



Connecting & Engaging with Communities: *ADN's Journey Through Washington, Atlanta, and New York*

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Last week, I had the pleasure of representing the African Diaspora Network (ADN) at several events in Washington, D.C., including as part of the President's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement. I also took the opportunity to meet with several ADN champions and begin the groundwork for our 10 year anniversary of the African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS) to be held in Washington, D.C. in Spring 2025.

The week of May 20 in Washington, DC, was a whirlwind of excitement, anticipation, networking, and learning as part of President William Ruto of Kenya's visit to the USA. This visit aimed to strengthen bilateral relations between the United States and Kenya, reinforcing diplomatic ties and discussing key areas of mutual interest such as education, technology, security, trade, and investment. The tangible outcomes of this visit are detailed on the [White House Briefing Page](#). It also provided an excellent opportunity for us to advance and share ADN's work through various public and private discussions during President Ruto's visit.

For fourteen years, ADN has been mobilizing and uniting Africans, African diasporans, and friends of Africa to strengthen both the continent and the communities where we live. Our programs and initiatives aim to Inform, Engage, and Activate our global network by accelerating entrepreneurship and highlighting opportunities in innovation, human capital development, and investment in Africa. In 2022, ADN launched the **'Beyond Remittances'** initiative, which has become a cornerstone of our [strategic plan](#). It is fitting that **ADIS in**

2025 will focus on **Unlocking Transformative Investment Opportunities**, bringing us back to where it all started in 2014 – Washington, DC.

The success of ADIS25 in Washington, DC, depends on our collaboration with funders, local partners, and friends. I am delighted to share that many reaffirmed their commitment to providing venues, identifying speakers, inviting attendees, and organizing ecosystem events. Their generosity of time, insight, and resources propels our mission forward. Our work thrives on your unwavering support and dedication – thank you! We continue to welcome the generous contributions of our community in order to ensure ADIS25 and ADN's work has the transformative impact we all envision.

The ADN family is diverse, generous, and tied by a shared vision. Each of you reinforces my belief in our collective strength and unity, transcending our backgrounds and ethnicities. Our journey continues, and I look forward to collaborating with you to bring the African Diaspora and friends of Africa closer together for the betterment of our community.

In the coming weeks and months, we will share more about our plans for ADIS25. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at info@africandiasporanetwork.org to learn more about our work and how you can get involved.

With appreciation,



Almaz Negash

**May 20 - Foreign Policy for America (FP4A):
*A 21st Century Approach to Global Development***



Unlock AID, in partnership with FP4A, curated a session on creating new development systems to address growing global challenges such as health threats, food insecurity, and climate change. The diverse panelists discussed how the United States can modernize its partnerships, with diasporans from different countries and communities worldwide. They highlighted models that promote broad-based, sustainable economic growth and leverage innovation to tackle the planet's biggest challenges. The speakers included **Gayle Smith (moderator)**, former CEO of the ONE Campaign; **James Irungu Mwangi**, founder and CEO of Africa Climate Ventures; **Alex Carnes**, Staff Director of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS); and **Almaz Negash**, CEO and Founder of the African Diaspora Network.

May 21: United States Announces New Partnership with Kenya to Support STEM Education, Spelman College



ADN team member, Ms. Brett Cave attended at the signing of a nearly \$32 million investment from USAID, in Kenya's education system. This investment includes **\$850,000** in support of the **Edtech Africa initiative**, a public-private partnership program recommended by the **President's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement (PAC-ADE)** to promote STEM partnerships between Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), the Open University of Kenya, Mastercard and Microsoft, and a \$6.5 million new project in Kenya which aims to connect STEM graduates with jobs in fast-growing sectors like information and communication technology and manufacturing of textiles and pharmaceuticals. It also includes a new \$24.5 million program on early grade literacy, to ensure that more Kenyans are prepared with the foundational skills they need to succeed in higher education.

May 21: The African Diplomatic Orientation and Engagement Program; African Diaspora Panel



The Africa-America Institute (AAI) and the Center for American Progress (CAP) hosted a forum for members of the African Diplomatic Corps Orientation and Engagement Program. The discussions covered a wide range of topics, including trade, investment, diaspora engagement, education, media, arts, food, and culture, focusing on ways to amplify Africa's contributions in the USA.

One of the sessions addressed the "The Role of the African Diaspora: Promoting Connections & Collaboration," which was moderated by Anne Griffin of CAP. The session centered on engaging the diaspora community from 54 countries, exploring the historical African Diaspora, and examining opportunities for collaboration with the African Diplomatic Corps to enhance their involvement and impact. The panelists included **Dr. Ezra Aharone** from the Center for Global Africa; Samah Salman from the U.S. Educated Sudanese Association; **Oge Onubogu** from The Wilson Center; and **Almaz Negash** from the African Diaspora Network.

May 22: Facilitating Pathways to a Better Future: Highlights from the International Dialogue on Migration 2024



The first session of the International Dialogue on Migration 2024, held on May 21-22 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, focused on "Facilitating Regular Pathways to a Better Future: Harnessing the Power of Migration." Experts gathered to discuss crucial topics, including support for vulnerable workers, housing access, cultural integration, and the perception of migration as a life project. **Moderated by Dr. Josh Ghaim**, Chairman of the African Diaspora Network (ADN), the "Diaspora Private Sector Conversation" highlighted the importance of integrating low-skilled, female, and low-specialized workers into the economic sector, with an emphasis on technical skills and collaboration with local institutions, particularly in Italy's industrial sector. Key speakers included **Dr. Ouejdane Mejri**, President of the PONTES Association of Tunisians in Italy, **Riva Walia**, Managing Director and Founding Member of the France Canada Chamber of Commerce, **Dr. Martin Russell**, Founder of Global Diaspora Insights, and **Magdi M. Amin**, Managing Partner of African Renaissance Partners.

May 24: ADN Champions Dinner



The week concluded with the **ADN Champions Dinner on Friday, May 24**, where we reflected on our shared commitment to each other and the communities we serve. We extend our **gratitude to one of our supporters** for sponsoring the dinner.

This gathering also provided an opportunity to discuss our upcoming milestone event—the ten-year anniversary of our flagship gathering, the **African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS25)**, set to take place this spring in Washington, DC. As expected, every participant expressed their dedication and enthusiasm to ensure ADIS25 is as engaging and impactful as possible.

DC Meetings Photo Journal



While in Washington, D.C., Almaz participated in various speaking engagements and private meetings with ADN supporters from academia, government, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations. These meetings were informative and productive, and ADN looks forward to ongoing engagement with these communities and individuals. Highlights from these opportunities are showcased in our [photo journal here.](#)

In the coming weeks and months, we will share details on when, where, and how we plan to bring our global communities together in Washington, DC.

ABLE Information Session on June 6th & Deadline for Applications




🌟 Accelerate Your Business with ABLE 🌟

We are excited to announce that applications are now open for the third cohort of the Accelerating Black Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) program. Join us to receive:

- Fully funded entrepreneurship and leadership training
- Mentorship from industry experts
- Networking opportunities with top investors
- A financial award upon completion

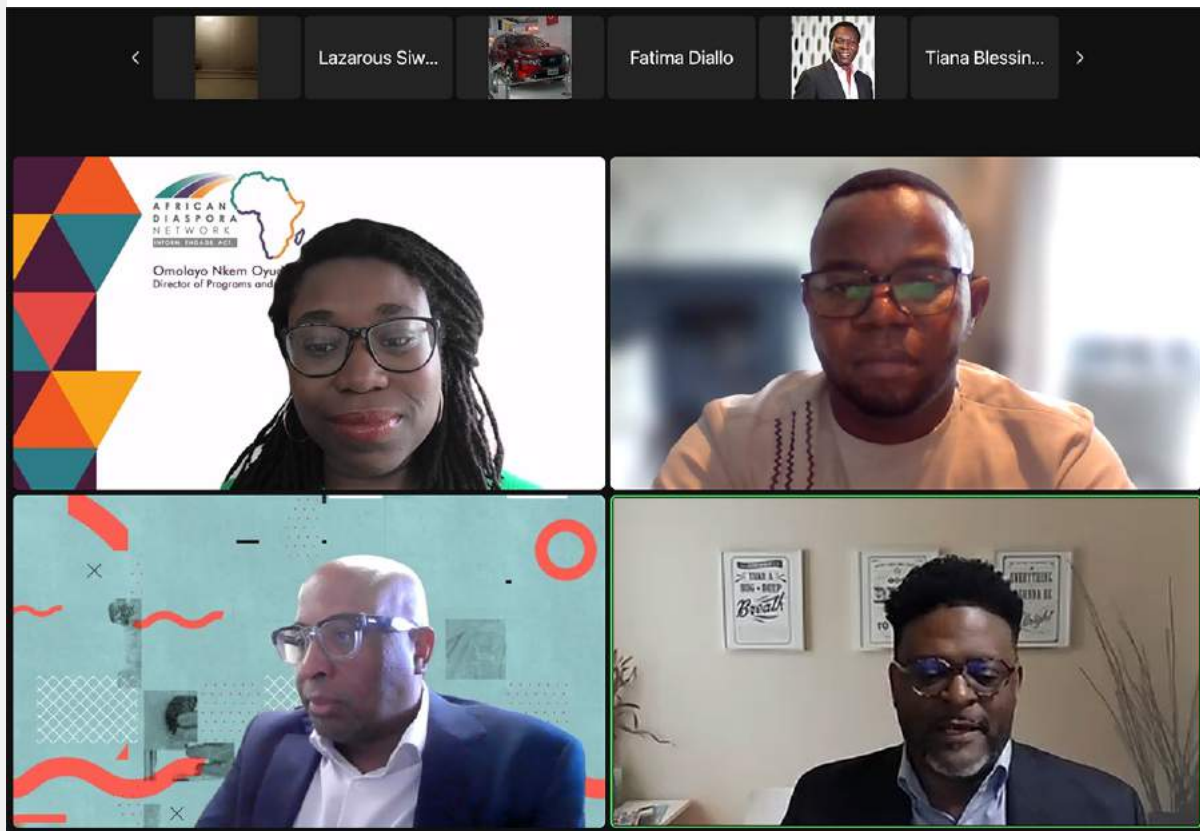
 **Application Deadline: June 21, 2024.** [Click Here to Apply](#)

 **Info Session: June 6, 2024, at 10:00 AM EDT/7:00 AM PDT.**
[Click Here to Register](#)

Recap of Africa Day Event

On May 24th, we gathered virtually to celebrate Africa Day with a special event focused on the theme "Innovations Unleashed – The Role of Educational Institutions"

in Entrepreneurship and African Technological Advancement.”



Organized by the African Diaspora Network, this event brought together thought leaders, educators, and entrepreneurs to discuss the significant roles that education and the African Diaspora play in driving technological innovation across the continent. Our distinguished speakers, including Omolayo Nkem Oyudo, Stanley Mukasa, Grant M. Warner, [Qyana M. Stewart](#) and Paul Wilson Jr., shared their insights on integrating cutting-edge technology into African educational curricula, successful Diaspora-led tech initiatives, and the power of international collaborations. [Click here](#) to learn the key take aways and follow-up points from the conversation.



Calling all Early Stage Founders

Masters of Scale Summit . Apply for a Full Scholarship by June 5th



The @MastersOfScale Summit is back, this October 22-24 in San Francisco, ready to empower the next wave of visionary entrepreneurs. This incredible event is designed to inspire and connect founders from around the globe, providing three days of non-stop growth, learning, and invaluable connections.

Applications are open for the 2024 Early Stage Founder cohort. This program offers 40 early-stage founders the unique opportunity to attend the Summit at no cost!

Hear it from one of previous participants:

"Attending the Masters of Scale Summit was an incredible experience. The inspiring speakers, the invaluable connections, and the wealth of knowledge shared were transformative. It was a total game-changer for my business, and I walked away with insights that continue to drive our growth and success."

If you're an early-stage founder looking to take your startup to the next level, this is your chance. Apply by June 5th and be part of an extraordinary community that will elevate your entrepreneurial journey.

[Apply here](#)

Support African Diaspora Network



Looking to have a more active role as a member of African Diaspora Network?

Learn more about ways to engage:

- Invite a friend to subscribe to our newsletter by sending them the link [here](#)
- Follow us on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)
- Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#)
- Give Through Silicon Valley Community Foundation ([SVCF](#)) Donor-advised fund

- Mentor entrepreneurs participating in our ABLE and/or BAF programs. Contact Brett Cave, Entrepreneurship Programs Manager at brett@africandiasporanetwork.org to learn more.
- Be an organizational sponsor and support the African Diaspora Network to bring together diverse people from around the world to collaborate and work together. Support ADN [HERE](#)
- Fill out the ADN Engagement form [here](#).

Engagement Opportunities

A Special Thank You to Our Funders

See full list [here](#).

The logo for 'bill' features the word in a bold, orange, lowercase sans-serif font. The letter 'i' has a small orange square above its dot, resembling a folded corner of a document.

CONRAD N.
Hilton
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The logo for Valley Health Foundation consists of a stylized blue and green geometric icon on the left, followed by the text 'VALLEY HEALTH FOUNDATION' in a blue, uppercase sans-serif font.

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Media Coverage

See full list [here](#).



Forbes





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