

Elevate  
Africa

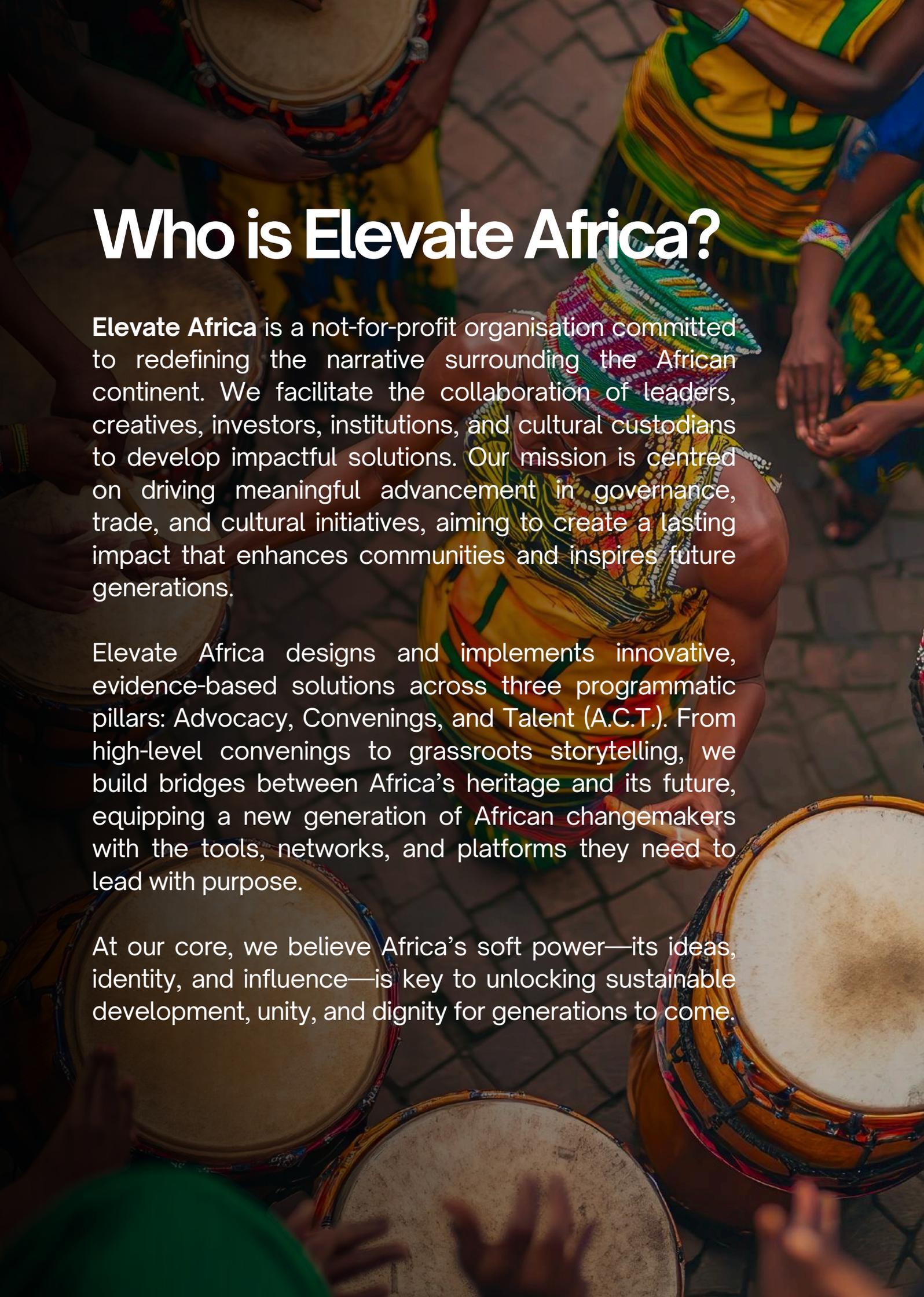


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BOTSWANA.

# Africa's Next Chapter: A Blueprint for Collective Action

*Gaborone 2025 Convening Highlights, Commitments & Partnership Opportunities*





# Who is Elevate Africa?

**Elevate Africa** is a not-for-profit organisation committed to redefining the narrative surrounding the African continent. We facilitate the collaboration of leaders, creatives, investors, institutions, and cultural custodians to develop impactful solutions. Our mission is centred on driving meaningful advancement in governance, trade, and cultural initiatives, aiming to create a lasting impact that enhances communities and inspires future generations.

Elevate Africa designs and implements innovative, evidence-based solutions across three programmatic pillars: Advocacy, Convenings, and Talent (A.C.T.). From high-level convenings to grassroots storytelling, we build bridges between Africa's heritage and its future, equipping a new generation of African changemakers with the tools, networks, and platforms they need to lead with purpose.

At our core, we believe Africa's soft power—its ideas, identity, and influence—is key to unlocking sustainable development, unity, and dignity for generations to come.

# 2024 Elevate Africa Convening Recap

**Theme:** “The Africa We See”

**Location:** Abuja, Nigeria | October 2024

The inaugural Elevate Africa Global Convening in 2024 marked the beginning of a bold, continent-wide movement to redefine Africa’s narrative and align leaders around a shared ambition for governance, trade, and cultural transformation. Held at the Musa Yar’Adua Centre in Abuja, the convening brought together policymakers, business leaders, creatives, cultural custodians, development partners, and young innovators committed to shaping Africa’s next chapter.

## Purpose & Vision

The 2024 convening was designed as more than an event; it was the first gathering of a long-term platform for collaborative African leadership. It set out to:

- Spotlight indigenous solutions and homegrown leadership models
- Create a unified space for cross-sector dialogue
- Inspire a renewed sense of African agency and continental cooperation
- Begin building a community of leaders equipped to shift Africa’s narrative from deficit to possibility







## Key Moments & Conversations

The convening featured powerful keynote speeches, panel discussions, and cultural showcases that explored governance, youth empowerment, and African-led innovation. High-impact speakers, **including Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Governor of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) 'Dere Awosika, Former President Atifete Jahjaga, and leadership expert Fela Durotoye,** challenged delegates to re-imagine leadership as service, accountability, and nation-building.

Breakout sessions unpacked practical pathways to strengthen institutions, accelerate intra-African trade, and elevate culture as a tool of dignity, unity, and influence. Stakeholders across the public and private sectors contributed to shaping a shared vision for African advancement anchored in values-based leadership.

True to Elevate Africa's ethos, the convening blended policy and culture, integrating music, storytelling, and artistic expressions that celebrated Africa's identity. Participants experienced the role of culture not as entertainment, but as a strategic driver for national pride, social cohesion, and global perception.

The 2024 Elevate Africa Global Convening ignited a powerful continental movement, bringing together policymakers, creatives, and innovators in Abuja to redefine Africa's narrative and strengthen cross-sector collaboration. It marked the official launch of the Elevate Africa Fellowship, unveiled with senior leaders as a flagship investment in developing Africa's next generation of system-shaping leaders. The convening also deepened multi-country partnerships with institutions such as **ONE.org, ALU, and Afreximbank,** building momentum for joint action across governance, trade, and culture. Most importantly, it forged a dynamic, connected ecosystem of leaders and institutions committed to elevating African agency and accelerating transformative solutions across the continent.



# 2025 Botswana Convening - Key Messages & Outcomes

# Africa: The Next Chapter



The Elevate Africa 2025 Convening, held on October 30–31 in Gaborone, Botswana, was more than a conference, it was a continental declaration. Under the theme “Africa: The Next Chapter,” the convening signaled a decisive shift from aspiration to implementation, from rhetoric to reform, and from potential to proof.

Hosted with the support of the Government of Botswana and leading institutions such as Chandler Institute of Governance, Bureau National d’Études Techniques et de Développement (BNETD), Aruwa Capital, Aquaria Consult, The Osahon Okunbo Foundation (TOOF), Rainbow Room Foundation (RRF), the convening gathered over 400 delegates, heads of state, ministers, governors, CEOs, innovators, creatives, and civic leaders, from across Africa and the diaspora.

The message from Gaborone was clear: Africa’s future will be self-determined, built on trust, collaboration, and systems that outlast personalities.

## A Continental Assembly of High-Impact Voices

The convening featured over 53 distinguished speakers and contributors from across Africa and the diaspora, representing government, private sector, academia, creative industries, and civil society. Their insights shaped the deliberations and the final Gaborone Communiqué.

**Key speakers included:**

- **His Royal Majesty Ogiame Atuwatse III**, CFR, The Olu of Warri and Co-Founder, Elevate Africa (Nigeria)
- **Her Majesty Olori Atuwatse III**, Co-Founder, Elevate Africa (Nigeria)
- **Hon. Ketlhalefile Motshegwa**, Minister of Local Government & Traditional Affairs, representing the President of Botswana
- **Her Excellency Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim**, Former President of Mauritius
- **Hon. Kadiva Diana Hamutumwa**, Governor, Ohangwena Region (Namibia)
- **His Excellency Benjamin Chesire Cheboi**, Governor of Baringo County (Kenya)
- **Her Worship Manki Sekete**, Deputy Mayor of Gaborone (Botswana)
- **Hon. Dr Frank Amoakohene**, Regional Minister, Ashanti Region (Ghana)
- **Abraham Osio**, Head of Strategy, PAPSS (Pan-African Payments & Settlement System),
- **Moky Makura**, Executive Director, Africa No Filter (South Africa),
- **Kinapara Coulibaly**, CEO, Bureau National d'Études Techniques et de Développement (Côte d'Ivoire),
- **Zurina Saban**, General Counsel, Africa50 (Morocco/Pan-Africa)
- **Josh Wilson**, Founder & Managing Director, Global Venture Partners (UK/US)
- **Hakeem Kae-Kazim**, Actor & Producer (Nigeria/South Africa),
- **Representative Kim Schofield**, Member, Georgia State Legislature (USA),
- **Vusi Thembekwayo**, Entrepreneur & Leadership Faculty Member (South Africa)

These leaders from **Botswana, Nigeria, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Ghana, Mauritius, Eswatini, the US**, and the wider diaspora, formed a unique multidisciplinary coalition. Their contributions grounded the convening in practical solutions, continental cooperation, and systems thinking.





# Africa: The Next Chapter

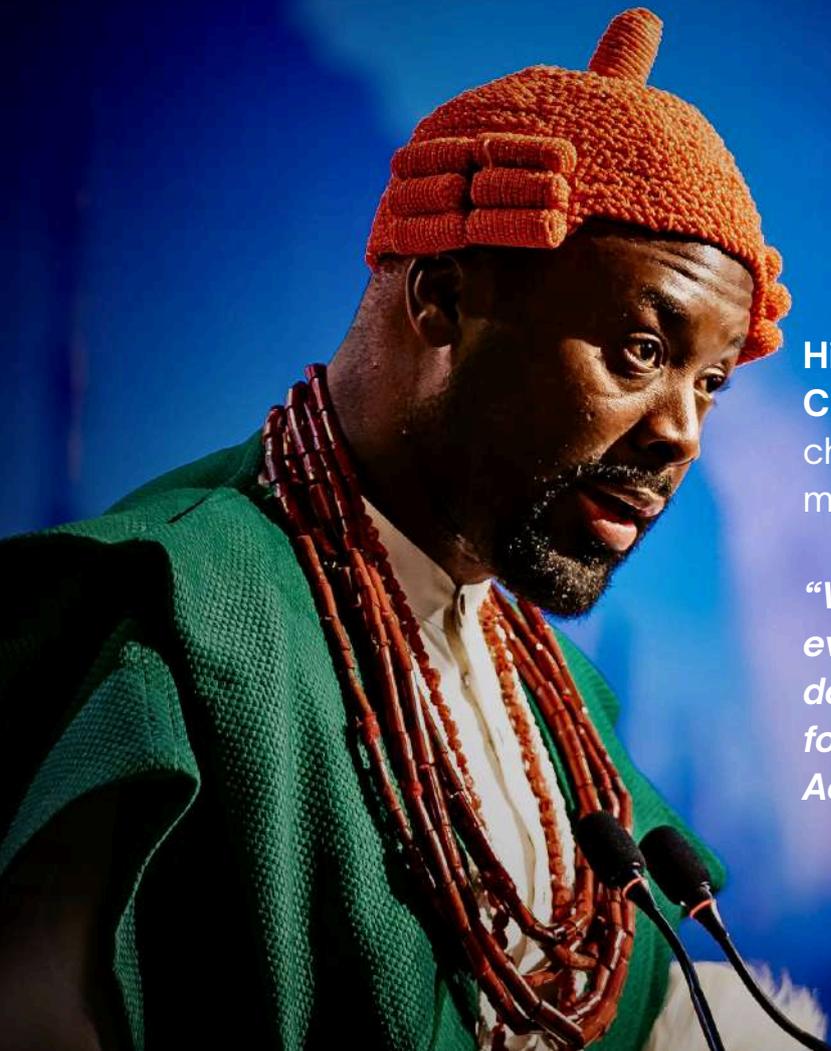




In her opening address, **Her Majesty Olori Atuwatse III, Co-Founder of Elevate Africa**, captured the ethos of the convening:

*“The downfall of great empires was not due to a lack of brilliance, but a lack of connection. Africa must replace isolation with interdependence, and suspicion with trust.”*

Her Majesty reminded delegates that Elevate Africa was conceived as a bridge, connecting nations, sectors, and ideas, and that the 2025 convening marked the transition from promise to pipeline. She celebrated tangible progress, including the operational Elevate Africa Fellowship and new partnerships that span governance, trade, and culture.



**His Royal Majesty Ogiame Atuwatse III, CFR**, closed the convening with a charge that transformed inspiration into mandate:

*“What we have achieved here is not an event; it is architecture. We have designed systems, not speeches; forged partnerships, not promises. Accountability is the new revolution.”*

# The Gaborone Communiqué: A Living Covenant

The convening culminated in the adoption of the Gaborone Communiqué, a blueprint for continental transformation anchored on **five strategic pillars**:



Institutionalize meritocracy and digitize public services. Launch Citizen Policy Labs to embed accountability and civic participation.



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Operationalize AfCFTA for local value addition and regional integration. Mobilize Africa's \$2 trillion pension funds for infrastructure and innovation.



Invest in foundational digital infrastructure and skills. Foster public-private innovation ecosystems to leapfrog development.



Normalize women's leadership through quotas and mentorship ecosystems. Close the gender finance gap using data-driven lending models.

**These commitments are not aspirational, they are actionable, measurable, and time-bound. Progress will be tracked and shared publicly through a Continental Progress Dashboard at the 2026 convening**

# Impact Snapshot

400+

Over 400 delegates participated, representing 16 countries; African representation spanned 14 countries, complemented by delegates from the United States and the United Kingdom"

53

53 Speakers from Botswana, Nigeria, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Ghana, Mauritius, the US, and the wider diaspora;

17

Global Ambassadors Network expanded to 17 influencers across governance, trade, and culture"

\$2T

Domestic capital identified for infrastructure mobilization

11

Plenaries & policy labs driving actionable outcomes



Creative Africa Fund to be seeded by private-sector pledges







## Headline Outcomes

- Governments pledged to digitize public services and embed performance frameworks.
- Private sector actors committed seed funding for the Creative Africa Fund and innovation hubs.
- Development institutions agreed to co-create data systems that track progress on the Communiqué.
- Elevate Africa Fellowship showcased its inaugural cohort of 17 fellows from 13 countries, actively leading projects in governance, trade, and culture.

## Key Messages from Gaborone

Africa's next chapter is actionable, not aspirational. The convening reframed challenges as opportunities for innovation and collaboration.

Trust emerged as the new currency of governance, with leaders underscoring the need for systems that outlast personalities and deliver measurable results. Culture was affirmed as capital, elevating storytelling and the creative industries as essential economic drivers rather than peripheral pursuits. The discussions also placed youth and women at the center of Africa's future, stressing that the continent's demographic dividend will only translate into progress through inclusive leadership and equitable access to opportunity.

## Why It Matters

The 2025 convening was not a ceremonial gathering—it was a continental design lab. It produced frameworks, partnerships, and commitments that will shape Africa's trajectory for decades. The Gaborone Communiqué stands as a covenant of accountability, signaling that Africa's renaissance will be led from within, by Africans who are united, prepared, and purpose-driven.

The spirit of Gaborone lives on as a declaration that Africa's story will no longer be told through potential, but through performance.





Elevate Africa Fellowship

# The Elevate Africa Fellowship

# Overview of the Fellowship

The Elevate Africa Fellowship marked a major milestone with the graduation of its first cohort, a select group of 17 emerging leaders from 13 African countries who completed an intensive 10-month leadership and transformation journey. Designed to nurture purpose-driven African leaders who can shape solutions within their communities and sectors, the fellowship was created to close the gap between potential and structured leadership development on the continent.

During the fellowship, fellows participated in high-impact mentorship sessions with seasoned African and global leaders including Her Excellency, Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, Mr. Fela Durotoye, Mr. Vusi Thembekwayo, Mrs. Tara Fela-Durotoye and Mr. Veda Sunassee, and engaged in practical leadership labs with personalised guidance that strengthened their confidence and strategic clarity.

A key highlight of the program was the residential learning immersion at the African Leadership University in Mauritius, where fellows deepened their understanding of systems thinking, innovation and African-centered leadership models while building a strong pan-African network.

The convening celebrated their graduation, showcasing the growth, discipline and expanded leadership capacity each fellow gained through this rigorous and empowering experience.



# Cohort Profile Highlights:

417

Completed applications  
across 37 countries

13

Female

4

Male



Several are founders,  
CEOs, and Policy  
Advisers



Majority hold  
postgraduate  
degrees

10-12 YRS

Fellows average years of  
leadership experience



**Fellows by Regions:**

**West Africa:** Nigeria, Ghana

**Southern Africa:** Namibia, Zambia, Malawi,  
South Africa

**East Africa:** Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia

**North Africa:** Egypt, Tunisia

**Central Africa:** Cameroon, Comoros

**Sectors represented include:**

- Financial Services & Trade
- Creative Industry/Arts and culture
- Agriculture
- Technology
- Non-Profit
- Academia
- Healthcare
- Biopharmaceuticals
- Green Economy
- Business Consulting

**10**  
**SECTORS**



## Fellowship Impact

- **Deepened Leadership Identity:** Fellows gained a stronger sense of purpose and authenticity as African leaders, embracing responsibility for systemic change.
- **Catalytic Innovation:** Participants applied innovation frameworks to launch solutions in sectors like climate resilience, mobility, and agriculture.
- **Narrative Transformation:** Fellows in media and creative industries amplified authentic African stories, challenging stereotypes and strengthening Africa's soft power.
- **Governance Reform:** Public service leaders integrated systems thinking and accountability tools to improve governance and community engagement.
- **Gender Empowerment:** Fellows advanced initiatives promoting education, health, and leadership opportunities for women and girls, fostering inclusive societies.

## Why It Matters for Africa's Future

The Fellowship is more than a program, it is a leadership engine for Africa's renaissance. By equipping mid-career leaders with identity-driven leadership models and practical tools, Elevate Africa ensures that transformation is not episodic but systemic.

As Africa moves from potential to proof, these Fellows will:

- Catalyze governance reforms that embed accountability and citizen participation.
- Drive economic integration through AfCFTA and regional value chains.
- Champion inclusive leadership, ensuring women and youth shape policy and enterprise.
- Reclaim Africa's narrative, positioning culture and creativity as economic powerhouses.

**The Elevate Africa Fellowship** is a bet on Africa's most valuable resource; its people. It is a commitment to building a continent where leadership is ethical, governance is effective, and collaboration is the norm.

# Sponsors & Partners

**Elevate Africa** acknowledges the invaluable support of our sponsors and partners who powered the vision in Gaborone 2025. Their commitment reflects a shared belief in Africa's potential and a determination to turn that potential into proof.





Call for  
Collaboration:  
Partner with **Elevate  
Africa** to Shape the  
Next Chapter



**Elevate Africa** is entering a decisive phase; from vision to velocity, from commitments to measurable impact. The 2025 Gaborone Convening and the adoption of the Gaborone Communiqué have set a bold agenda for Africa's transformation. Now, we invite funders, sponsors, and strategic partners to join us in building the systems, leadership, and narratives that will define the continent's future.

### **Why Partner with Us?**

Your collaboration is not charity, it is investment in Africa's next chapter. By partnering with Elevate Africa, you become part of a continental platform driving:

- **Leadership Development** through the Elevate Africa Fellowship.
- **Policy Innovation** via Citizen Policy Labs and governance reforms.
- **Economic Integration** through AfCFTA-aligned trade initiatives.
- **Narrative Transformation** powered by the Creative Africa Fund and Brand Africa strategy.

### **Ways to Partner**

#### **Fellowship Sponsorship**

Support the Elevate Africa Fellowship as it scales from 17 Fellows to a pan-African network of catalytic leaders. Your investment will fund:

- **Leadership intensives** across Africa.
- **Capstone projects** addressing governance, trade, gender, and innovation.
- **Alumni networks and mentorship ecosystems.**





## Convening Sponsorship (2026 Edition)

Be part of the next global convening in 2026. Sponsorship opportunities include:

- **Headline Partner:** Brand visibility across all platforms and sessions.
- **Sector Partner:** Align with thematic pillars (Governance, Trade, Technology, Culture).
- **Innovation Partner:** Showcase solutions and co-create policy labs.

## Programmatic Partnerships

Collaborate on initiatives such as:

- **Creative Africa Fund** - Financing authentic African storytelling and creative industries.
- **Digital Inclusion & Tech Labs** - Building innovation ecosystems for youth and women.
- **Gender Equity Platforms** - Scaling mentorship and leadership programs for women.



# What You Gain

- **Visibility:** Position your brand as a champion of Africa's transformation.
- **Influence:** Shape policy, leadership, and innovation agendas at continental scale.
- **Impact:** Drive measurable outcomes aligned with SDGs and Agenda 2063.

## Contact Details

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## Join us

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Africa's next chapter is not aspirational, it is actionable. Partner with Elevate Africa to turn commitments into continental transformation.

**Contact:** [partnerships@weelevateafrica.org](mailto:partnerships@weelevateafrica.org)

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