Elevate Africa

AFRICA: DEFINING HER FUTURE

THE PRESIDENCY · REPUBLIC OF GHANA

ELEVATE AFRICA CONVENING 2026 · EXTERNAL PROGRAMME

Africa: Defining Her Future

Accra, Ghana · 28–29 October 2026

A continental platform for leadership, partnership and action

ABOUT THE CONVENING

Elevate Africa convenes policymakers, entrepreneurs, investors, creatives, traditional leaders and other influential stakeholders for high-level conversations on Africa's future. The 2026 convening in Accra focuses on leadership and governance, trade and economic opportunity, the creative economy, youth, and the African diaspora.

DAY 1 · 28 OCTOBER

Governance, Leadership, Trade & Economic Opportunity

DAY 2 · 29 OCTOBER

Creative Economy, Youth, Diaspora & Action

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DAY 1 · 28 OCTOBER 2026

Governance, Leadership, Trade & Economic Opportunity

08:00–08:30 — ROYAL PROTOCOL

Arrival & Reception of Their Majesties

Their Royal Majesties of the Warri Kingdom

08:45–08:55 — PRESIDENTIAL PROTOCOL

Arrival & Reception of Heads of State

The President of Ghana and invited Heads of State

09:00–09:10

Official Opening Ceremony

Cultural procession and ceremonial entry of Their Royal Majesties, followed by the Ghana National Anthem and the Warri Anthem

09:15–09:20

Cultural Performance

Saaji Pii Cultural Troupe

09:20–09:25

Convening Introduction

09:25–09:35

Overview of Elevate Africa and the History of the Convening

Wangechi Wanjohi, Partnership & Community Engagement Advisor, Elevate Africa

09:35–09:50

Opening Remarks

His Royal Majesty Ogiame Atuwatse III, 21st Olu of Warri

09:55–10:05

Welcome Remarks

Hon. Ebi Bright, Mayor of Tema

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Governance, Leadership, Trade & Economic Opportunity

10:10–10:15	**Goodwill Message**	**His Royal Majesty Notse Nii Nortey Owuo IV**, Osu Mantse, Paramount Chief of the Osu Traditional Area, Accra
10:20–10:25	**Goodwill Message**	**H.E. Fatima Maada Bio**, First Lady of Sierra Leone
10:30–10:35	**Goodwill Message**	**His Royal Majesty King Tackie Teiko Tsuru II**, Ga Mantse
10:40–10:50	**Keynote Remarks**	**H.E. Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, Former President of Nigeria
10:55–11:05	**Keynote Remarks**	**H.E. Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim**, Former President of Mauritius
11:10–11:20	**Keynote Remarks**	**H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor**, Former President of Ghana
11:25–11:35	**Keynote Remarks**	**H.E. Julius Maada Bio**, President of Sierra Leone
11:40–11:50	**Keynote Address**	**H.E. John Dramani Mahama**, President of the Republic of Ghana

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Governance, Leadership, Trade & Economic Opportunity

11:55–13:00

PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE

Advancing African Leadership

Waihiga Mwaura, Journalist & BBC News Presenter MODERATOR

H.E. Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Former President of Mauritius

H.E. Joyce Banda, Former President of Malawi

H.E. Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, Former President of Nigeria

13:05–13:15

LAUNCH

Elevate Africa Trade Desk Launch

Sarah Goroh & **Dr. Rex Idaminabo**

13:15–14:15

LUNCH & NETWORKING

13:15–14:15

INVITE ONLY · RUNS IN PARALLEL

The Power Room

A high-level roundtable convening government leaders, investors and strategic partners to explore opportunities for cross-border collaboration and investment.

14:30–14:40

Thought Leadership Address

Mr. Gabby Asare Otchere-Darko, Executive Chairman and Founder, Africa Prosperity Network (APN)

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Governance, Leadership, Trade & Economic Opportunity

14:45–14:55

Thought Leadership Address

Mr. Akwasi Opong-Fosu, Chairman of the Governing Board, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC)

15:00–15:45

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

AfCFTA — Trade Governance, Implementation & the Road to 2034

Prof. Ernest Kofi Abotsi, Dean, UPSA Law School MODERATOR

Dr. Tei Kitcher, Senior Trade Economist, Office of the Secretary-General, AfCFTA

Aisha Maina, CEO, Aquarian Consults

Hon. Ahmed Rostom, Minister of Planning, Arab Republic of Egypt

Hon. Kadiva Diana Hamutumwa, Governor, Ohangwena Region, Namibia

Mr. Mohammed Usman Abdul-Razaq, Deputy Director and Head, Capital Mobilisation & Partnerships, Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)

Mr. Peter Musola, Senior Country Manager for Ghana, Kenya Airways

15:50–16:05

SIGNING

MOU Signing with the Board Chairman of the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC)

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Governance, Leadership, Trade & Economic Opportunity

16:10–16:20

PLENARY KEYNOTE

Yvonne Ike, Managing Director & Head of Sub-Saharan Africa, Bank of America

16:20–17:05

PLENARY

Doing Business in Africa

Peter Jolapamo, Managing Partner, Alirity MODERATOR

Ms. Fope Adelowo, Principal, Helios Investment Partners; Co-Lead, Digital Ventures Fund, Lagos, Nigeria

Alexander Karam, Impact Investor, KCA Africa

Mr. Simon Madjie, Chief Executive Officer, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC)

Mr. Evans Adanya, Development Principal, Africa50 Mobility

Mr. Mohamed Mostafa El Sallab, Head, Industry Committee, Egyptian Parliament

17:10–17:20

DAY 1 CLOSING

Priorities, Pledges & Setting the Tone for Day 2

Anita Erskine

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DAY 2 · 29 OCTOBER 2026

Creative Economy, Youth, Diaspora & Action

08:00–08:20 — **Arrivals**

08:30–08:40 — DAY 2 OPENING ADDRESS

The Intersection of African Tradition, Creativity & Trade

Her Majesty Olori Atuwatse III, Co-founder, Elevate Africa

08:45–08:55 — **Keynote Address**

Hon. Abla Dzifa Gomashie, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts, Ghana

09:00–09:05 — **Goodwill Message**

Nicole Asinugo, The Osahon Okunbo Foundation

09:10–09:50 — HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY

From Soft Power to Hard Currency — Africa's Music, Film, Fashion & Digital Content as Strategic Trade

Connie Alouch, Award Winning Stylist and Creative Economy Entrepreneur

MODERATOR

Roberta Annan, Founder, African Fashion Foundation

Modupe Fadugba, Multi-media Artist

Ms. Clara Pinkrah-Sam, Founder & Creative Director, Clatural, Ghana

Dr. Syleecia Thompson, Centre for Business Innovation, Entrepreneurialism & Management (CBEM), National University

Wakiuru Njuguna, Managing Partner, HEVA Fund

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DAY 2 · 29 OCTOBER 2026

Creative Economy, Youth, Diaspora & Action

09:55–10:05 — **Threads of Africa Competition Overview & Awards Announcement**

Ama Ofeibea Tetteh, Founder & Lead Consultant, Chapter54 CHIEF JUDGE

10:05–10:13 — **Threads of Africa Partnership Announcements**

Dr. Syleecia Thompson, Director, Centre for Business Innovation, Entrepreneurialism & Management (CBEM), National University

10:13–10:30 — **Threads of Africa Awards Presentation**

Her Majesty Olori Atuwatse III & the Judges

10:30–10:50 — **TEA BREAK & NETWORKING**

A dedicated pause for informal networking, connection and engagement.

11:00–11:10 — **Keynote Address**

Hon. Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ghana

11:15–11:25 — **Goodwill Message**

Kofi Okyere-Darko, Director of Diaspora Affairs, Office of the President, Ghana

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Creative Economy, Youth, Diaspora & Action

11:30–12:10 — HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY

Africa & Her Diaspora — Reconnecting with Who We Are

Sandra A. Babu-Boateng, Co-Founder & CEO, Face2Face Africa (MODERATOR)

Mr. Robb Pitts, Chairman, Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Representative Kim Schofield, Georgia House of Representatives

Lady Dentaa Amoateng MBE, Founder & President, Grow, Unite, Build, Africa Group Holdings, Ghana

Hon. Samar El Abdal, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs for International Cooperation, Egypt

12:20–12:30 — PLENARY KEYNOTE

Building With Africa's Young People

Gbovadeh Gbillia, Education Policy & Leadership Expert; Former Deputy Minister of Education, Liberia

12:35–13:15 — HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY

Africa's Young Leaders: Defining Her Future Now

Nadia Ahmed Abdalla Mwidau, Founder and Executive Director, NAA'M Initiative (EA Fellow) (MODERATOR)

Kalkidan Tedesse Deribe, Development & Finance Professional (EA Fellow)

Ama Y. Adi-Dako Seidu, Storyteller, Producer, Development Strategist

Zahra Ahmed Ajetunmobi, UN SDG Advocate & Youth Ambassador

Ms. Georgia Akuwudike, Director of Operations, Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and Turkey, Amazon

Richard Nii Okai, Director of Programs and Learning, Emerging Public Leaders

13:20–13:25

Youth Communiqué Speech & Rendition

Zahra Ahmed Ajetunmobi, UN SDG Advocate & Youth Ambassador

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Creative Economy, Youth, Diaspora & Action

13:25–13:35 — **Accra Declaration & Signing**

13:30–14:30 — **LUNCH**

Lunch and networking with Their Majesties and convening leaders.

14:30–16:00 — **Breakout Sessions**

Three focused conversations run concurrently alongside the invite-only Power Room.

ROOM 1 · INVITE ONLY

Beyond the AI Hype: Architecting a Digital Sovereignty and AI Governance Strategy for Africa

Mrs. Titi Akinsumni, Founder, Demistef.ai

Dr. Toyosi Akerele-Ogunsiji, Founder & CEO, Rise Networks

ROOM 2

Skills that Last: Building Youth-to-Work Pathways in the Age of AI

Axum Earth

ROOM 3

From Leadership Development to Leadership in Practice

Nana Darko Asiedu, Country Director, ALX Ghana

EA Fellows & EPL Fellows

INVITE ONLY

The Power Room

A high-level roundtable convening government leaders, investors and strategic partners.

16:05–16:15 — **Closing Remarks & Convening Wrap-up**

18:30–22:00 — **Kings' Banquet**

Hosted by Their Royal Majesties

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THE PRESIDENCY REPUBLIC OF GHANA

WHAT WE WILL DISCUSS

Convening Themes

01 **Trade Governance & Economic Integration**

AfCFTA implementation, digital trade, trade finance, investment and value-chain development.

02 **Governance, Leadership & Advocacy**

Leadership, policy, institutional collaboration and the relationship between traditional and formal leadership.

03 **Creative Economy & Soft Power**

Music, film, fashion, sport and digital content as drivers of economic value, cultural influence and Africa's global narrative.

04 **Youth Leadership & Opportunity for Young Africans**

Youth participation in governance, entrepreneurship, innovation and access to the networks and capital needed to shape Africa's future.

05 **The Diaspora**

Diaspora investment, expertise, networks, cultural influence and stronger Africa–diaspora connections.

WHAT WE WILL LEAVE WITH

Key Convening Outputs

01 **Accra Declaration and call to action**

02 **Youth and women's leadership recommendations**

03 **Partnership, investment and institutional collaboration opportunities**