Partner, Ernst & Young
-  **Kedest Tesfagiorgis**, Deputy Director of Global Partnerships & Grand Challenges, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
-  **Agnieszka Winkler**, Founder, Winkler Group; Board Member, African Diaspora Network

## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Executive Leadership Council brings strategic insight and expertise that strengthen ADN's mission and advance our long-term goals.

-  **Yohannes Assefa**, Director of Market Systems, DT Global, Inc.
-  **Latanya Mapp**, Board Member, Fondation CHANEL
-  **Loksan Harley**, Executive Director of Homelands Advisory
-  **Emy Makakalala**, Global Selling at Stripe
-  **Dr. Michael Moscherosch**, Founder – Periodic Element LLC
-  **Roland Pearson**, Vice President and Executive Director, Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter (TCIS)
-  **Romi Bhatia**, Managing Director, RB2 Investments LLC

Thank You

## ASCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee for the African Scientific Community Engagement program champions scientific collaboration and innovation, shaping a new era for African and diaspora research, health, and discovery.



**Kelly Chibale**, Professor, University of Cape Town



**Professor Sir Tumani Corrah**, Emeritus Director, UK Medical Research Council Unit



**Josh Ghaim**, Ph.D. Founder and Managing Partner, Ignite Venture Studio; Board Chairman, African Diaspora Network



**Heidi J Larson**, Professor of Anthropology, Risk and Decision Science, London School Of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



**Almaz Negash**, CEO and Founder, ADN



**Peter Piot**, Professor of Global Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine



**Kedest Tesfagiorgis**, Deputy Director of Global Partnerships & Grand Challenges, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



**Prashant Yadav**, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

## ABLE PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Accelerating Business Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) Program Advisory Committee supports entrepreneurial leaders, ensuring that diaspora entrepreneurs in the US can access opportunities that drive their growth.



**Joyce Chung**, President, Makahakama Foundation



**Nousheen Eslambolchi**, Chief of Staff, Visby Medical



**Helen Kim**, Senior Operations Executive



**Thane Kreiner, Co-Founder**, Black Corporate Board Readiness Program



**Dr. Michael Moscherosch**, Founder – Periodic Element LLC



**Lyndon Mouton**, SVP, Corporate Development, The LondBoard Group



**Cindy Owyong**, VP of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, BILL



**Guy Primus**, Managing Partner, Thrillerdome



**Ahmed Thomas**, CEO, Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Thank You

## BAF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Builders of Africa's Future Advisory Committee empowers bold African innovators, catalyzing ventures that are shaping the continent's future.



**Tabitha Arenson Abimiku**, Chief Executive Officer & Founder, Virtuous Pads



**Ali Garba**, Chairman & CEO, Akufai Capital & Equities, LLC



**Elizabeth Howard**, Founder, Lelapa



**Dr. Michael Moscherosch**, Founder – Periodic Element LLC



**Stanley Mukasa**, Associate Director of Entrepreneurship, Carnegie Mellon University Africa (CMU-Africa)

## ADIS25 ANNIVERSARY DINNER PLANNING COMMITTEE

The ADIS25 Gala Planning Committee brought creativity, care, and vision to the celebration, making the 10-year milestone truly unforgettable.



**Latanya Mapp, Board Member**, Fondation Chanel



**Magdi Amin**, Managing Partner, African Renaissance Ventures



**Eskinder Negash**, President and CEO, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants



**Kady Sylla, Director** - Africa & Middle East, Myriad USA

## AFRICAN DIASPORA INNOVATION FUND (AfDIF) ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council provides strategic insight and guidance to help shape the vision, structure and impact of the African Diaspora Innovation Fund.



**Romi Bhatia**, Managing Director, RB2 Investments LLC



**Latanya Mapp**, Global Ecosystem Builder & Champion for Female Entrepreneurs



**Manoj Jain**, Chief Financial Officer at SingleStore



**Josh Ghaim**, Ph.D. Founder and Managing Partner, Ignite Venture Studio; Board Chairman, African Diaspora Network



**British Robinson**, Mission-driven Nonprofit and Government Leader | Development Finance Executive | Impact Investment Expert



**Jean-François Péan**, Senior Investment Manager



**Sid Mofya**, Africa and the energy transition | mining, energy, data infrastructure

Thank You

## ABLE PROGRAM FACILITATORS

Our facilitators bring expertise, energy, and practical guidance that strengthen the ABLE experience and support emerging leaders.



**Dr. Bassam EL-Fahmawi, PhD**, CEO & CTO, Mawi DNA Technologies



**Joanne Fedeyko**, Global Ecosystem Builder & Champion for Female Entrepreneurs



**Linsey Krolík**, Director, TechEdge JD, Entrepreneurs' Law Clinic; Assistant Clinical Professor of Law



**Richard Ayllon**, Investor | Strategic Advisor Life Sciences & Tech



**Reanne Swafford-Harris**, Associate, Litigation at Fenwick



**Taimur Case**, Partner, Corporate at Fenwick



**Saad Hassan**, Associate, Intellectual Property at Fenwick & West

## MENTORS

Our mentors provide guidance, encouragement, and expertise to entrepreneurs across ADN's programs.

Achraf Aouadi  
Adeyinka Akinyede-Ashaolu  
Amarachi Amaechi  
Aniedi Udo-Obong  
Ashleigh Dlamini  
Avis Chiekwugo O'Voss  
Benard Nyachieo  
Bobola Odebiyi  
Chimadika Okoye  
Chimene Liburd, MD, MBA, FACP  
Cletus Baalongbuoro  
Constantine Kostarakis  
Ediomí Udoh  
Engr. Enita Ese Okonkwo

Faith Adesayo Oluwaniyi  
Jules Pericles Tamegue  
Koichi Arimitsu  
Lenah Mwangi  
Michael Moscherosch  
Michael Olorunninwo  
Mulalo Nemataheni  
Olufunto Boroffice  
Serge Amouzou  
Selika Josiah Talbott  
Seun Phillips  
Tombozi Mbewe-Ncube  
Zeshaan N. Maan

## REVIEWERS

Our reviewers contribute critical insight and thoughtful evaluation that strengthen ADN's accelerator programs.

Amarachi Amaechi  
Assegid Tesemma Gedamu  
Darius Teter  
Edward Page  
Elisabeth Jeyaraj  
Frances Burghouwt-Oviawe  
Gelila Tsega  
Ingrid Khafa  
Isaac Quansah  
Jody Mitchell  
John Bosco Nizeimana  
Jules Saurel Pericles Tamegue  
Julia Sefton  
Karen Kilwake

Kikelomo Talabi  
Michael Olorunninwo  
Michelle Musindo  
Miriam Dembo  
Rodrigue Fouafou  
Romi Bhatia  
Sarah Sterling  
Smriti Bhaya  
Tiffany Clinton  
Victor Aneleh  
Yohannes Assefa  
Zeek Ojeh



Thank You

## ADN TEAM

ADN's small but mighty team drives the organization's mission with dedication, creativity, and heart.



**Almaz Negash**, CEO and Founder, ADN



**Nicholas M. Bassey**, Chief Operations & Programs Officer



**Omolayo Nkem Oyudo**, Director of Programs and Operations



**Daniel Hartz**, Finance & Operations Advisor and Founding Board Member



**Rose Essiem**, Entrepreneurship Programs Manager



**Faduma Mohamed**, Associate Director, Partnerships and Diaspora Engagement



**Fatima Diallo**, Community & Diaspora Engagement Associate



**Yinka Djin**, Data, Media & Technology Associate



**Fredros Okumu**, Professor at the University of Glasgow and Science Advisor for ADN's ASCE Program



**Hatim Chraibi**, Executive-In-Residence for ABLE Program



**Megan Hunsberger**, Consultant



**Debra Pacio**, Consultant

## FUNDERS

Our funders and sponsors make ADN's work possible, powering programs, fueling innovation, and bringing together the global champions who advance our mission. **We are deeply thankful for their generosity, belief in our vision, and partnership in driving impact.**



Twum Djin  
Joshua Ghaim  
Regga Tekeste & Almaz Negash  
Jon and Rossella Derickson  
Charles Adams  
Hugh Molotsi

Murli Kotteyil  
Kedest Tesfagiorgis  
Michael & Josephine Fubara  
Ali Garba  
Thane Kreiner



Stay Connected

Thank You and Happy Holidays



Register for ADIS26



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#### Keep in Touch

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#### Support Us

Be an organizational sponsor and support the African Diaspora Network to bring together diverse people from around the world to collaborate and work together.

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