

# **ADIS24**

African Diaspora Investment Symposium

## SUMMARY REPORT



### **ACTIVATE WITH AFRICA**

**CLIMATE CHANGE, CONNECTIONS AND ACTION** 

March 20-22, 2024 Hayes Mansion, San Jose CA, USA Silicon Valley

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## **ABOUT ADN**

#### **African Diaspora Network (ADN)**

Established in 2010, the African Diaspora Network (ADN) is a Silicon Valley-based nonprofit committed to fostering social impact through entrepreneurship and economic development in Africa and diaspora communities.

Since its inception, the African Diaspora Network (ADN) has been dedicated to uniting the African diaspora, allies of Africa, and individuals on the continent to drive economic growth through innovative entrepreneurship and social impact initiatives. Initially funded by family, friends, and governmental support, ADN has experienced steady growth, expanding its programs, initiatives, and team through strategic partnerships while remaining steadfast to its core principles.

Today, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment, marked by a burgeoning interest in diaspora involvement and mobilization. ADN has been at the forefront of diaspora engagement for over a decade, and now, with both U.S. and international policies aligning to harness the diaspora's potential, we aim to catalyze transformative change, moving beyond remittances toward sustainable investments.

We invite you to join us in our journey of informing, engaging, and activation. As we embark on this next phase of growth, ADN relies on the collective effort of all stakeholders to envision new possibilities and collaboratively craft solutions that uplift our global diaspora communities.

#### **MISSION**

We convene Africans from the continent, the diaspora, and allies of Africa to create an ecosystem that nurtures their entrepreneurial spirit and mobilizes intellectual and financial resources toward a prosperous future for Africa and diaspora communities. Through strategic partnerships and innovative programs, we serve as a catalyst for positive change and growth in Africa and diaspora communities worldwide.

#### **VISION**

Harnessing the collective power of the global African diaspora to drive entrepreneurship, forge partnerships, facilitate knowledge exchange, generate social impact, and foster human capital development.

We invite you to <u>learn more</u> about our 2024-2028 Strategic Plan that was unveiled at the ADIS24.



### **ADN TEAM**

#### **Board of Directors**

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 Chief Financial Officer at SingleStore

RICK LEVENSON CTO, Rippleworks

NDEYE MAKALOU BioPharma Executive

ALMAZ NEGASH CEO & Founder of ADN

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

#### **Executive Advisory Council**

TRAVIS ADKINS President and CEO, U.S. African Development Foundation

YOHANNES ASSEFA Director of Market Systems, DT Global, Inc.

RUMA BHAGAT Senior Science Leader, Health Equity & Population Science, Product Development

Medical Affairs Genentech, Inc.

LATANYA MAPP FRETT President and CEO, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

LOKSAN HARLEY Executive Director of Homelands Advisory

DR. MICHAEL MOSCHEROSCH Founder, Period Element LLC

ROLAND PEARSON Vice President and Executive Director, Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter (TCIS)

ELLA-TAMAR ADHANAN Senior Vice President at Silicon Valley Bank, Division of First Citizens Bank

#### Our ADN Staff

ALMAZ NEGASH CEO & Founder of ADN

OMOLAYO NKEM OYUDO Director of Programs and Operations

DANIEL HARTZ Finance & Operations Advisor and Founding Board Member

MEGAN HUNSBERGER Associate Director of Programs and Operations

FADUMA MOHAMED YALI LL Diaspora Engagement Program Lead

BRETT CAVE Entrepreneurship Programs Manager

FATIMA DIALLO YALI LL Diaspora Engagement Associate

YINKA DJIN Information Technology Associate

ANIE AKPE Community & Partnerships Manager

## LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER



Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of all of us at the African Diaspora Network, I thank you for your presence, insight, generosity, and dedication to our shared vision. Your active engagement and willingness to share and exchange knowledge and connect with one another made ADIS24 yet another impactful and joyful gathering. Special appreciation goes to our funders, speakers, ecosystem partners, and community collaborators, whose support made the symposium possible.

The ninth African Diaspora Investment Symposium, ADIS24, held at the historic Hayes Mansion in San Jose, brought together participants from 27 countries to address one of the most pressing issues of our time: *Climate Change*. Our aim for this event was to address the urgency of the issue and explore how the African Diaspora and allies of Africa can pool expertise, share knowledge, and mobilize resources to foster meaningful and impactful partnerships.

As you will see highlighted throughout this report, your enthusiastic participation, insightful contributions, and shared commitment to effecting tangible change have truly elevated this year's symposium to a milestone event.

The dialogues we've initiated and the connections we've strengthened underscore the power of collective action and our shared vision for the continent's future.

Throughout the symposium, we witnessed numerous inspiring interactions and discussions that we believe will translate into concrete actions over time. As these initiatives unfold, we will keep you informed of the outcomes and insights from our participants in the months and years ahead.

The symposium emphasized the role of women, youth, and technology in addressing climate challenges. It addressed the significance of strategic philanthropy, diaspora engagement and investment in overcoming financial barriers, and the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, including active government involvement and the empowerment of local communities in building resilient ecosystems. Additionally, we emphasized the importance of culturally sensitive and gender-inclusive approaches in climate adaptation strategies, advocating for women's representation and tailored solutions suited to local contexts.

Diaspora engagement is a lifetime journey, and we look forward to collaborating with you through out year-long **Impact and Innovation Forums (IIF)** leading up to ADIS25 - which will be the 10 year anniversary of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium at ADN. ADIS 2025, themed **"Beyond Remittances,"** as announced during the symposium, will take place in **Washington, D.C.** The focus of ADIS25 will be to further explore the diverse ways in which the African diaspora can contribute to the continent's growth and prosperity beyond remittances alone. The theme invites us to expand our horizons and pursue innovative strategies that leverage the vast talents, resources, and networks of our global community for sustainable development across Africa and the communities in which we live.

As always, thank you and I look forward to our continued collaboration.

With appreciation,

Almaz Negash CEO and Founder

African Diaspora Network

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

#### We asked attendees, "What did you like MOST about ADIS23?"

66

"The connections I gained from ADIS24 are helping me to develop my business through strategies I received from some experts we met during the event. More importantly, all the advice gained from some other businessmen opened my eyes to see beyond all the limitations I had in my mind and now I believe that it is possible to make a great change that we need on the African continent."



"The turn up was huge With adequate number off young people. This is a sign of hope for the future growth of ADN. The Quality of the speakers was very good."



"If you're looking for meaningful networking or professional diaspora engagement opportunities, this is the place to be."

66

"The spirit of networking was outstanding. People of all walks of life participated and were easily accessible." 66

"Any one involved in Africa will gain knowledge and perspective regardless of how they are connected or involved."

66

"In a random chat over coffee, I sealed a partnership deal with a delegate from a university."

66

"The session tackled the real problems affecting Africa. It was realistic and practical to what the diaspora can contribute to spurring development in Africa." 66

"Real-world experience with broad applications, informative insights, and concrete takeaways."

66

"ADIS '24 offered us the unique opportunity to collaborate with key players in Africa, enhancing our collective impact."

66

"It is a reminder that each one of us holds the potential to make a difference and that together, we can create a sustainable and prosperous future for Africa and its people."

66

"I lead a diaspora organization and we are working on efforts to encourage beyond remittances - I gained some information that would be useful for my work."

66

"It opened up an opportunity to talk about telling our own stories as Africans in an authentic and creative way, whilst being action-oriented and thinking about the theme of Climate change."

66

"Harnessing all the networks to create tangible solutions that will add value to the ecosystem."

66

"I plan to continue to make impact everywhere I can and make my voice heard as an African in the diaspora."

## **ADIS24 OVERVIEW**



#### Activate with Africa: Climate Change, Connections, and Action

**African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2024 (ADIS24)** is the ninth annual global convening that celebrates and champions the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Africans, African Diasporans, and friends of Africa.

Hosted by the African Diaspora Network, the symposium inspires and equips participants to be agents of change and active contributors to development of Africa and the communities in which the diaspora lives. The conference activates the potential of collaboration, drawing participants from 89 different countries over the last eight years.

#### **ADIS24 Topics**

Climate Adaptation and Economic Impact for African Agriculture and Food Systems

Sustaining the Future: Beyond Remittances to Diaspora Investment in Green Energy

The Global AI Revolution: Steps to Ethically Utilize AI to Address the Climate Crisis in Africa

Impacts of Climate Change on Healthcare in Africa

Fireside Chat: Harnessing the Youth Boom to Unlock Africa's Scientific Potential

Transformative Education: Climate Change Literacy and Learning

African Youth Taking Global Climate Action

African Artists in the Climate Change Movement Catalysts for Social Change

Entrepreneurship and Investor Forum

African Women as Climate Change Champions

The Role of Tech & Connectivity in Africa

Leveraging Philanthropic Intermediaries to Unlock Philanthropic Capital and Boost Local Solutions In Africa

Exploring the Impact: The President's African Diaspora Engagement Council

Fireside Chat: Unveiling the ADN 2024-2028 Strategic Plan

#### 2024 Theme: "Activate With Africa: Climate Change, Connections, And Action"

Africa is a diverse continent with over 1 billion people, half of whom will be under 25 by 2050 (<u>The World Bank</u>). As the world's youngest continent, all eyes are looking toward Africa as the next frontier for growth and development. The region has abundant human and natural resources that can promote inclusive growth and reduce poverty. Africa also has the world's largest free trade zone, <u>The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA</u>), and a market of 1.2 billion people, thereby allowing it to carve out a unique development path by leveraging its resources and people, including those in the diaspora as well as friends of Africa.

Africa is making remarkable strides on so many fronts, including governance, healthcare, education, and fintech, and it is imperative that we keep up the momentum. Taking bold steps to tackle climate change is crucial in building a sustainable, thriving future for everyone. Despite contributing only two to three percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, Africa is the world's most vulnerable region to the effects of climate change. The continent is experiencing extreme weather conditions like droughts and floods, making it challenging to grow crops, access clean water, and maintain good health. This situation is particularly dire for those who depend on agriculture for survival. If urgent measures are not taken to address climate change, many communities across Africa will face a bleak future, hindering Africa's efforts to position itself as a world leader and forge a prosperous, unified, and peaceful continent.

During the symposium we explored questions such as how can we activate the African diaspora, Africans on the continent, and friends of Africa to contribute toward Africa's sustainable growth and development? How can we improve the continent's infrastructure, boost markets, and create a healthy environment for communities?

Over the next few pages, we highlight how we went <u>beyond remittances</u> to consider investment opportunities, best practices, and collaborative actions that ensure a prosperous and green future for Africa.

## **ADIS24 IN NUMBERS**



years

of African Diaspora Investment Symposium



## esteemed speakers

joined to share their expertise in the areas of entrepreneurship and investment, diaspora engagement beyond remittances, agriculture, climate change, healthcare, education, youth engagement, art, and Al



#### African Youth

the future of Africa, engaged for the first time at ADIS24, including YALI, the Mandela Washington Fellows, Mastercard Foundation Scholars, and Ashinaga USA.



#### sponsors

made this wonderful and immersive experience possible and at an accessible price to our attendees. We give thanks and recognition to each one of you, with a special thank you to our lead sponsor, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



## attendees present

at the Hayes Mansion from March 20 to March 22 and engaged in three days of meaningful networking, knowledge sharing, and enriching keynote speeches and panel discussions on the future of Africa and climate change.



#### countries

represented among the attendees, including the U.S., UK, Ireland, Barbados, and African countries such as Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Kigali, Lagos, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia



signed up for an ADN engagement opportunity, including mentoring African and Black-led startups, nominating entrepreneurs, reviewing applications, becoming an ecosystem partner, or being an organizational sponsor/individual donor to support ADN.



partners who helped spread the word of the symposium to a global audience of Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa.

## **OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS**

At the African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS24) we had a robust discussion of "Activate with Africa: Climate Change, Connections, and Action." Below is an assessment of key takeaways, impact of the symposium, priority actions and ways to stay engaged.

#### **Key Themes and Takeaways**

Across the various keynote speakers and panelists, several themes emerged and were reiterated across several conversations.

#### **Empowering Through Education and Leadership**

Prioritizing investments in education and leadership, particularly for women, youth and marginalized, is important to enhance climate change literacy and enable young innovators to develop new solutions to environmental problems.

#### **Leveraging Technology and Connectivity**

Technology plays a key role in shifting from mitigating the climate crisis to adapting to it, emphasizing local needs and bridging infrastructure gaps.

## Intentional Diaspora Engagement & Mobilizing Diaspora Finance

Strategic diaspora engagement are essential for overcoming financing challenges and promoting sustainable solutions through investment, philanthropy, knowledge sharing, and network leverage.

#### Multi-stakeholder Collaboration and Community Engagement

Working together with governments, communities, and different stakeholders is crucial for improving healthcare, adapting to climate challenges, and building resilient infrastructure, with community empowerment ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of solutions. There was a specific call for the active participation of governments in these critical processes.

#### **Cultural and Gender-Inclusive Approaches**

There was a recognition of the importance of cultural practices and gender inclusivity in climate adaptation strategies. Speakers advocated for women's representation in policy-making and ensuring solutions are tailored to local contexts highlight the interconnectedness of climate change, gender, and social justice.



ADIS brings inspiring social entrepreneurs and leaders together to work hard to uplift people and communities. It is a place to celebrate, learn, and hold each other accountable for our shared commitments to a thriving and green Africa.

- Dien Yuen, CEO, Daylight Advisors



#### **Direct Impacts of ADIS24**

Besides the key takeaways we gained from ADIS24, other direct impacts of the symposium include the formation of partnerships, youth engagement, and support for entrepreneurs.

#### **Partnerships and Collaborations**

One of our favorite takeaways is the connections that were made at ADIS24. Here are some examples from the ADIS24 survey:

"I plan to do more research on companies
I learned about and partner with a STEM
company in Tanzania."

- La Wanda Knox, President, Nauzo Uhuru

- La Wanda Knox, President, Nguzo Uhuru Inc and Make Green Go

"We would engage further with the connections to build a stronger Chamber of Businesses of African Descent."

- Justice Oman Director, Legal and Business Partnerships, Chamber of Businesses of African Descent

"We are planning to have meetings and nurture relations that can turn into partnerships."

-Emre Varol, Founder, A2SV

"The connections I gained from ADIS24 are helping me to develop my Business through strategies I received from some experts met during the event."

-Jolis Nduwimana, CEO and Founder at WEGE COMPANYInc and Make Green Go

"Meeting all the amazing leaders of top organizations like USAID, ADN among others."

-Wakibu Bunnya, Open Space Centre

"In a random chat over coffee, I sealed a partnership deal with a delegate from a University" - Anonymous Nadi Albino of UNICEF plans to use the knowledge gained at ADIS24 to "Influence how the UN and UNICEF in particular view and work with Africa."

YALI Africa staff members also reported several partnership contacts made at ADIS24 as they work towards developing YALI Africa and planning the YALI Alumni Expo and Trade Show happening in Nairobi on November 19th to 21st, 2024.

#### **Support for Entrepreneurs**



Grassroots African and diasporan entrepreneurs face challenges in securing funding for their startups despite their innovative solutions to global issues like climate change. ADIS24 featured an Investor and Entrepreneur Forum for entrepreneurs to learn from successful graduates of ADN's accelerator programs and discuss best practices with investors and venture capitalists.

In addition, African Diaspora Network introduced a pitch competition at ADIS24, targeting emerging entrepreneurs and changemakers with early-stage businesses, social enterprises, or NGOs. The competition culminated in three finalists who were selected from 80 applicants to pitch their ventures for a chance to win a \$10,000 grant, alongside receiving mentorship from ADN's entrepreneur accelerator programs. The finalists were Rukayat Bello of Regxta, Amanda Etuk of Messenger, and Jolis Nduwimana of WEGE with Jolis as the competition winner.

#### **Youth Engagement**



Given the intersection of youth activism and global climate action, ADIS24 was intentional about including and centering youth voices and participation as a part of the programming. This resulted in the presence of several youth groups in attendance, in addition to the usual students and other young people who make their way to ADIS each year. We had a group of about 15 Mastercard Foundation Scholars sponsored by UC Berkeley, four Ashinaga students who volunteered and showcased their projects, and a group of Young African Leadership Initiative alumni: six Mandela Washington Fellows sponsored by IREX through the State Department and ADN, and seven alumni from the Regional Leadership Centers in Africa sponsored by YALI Africa through USAID and Arizona State University. There was also an entirely youth-led panel session featuring 2 YALI-RLC alumni, a BAF alumni and moderated by a Mastercard Foundation scholar. All participants on the youth panel were under 30 years of age.

The presence, obvious passion and talent within the African and diaspora youth communities resulted in many speakers and panelists calling for investment in and inclusion of youth in critical conversations around climate change and Africa's future as it affects them directly. Many of the youth reported direct connections and potential mentors made while at ADIS24.

#### **Priority Actions**

In addition to the key themes and direct impacts made at ADIS24, there were several calls-to-action that were repeated across several discussions throughout the symposium.

#### **Boost Green Energy Initiatives**

Focus on increasing investments in green energy projects to stimulate local economies, particularly in rural areas, and create employment opportunities.

#### **Support Young Entrepreneurs and Innovators**

Develop specialized funds and mentorship programs to support young tech entrepreneurs and innovators, focusing on renewable energy and sustainable technologies.

### Strengthen Infrastructure for Healthcare and Education

Work on infrastructure development that supports not only economic growth but also ensures access to healthcare and education, making systems more resilient to climate change impacts.

#### **Adapt Investment Models to Local Contexts**

Adapt financing models to Africa's specific needs, reducing capital costs and leveraging philanthropy to de-risk initial investments. This requires the support of regulators to facilitate these financing models to make them attractive to diaspora and other investors.

#### **Engage and Empower Local Communities**

Foster genuine community engagement in climate action plans, ensuring that solutions are community-driven, culturally sensitive, and gender-inclusive. As the panelists of the presidential advisory council surmised: "It's not about what we are doing for Africa but what we are doing with Africa."

#### **Engagement Opportunities**

#### **ADN Events**

African Diaspora Network intentionally engages diasporans and friends of Africa to move beyond remittances toward sustainable investment for the betterment of the African continent. Join us as we increase awareness, engagement, and action among Africans, African diasporans, and friends of Africa at our upcoming 2024 Impact and Innovation Forums around the globe.

Be on the lookout for event announcements on our events page here and subscribe to our newsletter here for regular updates.

- » White House African Diaspora Day Celebration May 15, 2024
- » Education Initiative Launch / Kenya State Visit Atlanta and DC | May 21-23, 2024
- » Africa Day | May 2025

- » UNGA in NY | September 2024
- » YALI Alumni Trade Show and Expo Nairobi, Kenya | November 19-21, 2024
- » ADIS25 in Washington D.C. | 2025

#### **Ways to Contribute**

At ADIS24, ADN launched our new strategic plan, which over the next 5 years will focus on organizational capacity building, formalizing ADN's network and transformational programming, all underpinned by knowledge exchange and human capital development, public-private partnerships, entrepreneurship and social impact, and moving beyond remittances. To achieve these ambitious goals, we plan to raise \$30 million over the next five years. ADN relies on the collective effort of all stakeholders to envision new possibilities and collaboratively craft solutions that strengthen our global diaspora communities.

We encourage you to be a part of advancing our new strategy! Some ways that you can participate include:



Mentoring for ADN Programs



Reviewing Applications for ADN Accelerator Programs



Being an ADN ecosystem partner



Becoming a Nominating Partner for ADN Accelerator Programs



Being an organizational sponsor or individual sponsor to support ADN

Fill out an engagement form here.

## **ADIS24 DELEGATIONS**

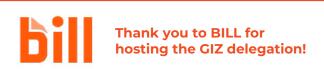


ADIS24 had participants from over 27 countries. The diversity and rich experiences of ADIS24 participants is something that we look forward to every year. This year, we had the pleasure of welcoming specific international delegations who attended ADIS24 as a group. We thank them immensely for taking the time, effort, and visa hurdles required to be part of the rich tapestry of ADIS.



GIZ, the primary German development agency, sponsored the attendance of 14 individuals at ADIS24, 9 from Tunisia, 4 from Cameroon and 1 from Germany. The 14 participants came from diverse industries, including development, government, banking and several entrepreneurs. Many of them are diaspora organization leaders and one was the President of the Western Region of Cameroon, Dr. Jules Focka Focka.

The GIZ delegation took a two-hour tour of the BILL headquarters on the morning of Wednesday, March 20th to kick off their time at ADIS 2024. After the tours, the GIZ delegation attended the ADIS24 main plenary and breakout sessions with the other ADIS attendees throughout the three day program. Oula Tarssim, Head of Program at GIZ, was a featured speaker for the session on African Women as Climate Change Champions.





The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) delegation was composed of seven Alumni from the Regional Leadership Centers (RLCs) and six Mandela Washington Fellows. The 13 participants are from diverse backgrounds and sectors such as Environmental and Climate change Advocacy, Solar Energy, Agriculture (manufacturing, food processing, agribusiness) Oil and gas management and geoconservation, Business, Banking, Education. The delegation came from countries such as Kenya, Cameroon, Senegal, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Uganda, Angola, Tanzania, Niger, and Liberia.

On Wednesday, the YALI delegation met with the USAID Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Africa, Dr. Monde Muyangwa, to share experiences and explore further ways USAID can support young African leaders. On Thursday, two alumni were panelists of the African Youth Taking Global Climate Action breakout session sharing their deep understanding of challenges and opportunities facing African youth in tackling the global climate crisis. On Friday, their week ended with a tour of the Google campus organized by YALI LL partners Geeks without Frontiers.



ADN was delighted to host a delegation from Mozilla at ADIS24. Mozilla sponsored the attendance of 9 individuals, including Mozilla team members and representatives from the government of Zambia, Victoria Falls University, and Gladys Boss Foundation. A member of the delegation, Dr. Gertrude Mwangala Akapelwa, Founder & Vice Chancellor of Victoria Falls University Of Technology, was a panelist on the session, Transformative Education: Climate Change Literacy And Learning.

## **DAY 1: RECAP**

## WEDNESDAY MARCH 20

#### **PRIVATE MEETINGS**

Thank you to YALI Africa, Nigeria Office for Philanthropy and Impact Investing (NPO), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Washington's Diaspora Engagement Unit (DEU) for hosting a private session at ADIS24. These tailored discussions allowed for deeper conversations on collaboration opportunities between the diaspora and the African continent across a variety of sectors, including climate change, and using a variety of innovative mechanisms to leverage social and financial resources. Participants of the sessions found them enlightening and reported that the conversations have already led to continued engagement and commitments of further support to different initiatives.



Dr. Monde Muyangwa, Assistant Administrator, Bureau For Africa, USAID, met with YALI alumni to share experiences and explore ways USAID can support young African leaders. The session aimed to foster dialogue on enhancing the impact of Africa's youth across the continent and in the diaspora. During the meeting, the importance of not being limited by artificial national boundaries and focusing on centring the shared dream of a rising Africa was underscored.

"Given the space, support and resources to amplify what the alumni are already doing, we will surely get to the Africa we want as defined by the African Union"

– Dr Monde Muyangwa



NPO's gathering, hosted by Thelma Ekiyor, Chairperson, The Nigeria Office for Philanthropy and Impact Investing, brought together key figures from the Nigerian and diaspora communities, including investors and philanthropists from Silicon Valley and beyond. As part of the brunch, NPO launched their Diaspora Philanthropy Giving Platform, designed to facilitate contributions from Nigerians abroad to support local initiatives. Both NPO and ADN's commitment to fostering partnerships and investment opportunities was underscored, promising a future of amplified impact and strengthened connections between the diaspora and their homeland projects.



IOM held a session on "Harnessing Diaspora's Influence in Climate Action" in which they discussed the work of diaspora organizations aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change, showcasing the current efforts in response to the unprecedented heavy rains and flooding that affected Somalia in October 2023. In addition to highlighting 3 key program underway by IOM, the esteemed panelists emphasized a key point as part of the discussion, which was the need to increase private sector engagement when connecting with the diaspora.



At ADIS24, a private roundtable discussion titled "Strengthening African Healthcare: The Transformative Impact of AI," was held where experts from biopharmaceutical companies and philanthropic initiatives converged to explore the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in revolutionizing global healthcare, with a particular focus on Africa. The session highlighted the transformative opportunities presented by cutting-edge AI technologies across various critical healthcare domains including patient care, medical imaging, diagnostics, research, drug discovery, and administrative applications.

#### WELCOME REMARKS



In her welcoming remarks, the Honorable Supervisor Susan Ellenberg emphasized Santa Clara's role as a comprehensive public health provider and Santa Clara's commitment to future generations through multi-stakeholder partnerships and public-private collaborations. Stressing the importance of collaborative efforts with the African diaspora, she outlined the county's dedication to ensuring equity and addressing shared challenges to achieve collective goals for the region's benefit.



In his opening keynote, C.D. Glin highlighted Pepsi's commitment to both people and planet, underlined by strategic investments in Africa, particularly in manufacturing. The foundation's efforts, including a \$20 million investment in various programs aimed at food security, water access, and supporting small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs across African countries, underscore Pepsi's dedication to fostering sustainable change and economic opportunities through community-driven initiatives.

#### **PLENARY SESSIONS**

#### Exploring the Impact: The President's African Diaspora Engagement Council



#### **Key Takeaways**

- » The African diaspora is looking for engagement. It is not a one-off relationship but a process of building trust which takes time. There's a need for Africans, diasporans, and friends of Africa to work together.
- » Partnerships are key. It's not about what we are doing for Africa but what we are doing with Africa.

The council plays a pivotal role in amplifying diaspora voices in government decision-making, ensuring that their needs and interests are heard and represented. This enhanced dialogue fosters more informed policymaking and policies that better reflect the diverse perspectives and experiences of diaspora communities. Not only is it a catalyst for transformative change but also a crucial driver for enhancing mutual understanding, cooperation, and prosperity between the United States and Africa.

The plenary session on "Exploring the Impact: The President's African Diaspora Engagement Council" underscored the U.S. government's commitment to fostering long-term relationships with the African diaspora through trust-building and collaborative efforts, focusing on shared knowledge and community-based approaches. Insights from Deniece, Almaz, Mimi, and C.D. Glin highlighted the council's role in harnessing partnerships, the strategic importance of diaspora investment in Africa, and the collective push towards creating sustainable opportunities and green jobs.

#### Entrepreneurship and Investor Forum

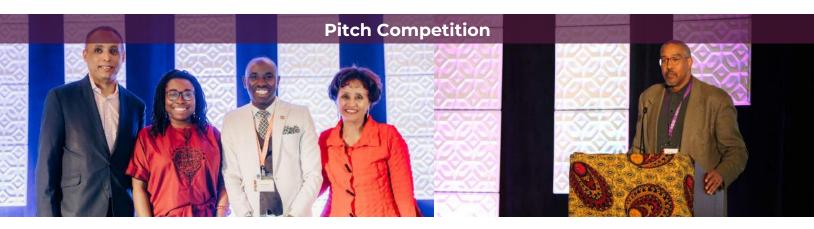


#### **Key Takeaways**

- » Successful entrepreneurship and investment in Africa require a nuanced understanding of each country's unique challenges and opportunities, not a one-size-fits-all approach.
- Entrepreneurs navigate investment landscapes by leveraging resilience, strategic partnerships, and storytelling, focusing on revenue generation and choosing value-adding investors.
- » Supporting African entrepreneurship calls for improved government collaboration, targeted capital allocation, workforce development, and a balance between private and development finance investments.

Grassroots African and diasporan entrepreneurs face challenges in securing funding for their startups despite their innovative solutions to global issues like climate change. The Investor and Entrepreneur Forum provided a platform for these entrepreneurs to learn from successful graduates of ADN's accelerator programs and discuss best practices with investors and venture capitalists.

The Entrepreneurship and Investor Forum, moderated by Romi Bhatia, Sr. Finance & Investment Advisor, USAID, Africa Bureau, focused on the unique investment landscape across Africa. Panelists highlighted the diversity of challenges across African countries, emphasizing the need for tailored approaches, grassroots capital deployment, and intentional business structuring. They discussed overcoming investor hesitations related to corruption and the importance of resilience, targeted fundraising, and leveraging personal stories and networks to secure investment and build scalable business models.



For the first time, the African Diaspora Network introduced a pitch competition at ADIS24, targeting emerging entrepreneurs and changemakers with early-stage businesses, social enterprises, or NGOs. This initiative aimed to discover and nurture passionate individuals or teams poised to launch ventures, with a keen focus on innovative solutions addressing climate change and other pressing challenges.

The competition culminated in three finalists who were selected from 80 applicants to pitch their ventures for a chance to win a \$10,000 grant, alongside receiving mentorship from ADN's entrepreneur accelerator programs. The finalists, Rukayat Bello of Regxta,

Amanda Etuk of Messenger, and Jolis Nduwimana of WEGE Company, exemplify the diverse and impactful entrepreneurial spirit thriving across the African continent. Their ventures, ranging from financial inclusion and logistics solutions to eco-friendly packaging, underscore the rich potential of African innovation in addressing global challenges while contributing to sustainable development and economic growth.

Congratulations to all the finalists, especially Jolis Nduwimana, who was voted by the ADIS24 audience as the competition winner.

#### **KEYNOTE FEATURE**



In her keynote address, Ms. Thelma Ekiyor-Solanke emphasized the critical need to shift the prevailing narratives about Africa from negative to positive, highlighting ADIS as a powerful platform for fostering a constructive discourse that celebrates the continent's potential and achievements. She stressed the importance of collaboration within the diaspora, the role of the government in supporting entrepreneurship, and the urgency of leveraging local capital to drive investment in key sectors like fashion, sustainable agribusiness, and renewable energy, urging everyone to think big and be proactive in shaping a more favorable narrative for Africa.



David Rice highlighted Barbados as an ideal destination for investment, citing its stable economy and diverse investment platforms such as tourism, fintech, and renewable energy, with a goal to be fossil fuel-free by 2032. Emphasizing the country's readiness for business, he pointed to its reliable infrastructure, supportive government, and the unique opportunity it presents for understanding and successful investment ventures.



I would like to thank you so much for the great opportunity you offered to me by inviting me to ADIS24. I had a great experience, especially discovering how the African Diaspora Network is making a great impact on the African continent, meeting some potential investors for my Business, and meeting different entrepreneurs and experts in Business was impactful.

Lastly, presenting my initiative in front of people and winning the grant award left a message in my heart saying: "It is possible to make a great change we need on the African Continent.

– Jolis Nduwimana, Founder And CEO, WEGE Company



## **DAY 2: RECAP**

## THURSDAY MARCH 21

#### **CONTEXT SETTER**



In his context setter, Dr. Martin Russell shared the African Diaspora Network (ADN)'s, evolution, current achievements, and future aspirations. He stressed the importance of African representation in global conversations about the continent, noting ADN's transition to a more sustainable organization and underscoring the ongoing need for collective action, diversity, and prioritization of Africa's development by the diaspora, with the ultimate goal of establishing ADN as a multi-generational organization.

#### MORNING REMARKS



Motaz Atalla emphasized the critical role of the African diaspora in educating the broader public on African issues, highlighting the need for patience and understanding in this endeavor. He advocated for solutions originating within Africa, informed by local communities and diaspora champions, and stressed the importance of a robust civil society and formal engagement pathways to effectively influence the United States's policy on Africa.

#### Fireside Chat: Unveiling the 2024-2028 ADN Strategic Plan



#### **Key Takeaways**

- » Goal of Raising \$30 Million: A crucial financial goal set by ADN is to raise \$30 million in the next five years in order to achieve ADN's priority pillars of organizational capacity development, formalizing ADN's network and transformational programming for the communities we serve.
- Collaboration and Community Building: ADN plans to leverage technology and partnerships, in order to enhance community building among diasporans, highlighting a shift towards leveraging digital spaces for networking, collaboration, and investment within African communities.
- » Empowering Economic Development through Diaspora Engagement: ADN's strategic plan places a strong emphasis on leveraging the financial and knowledge capital of the diaspora for social impact in Africa and the communities the diaspora lives in.

Thursday's fireside chat unveiled ADN's 2024 - 2028 Strategic Plan and highlighted the importance of transitioning from relying on diaspora's remittances, which will continue with family ties, to instead encouraging and facilitating diaspora investments which are more sustainable for Africa's future. Josh Ghaim, Ph.D., Founder and Managing Partner of Ignite Venture Studio and Board Chairman of African Diaspora Network, emphasized the need for banking involvement to facilitate these remittances effectively, while Almaz Negash, CEO and Founder of ADN, spoke on mobilizing the African diaspora for impactful community investment, stressing the goal of reducing dependence on remittances. Omolayo Nkem Oyudo, Director Of Programs And Operations at ADN, underscored ADN's readiness to implement this vision, focusing on knowledge exchange, public-private partnerships, and entrepreneurship, with a solid organizational foundation to ensure impactful and measurable diaspora engagement.

#### **Morning Keynote Address**



In her keynote address, Dr. Monde Muyangwa highlighted USAID's commitment to harnessing opportunities and addressing challenges in Africa through strategic partnerships and diaspora engagement. She emphasized the importance of African literacy and local knowledge in USAID's approach, revealing plans to direct 25% of program funds to local partners by 2025. She highlighted the critical role of the diaspora in driving significant change, and the commitment to investing in climate adaptation as a business imperative and underscored the potential for impactful collaboration and mentorship across generations within the diaspora community.

#### **Morning Keynote Address**



In her keynote address, Hon. Amb Mukantabana highlighted Rwanda's development as significantly influenced by the diaspora, serving as a tangible proof of concept. She emphasized that Rwanda's Vision 2020 was grounded in the principles of unity, accountability, and ambitious thinking.

#### Fireside Chat: Harnessing the Youth Boom to Unlock Africa's Scientific Potential



#### **Key Takeaways**

- » Education and entrepreneurship are key to solving local challenges and advancing the continent's scientific potential.
- » Building a supportive pipeline for young innovators by funding innovative projects and supporting the delivery of these projects is crucial for fostering African talent.
- » Diaspora networks can support young innovators by mentoring them
- » Addressing innovation gaps requires creating connections within clusters and enhancing collaboration across the value chain, from universities to innovators.

In the "Harnessing the Youth Boom to Unlock Africa's Scientific Potential" fireside chat, panelists discussed building a pipeline to support young innovators through investment and showcasing successful models like Institut Pasteur de Dakar's vaccine work in Senegal as inspiration. They emphasized the importance of technology training, the need for mentorship, and leveraging diaspora networks to foster connections and sponsor innovation across Africa.

#### Sustaining the Future: Beyond Remittances to Diaspora Investment in Green Energy



#### **Key Takeaways**

- » Investing in power and infrastructure is essential for Africa's access to education, healthcare, and industrial growth.
- » Supporting young tech entrepreneurs through specialized funds can help break the cycle of bad governance and foster innovation.
- Overcoming financing challenges requires lowering capital costs and utilizing philanthropy to derisk early investments, with a focus on adapting investment models to fit Africa's unique context.
- » Success stories must be highlighted to attract more investors with a suitable risk appetite for Africa's opportunities.

Investing in green energy projects can have far-reaching socio-economic benefits for African communities. Improved access to electricity can enhance livelihoods, support economic growth, and foster resilience to climate change. Additionally, green energy initiatives can create employment opportunities and stimulate local economies, particularly in rural areas where energy access is limited.

The Sustaining the Future: Beyond Remittances to Diaspora Investment in Green Energy session, emphasized the critical need for investment in infrastructure and green energy as fundamental to Africa's development, highlighting the challenges of financing and the need for tailored investment models. Panelists discussed supporting young entrepreneurs, de-risking early investments through philanthropic capital, and the importance of adapting investment frameworks to local contexts, urging the diaspora to leverage their knowledge and networks to foster sustainable solutions and to inspire the next generation through success stories.

#### Impacts of Climate Change on Healthcare in Africa



#### **Key Takeaways**

- Collaborating with governments should involve strengthening supply chain logistics, medical education, and accelerating regulatory pathways to improve healthcare access.
- » We must raise awareness and move beyond engagement to empowerment. We should work with communities to co-create solutions that make sense to them
- » Leveraging technology can address healthcare delivery and misinformation challenges, ensuring healthcare accessibility and adapting AI carefully to avoid widening health equity gaps.

Despite contributing relatively little to global climate change, low- and middle-income countries in Africa remain highly vulnerable to its repercussions, which can be devastating to healthcare infrastructures and general well-being. By addressing the root causes of climate change and implementing holistic approaches across sectors healthcare systems can be made more resilient.

The session on the Impact of Climate Change on Healthcare in Africa highlighted the intertwined nature of climate change and healthcare, emphasizing the dire consequences of increased heat waves and floods on healthcare access. Speakers discussed the importance of addressing greenhouse gas emissions to ensure access to clean air, potable water, and shelter, and the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration including government partnerships to strengthen healthcare infrastructure, supply chain logistics, and regulatory frameworks to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change, underlining the critical role of community engagement and technological innovations in mitigating these impacts.

#### **African Women as Climate Change Champions**



#### **Key Takeaways**

- » African women are key to climate adaptation, needing policy support and resources, especially in agriculture.
- » Investments in women's education and leadership are vital for innovative climate solutions.
- » We need a gender neutral climate fund and have a gender lens towards addressing climate change
- » Community conversations, literacy programs, training workshops and accelerators within the private sector can be used to educate people about the impacts of climate change

This session highlighted the disproportionate burdens faced by women and girls in the global climate crisis, particularly within African communities, due to entrenched gender inequalities, emphasizing the growing recognition, within African policy circles, of the interconnectedness of climate change, migration, and gender issues.

The African Women as Climate Change Champions panel, moderated by Latanya Mapp, President And CEO of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, emphasized the importance of gender-inclusive approaches to climate adaptation and policy changes. Panelists discussed leveraging the African diaspora's influence for direct investment in climate-smart technologies and gender-neutral climate funds, advocating for substantial support from both local and diaspora communities to empower women in decision-making roles and to ensure that solutions are tailored to African contexts. The session concluded with a collective call for enhanced education, advocacy for women's representation in policy-making, and the importance of intergenerational dialogue to address climate challenges effectively.

#### The Role of Tech & Connectivity in Africa



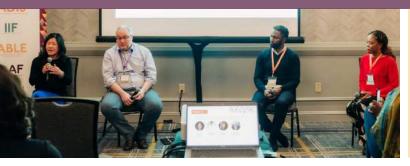
#### **Key Takeaways**

- » Technology is pivotal for transitioning from climate crisis mitigation to adaptation.
- » Regional context significantly influences the effectiveness of tech solutions, including Al's impact and consumption.
- » Infrastructure and connectivity gaps are major hurdles, yet grassroots tech offers viable solutions.
- » Strong partnerships across sectors can drive meaningful climate action and innovation

Climate investments are quickly gaining traction, indicating stakeholders' growing interest in impactful technologies. Despite strides in technological advancement, digital disparities persist, leaving marginalized populations ill-prepared to confront climate challenges. Through the lens of innovative solutions presented by entrepreneurs, development actors, and community leaders, the session elucidated the potential of technology to empower communities in adapting to climate change.

The Role of Tech & Connectivity in Climate Adaptation session, moderated by Uzodinma Iweala, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of The Africa Center, engaged in a critical discussion on leveraging technology and AI for climate change adaptation, emphasizing the shift from mitigation to practical solutions that consider regional specificities and energy usage. Panelists debated the dual nature of AI, challenges in fostering connectivity, the importance of owning and strategically using data, and the need to integrate technology into broader climate strategies, highlighting successful models and the role of partnerships in creating sustainable, inclusive solutions for Africa's diverse climate challenges.

## Leveraging Philanthropic Intermediaries to Unlock Philanthropic Capital and Boost Local Solutions in Africa (Myriad/KBFUS)



#### **Key Takeaways**

- » Philanthropy is strategic giving to tackle issues and differs from charity. Diasporans give because they care, they believe in the mission. The Diaspora serves as fundraisers and friendraisers.
- » Various forms of funding should be leveraged, including government, private capital and investment capital.

With fiscal sponsorship arrangements, African nonprofits can benefit from tax-deductible grants by intermediaries from the U.S. without the complexity of establishing their U.S.-based office. The Learning to Change: Philanthropy & Education session, moderated by Kady Sylla Director - Africa, Myriad USA (Formerly KBFUS), delved into the synergies between philanthropy and local solutions in Africa, focusing on overcoming the challenges of accessing philanthropic capital.

Panelists discussed the importance of understanding the philanthropic landscape, leveraging fiscal sponsors for efficient fund utilization, and the crucial role of the diaspora and intermediaries in nurturing an ecosystem that supports African entrepreneurs through knowledge sharing, financial investment, and fostering partnerships to amplify social impact and innovation.

#### Transformative Education: Climate Change Literacy and Learning



#### **Key Takeaways**

- » Educational initiatives are crucial for enhancing climate change awareness and literacy.
- » Addressing educational and infrastructural challenges is necessary for effective climate literacy.
- Empowering women and youth is essential in driving climate change literacy and solutions.
- Involve smallholder farmers and others who are impacted most directly by climate change in conversations around creating solutions

During a session on Transformative Education for Climate Change Literacy, experts stressed the importance of educating Africa's youth on climate change, a critical issue for the continent. Through discussions, the panel emphasized creating targeted educational programs and involving young people in practical solutions to climate challenges.

Highlighted initiatives included partnerships with companies like Mozilla to foster innovation and calls for government and private sector collaboration to address climate change impacts. The session underscored the urgent need for community engagement, policy reform, and local innovation to equip the next generation with the knowledge and tools for a sustainable future.

#### **African Youth Taking Global Climate Action**



#### **Key Takeaways**

- » There is a growing demand for green jobs. We need to train and employ young people in the renewable energy sector.
- » Investing in young innovators by funding and supporting their projects is crucial for fostering a pipeline of talent in Africa.
- When looking for funding for their ideas, youth should present to investors as a team as they are more likely to support a group than an individual

Young people worldwide, particularly in Africa, are pivotal in combating climate change, with two-thirds advocating decisive policy measures and actively participating in climate protests. Despite challenges like limited resources, African youth lead impactful initiatives, inspiring societal shifts towards sustainability through grassroots movements and social media.

The African Youth Taking Global Climate Action session featured discussions on harnessing young Africans' innovative ideas for impactful climate change solutions. Panelists, including environmentalists and entrepreneurs from Kenya, Cameroon, and Ghana, emphasized the need for persistent youth involvement in policy-making, strategic overcoming of resource limitations, and leveraging renewable energy sources. They advocated for training and mentorship to equip young people with the skills to create green jobs and advance renewable energy initiatives, highlighting the vital role of the diaspora in amplifying and supporting these efforts towards sustainable development.

#### African Artists in the Climate Change Movement: Catalysts for Social Change



#### **Key Takeaways**

- » Artists are crucial in preserving cultural legacies and raising climate awareness through storytelling.
- » Africans must own their narratives in climate discussions, avoiding the overshadowing effect of westernization.
- We all need to start somewhere, we can't take the backseat when it comes to taking action on climate change. Choose one topic that is important to you and advocate for it.

African artists are vital advocates in addressing Africa's vulnerability to climate change, utilizing mediums like visual art, music, and literature to raise awareness and inspire action. Their creative endeavors intersect with societal concerns, reflecting the urgency of environmental challenges.

The African Artists in the Climate Change Movement: Catalysts for Social Change session explored the role of artists in environmental advocacy, emphasizing African communities' deep-rooted connection with nature and the potential of art to inspire action and change in attitudes towards climate change. Panelists discussed the importance of storytelling and cultural practices in educating and mobilizing communities for climate action, advocating for self-representation in climate narratives to enrich global conversations on environmental stewardship.

## **BARKA AWARDS**

#### Presented by the African Diaspora Network

The Barka Award honors a notable individual for their distinguished contributions to the African and African diaspora community. "Barka" is an expression of gratitude. It is a word used in multiple languages and cultures in Africa. In fact, usage of the word can be found across the continent including in Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. To say "barka" in Moore', Burkina Faso, is to express a gratitude so sincere and profound that it also conveys a blessing; imparting a dual meaning to the word: thank you, and be blessed.

African Diaspora Network is pleased to present its sixth annual Barka Award to:



#### AGNIESZKA WINKLER

Founder, Winkler Group; Board Member, African Diaspora Network

Agnieszka has held numerous leadership positions as founder of two companies, Winkler Advertising and TeamToolz until they were acquired and on boards of directors of public and private companies such as RenoAir, SuperCuts, Cheesecake Factory and numerous not for profits such as Ascension Health, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, the board of trustees of Holy Names University. She currently serves on the board of African Diaspora Network, the Executive Committee of the Board of the Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship at SCU, as a Trustee of Santa Clara University and is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Jesuit School of Theology. She has a deep interest in building more equitable societies through social impact enterprises.



## **DAY 3: RECAP**

## FRIDAY MARCH 22

#### **Opening Remarks**



In his opening remarks at ADIS24, Pedro De Vasconcelos highlighted the critical role of diasporas in addressing climate change-induced displacement, stressing the need for strategic mobilization and adaptation of climate plans. He emphasized the significance of remittances, which have surpassed official development assistance, in supporting families and investing back home, advocating for financial literacy and risk-free investment opportunities to enhance the impact of these funds on climate adaptation.

#### **Morning Keynote**



Hon Ramatoulaye Diallo N'diaye expressed her appreciation for being part of ADIS24, acknowledging the efforts of the African diaspora in organizing the symposium aimed at a brighter future for Africa. Highlighting the adverse effects of climate change on the continent and the digital divide, she emphasized the urgent need for collective action towards resilience, social inclusion, and leveraging Africa's potential for global climate efforts, inspiring a commitment to transform Africa into the vision dreamed by many.

#### Climate Adaptation and Economic Impact for African Agriculture and Food Systems



#### **Key Takeaways**

- » Technology can play a huge role in multiplying production. We can create awareness for farmers on the cost-benefit analysis to help them adopt technology.
- » Closely work with countries to understand what their needs are rather than prescribing to them what we think they need.
- » Create opportunities for youth in agriculture, leveraging technology to spark their interest

African countries are highly vulnerable to climate change, especially in the agricultural sector due to unpredictable weather patterns and increasing temperatures, which pose a threat to crop yields and livestock productivity, endangering the livelihoods of millions. To address this challenge, African nations must prioritize sustainable farming practices such as crop diversification, conservation agriculture, and the promotion of drought-resistant crops and livestock breeds.

The Climate Adaptation and Economic Impact for African Agriculture and Food Systems session, moderated focused on the critical role of technology in enhancing agricultural productivity, the historical and systemic challenges hindering progress, and the potential of philanthropy and impact investments in infrastructure to transform Africa's agricultural landscape into a more sustainable and equitable system.

#### **Context Setter**



John Kamara emphasized the crucial role of AI as a transformative force in Africa, advocating for policies that foster AI innovation rather than stifle it, and highlighted the vast potential for AI to generate jobs and economic growth. He urged the expansion of AI education and infrastructure to transition from a consumer to a producing economy, leveraging human capital to build skills, create jobs, and capitalize on commercial AI opportunities.



As usual, ADIS delivered an amazing array of conversations and discussions on the role of the African diaspora in addressing the challenge of our lifetime: climate change. The diversity of the crowd coupled with the resources of the networks made this year's event even more memorable and impactful.

- Thomas Debass, Managing Director of the Office Of Global Partnerships, U.S. Department Of State

## The Global AI Revolution: Steps to Ethically Utilize AI to Address the Climate Crisis in Africa



#### **Key Takeaways**

We should work with local organizations to digitize step by step from local communities., creating models that are cost-effective for local communities to collect the data themselves and create jobs

Despite Africa's minimal contribution to global emissions, it faces severe climate change impacts, including heightened temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and increased vulnerability to extreme weather events. Leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) presents a critical opportunity to better understand and address these complex issues, enabling data-driven decision-making and the development of innovative solutions tailored to Africa's unique climate challenges.

The Global AI Revolution: Steps to Ethically Utilize AI to Address the Climate Crisis in Africa session focused on ethically utilizing AI to address Africa's climate crisis, highlighting the divide AI creates between the global north and south due to uneven resource digitization and knowledge capture. Panelists discussed overcoming this divide by harnessing local data and skill sets, emphasizing the need for basic AI education, local data digitization, and innovative data collection methods to mitigate biases and make agriculture appealing to the youth through data-driven approaches.

## LUMINAIRE AWARDS

#### **Presented by the African Diaspora Network**

The African Diaspora Luminaire Awards recognize distinguished Africans and Diasporans making high-level impact on a global scale. African Diaspora Network (ADN) annually celebrates luminaires who have made exceptional contributions and demonstrated commitment to advance the African continent and the communities in which we live.

We are honored and delighted to award the 2024 top luminaires at the African Diaspora Investment Symposium 2024. Each individual has made a significant difference through their commitment and support for the African Diaspora Network. We salute them for their belief in our vision and mission and their dedication to helping the organization grow and thrive.

At the 2024 African Diaspora Investment Symposium, ADN recognized the 2024 awardees:

#### STANLEY ANIGBOGU

C.E.O. and Founder, LightEd

#### **THOMAS DEBASS**

Managing Director of the Office of Global Partnerships, U.S. Department of State

#### **ALI DIALLO**

Founder of Aurion Capital and Managing Director of NOVA Prime Fund

#### LATANYA MAPP

President and CEO, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

#### **JOYCE MUSYA**

Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

#### **KADY SYLLA**

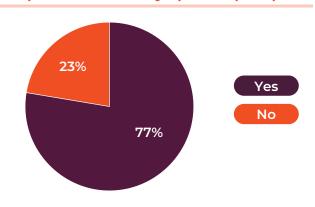
Director, Africa, Myriad USA (Formerly KBFUS)



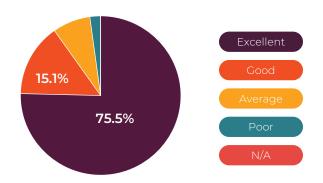
## **ADIS 24 SURVEY RESULTS**

ADN is committed to curating a quality annual conference. Each year, we look to build upon and improve the symposium experience. Through Whova, we received 53 responses in total. Thank you to all attendees who shared their feedback for this year!

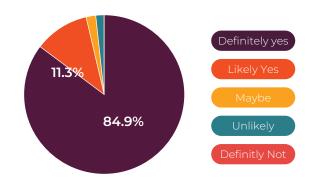
## Was this your first time attending the African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS)?



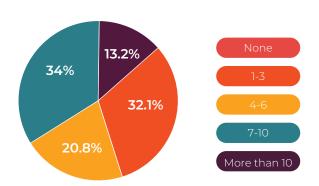
## How would you describe the networking opportunities at ADIS 2024?



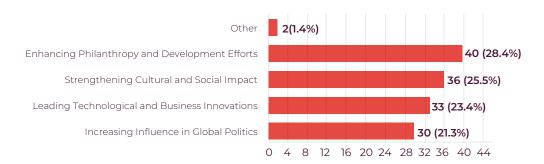
#### Would you recommend ADIS to others?



How many new connections or potential collaborations did you make at ADIS 2024 that could propel your business or career?



How do you see the role of the African diaspora evolving in the global landscape based on discussions at ADIS 2024?



#### **Favorite Sessions**



Climate Adaptation And Economic Impact For African Agriculture And Food Systems



Exploring The Impact: The President's African Diaspora **Engagement Council** 



Entrepreneurship And Investor Forum



Leveraging Philanthropic Intermediaries To Unlock Philanthropic Capital And Boost Local Solutions In Africa



Fireside Chat: Unveiling The Adn 2024-2028 Strategic Plan

#### Elaborate on how the session/speaker impacted you

- Speak truth to power ....understands the geopolitics, where Africa is at and needs to go
- Honest, bold, unapologetic
- Opened my thinking on the investment landscape
- The session tackled the real problems affecting Africa. It was realistic and practical to what the diaspora can contribute to spurring development in Africa.
- Real-world experience with broad applications, informative insights, and concrete takeaways.
- It is a reminder that each one of us holds the potential to make a difference and that together, we can create a sustainable and prosperous future for Africa and its people.
- I appreciated the mix of speakers and perspective, ranging from experienced private sector executives, to young entrepreneurs making an impact on the ground. Thank you!

#### How do you plan to apply the knowledge or connections you gained at ADIS 2024 in your professional or personal life?

- Influence how the UN and UNICEF in particular view and work with Africa
- I plan to do more research on companies I learned about and partner with a STEM company in Tanzania.
- To go back and use the networks to improve our programs
- I lead a diaspora organization and we are working on efforts to encourage beyond remittances - I gained some information that would be useful for my work
- I plan to continue to make impact everywhere I can and make my voice heard as an African in the diaspora.
- Harnessing all the networks to create tangible solutions that will add value to the ecosystem
- We would engage further with the connections to build a stronger Chamber of Businesses of African Descent

#### What was the most surprising thing you learned at the event?

- The progress and potential impact of AI on the continent
- I attended the event and I was pleasantly surprised to see the number of African Diasporans who traveled from Africa to attend
- Keen interest in diaspora engagement by those working in social capital
- The quality of the networks and down to earth atmosphere
- The presence of non African participants
- The number of innovations already existing in the African community
- The turn up was huge with adequate number of young people this is a sign of hope for the future growth of the ADN besides the quality of the speakers were very good.

#### Can you share a particular moment or interaction during ADIS 2024 that stood out to you?

- Engaging with Rep Samba Baldeh
- Meeting all the amazing leaders of top organizations like USAID, ADN among others.
- Observing all women at ADIS24: the power within us and among us.
- Meeting with a member of the USA-AFRICA partnership network.
- In a random chat over coffee, I sealed a partnership deal with a delegate from a University
- When one diasporans that visited our stand as YALI offered advice and encouragement to us as young people to expand and grow beyond borders.
- I approached Mrs./s NDEYE MAKALOU regarding my initiative, having read her profile knowing fully well she was not in my field, but if the last 3 sentences on her profile didn't draw you in, nothing will. NDEYE listened to me go on about my work with undivided attention, and talked to me with so much kindness and even made suggestions as to whom to talk to. ADIS was my very 1st conference of its kind and the very 1st person i spoke to there, was inviting and encouraging. It remains an honor.



## **MEDIA ENGAGEMENT**

#### **ADIS24 Media Coverage**

- The Guardian: "Innovators, investors tackle climate change at African diasporan summit" by Tope Templer Olaiya here
- » PR Web: "African Diaspora Network (ADN) Announces Pivotal Partnership with Prosper Africa to Strengthen Economic Ties Between Africa and the USA" here
- » AllAfrica: "African Diaspora Network (ADN) Announces Pivotal Partnership with Prosper Africa to Strengthen Economic Ties Between Africa and the USA" here
- » Techcabal: "African Diaspora Network (ADN) Announces Pivotal Partnership with Prosper Africa to Strengthen Economic Ties Between Africa and the USA" here
- » Prime Business: "ADIS 2024 Harnesses Entrepreneurial Spirit For African Development" by Euphemia Ojukwu here
- The Guardian: "Organisations partner to strengthen ties between U.S., Africa" by Tope Templer Olaiya here
- » The Guardian: "Biden's diaspora council pushes for more engagement with Africa" by Tope Templer Olaiya <a href="here">here</a>
- » KAFTAN Post: "Sustainable Agriculture as a Pillar of Climate Adaptation in Africa ADIS24" by Evelyn Dan Epelle here
- » The Guardian: "Why outcome of U.S. poll won't affect relations with Africa" by Tope Templer Olaiya here
- The Africa Report: "Nigeria launches \$200m global philanthropy push in Silicon Valley" by Julian Pecquet here
- » The Guardian: "Nigeria unveils \$200m global donor initiative to boost SMEs" by Tope Templer Olaiya here
- The Africa Report: "Samba Baldeh: Progressive politics from The Gambia to Wisconsin" by Julian Pecquet here
- » AllAfrica: "Harnessing Diaspora Engagement for Africa's Future: Insights from the 2024 African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS24)" by Evelyn Dan Epelle & Remmy Bahati <u>here</u>
- » A2SV | Africa to Silicon Valley: Interview of Almaz Negash here
- » BellaNaija. "Sahndra Fon Dufe: Elevating African Voices and Enriching Futures My ADIS24 Experience (I)" here
- » BellaNaija. "Sahndra Fon Dufe: Experiencing A Confluence of Brilliance My ADIS24 Experience (II)" here.
- » BellaNaija. "Sahndra Fon Dufe: Envisioning Africans Redefining Success My ADIS24 Experience (III)" here.





#### **ADIS24 Media Engagement Highlights**

Supervisor Susan Ellenberg + 2nd





#ICYMI #PhotoSpeak

African women are positioned to create lasting impacts as climate champions. According to the WEPs Tool 2024 Trends Report, Africa's ongoing support for women entrepreneurs from the private sector has significantly lowered barriers to entry, resulting in one of the highest rates of women-owned businesses in the region.

At the 2024 African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS24), which was held on March 21, our Executive Director, Naomi E. Nwokolo. Esc, Joined Latanya Mapp, President & CEO of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors; Oula Tarssim, Head of Program at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH; and Angela Naa Afoley Odai, Head of the Diaspora Division at The African Union Citizens & Diaspora Directorate (CIDO), to discuss the role of African Women as Climate Change Champions.

She engaged stakeholders in the development and private sectors about United Nations Global Compact work in 45 African countries, emphasising the need for businesses to incorporate a gender lens into their business strategy to mitigate climate change. The Syposium was hosted by the African Diaspora Network (ADN).

#UnitingBusiness Almaz Negash Ali Diallo



#### Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR)

Sw • Edited • 🐧

The FFR Manager, Pedro De Vasconcelos, presented his opening remarks at the African Diaspora Network 2024 talking about the importance and transformative role of #migrant contributions as #remittances and #diasporainvestments. With over 1 hillion involved in sending and receiving remittances, it is important to leverage these funds for #sustainabledevelopment. The United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification recently launch the 35 initiative: #Sustainability, #Stability, and #Security in Africa. Leveraging diaspora resources for #climateresilience and sustainabile land use.

earn more about the event here 👉 https://lnkd.in/daFXz982



Carnegie Mellon University Africa

Inheralty 21,593 followers frice 1d - Edited - ©

Stanley Mukasa, the Associate Director for Entrepreneurship at CMU-Africa, recently moderated a session on Climate Change Literacy and Learning as part of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium.

"Climate literacy forms the bedrock of understanding the ramifications of human activities on climate change and its far-reaching effects. It encompasses not only recognizing the problem but also barnessing the potential for innovation and entrepreneurship to combat it. Entrepreneurs armed with climate literacy can develop groundbreaking tech solutions that not only alleviate environmental damage but also pave the way for new economic opportunities, fostering positive transformation and resilience in the midst of climate adversities. As the Industry Innovation Lab, we are committed to supporting ventures that not only solve economic challenges but also have a lasting sustainable impact on the environment."

Learn more about the Industry Innovation Lab here: https://inkd.in/dRrBQ6HF

The African Diaspora Network Investment Symposium (ADIS) is an annual conference in Silicon Valley that celebrates and fosters the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of Africans in the Diaspora and friends of Africa. The Symposium offers an opportunity to dive deep into some of the continent's hottest investment and development trends.



#### Embassy of Rwanda, United States of America

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Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana spoke at African Diaspora Investment

Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana spoke at Affician Diaspora Investment. Symposium in the Silicon Valley. Main topics of this event by Affician Diaspora Network last week addressed key challenges and opportunities facing Africa and the diaspora. Ambassador highlighted Rwanda's journey of transformation and encouraged diaspora to view #Rwanda as a good and trustworthy partner in creating a future of prosperity.

During her visit to #California Ambassador, accompanied by #Rwanda 's Honorary Consul Scott Heldfond, met with the President of San Francisco chamber of Commerce, Rodney Fong and his team. The discussion explored avenues of business partnerships between #Rwanda and #SanFrancisco.

Ambassador also paid a visit to the Mayor's office in San Francisco and had fruitful discussions with the Chief of Protocol Maryam Muduroglu and her Deputy, on potential partnership's between San Francisco and the City of Kigali to work together towards a future of shared prosperity. #ADIS24





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Our Managing Director, Thomas D. Debass, moderated a dynamic panel today at #ADIS24 on how African Diaspora are investing in #GreenEnergy to address #ClimateChange African Diaspora Network #InvestAfrica #CCE #ADISymposium2024 #ADISymposium #InvestAfrica #climatechange





## **THANK YOU & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

ADIS truly takes a village. On behalf of the African Diaspora Network, we give thanks to our attendees, speakers, sponsors, program funders, institutional supporters, board, executive advisory council, committee, team, volunteers, caters, exhibitors, venue, and ecosystem and media partners for your tireless efforts to make this conference a success.

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#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

H.E. Ramatoulaye Diallo | FOUNDER AND CEO FOR GREAT GREEN WALL OF AFRICA (GGWOA)

Thelma Ekiyor- Solanke | CHAIRPERSON, THE NIGERIA OFFICE FOR PHILANTHROPY AND IMPACT INVESTING

C.D. Glin | PRESIDENT, PEPSICO FOUNDATION, GLOBAL HEAD OF SOCIAL IMPACT, PEPSICO, INC.

Mathilde Mukantabana | AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY AT THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA IN WASHINGTON DC

Dr. Monde Muyangwa | ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, BUREAU FOR AFRICA, USAID

#### **WELCOME REMARKS AND CONTEXT SETTERS**

Motaz Attalla | SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER, ENGAGEMENT, BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

Honorable Supervisor Susan Ellenberg | PRESIDENT, SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

David M. Rice | INVESTMENT EXECUTIVE INVEST BARBADOS

Dr. Martin Russell | FOUNDER, GLOBAL DIASPORA INSIGHTS

Paddy Siyanga Knudsen | VICE PRESIDENT, GLOBAL RESEARCH FORUM ON DIASPORA & TRANSNATIONALISM (GRFDT) - (MC)

#### **SPEAKERS**

Dr. Gertrude Mwangala Akapelwa | FOUNDER & VICE CHANCELLOR, VICTORIA FALLS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Mimi Alemayehou | FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER, SEMAI VENTURES LLC

Degan Ali | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADESO

Magdi M. Amin | MANAGING PARTNER, AFRICAN RENAISSANCE PARTNERS

Emma Andrews | PHARM.D., VICE PRESIDENT, GLOBAL PATIENT ADVOCACY, PFIZER

Nicholas M. Bassey | DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT, CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION (MODERATOR)

Paul Belknap | DIRECTOR, IMPACT INVESTING AT THE MILLER CENTER FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Brian Bell | BOARD PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF BUSINESS, A2SV

Karishma Bhagani | PRODUCER

Romi Bhatia | SR. FINANCE & INVESTMENT ADVISOR, USAID AFRICA BUREAU (MODERATOR)

Olufunto Boroffice | CEO, CHANJA DATTI

Wilson Da Silva | DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT - AFRICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Thomas Debass | MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (MODERATOR)

Pedro De Vasconcelos | MANAGER, FINANCING FACILITY FOR REMITTANCES, INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

Ali Diallo | FOUNDER OF AURION CAPITAL AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NOVA PRIME FUND

Nasser Diallo | FOUNDER & CEO, CLINIC+O

Patricia Dwyer | FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, THE PURPOSE BUSINESS (MODERATOR)

Josh Ghaim, Ph.D. | FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER, IGNITE VENTURE STUDIO, BOARD CHAIRMAN, AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK

Kristal Hansley | CEO AND FOUNDER, WESOLAR

Uzodinma Iweala | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO), THE AFRICA CENTER (MODERATOR)

Rohit Jain | CIO, HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

John Kamara | AI CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE NAIROBI

Triomphant Tchulang Kouogue | FOUNDER AND CEO CLEAN ENERGY SERVICES/ CAMEROON ASSOCIATION OF RENEWABLES ENERGIES ENGINEERS PRESIDENT

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Yeukai Mlambo | ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Hugh Molotsi | PRESIDENT AND CTO BUYNOTHING PROJECT (MODERATOR)

Stanley Mukasa | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY AFRICA (MODERATOR)

Eric Rutayisire Muziga | CEO, CHARIS UAS

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Sr. Josephine Nabulya | TREASURER, GENERAL/MARKETING MANAGER, SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY REPARATRIX GGOGONYA (IHMR), UGANDA

Almaz Negash | CEO AND FOUNDER, ADN

Chike Nwoffiah | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SILICON VALLEY AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL

Naomi Nwokolo | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK NIGERIA

Angela Naa Afoley Odai | HEAD OF THE DIASPORA DIVISION, DIRECTORATE OF CITIZENS AND DIASPORA (CIDO)

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Ham Serunjogi | CO-FOUNDER & CEO OF AFRICAN FINTECH GIANT, CHIPPER CASH

Kady Sylla | DIRECTOR - AFRICA, MYRIAD USA (FORMERLY KBFUS) (MODERATOR)

Oula Tarssim | HEAD OF PROGRAM, GIZ

Kedest Tesfagiorgis | DEPUTY DIRECTOR, GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS & GRAND CHALLENGES, BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

Deirdre White | CEO, PYXERA GLOBAL

Elizabeth Wathuti | FOUNDER, GREEN GENERATION INITIATIVE

Mathias Charles Yabe | FOUNDER & CEO, AKOFRESH

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We hope to see you next year at ADIS25, the 10 year anniversary of our flagship symposium.

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#### African Diaspora Network Board and Team

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