



Global AI Summit On Africa

📍 Kigali, Rwanda
3-4 April 2025

Programme

Thursday 3 April

08.00 - 08.40

Welcome coffee

09.30 - 10.30

Opening Ceremony

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: Video: Welcome to GAIS Africa 2025

Conversation with

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

Hon. Paula Ingabire, Minister of 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

11.00 - 12.15

Leading in the Age of AI

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.

MC

Zain Verjee, Founder & CEO, theZVG

Welcome Remarks

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

Remarks

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

Remarks

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

Video: Africa's AI Moment

Conversation with

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

Hon. Musalia Mudavadi EGH, Prime Cabinet Secretary & Cabinet Secretary for Foreign & Diaspora Affairs

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

12.15 - 14.30

Lunch

A standing networking lunch will be served from 12.15pm to 14.30pm

14.30 - 15.30

AI for Competitiveness through Global 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, Cassava Technologies

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

Moderated by: Kendra L. Gaither, President, US-Africa Business Center, US Chamber of Commerce

Data: A Strategic Imperative for Adoption, 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

AI for All: African Youth Voices Shaping the Future

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, Klima360

Chinasa T. Okolo, Fellow, The Brookings Institution

Moderated by: Fiona Muthoni Naringwa, Media Personality

Closing remarks

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

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

Hon. Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana, Minister of Health, Rwanda

Mitchell Baker, Chairwoman, Mozilla Foundation

Rachel McKendry, Executive Director of Discovery, Wellcome Trust

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

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

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

Aisha Walcott-Bryant, Head, Google Research Africa

Emmanuelle Ganne, Chief of Digital Trade & Frontier Technology Unit, WTO

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

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

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

Hon. Samuel Nartey George, Minister of Communications & Digitalisation, Ghana

Amath Pathé Sene, Managing Director, The Africa Food Systems Forum

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

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

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

17.00 - 19.00

Cultural Soiree

A cocktail reception immersed in culture and entertainment.

08.30 - 09.15

Welcome coffee

09.30 - 10.30

Financing Africa’s AI Ambitions

Without substantial improvements in digital infrastructure, Africa risks falling further behind in the global AI race. This means investing in state-of-the-art data centres, expanding cloud computing capabilities, and ensuring reliable and fast communication networks. Financing Africa’s AI journey will require ambitious foresight and public, private, and philanthropic collaboration.

Conversation with

- Serah Makka**, Africa Executive Director, One
- Dr. Donald Kaberuka**, Managing Partner & Chairman of the Board of Directors, SouthBridge
- Dr. Vera Songwe**, Founder & Chair, Liquidity & Sustainability Facility
- Hon. Tesi Rusagara**, Minister of State, Resource Mobilisation & Public Investment, Rwanda
- Chido Munyati**, Head of Africa, World Economic Forum
- Moderated by: Magdi Amin**, Managing Partner, African Renaissance Ventures

Signing of MoU

Establishing and Sustaining the Rwanda AI Scaling Hub

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

A robust talent ecosystem is a necessary condition for Africa to fully engage in the global AI economy. What are the most effective strategies for building a productive and globally competitive workforce in Africa in the AI era?

Conversation with

- Hon. Prof. Adolf Faustine Mkenda**, Minister of Education, Science & Technology, Tanzania
- Hon. Joseph Nsengimana**, Minister of Education, Rwanda
- Emre Varol**, Founder & CEO, Africa To Silicon Valley
- Isabel Neto**, Practice Manager for Digital Development in Eastern & Southern Africa, World Bank
- Rodwell Mangisi**, Director, Digital Economy Pan African Programs, Mastercard Foundation
- Wei Liang**, Vice President, China Academy of Information & Communications Technology
- Moderated by: Daniel Ikenobe**, CEO, Elevate Africa

GenAI Gaps and Opportunities for Inclusive Development

Africa’s diversity, encompassing 54 countries and over 1,000 languages, presents a unique landscape for the development of generative AI models and the deployment of innovative solutions. However, the concentration of AI model development in a few companies and countries raises significant concerns about inclusion and equitable distribution of benefits.

Spotlight Talk

Prof. Vukosi Marivate, Professor of Computer Science & ABSA UP Chair of Data Science, University of Pretoria

Conversation with

- Hon. Cina Lawson**, Minister of Digital Economy & Digital Transformation, Togo
- Annie Hartley**, Professor, EPFL School of Computer & Communication Sciences
- Alex Okosi**, Managing Director Africa, Google
- Shikoh Gitau**, Founder & CEO, Qhala Emmanuel Lubanzadio, Africa Lead, Open AI
- Moderated by: Zameer Brey**, Deputy Director, Technology Diffusion

11.00 - 12.00

Infrastructure: Barriers to Adoption and Building Blocks for the Future

Despite Africa’s abundant resources, inadequate digital infrastructure remains to be a significant challenge in realizing its AI ambitions—from power to connectivity to the cost of data and devices. Similarly, there is current demand to train and scale AI solutions in Africa, which requires access to affordable computing.

Keynote

H.E. Veronica M. Nduva, Secretary General, East African Community

Conversation with

- Ahmed El Beheiry**, CEO, Cassava AI
- Hon. Boukar Michel**, Ministre d’Etat, Ministre des Télécommunications et de l’Economie Numérique, Tchad
- Amb. Claver Gatete**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- Charity Wayua**, Director, IBM Research Africa
- Hassan Jaber**, CEO, Axian Telecom
- Bocar Ba**, CEO, SAMENA Telecommunications Council
- Moderated by: Johan Harvard**, AI Advisory Global Lead, Tony Blair Institute

Reimagining Trust and Safety to Drive Equity and Inclusion

As AI systems increasingly influence societal structures, ensuring trust and safety is critical to fostering equity and inclusion. This panel will explore strategies for embedding ethical considerations, mitigating bias, and ensuring AI systems serve diverse populations equitably. Experts will discuss the role of governance, policy, and industry collaboration in building AI frameworks that enhance trust and safeguard marginalized communities.

Conversation with

- Dr. Rachel Adams**, CEO, Global Center on AI Governance
- Jennifer Louie**, AI Trust & Safety Expert, UNDP
- Hon. Minette Libom Li Likeng**, Ministre des Postes et Télécommunications, Cameroon
- Dr. Joy Buolamwini**, Founder, Algorithmic Justic League
- Dr. Salma Abbasi**, Chairman & CEO, eWorldwide Group
- Moderated by: Stephanie Ifayemi**, Senior Managing Director of Policy, Partnership on AI

AI in Action: African Success Stories Transforming Industries, Economies and Societies

Africa is increasingly recognized for its culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, with AI companies emerging across the continent and covering diverse sectors. These companies are not only serving domestic markets but are also making significant inroads internationally. The potential for growth and scale in AI-driven businesses is immense, and African entrepreneurs are at the forefront of this transformation.

Spotlight Talk

Karim Beguir, Co-Founder & CEO, Instadeep

Conversation with

- Audace Niyonkuru**, CEO, Digital Umuganda
- Natalie Jabangwe**, CEO, Timbuktoo Foundation
- Tonee Ndungu**, Founder & CEO, Tribbe Nation & Kytabu
- Celina Lee**, CEO & Co-founder, Zindi
- Mike MOMPI**, Managing Partner, Enza Capital
- Moderated by: Nima Elmi**, VP, Strategy & Policy, Circle and CEO & Co-Founder, The Africa Dialogues

12.00 - 13.30

Lunch

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13.30 - 14.30

Building Africa's Compute Capacity—Sustainably and Equitably

As the demand for advanced AI applications grows, building the necessary compute capacity is critical for Africa's technological advancement and economic growth. However, developing this infrastructure sustainably and equitably presents unique challenges and opportunities.

Spotlight Talk

Alex Tsado, Co-Founder, Ahura AI

Conversation with

Bilha Ndirangu, CEO, Great Carbon Valley
Sarvesh Suri, Regional Industry Director, Infrastructure & Natural Resources Africa, IFC

Carter Tian, Head of MEA Regional Solution Architect, Alibaba Cloud

H.E. Rose Pola Pricemou, Ministre des Postes, des Télécommunications et de l'Économie Numérique, Guinea

Moderated by: Akua Gyekye, Director of Government Affairs Africa, Microsoft

A Global View: Reimagining Success in the Creative Economy through AI

There's no doubt the advent of AI-powered tools has sparked a new revolution of ideation, imagination, and innovation, and the future of work is challenging our traditional notions of creativity and reshaping the skills required for success. AI tools are becoming increasingly sophisticated in generating creative content, yet they're simultaneously creating a higher demand for human creativity. Whilst this paradox is reshaping the skills landscape in unexpected ways, it presents both unprecedented challenges and extraordinary opportunities.

Conversation with

George Gachara, Board Chair & Founding Partner, Heva

Malik Shaffy Lizinde, Co-Founder & Lead Strategist, the Kigali Multimedia Hub/63 Inc.

Niles Luther, Composer-Cellist & Art Music Innovator, Composer in Residence at Brooklyn Museum

Tyler Bowa, Director of Creative Strategy & Innovation, The Brief / BANANAI

Moderated by: Joan Mazimhaka, Co-Founder & CEO, Illume Creative Studio

Artificial Intelligence: The Next Frontier in Digital Public Infrastructure

AI is revolutionizing digital public infrastructure in Africa, enhancing efficiency, security, and accessibility. From digital identity and payments to data governance and public services, AI-driven solutions can unlock new opportunities for inclusive growth. This session explores how Africa can harness AI to build resilient, people-centered digital ecosystems.

Spotlight Talk

Israel Bimpe, CEO, Irembo

Conversation with

Sanjay Jain, Director, Digital Public Infrastructure, Gates Foundation

Josephine Mukesha, Director General, NIDA

Fatmata Lovetta Sesay, UNDP Resident Representative, Rwanda

Dr. Conrad Tucker, Director, CMU-Africa

Snehar Shah, CEO, IXAfrica Data Centres
Moderated by: Kunal Walia, Partner & Lead Digital & Data Practice, Dalberg

14.45 - 15.45

AI Governance and Africa's positioning within the global context

As AI continues to shape economies and societies worldwide, effective governance becomes crucial to ensure that AI technologies are developed and deployed safely, inclusively, and responsibly. For Africa, establishing robust AI governance frameworks is essential not only to mitigate the risks, but also to position the continent as a significant player in the global AI landscape.

MC

Zain Verjee, Founder & CEO, theZVG

Remarks

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations & Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group

Keynote

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

Conversation with

Lacina Kone, Director General & CEO, Smart Africa

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

Rebecca Finlay, CEO, Partnership on AI

Kate Kallot, Founder & CEO, Amini

John Omo, Secretary General, Africa Telecommunications Union

Moderated by: Zain Verjee, Founder & CEO, theZVG

Video: GAISAfrica 2025 Highlights

Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence and Closing remarks

Crystal Rugege, Managing Director, Rwanda Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution



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