



Rwanda
Centre for the
Fourth Industrial
Revolution



Thank you for making
the **Global AI Summit
on Africa** a resounding
success!



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About the event

The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the Ministry of ICT & Innovation, in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, hosted the inaugural Global AI Summit on Africa in Kigali, Rwanda under the theme: **“AI and Africa’s Demographic Dividend: Reimagining Economic Opportunities for Africa’s Workforce.”**

2000+

Delegates

1000+

International delegates

400+

Students and Young Innovators

97+

Nationalities represented



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The Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence

The inaugural Global AI Summit on Africa climaxed with the announcement of the Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence, a pivotal turning point for Africa's AI journey.

The declaration seeks to:

1. Leverage the potential of AI to drive innovation and competitiveness to advance Africa's economies, industries, and societies.
2. Position Africa as a global leader in ethical, trustworthy, and inclusive AI adoption.
3. Foster the sustainable and responsible design, development, deployment, use, and governance of AI technologies in Africa.

[VIEW THE FULL DECLARATION HERE](#)

Videos & Photos



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Opening ceremony highlight

WATCH

Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence

WATCH

Watch the sessions

WATCH

Photos

VIEW

Meet our Co-Chairs



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**H.E. Ms. Lerato
Mataboge**

Commissioner of
Infrastructure and Energy,
African Union Commission



Strive Masiyiwa

Founder & Executive
Chairman, Econet Group
& Cassava Technologies



Dr. James Manyika

SVP Google and
Alphabet, President for
Research, Labs, Tech &
Society



Dr. Senait Fisseha

VP, Global Programs
Susan Thompson Buffet
Foundation



Eric Schmidt, KBE

Former CEO & Chairman
of Google, Executive
Chairman and CEO of
Relativity Space

The Summit's Thought Leaders



**Hon. Prof. Dr. Adolf
Faustine Mkenda**

Minister of Education,
Science, and Technology,
Tanzania



**Hon. Dr. Wycliffe
Musalia Mudavadi,
EGH**

Prime Cabinet Secretary,
Kenya



Hon. Jonathan Reid

Minister of Innovation,
Industry, Science and
Technology and Senator,
Barbados



H.E. Wamkele Mene

Secretary General, African
Continental Free Trade
Area Secretariat



**H.E. Doreen Bogdan-
Martin**

Secretary-General of the
International
Telecommunication Union



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H.E. Amandeep Singh Gill

Under Secretary General
and Special Envoy for
Digital and Emerging
Technologies, United
Nations



Amb. Claver Gatete

Executive Secretary, United
Nations Economic
Commission for Africa



Lacina Kone

Director General and CEO,
Smart Africa



Fred Swaniker

Founder/CEO, Sand
Technologies



Dr. Joy Buolamwini

Founder of the Algorithmic
Justice League, computer
scientist, artist, and author

[MORE THOUGHT LEADERS](#)

Programme

[VIEW THE FULL PROGRAMME HERE](#)

THURSDAY 3 APRIL

FRIDAY 4 APRIL

SIDE EVENTS



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09.30 - 10.30

Africa and the AI opportunity

Home to the largest and fastest growing workforce in the world, Africa is poised to play a consequential role in the global AI ecosystem. This session will set the scene for the two-day summit exploring challenges and opportunities to advance inclusive and resilient growth.

MC

Zain Verjee, Founder & CEO, theZVG

Welcome remarks

Crystal Rugege, Managing Director, Rwanda Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Keynote
H.E. Ms. Lerato Mataboge, Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy, Africa Union Commission

Remarks

Bill Gates, Chair, Gates Foundation & Founder, Breakthrough Energy

Video

Welcome to GAIS Africa 2025

Conversation with

H.E. Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, African Continental Free Trade Area

Hon. Paula Ingabire, Minister, ICT & Innovation, Rwanda

Hon. Bosun Tijani, Minister, Communications, Innovation & Digital Economy, Nigeria

Dr. James Mwangi, Managing Director & CEO, Equity Group Holding

Jeremy Jurgens, Managing Director & Head, The Forum's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Moderated by: Nima Elmi, VP, Strategy & Policy, Circle and CEO & Co-Founder, The Africa Dialogues

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10.30 - 11.00

Break



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By 2030, AI stands to add \$19.9 trillion to the global economy—injecting \$2.9 trillion to Africa's economy. This could lift 11 million Africans out of poverty, and create 500,000 jobs annually. Maximizing the tremendous benefits will require Africa's leaders to navigate complex economic, social, and geostrategic dynamics, and a shared vision for Africa's leadership in the age of AI.

Introduction by

Zain Verjee, Founder & CEO, theZVG

Opening remarks

Hon. Paula Ingabire, Minister, ICT & Innovation, Rwanda

Video

Africa's AI Moment

Conversation with

H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda

H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Togolese Republic

H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson, African Union Commission

Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary, Kenya

H.E. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary General, International Telecommunications Union

Strive Masiyiwa, Founder & Executive Chairman, Econet Group

Moderated by: Dr. Senait Fisseha, VP, Global Programs, Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation

[Auditorium | Kigali Convention Center](#)

12.15 - 14.30

Lunch

A standing networking lunch will be served from 12.15 to 14.30



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Collaboration

AI has the potential to profoundly transform economies and societies for the benefit of all, provided it is developed and implemented in a responsible and equitable manner. Creating resilient ecosystems will require strategic planning and close collaboration between governments and multiple stakeholders to develop vital AI capabilities.

Remarks

Sam Altman, CEO, OpenAI

Conversation with

Cathy Li, Head of AI, Data & Metaverse, World Economic Forum

Ali Al Amine, EVP, Head of Emerging Markets, G42

Hardy Pemhiwa, President & Chief Executive Officer of Cassava Technologies

Amandeep Singh Gill, Under Secretary General & Special Envoy for Digital & Emerging Technologies, United Nations

Moderated by: Kendra L.

Gaither, President of the U.S.-Africa Business Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Equity, and Sovereignty

Data is the oxygen of the AI economy. Nations must build robust data infrastructure and data strategies to support localized and contextually relevant AI development. This requires responsible data governance and harmonized regulation, trusted cross-border data flows, and investment in data infrastructure to foster innovation.

Conversation with

David Kanamugire, CEO, National Cyber Security Authority, Rwanda

Olivier Cadic, Member of Senate, France

Tariq Khokhar, Chief Data Scientist, Wellcome Trust

Annick Sakho, Director Government Affairs, Africa, Oracle

Lacina Kone, Director General & CEO, Smart Africa

Moderated by: Isobel Acquah, Executive Director, Certa Foundation

MH1 | Kigali Convention Center

In partnership with the Mastercard Foundation

As artificial intelligence reshapes our world, Africa stands at a crucial crossroads. This youth focused session, supported by the Mastercard Foundation, brings together young innovators and current trailblazers in the global AI industry to explore how we can ensure AI development in Africa is both inclusive and impactful. By focusing on youth perspectives and experiences, we aim to catalyze a movement that transforms challenges into opportunities, ensuring Africa's next generation participates in and actively shapes the AI transformation.

Opening remarks

Daniel Hailu, Executive Director, Pan-African Programs

Keynote

Fred Swaniker, Founder & CEO, Sand Technologies

Conversation with

Wambui Kinya, General Manager, Search Africa

Lavender Birike, Co-founder & CEO of Klima360

Chinasa T. Okolo, Fellow, The



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Closing Remarks

Hon. Claudette Irere, Minister,
State of Education, Rwanda

MH4 | Kigali Convention Center

15.30 - 15.45

Break

15.45 - 16.45

Innovating for a Healthier Future

AI-enabled scientific research has revolutionized the pace and scope of discovery, offering unprecedented opportunities for advancements in healthcare. In Africa, where healthcare challenges are profound, AI-driven innovations have the potential to significantly improve health outcomes, enhance disease prevention, and optimize resource allocation.

Spotlight Talk

Darlington Akogo, Founder & CEO, minoHealth AI Labs

Conversation with

Trevor Mundel, President, Global Health, Gates Foundation

AI and Frontier Technologies: Catalyzing Synergies for Future Economic Growth

The impact of artificial intelligence will grow exponentially as it integrates with emerging technologies like quantum, biotechnology, robotics and more. With immense opportunities from climate solutions to health innovation, join this session to learn how AI will converge with other domains, setting the stage for sustainable economies of tomorrow.

Conversation with

Fred Swaniker, Founder/CEO, Sand Technologies

Unleashing the Power of AI in Agriculture

New waves of agritech such as AI, IoT, augmented reality (AR), smart packaging, gene editing, drones, and blockchain are driving agriculture and food sector transformation are being seen as the catalyst for increased productivity, and enablers of the next green revolution. Africa has been at the forefront of some of the path-breaking digital interventions such as mobile money. Africa can lead the way again, in digital agriculture.

Conversation with

Éliane Ubalijoro, CEO, CIFOR-ICRAF



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Rachel McKendry, Executive
Director of Discovery, Wellcome
Trust

Dr. Dino Rech, CEO Audere,
CEO/Founder Audere Africa

Regis Rugemanshuro, CEO,
RSSB

**Moderated by: Dr. Bilal
Mateen**, Chief AI Officer, PATH

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Technology Unit, WTO

Dr. Prince K. Osei, Lead
Scientist & Director, Quantum
Leap Africa

Moderated by: Esther Kunda,
Director General, Emerging
Technologies, MINICT, Rwanda

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Director, The Africa Food
Systems Forum

Shalini Unnikrishnan,
Managing Director & Senior
Partner, Boston Consulting
Group

Stewart Collis, Senior Program
Officer, Digital Solutions,
Agricultural Development, Bill &
Melinda Gates Foundation

Moderated by: Antoine Sebera,
Government, Chief Innovation
Officer, RISA

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17.00 - 19.00

Cultural Soiree

A cocktail reception immersed in culture and entertainment.

[MH2 & MH3 | Kigali Convention Center](#)

Thematic areas



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The programme is formed around 7 thematic areas to guide dialogue and collaboration:



People

Jobs, Skills, and Talent
Mobility in the Global AI
Economy



Infrastructure

Barriers to Adoption
and Building Blocks for
the Future



Data

A Strategic Imperative
for Adoption, Equity,
and Sovereignty





This material is distributed by Yorktown Solutions, LLC on behalf of the Rwanda Development Board (RDB.)
Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.