

# GABORONE COMMUNIQUE

Adopted at the Elevate Africa Summit 2025 –  
“Africa: The Next Chapter”



# Context and Purpose

The Elevate Africa Summit 2025 convened in Gaborone, Republic of Botswana, under the auspices of Elevate Africa, in collaboration with governments, private sector leaders, development institutions, traditional authorities, and representatives from civil society and the creative industries. The Summit occurred at a pivotal juncture in Africa's development journey, as the continent advances towards the **objectives of Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Participants reflected on Africa's expanding role in a rapidly transforming global order and reaffirmed the imperative for a new form of soft power – one anchored in governance integrity, economic cooperation, cultural expression, and narrative coherence.



## **Vision and Shared Conviction**



The Summit underscored that Africa's transformation must be conceived and articulated from within the continent, building upon its peoples' creativity, resilience, and moral capital. Participants emphasised that governance, trade, and culture should not be regarded as disparate domains, but as interdependent dimensions of a unified developmental architecture:

- Governance provides vision and institutional trust.
- Trade and investment drive inclusion and shared prosperity.
- Culture and heritage sustain identity and cohesion.

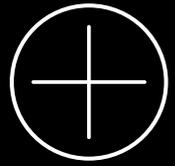
The Summit reaffirmed that storytelling – understood as the alignment of purpose, policy, and perception – is an essential infrastructure for governance, investment, and social renewal.



## **A Continental Alignment of Purpose**

Participants recalled the enduring assertion that Africa is shaped like a gun – with Nigeria as the trigger and Southern Africa as the channel through which its strength is released to the world. This imagery was invoked not as myth but as metaphor, expressing the coordination of potential across the continent. It was noted that Elevate Africa, founded in Nigeria, now finds its first continental expression in Botswana, symbolising the unity of West and Southern Africa and the collective discharge of Africa's potential into the world through collaboration, creativity, and responsible leadership.

# THE GABORONE MANDATE

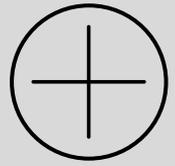


The Summit adopted the Gaborone Mandate, calling for a continental approach to governance and development, reinforced by narrative coherence. This Mandate is underpinned by three interrelated actions:

- **Curate:** Align national narratives with national vision and policy priorities to strengthen public trust and civic participation.
- **Capture:** Document governance, innovation, and cultural progress to preserve institutional memory and inform decision-making.
- **Communicate:** Share Africa's transformation with accuracy and confidence, contributing to global understanding, investment, and cooperation.

Participants emphasised that narrative infrastructure – the systems through which societies record and communicate their progress – is fundamental to transparency, accountability, and sustained development.

# IMPLEMENTATION AND INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION



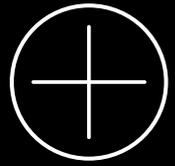
To advance the Gaborone Mandate, the Summit adopted the Gaborone Implementation Framework, coordinated by the Elevate Africa Secretariat in partnership with regional, national, and sectoral institutions. The Framework establishes three flagship initiatives:

- **National Story Labs:** Multi-stakeholder platforms to align national visioning, reform, and communication.
- **Africa Memory Project:** A digital and physical repository documenting Africa's policy innovation, leadership milestones, and cultural heritage.
- **Africa in Motion Platform:** A media and knowledge hub to showcase Africa's progress and partnerships globally.

Progress will be reviewed annually at subsequent Elevate Africa Summits, beginning with the Accra Review (2026), with outcomes disseminated through the Annual Gaborone Progress Report.



# PRINCIPLES OF PARTNERSHIP



Participants agreed that the success of the Mandate depends on inclusive collaboration between governments, regional bodies, private sector institutions, development partners, cultural institutions, and the diaspora. The Summit invited:

- **African Governments** to integrate narrative infrastructure within governance and development planning;
- **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)** to align communication efforts with continental agendas;
- **Private Sector and Development Finance Institutions** to invest in the creative and communication economy;
- **Cultural and Educational Institutions** to preserve heritage and promote creative literacy; and
- **Friends of Africa and the International Community** to partner in amplifying Africa's progress and perspective through equitable collaboration.



# **Commitments and Continuity**

Participants committed to advancing governance that is ethical and effective; trade that is intra-African and globally competitive; and culture that is preserved, monetised, and projected as a global asset. They further agreed to support the creation of platforms that enable young people and women to lead Africa's innovation and storytelling agenda. The Gaborone Communiqué will remain a living reference document, to be revisited and reinforced at future convenings.

## **Closing Reflection**

The Summit concluded with a reflection that Africa's story – long fragmented by external interpretation – is now being reclaimed by its own voices and institutions. Africa's governance, economy, and culture are not competing priorities; they are chapters of one coherent story. And when told with integrity and unity, that story becomes influence, and that influence becomes progress.

From Nigeria, the spark was ignited.

Through Botswana, it is released to the world.

And from Gaborone, a new generation of Africans speaks – with one story, one voice, one future.

# Adoption

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Adopted in Gaborone, Republic of Botswana, this 31st day of October 2025.

**His Majesty Ògiame Atuwatse III (CFR)**  
**Co-Founder, Elevate Africa**

**Her Majesty Olori Atuwatse III**  
**Co-Founder, Elevate Africa**

**Daniel Ikuenobe**  
**Chief Executive Officer, Elevate Africa**

With the valued support of:

**The Government of Botswana, The Chandler Foundation,  
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and partners of the Elevate Africa Summit 2025.**

# Final Declaration

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From Gaborone, Africa affirms her voice – united in purpose, confident in leadership, and committed to telling her own story with truth, dignity, and vision.