AFRICA POLITICAL OUTLOOK

2027 SYSTEMS

BRUSSELS

18 & 19 MARCH 2027

AFRICA POLITICAL OUTLOOK

5TH EDITION

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OUR SPEAKERS SINCE 2023

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Since 2023, Africa Political Outlook has convened an exceptional community of heads of state and government, parliamentarians, multilateral leaders, and business tycoons to confront pressing global challenges and help define the governance paradigms of tomorrow.



H.E. Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera
6th President
Republic of Malawi



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



Ms. Melissa Fleming
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations



H.E. Albert Pahimi Padacke
Former Prime Minister of Tchad



H.E. Serap Güler
Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, Federal Republic of Germany



H.E. Gilbert F. Houngbo
Director-General, International Labour Organization; Former Prime Minister of Togo



H.E. Alexander DE CROO
Former prime minister of Belgium, General Administrator for the United Nations Development Programme



H.E. Rania AL-MASHAT
Under-Secretary-General of the UN & Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)



H.E. Ahmedou OULD-ABDALLAH
Former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa



H.E. Ismaël Nabé
Minister of Planning, International Cooperation and Development, Republic of Guinea



Hon. Mulambo H. Haimbe
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Zambia



Hon. Younous Omarjee
Vice-President, European Parliament



Professor Daron Acemoglu
2024 Nobel Prize in Economics

Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)



Dr. Bärbel Kofler
Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development in Germany



Mr. Tony O. Elumelu
Founder and Chairman, Tony Elumelu Foundation; Chairman, Heirs Holdings



Apostle Grace Lubega Matovu
Founder and General Overseer Phaneroo Ministries International



Mr. Youssou N'Dour
Senegalese artist, Founder of the Fondation Youssou N'Dour, Former Minister of Tourism of Senegal



H.E. Barry Faure
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Republic of Seychelles



Mr. Pascal Agboyibor
Managing Partner, ASAFO & CO



Ms. Isabelle Herbert-Collet
Vice President, Customer Knowledge, Orange Innovation



Mr. Olivier Buyoya
Regional Director for West Africa, International Finance Corporation (IFC)



Mr. Jean Van Wetter
Director General, Belgian Development Agency (Enabel)



Ms. Thouraya Triki
Director of International Partners, European Investment Bank (EIB)



H.E. Moses Vilakati
Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development, African Union



Amb. Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve
Director for Africa
Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium



Hon. Hildegard Bentele
Member of the European Parliament; Vice Chair of the Development Committee



Ms. Sandra Kassab
Director of the Africa Department, French Development Agency

ABOUT AP

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Our mission

Shaping the future of governance in Africa. Amplifying the continent's voice in major global dialogues.

An Integrated Platform for Governance, Leadership and Strategic Foresight

APO is a leading strategic platform dedicated to advancing governance, strengthening institutions, and shaping the future of Africa's engagement with the world.

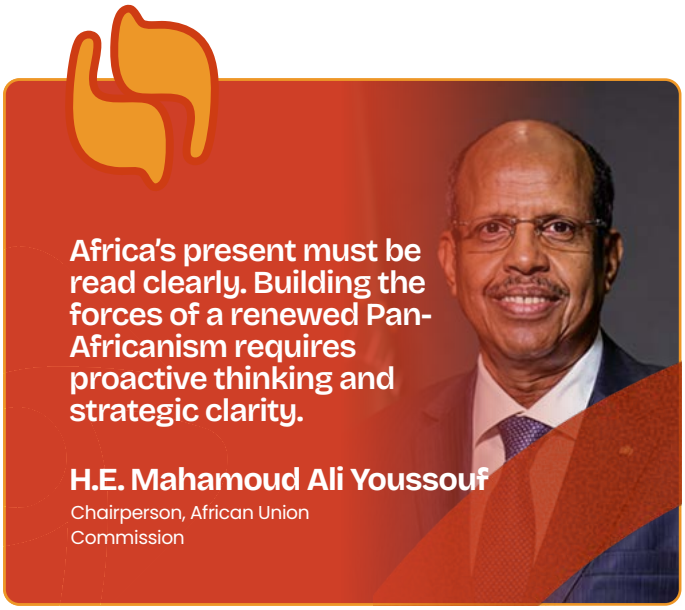
Established in response to the profound political, economic, technological, and geopolitical transformations redefining the twenty-first century, APO serves as a space where ideas, leadership, and action converge. It brings together political decision-makers, diplomats, multilateral institutions, private sector leaders, academics, researchers, and civil society actors to examine the structural forces shaping Africa's trajectory and to contribute to the development of forward-looking solutions.

At its core, APO is driven by a simple conviction :

the challenges facing Africa can no longer be understood through fragmented approaches. Questions of state legitimacy, economic transformation, technological innovation, social cohesion, security, and international cooperation are deeply interconnected. They form part of a broader governance ecosystem that requires systemic thinking, institutional coherence, and long-term strategic vision.

As both a think tank and a catalyst for action, APO combines high-level convening, policy-oriented research, leadership development, and multi-stakeholder collaboration to strengthen the institutions, ideas, and partnerships required to support sustainable transformation across the continent.

Through its annual Summit, flagship reports, governance initiatives, and year-round engagement, APO contributes to the emergence of a more resilient, prosperous, and influential Africa—one capable not only of adapting to global change, but of helping shape it.



Africa's present must be read clearly. Building the forces of a renewed Pan-Africanism requires proactive thinking and strategic clarity.

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

OUR AREAS OF ACTION

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Our Annual Convening

The annual Africa Political Outlook Summit serves as a premier platform for dialogue among heads of state and government, ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, multilateral institutions, private sector leaders, academics, and civil society actors. By bringing together diverse perspectives, APO facilitates the exchanges necessary to address complex governance challenges and identify shared pathways for action.



APO Prize for Leadership, Governance and Impact

The Africa Political Outlook Award honours the leaders, institutions, and initiatives shaping Africa's future those driving governance reform, peacebuilding, economic transformation, and social progress across the continent. Presented annually at the APO Summit, the Award recognises excellence in public leadership and spotlights the bold, innovative approaches defining Africa's most consequential breakthroughs. More than recognition, it is a mandate elevating models of leadership that strengthen institutions, demand accountability, and deliver lasting impact.



APO Future Leaders Fellowship

The APO Future Leaders Fellowship is Africa's premier leadership programme for the next generation of public decision-makers. Anchored in academic rigour, policy immersion, and high-level mentorship, the Fellowship sharpens the analytical, diplomatic, and strategic acumen that tomorrow's leaders need to govern in an interconnected world. Fellows engage directly with policymakers, institutions, and practitioners across Africa and beyond contributing to live debates on governance, economic transformation, diplomacy, innovation, and sustainable development. At its core, the programme embodies a single conviction: **strong institutions are built by exceptional leaders and the time to invest in them is now.**



APO Policy Clusters

APO Policy Clusters serve as the organisation's engine for strategic innovation convening policymakers, researchers, and practitioners year-round to forge evidence-based recommendations on the systems shaping Africa's future.

Each cluster operates at the intersection of governance transformation and practical impact, addressing institutional resilience, peacebuilding, economic sovereignty, industrial transformation, technological innovation, and leadership development. The result: actionable solutions designed to strengthen governance at every level local, national, and continental.

Together, the APO Award, Future Leaders Fellowship, and Policy Clusters pursue a single, defining ambition: cultivating the leadership, ideas, and institutions Africa's long-term transformation demands.



APO- MIPIEG
Mandela Initiative
for Policy Innovation & Efficient Governance

APO- CSP
Annan Initiative
for Collective security & Plurilateralism

APO- NGIP
Nosser Initiative
for New Growth and Inclusive Prosperity

APO- YISSIAI
Yazami Initiative
for Science Innovation & Artificial Intelligence

APO- CIHECCI
Chimamanda Initiative
for Heritage, Diaspora & Cultural Creative Industries

"Together, the African Union and the European Union represent 40% of votes at the United Nations. When we join forces, we can make a difference."

H.E. Serap Güler
Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany



OUR IMPACT SINCE 2023

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Since its inaugural edition in 2023, the Africa Political Outlook Summit has steadily established itself as one of the continent's most influential platforms for high-level political dialogue, policy innovation, and the building of pan-African coalitions.

01
Head of State

+1500
Participants

05
Heads of government

+60
Companies

+60
Ministers and government decision-makers

+500
Articles in the international press

+30
Partners organizations

+200
Partners organizations

+50
Countries represented



When misleading narratives dominate, they distort policymaking, investment, and opportunity. But when integrity and African agency define information spaces, possibility expands.

Melissa Fleming
United Nations Under-Secretary-General

APO 2026 BY THE NUMBERS

Speakers Diversity to inform the debates

+70
Speakers & Moderators

15+
Ministers & Governmental decision-makers

15+
Sessions

Digital Reach & Social Media Impact

7868
Total followers

+22 M
Impressions across all Social platforms

+857K
Facebook views since February

#APO 2026

Instagram's top 6 performing posts	Views
Apostle Grace Lubega Matovu	371,000
Saliem Fakir	71,000
Chidi Blyden	55,600
FYNICC (Fondation Youssou N'Dour)	41,000
Amb. Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve	38,400
Olivier Buyoya	37,400

Newsletter

+20
Newsletters

+100K
Total number of newsletters sent

46%
Average open rate

Press

+20
Accredited Journalists

+35
Articles Published since the end of February

Press & Social Media Screenshots





L- President Lazarus Chakwera, R- Jerry Fisayo-Bambi, Euronews Brussels studio, 26, March 2026. · Euronews

The former president pushed back against criticism that his reform agenda fell short, arguing that structural change takes time and often clashes with immediate public expectations.

He pointed to legislative efforts aimed at strengthening the fight against corruption while acknowledging the political difficulty of delivering long-term transformation in a challenging economic climate.



younous omarjee @younousomarjee · Mar 27

Heureux de participer et d'adresser un discours pour l'ouverture de l' @APO2026_, aux côtés de S.E. Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera @LAZARUSCHAKWERA, 6ème Président de la République du Malawi, l'Honorable Mulambo H. Haimbe @ZambiaMFAIC, Ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la

Show more

10 19 485



Ali Yakoub Mahamoud · Abonné

S.E. Amb. Représentant permanent de l'union africaine auprès d...

2 sem. ·

La Mission permanente de l'Union africaine auprès de l'Union européenne salue la tenue à Bruxelles, à l'AfricaMuseum, de la 4e édition du Sommet « Africa Political Outlook – Forces du futur ». Ce Grand Dialogue sur le « Grand réalignement », organisé à l'AfricaMuseum, met en lumière les efforts de l'Union africaine pour faire de l'Agenda 2063 et de la ZLECAf des leviers concrets de souveraineté et d'intégration continentale. Il rappelle la nécessité d'un multilatéralisme plus représentatif et plus équitable, ainsi que d'un partenariat UA-UE fondé sur des intérêts partagés et des chaînes de valeur co-construites. La Mission souligne le rôle central de la jeunesse africaine et de la Diaspora, sixième région de l'Union, dans l'investissement productif, l'innovation et la diplomatie du continent. L'Union africaine réaffirme son engagement à travailler avec ses États membres, ses partenaires et les think tanks comme Africa Political Outlook afin de traduire cette vision en résultats tangibles pour les peuples africains

AFRICA POLITICAL OUTLOOK BRUSSELS BELGIUM 2026

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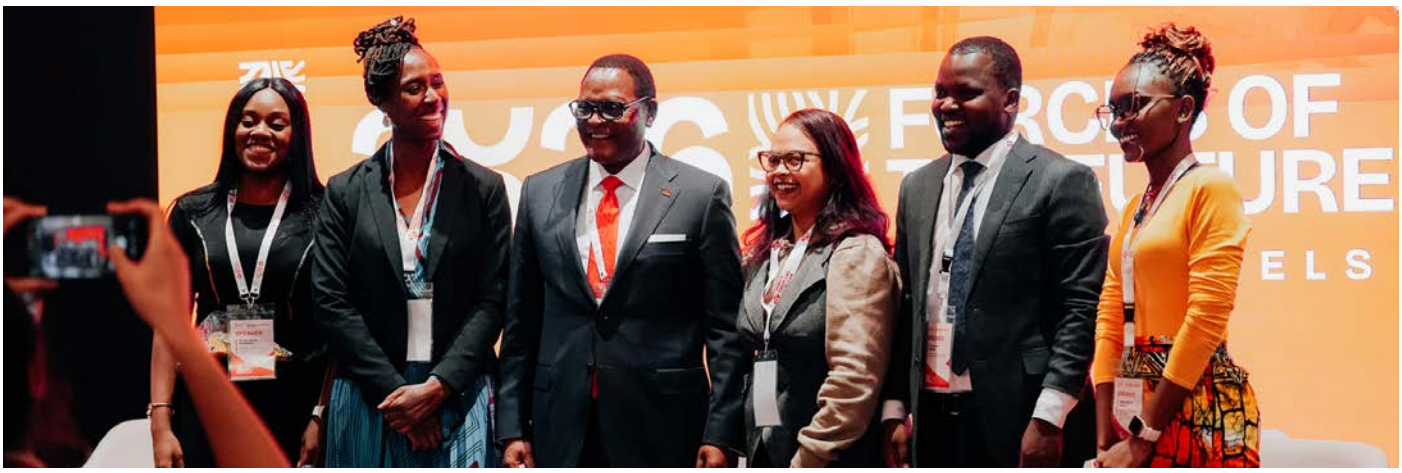
31 3 commentaires · 2 republications

Join us in shaping the future of African governance








OF
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ELS











2025 SYSTEMS

The structures that shape Nations

AFRICA POLITICAL OUTLOOK

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Nations are not born from declarations. They are constructed through systems



Political authority, fiscal architecture, educational institutions, industrial capacity, technological infrastructure, and shared identity are not merely instruments of governance. They are the constitutive structures through which societies organise collective life, generate legitimacy, coordinate action, and sustain development across generations.

This conviction lies at the heart of APO 2027.



From what is changing to what produces change

After four editions examining governance transitions, geopolitical realignments, and the forces accelerating change across the continent, the fifth Africa Political Outlook Summit marks a decisive intellectual evolution. The question shifts from what is changing to what produces change. From outcomes to architecture. From symptoms to structure.

Africa's future will be determined not only by the quality of its leadership or the strength of its economies, but by the effectiveness of the systems that underpin them.



Systems as the backbone of Nationhood

Systems are not peripheral to nation formation : they constitute its structural backbone. Institutional systems shape incentives, constrain behaviour, and enable large-scale cooperation conditions indispensable to stable nationhood. Durable nations emerge not from sentiment alone, but from the gradual alignment of political authority, economic coordination, social integration, and symbolic order. History confirms it: pre-colonial Africa was not institutionally absent, but organized differently. From the centralized states of Asante and Oyo to the deliberative governance of Igbo and Somali societies, African polities developed sophisticated systems of authority, exchange, and legitimacy long before colonial rule. Colonialism then disrupted these structures, redirecting institutions toward extraction and leaving behind a bifurcated state in which formal systems coexist with fragmented customary authority. Today's governance challenges cannot be understood apart from that legacy.

The interconnected challenges of our Era

Africa's defining challenge is no longer to fix institutions one by one, but to align the systems that sustain the state. Institutional resilience, fiscal capacity, industrial transformation, demographic change, technological innovation, and social cohesion do not evolve separately; they rise or fall together. Fiscal systems finance the state and bind territory, education forms capable citizens, industry expands markets and administrative reach, and technology now shapes competitiveness, authority, and sovereignty itself. When these systems work in concert, legitimacy depens and development accelerates; when they fragment, progress stalls and nationhood remains unfinished.



The 202 Summit



APO 2027 will convene heads of States, political leaders, policymakers, multilateral institutions, business executives, scholars, and civil society actors to address the defining question of Africa's governance frontier: **How do you build systems that work, systems that are legitimate, coherent, and capable of sustaining prosperity, stability, and sovereignty over the long term?**

Key topics

Political Systems
Examining the institutions, processes, and mechanisms through which authority is exercised, legitimacy is maintained, and public trust is strengthened.

Fiscal and Monetary Systems
Exploring public finance, taxation, resource mobilisation, debt sustainability, and the financial foundations of effective statehood.

Educational Systems
Assessing the role of education in human capital development, citizenship formation, knowledge production, and long-term national competitiveness.

Industrial and Economic Systems
Analysing the structures that drive productive transformation, economic diversification, regional integration, and sustainable growth.
Technological and Innovation Systems

Urban and Infrastructure Systems
Exploring how cities, connectivity, energy, and public infrastructure shape economic development, territorial integration, and state capacity.

Cultural and Identity Systems
Understanding the role of belonging, citizenship, collective memory, and social cohesion in building resilient and inclusive political communities.

A Systems Approach to Transformation
At a time when governance challenges increasingly transcend traditional policy boundaries, APO 2027 advances a systems-based approach to understanding Africa's transformation.



Each of us is limited, but our union creates a synergy that is not. Nothing exists without us.

H.E. Dr. Lazarus Chakwera

6th President
Republic of Malawi

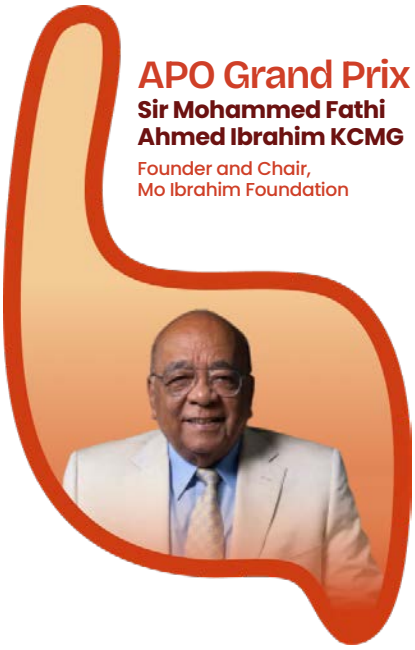
THE AP LEADERSHIP PRIZE

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Africa's progress is not a single narrative. It is a convergence of systems: political structures that consolidate authority without capturing it; economic frameworks that generate sovereignty, not dependence; educational and cultural institutions that make belonging legible and citizenship meaningful. The APO Award honours those who build and strengthen these systems at every scale, in every sector, across the continent.

Our 2026 Awardees



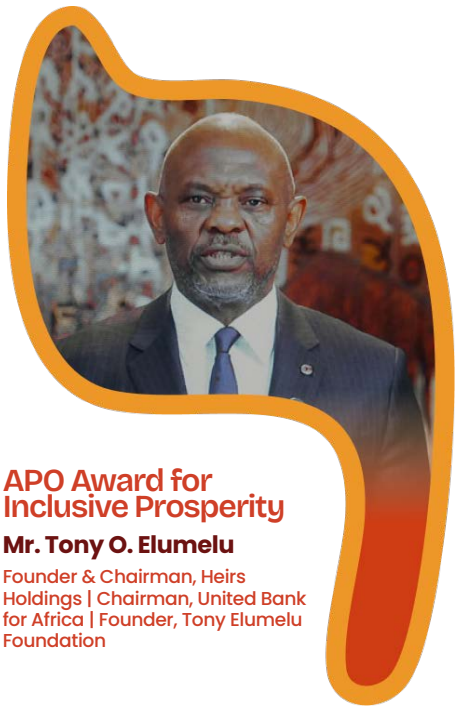
APO Grand Prix

Sir Mohammed Fathi Ahmed Ibrahim KCMG

Founder and Chair,
Mo Ibrahim Foundation

Mo Ibrahim receives the APO Grand Prix for a lifetime devoted to peace, accountability, and governance transformation across Africa. Through the Ibrahim Index of African Governance the continent's most authoritative institutional benchmark he has given policymakers the evidence to reform, leaders the tools to anticipate crises, and Africa the means to speak with sovereign credibility on the world stage.

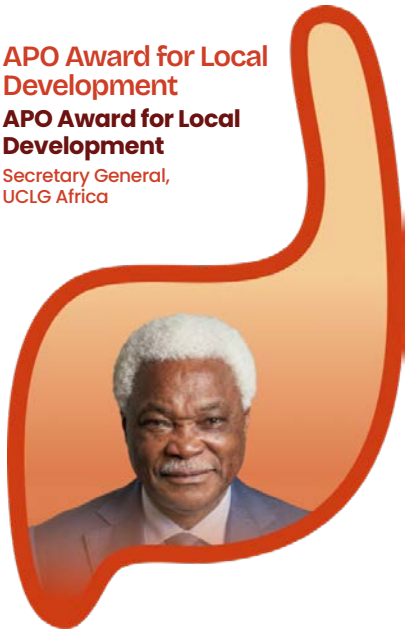
Tony O. Elumelu receives the APO Award for Inclusive Prosperity for redefining what African-owned development looks like. His philosophy of Africapitalism enacted through the Tony Elumelu Foundation has reached 27,000+ entrepreneurs across all 54 African nations, generated $4.2 billion in revenue, and created over 1.5 million jobs. He does not alleviate poverty. He dismantles it.



APO Award for Inclusive Prosperity

Mr. Tony O. Elumelu

Founder & Chairman, Heirs Holdings | Chairman, United Bank for Africa | Founder, Tony Elumelu Foundation



APO Award for Local Development

APO Award for Local Development

Secretary General,
UCLG Africa

Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi is honoured for four decades of leadership at the frontline of territorial governance. As the voice of local governments representing 350 million African citizens, he has built African unity from the ground up from urban renewal in Douala to the landmark Africités Summits. His life's work proves that the continent's transformation is ultimately won at the local level.



OUR PARTNERS SINCE 2023

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Main Partners

African Union

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG

Kofi Annan Foundation

Strategic partners

orange

International Trade Centre

ASAFO & Co.
Africa's International Law Firm

Networks Partners

FONDATION YOUSSOU NDOUR POUR LES INDUSTRIES CULTURELLES ET CRÉATIVES

BRUSSELS AFRICA HUB

Africalia
CREATIVITY IS LIFE

CREDENDO

ifa

Search for Common Ground

afronex

FINS

R

oneworld

ecdpm

EDFI

YOUTH DEMOCRACY COHORT

European Partnership for Democracy

ITUMÒ

Enabel

Phaneroo

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

ACET

ERICSSON

Africa Faith & Justice Network

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AFRICA
BUILD THE DIFFERENCE

publications

OECD

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MONIBA FOUNDATION

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation

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CONSEIL CONGOLAIS DE LA BATTERIE

TANGER MED PORT AUTHORITY

Mo Ibrahim FOUNDATION

ICESCO

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UNITED NATIONS

European Commission

NDI
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE

AMCI

THE TONY ELUMELU FOUNDATION

MANSA BANK

CIFF
CHILDREN'S INVESTMENT FUND FOUNDATION

PARLEMENT BRUXELLOIS
BRUSSELS PARLEMENT

AFRICA EUROPE FOUNDATION

CORUS

INFLUENCE WATCH

European Investment Bank

VR ADVISORS

European Parliament

PARTNER WITH US

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Partnering to Strengthen the Systems that Shape Nations

> The challenges confronting Africa in the twenty-first century are increasingly complex, interconnected, and transnational. Addressing them requires collaboration between governments, multilateral institutions, private sector actors, foundations, academic institutions, and civil society.

Africa Political Outlook provides a platform through which these actors can engage, collaborate, and contribute to the development of stronger governance systems across the continent.

By partnering with APO, organisations become part of a growing ecosystem committed to advancing strategic dialogue, policy innovation, leadership development, and institutional transformation.





Why Partner with APO?



Strategic Visibility

Engage with a high-level community of decision-makers, policymakers, business leaders, diplomats, and experts shaping Africa's future.



Thought Leadership

Contribute to influential conversations on governance, economic transformation, technology, diplomacy, and sustainable development.



Institutional Partnerships

Build meaningful relationships with governments, international organisations, development partners, academic institutions, and private sector actors.



Policy Impact

Support initiatives, research, and programmes designed to strengthen institutions and contribute to long-term governance transformation.



A Shared Commitment to Africa's Future

Africa Political Outlook is more than a convening platform. It is a community of leaders and institutions working to advance a more resilient, prosperous, and influential Africa.

Together, we can help strengthen the systems that shape nations and contribute to building the foundations of long-term transformation.

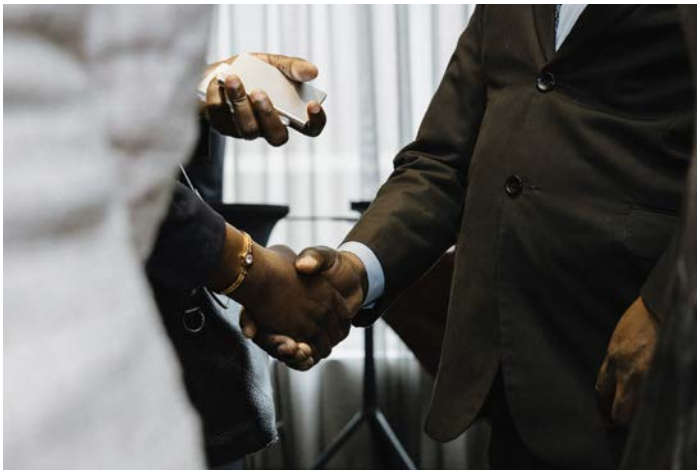

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FORCES OF
THE FUTURE
26 & 27 MARCH 2026
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AFRICA POLITICAL OUTLOOK

APO 2025

SYSTEMS

The structures that shape Nations

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