



AFRICA
POLITICAL
OUTLOOK



2026 FORCES OF THE FUTURE

26 & 27 MARCH 2026



BRUSSELS

AFRICA POLITICAL OUTLOOK
4th EDITION



**I : OUR SPEAKERS AND
COMMUNITY SINCE 2023**

**II : AFRICA POLITICAL
OUTLOOK**

III : OUR IMPACT SINCE 2023

**IV : APO 2025 : A LANDMARK
IN THE APO GROWTH**

V : FORCES OF THE FUTURE

VI : APO LEADERSHIP PRIZE

**VII : APO FUTURE LEADERS
FELLOWSHIP**

VIII : PARTNER WITH US

2026  **FORCES OF
THE FUTURE**
26 & 27 MARCH 2026  BRUSSELS

I. OUR SPEAKERS AND COMMUNITY SINCE 2023

A Platform for Africa's Most Influential Leaders



H.E. Moses VILAKATI

Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development, African Union



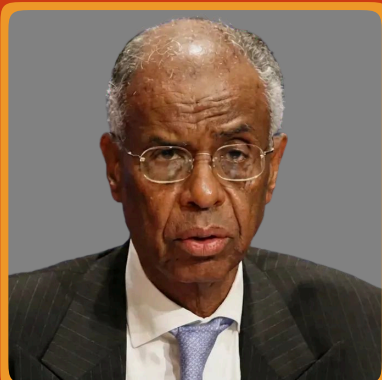
Hon. Younous OMARJEE

Vice-President of the European Parliament



H.E. Rania AL-MASHAT

Minister of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation for the Arab Republic of Egypt



H.E. Ahmedou OULD-ABDALLAH

Former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa



H.E. Albert Pahimi PADACKÉ

Former Prime Minister of Tchad



H.E. Alexander DE CROO

Former prime minister of Belgium, General Administrator for the United Nations Development Programme





Dr. Bärbel KOFLER

Parliamentary State Secretary to
the Federal Minister
for Economic Cooperation and
Development in Germany



Jean-Yves Ollivier

President,
Fondation Brazzaville



Hon. Charles GOERENS

Member of the European Parliament,
Former Luxembourg Minister for
Cooperation



Mathieu BRIENS

Deputy Managing Director for,
Africa European External Action
Service



Fiona HILL, CBE

Founder, Future Resilience
Forum and former Downing
Street Chief-of-Staff



Stefano PALMIERI

Vice-President of the Section for Economic
and Monetary Union and Economic and
Social Cohesion, European Economic and
Social Committee (EESC), Member of ACP-
EU Follow-up Committee



**H.E. Sylvie BAIPO-
TEMON**

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Central
African Republic



Hon. Myriam DOSSOU

Vice-President of the National Assembly
of Togo, former Minister of Youth and
Grassroot, and former Director General
of the National Health Insurance
Institute



Mahmoud BAH

Chief Operating Officer, Corus
International



Jean VAN WETTER

Managing Director of Enabel,
Belgian Development Agency



Hon. André FLAHAUT

Minister of State, Honorary
President of the House of
Representatives



Camilla BRUCKNER

Director of the UNDP Office in Brussels,
Representative of the UN System to
the European Union



Dr. Clarence MONIBA

President & Founder of the
Moniba Foundation



**H.E. Amb. Ronald
MICALLEF**

Maltese Ambassador to the
Republic of Ghana



**Hon. Lydia Mutyebele
NGOI**

Deputy Mayor of the City
of Brussels



**Georges-Louis
BOUCHEZ**

Senator for the Kingdom of Belgium
and Leader of the Reformist
Movement



**Bertin Mampaka
MANKAMBA**

President of the Brussels
Parliament



**Hon. Jan-Christoph
OETJEN**

Member of the European Parliament
and Co-President of RenewPAC
Europe

II. AFRICA POLITICAL OUTLOOK

A Strategic Platform for Africa's Political and Diplomatic Renaissance

Africa no longer stands on the fringes of diplomacy, global politics and governance.

The continent has emerged as the beating heart of the “**giant South**” that is writing a new page of reformed multilateralism: more inclusive, more just, and respectful of the sovereignty of nations. The emergence of our continent is not a distant projection, but a tangible reality anchored on Africa's three defining strengths: demographic power, geostrategic power and economic power. The Africa Political Outlook was launched with this vision: **a strategic platform to collectively shape the future of governance on the continent**

Since 2023, the APO brings together committed African and international experts, diplomats, and political and economic decision-makers to rethink governance models of the African continent. Serving as a laboratory of ideas and a catalyst for action, the Africa Political Outlook is a unique platform for encounters and dialogue, formulating the necessary responses to Africa's challenges, anticipating crises, and consolidating African democratic institutions by strengthening their resilience.



Africa, our new Africa, stands at the precipice of redefining its place in the global order. We are not merely adapting to change; we are driving it.

H.E. Moses Vilakati

African Union Commissioner for Agriculture Rural Development
Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment.



A think tank and catalyst for action, the Africa Political Outlook has positioned itself as an incubator for action and decision-making.



At its core, the Africa Political Outlook is not just another international summit, but a lever of change, moving beyond traditional models of development aid to foster ecosystems of genuine partnership, between Africa and the world, built on co-creation, shared responsibility, and mutual dignity. Through strategic intervention architectures, the Africa Political Outlook seeks to strengthen the resilience of African institutions and governments by driving innovative models of political, diplomatic, economic governance that tangibly transform the lives of citizens while strengthening Africa's normative and diplomatic power on the international stage.

Through a year-round engagement, the Africa Political Outlook brings together policymakers, political leaders, and international partners to collectively rethink Africa's future through actionable recommendations that feed into national and global roadmaps. With a clear ambition of shaping the future of governance in Africa and amplifying the continent's voice in major dialogues, the Africa Political Outlook also leverages its leadership program and innovative policy clusters to incubate the next generation of leaders and solutions, embodying a holistic commitment to Africa's growth and transformation.



III. OUR IMPACT SINCE 2023

Africa Political Outlook
Summit

Since its inaugural edition in 2023, the Africa Political Outlook Summit has steadily grown into one of the continent's most influential platforms for high-level political dialogue, policy innovation, and continental coalition-building.

+1000

Participants



+40

Businesses



04

Heads of
government



+50

Countries
represented



+50

Ministers and government
decision-makers



+400

Articles in the
international press



+20

Partners organizations



IV. APO 2025 : A LANDMARK IN THE APO GROWTH

New South, Old World: Africa's Voice in Global Transformation

The **2025 Africa Political Outlook Summit** marked a significant milestone in the platform's evolution, expanding to a two-day event in Brussels that combined plenary sessions with the launch of the APO Leaders' Breakfast.

Focused on "Unlocking Emergence: Innovative and Alternative Financing Blended Finance, Climate Finance and Capital Markets," the Summit fostered high-level dialogue on Africa's financial future.

Gathering over 300 participants, including 25 experts, 50+ decision-makers, 15 African ambassadors, and extensive media coverage, it boosted APO's global visibility. Against a backdrop of Africa's rising role in global governance, the third edition emphasized the continent's growing influence in reshaping geopolitics, governance, and economic opportunities under the theme "**New South, Old World.**"

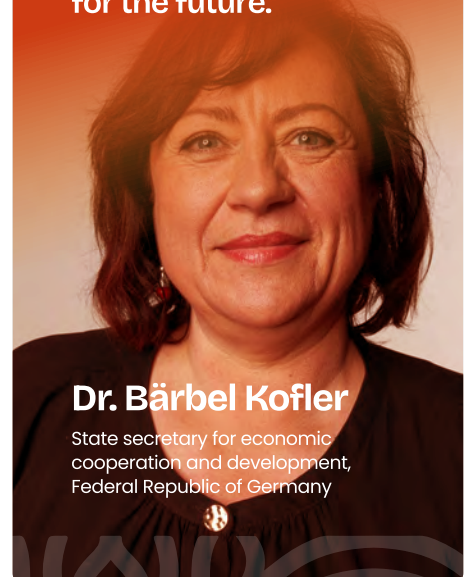
Leaders from over **40 countries** including ministers, diplomats, business executives, and civil society addressed six core themes: **global institutional reform for inclusive governance, enhancing Europe-Africa partnerships, advancing Africa's economic sovereignty, redefining development assistance around African priorities, leveraging technology for healthcare, and empowering African youth with AI and innovation.**

In addition to the Summit, **APO held high-level meetings with African leaders and diplomats—including the AU Commission President and key ambassadors from Kenya, Botswana, Egypt, and Côte d'Ivoire—to present its 2025 report and advance strategic recommendations, reinforcing its role as a trusted convener and catalyst for impactful policy dialogue.**

[Download our APO 2025 report](#)



The progress of Africa in terms of governance, technology, and economic power is remarkable. And their role in traditional global power structures is increasing. This puts them at an advantage for the future.



Dr. Bärbel Kofler

State secretary for economic cooperation and development, Federal Republic of Germany

V. FORCES OF THE FUTURE

The New Architecture of Africa's Emergence



The era when Africa was seen merely as a growth frontier is over. The narrative of "Africa, the continent of the future" gives way to an undeniable reality:

the African continent is forging its own emergence path, moving beyond inherited patterns of aid and resource rents (**raw materials, project aid**). This shift is taking place amid episodic democratic backsliding and pockets of conflict, demanding new institutional responses and strengthened cooperation.

Yet it remains driven by deep and irresistible structural forces reshaping economic, social, and political trajectories. For economic and political decision-makers, the challenge is no longer to "**develop**" Africa, but to align with its transformative dynamics. The Africa Political Outlook 2026 will decipher these driving forces of Africa's futures.

"Africa, the continent of the future" gives way to an undeniable reality



Demographic Forces

Africa's greatest asset is its population. With a median age of 19, **the continent will host nearly 2 billion people of working age by 2040, constituting the world's only growing labor supply.** This transition creates rising demand for housing, infrastructure, food, energy, and essential services. This connected and ambitious youth is not a burden, but the foundation upon which the continent's future prosperity will be built.



Urbanization Forces

Today, **40% of Africans live in cities, but this figure is expected to exceed 50% by 2040.** Lagos, Kinshasa, Nairobi, and Johannesburg are rapidly expanding metropolises, with urban growth driving immediate needs for housing, transportation, and essential services.



Technological Forces

Africa is rapidly closing its technological gap, driven by a hyper-connected youth and a digital revolution reshaping economic models. **With over 615 million mobile users and nearly 500 million internet subscribers, the continent leads globally in mobile payments, with transactions exceeding \$1 trillion annually.** This digital connectivity accelerates the adoption of innovative solutions, supported by more than 700 active tech hubs like Nairobi's "Silicon Savannah" and Lagos's "Yabacon Valley." Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence further amplify Africa's dynamic digital transformation.



Mining Forces

Africa holds **30%** of the world's mineral reserves, placing the continent at the center of the global energy transition. **This geological wealth includes 70% of global cobalt production, 90% of platinum group metals, and significant reserves of lithium, graphite, manganese, and rare earths essential for clean technologies.** Global demand for these critical minerals is expected to increase fivefold by 2050, creating an estimated \$16 trillion economic opportunity. For Africa, the goal is no longer just exporting raw materials, but mastering the value chain to turn this geological wealth into a lever for industrialization and strategic sovereignty.

The era when Africa was seen merely as a growth frontier is over.



Spiritual Forces

Africa is now recognized as a new global spiritual cradle. **The continent is redefining the world's relationship with faith, spirituality, and meaning an essential capital for navigating the complexities of the 21st century.**



Market Forces

According to McKinsey, African household consumption could reach **\$2.5 trillion by 2030**, positioning Africa as a key zone for distribution, trade, and services. This economic dynamism comes with prospects to increase continental GDP by **\$1.7 trillion by 2030** if growth matches that of the 2000–2010 decade.



Green Forces

Africa's green economy is on the cusp of an employment boom: **3.3 million jobs by 2030, 60% of which will be skilled positions.** The renewable energy sector, notably solar, will spearhead this growth, followed by electromobility and sustainable construction. The continent's vast solar potential can fuel its growth while contributing to global climate goals. By integrating sustainability into its development strategies, Africa uniquely has the opportunity to build a low-carbon, employment-rich growth model.



Integration Forces

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is the institutional force embodying the ambition of a united and prosperous Africa. By creating the world's largest single market, **with 1.7 billion consumers and a purchasing power of \$6.7 trillion by 2030, AfCFTA catalyzes industrialization.** It paves the way for regional value chains in key sectors such as automotive, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and agro-industry.



Imagination Forces

Africa's future is also shaped by a powerful intangible force: creativity. Cultural industries are booming and emerging as major catalysts: **African music is conquering the world, Nigerian cinema (Nollywood) ranks among the largest producers globally, and African fashion and design are reshaping international trends.** This new African narrative transcends clichés and renews the continent's image on the global stage.



Diaspora Forces

African diasporas serve as bridges of expertise, capital, and influence, formally recognized by the African Union as the **"Sixth Region."** They are structuring investment vehicles, skills-transfer networks, and economic diplomacy platforms to channel savings into productive assets. Ambitions include national and pan-African diaspora bonds (e.g., **targets up to \$500 million in Kenya**) while digitized remittances cut costs and increasingly fuel entrepreneurship and local investment.



Cultural and Heritage Forces

Cultural and Heritage Forces. **Africa's cultural capital and living heritage anchor identity, resilience, and diplomacy, making culture a core driver of inclusive development and social cohesion.** Leveraging heritage sites, festival economies (FESPACO, SIAO), and the digitization of cultural content boosts attractiveness and private investment, positioning culture as a strategic asset for growth, influence, and national sovereignty.



Today, we must see Africa for what it is: a continent of the future, a rising geopolitical power, and a key actor of the 21st century.

Hon. Younous Omarjee

Vice-President of the European Parliament



VI. APO LEADERSHIP PRIZE

Celebrating the Leaders Shaping
Africa's Future

The Africa Political Outlook Award for Leadership, Governance and Impact annually recognizes the actors, institutions, and initiatives that embody excellence, innovation, and commitment to governance and progress in Africa.

Awarded at the annual summit in Brussels, it celebrates those who, through their leadership and vision, make a decisive contribution to the continent's democratic, economic, and social transformation.

The APO Prize is awarded in three categories:

APO Grand Prix

awarded for contribution to peace. This category recognizes those engaged in peace efforts, because without peace, development cannot take root

APO Inclusive Prosperity Award

awarded to individuals committed to the economic influence of their country, the development of the private sector and the promotion of new growth paradigms in Africa.

2

APO Award for Local Development

awarded to individuals who have worked for grassroots development in their country, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations.

3

VII. APO FUTURE LEADERS FELLOWSHIP

Forcing the next generation of african governance leaders

The APO Future Leaders Fellowship is a premier incubator designed to empower Africa's next generation of visionary leaders in governance, public policy, and societal transformation.

The program cultivates leaders with competence, character, and compassion, committed to Africa's inclusive and sustainable prosperity.

Fellows receive intensive, cutting-edge training across macroeconomics, diplomacy, AU-EU relations, justice, digital innovation, climate governance, gender equity, trade, regional integration, and AfCFTA. The program situates participants in key global decision-making hubs—Addis Ababa, Brussels, and Doha—offering direct engagement with seasoned policymakers and experts.

Annually, **20 emerging leaders aged 30 to 45 are competitively selected based on leadership potential, public sector commitment, and impact in priority areas.** This focused cohort benefits from tailored mentorship and builds an elite network to drive governance innovation across Africa. Graduates return equipped with transformative knowledge, cross-border networks, and leadership skills to influence policy, navigate complex landscapes, and represent Africa globally.

Beyond technical expertise, the Fellowship fosters a global community of changemakers dedicated to principled, impactful governance and shaping Africa's future.

The 2026 edition will serve as launch for the first cohort of this program.



The rise of the New South is not a trend. It's a structural transformation

H.E. Dr. Rania Al-Mashat

Egypt's Minister of Planning,
Economic Development and International
Cooperation

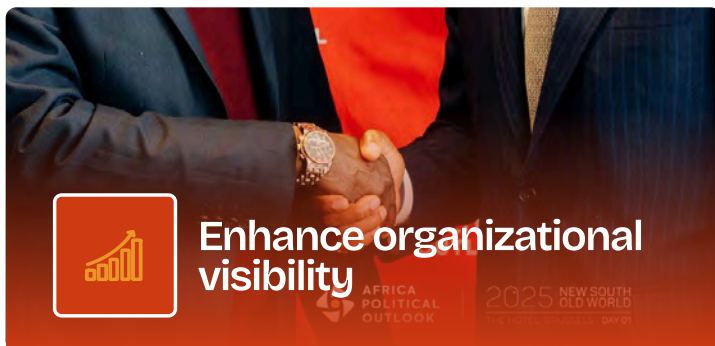


VIII. PARTNER WITH US

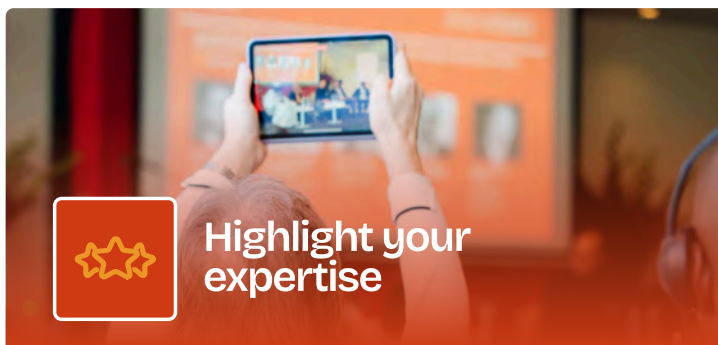
Join the Movement, partnering for Africa's Future

Becoming a partner of the Africa Political Outlook underscores your dedication to shaping robust and impactful strategies for Africa's economic, social, political, and diplomatic governance.

Why Partner with the Africa Political Outlook?



Establish your organization as a prominent contributor to Africa's progress and position yourself as a thought leader in governance and development.



Address priority topics of critical importance to Africa's future and showcase your unique expertise

Partnering with the Africa Political Outlook not only elevates your profile but amplifies your organization's influence, positioning you as a vital force in driving transformative change on the continent.

The Africa Political Outlook provides an unparalleled platform to forge meaningful connections with thought leaders, policymakers, and industry pioneers. It fosters collaborations and partnerships that catalyze shared opportunities and mutual growth.

Enabel  **Fondation Brazzaville** 

 **CORUS**

CEPS

 **ascame**

 **inaet**
International Network of African Energy Thinkers

ecdpm

POLICY CENTER FOR THE NEW SOUTH
THINK • STIMULATE • BRIDGE

 **AFRICA EUROPE FOUNDATION**

 **PUBLIC AFFAIRS AFRICA**
BUILD THE DIFFERENCE

 **ifa**
International Forum of African Leaders



Showcase expertise

Promote your services and insights to a distinguished and engaged audience of decision-makers and influencers.



Expand strategic networks

Build lasting relationships with key stakeholders, including international and African leaders, to unlock opportunities and alliances.



Gain recognition as a thought leader

Be featured as a high-level contributor to the forum's impactful and influential content.



Support a vital initiative

Play a crucial role in advancing good governance and fostering sustainable development across the continent.



One cannot be a beggar and demand equality. This is the time to move beyond rhetoric about inclusion and towards the reality of power-sharing. Let's not create the illusion of a completely united, unified, conflict-free Africa. Let's work to earn respect, to ensure that Africa is respected.

Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah

Former UN Special Representative for West Africa





**AFRICA
POLITICAL
OUTLOOK**



CONTACT, INFORMATION & PARTNERSHIP :



+33 6 26 81 96 61



contact@africapoliticaloutlook.org



chalias@africapoliticaloutlook.org

