



FRANCOPHONE
AFRICA
BUSINESS
SUMMIT

2025

T H E M E :

**Amplifying Growth in Africa:
From Momentum to Scale**

18-19th February, 2025
Lagos, Nigeria

POWERED BY  **EPENA
LAW**

FRANCOPHONE AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT (FABS)

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to over 167 million French speakers - the largest French-speaking population globally. Francophone countries make up 21 of Africa's 55 nations, creating immense potential for trade and cross-border investment.

While interest from companies in Anglophone Africa countries continue growing across sectors like finance, mining, and technology, complexities persist for prospective investors. Barriers range from navigating unfamiliar regulatory systems to grasping legal differences across markets.

However, momentum keeps building. The stability of the CFA currency zone, among other factors, appeals to foreign parties.

To foster more seamless, mutually beneficial partnerships and investments in Francophone Africa countries, Epena Law launched the pioneering Francophone Africa Business Summit, convening senior policymakers, investors, legal experts, and business leaders from economic powerhouses like Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, DRC, South Africa, and beyond to drive economic growth and foster collaboration across the continent.

The Francophone Africa Business Summit convenes leaders to:

Highlight Untapped Potential for Trade and Investment

1

This Summit will uncover the immense yet untapped opportunities for cross-border trade, investment, and economic collaboration between major Anglophone economies like Nigeria and Ghana and Francophone powerhouses such as Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Senegal and more.

Facilitate strategic connections

2

The Summit program facilitates direct B2B exchanges, strategic networking, and partnerships between attendees. It has been structured to catalyze tangible relationships and connections between individuals and companies looking to expand across Africa.

Shape a Unified Vision for Pan-African Business Integration

3

By convening influential voices from across sub-Saharan Africa, the Summit aims to shape a unifying vision for seamless business integration and cooperation between the Anglophone and Francophone regions to fully realize the continent's immense combined potential.

Key highlights from FABS 2024

The inaugural Francophone Africa Business Summit (FABS) in 2024, held in Lagos, Nigeria themed Investing in Francophone Africa: Playbook and Opportunities, served as a catalyst in providing Anglophone Africa businesses and other international participants with a roadmap for expansion in Francophone Africa countries while unlocking mutual partnerships with major economies such as Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, and many more.

It marked the first in a series of business summits designed to boost intra-African trade between Francophone and Anglophone Africa.

ATTENDEES**250+****SPEAKERS****50+****PARTNERS
& SPONSORS****15+****COUNTRIES****10+****PANEL
SESSIONS****10+**

More highlights from FABS 2024

"There's a need for collective efforts across Africa to seize opportunities and propel economic development."

- Fmr President of Nigeria, **Chief Olusegun Obasanjo (GCFR)**.
Keynote speaker at FABS 2024



Some of our 2024 Attendees



2024 Partners & Sponsors



Thank You!

FRANCOPHONE AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT 2025

Following the success of the inaugural Summit in February 2024, which catalyzed dynamic collaborations across Francophone and Anglophone Africa, we are building on that momentum with an even more ambitious theme for 2025: **Amplifying Growth in Africa: From Momentum to Scale**.

The Francophone Africa Business Summit 2025 edition will continue to serve as a platform to discuss the most promising opportunities, address pressing challenges, and explore frameworks to encourage investment flows between Anglophone and Francophone African countries.

This second edition of the Summit continues the annual tradition established in 2024, where policymakers, executives, and investors from Anglophone and Francophone Africa come together to bridge divides and unlock the continent's unbounded potential. By fostering dialogue, sharing insights, and facilitating connections, FABS 2025 aims to catalyze a new era of collaboration that will scale growth between Africa's linguistic spheres.

As part of the 2025 Summit, we will also continue to recognize the unifying leadership of the continent's most dynamic women through the **Business Women in Africa Initiative** which was launched during the inaugural FABS in 2024. This value-added initiative aims to create a dedicated session during the Summit for women entrepreneurs, executives, and policy makers to share their experiences, challenges, and successes, while forging meaningful connections and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Join us in Lagos, Nigeria on February 18-19, 2025, as we continue to build bridges, forge partnerships, and chart a course towards a more integrated and prosperous future for Africa. Together, we will amplify the growth and scale the impact of the Francophone-Anglophone business ecosystem.

Why Lagos?

Lagos, the nerve center of Africa's interconnected Francophone and Anglophone economies, proved to be the perfect host for the inaugural Francophone Africa Business Summit in 2024. With its unmatched combination of financial strength, multinational connectivity, and regional influence, Lagos will once again serve as the ideal location for FABS 2025.

Recently, Nigerian companies have taken increasing interest in unlocking opportunities within Francophone African economies. From banking and financial services giants laying roots in Cameroon to industrial manufacturers and energy providers accelerating operations and expanding partnerships in countries like DR Congo and Tchad - Nigerian corporates are forging connections across key sectors.

This surge connects back to the vast consumer markets and upside potential lying untapped within Francophone Africa. Such countries present rapidly growing populations, rising purchasing power and friendly business policies primed for mutual exchange continuing Nigeria's strong position in steering investment around the continent.

There is therefore no better place to come together and move the needle on Africa's business momentum than Lagos. It promises to facilitate unforgettable opportunity collisions between decision makers and economic operators seeking to deepen engagement across African markets.



February 18th, 2025

Pre-Summit Day

TIME	BUSINESS WOMEN IN AFRICA (INVITATION ONLY)
10:00am	Arrivals & Registration
11:00 - 11:10am	Welcome Address
11:10 - 12pm	Panel Discussion - Resilient Leadership in Turbulent Times: Women Leaders Navigating Scarcity, Valuation Challenges, and Global Competition.
12:00 - 1:25pm	Interactive Workshops & Power Lunch: Facilitated Table Discussions on Growth and Sustainability
1:25 - 1:30pm	Closing Remarks
PRE-SUMMIT PROGRAM (INVITATION ONLY)	
2:00pm	Arrivals & Registration
2:30 - 2:35pm	Welcome Address
2:35 - 3:15pm	Scaling Your Business into Côte d'Ivoire
3:15 - 4:00pm	Scaling Your Business into Democratic Republic of Congo
4:00 - 6:00pm	Transition Break
6:00 - 7:00pm	Cocktails & Conversations : Where our cultures meet
7:00pm	Pre-Summit Welcome Dinner

February 19th, 2025

Summit Day

TIME	THEME
7:30 - 9:00am	Registration & Networking Breakfast
9:00 - 9:15am	Opening & Welcome Remarks
9:15 - 9:45am	Keynote Address
9:45 - 10:30am	Evolving Economic Landscape: State of our Markets, Trends and Opportunities
10:30 - 11:15am	Pathways for Successful Operations in Francophone Africa: Complying with Evolving Rules and Regulations
11:15 - 11:30am	Transition Break
11:30 - 12:45pm	<div> BREAKOUT ROOM 1: Banking Opportunities: Leveraging Regulatory Changes in the Region for Growth </div> <div> BREAKOUT ROOM 2: Increasing Efficiency & profitability in Extractive Industries: Advancing Local Capacity Through Strategic Partnerships </div>
12:45 - 2:00pm	Networking Lunch
2:00 - 3:15pm	<div> BREAKOUT ROOM 1: Accelerating Digital Transformation Through FinTech: Balancing Innovation versus Expansion </div> <div> BREAKOUT ROOM 2: Expanding FMCG Networks Through Manufacturing: Unlocking Cross-Border Synergies to Drive Industrialization </div>
3:15 - 3:30pm	Transition Break
3:30 - 4:15pm	<div> BREAKOUT ROOM 1: Regional Infrastructure Development & Connectivity: Enhancing transportation and communication networks to boost intra-regional trade </div> <div> BREAKOUT ROOM 2: Transforming Agriculture: Road to Building Regional Agro-processing Powerhouses </div>
4:15 - 4:30pm	Transition Break
4:30 - 5:15pm	FUTURE 2050 - Thriving in a Rapidly Changing World: Creating More Regional Champions in a Globalised Economy
5:15 - 5:30pm	Closing Remarks
7pm	Networking Dinner

Who are we?

Epena Law – your gateway to Francophone Africa

Like the city of Epena, we are at the center of the legal scene in Africa.

Through our deep understanding of both civil and common laws system, we are able to seamlessly navigate through the various legal systems in Africa. We serve the needs of corporates, investment funds, growth companies and financial institutions by providing advisory services on a wide range of corporate and commercial transactions. Our core focus is Africa, where we have uniquely deep roots and knowledge of markets, regulations and key players.

We are passionate about innovation and are committed to working with our clients to deliver commercially driven legal solutions tailored to their businesses, disrupting traditional law firm models. We believe that innovation drives diversity and inclusion.

With office embedded in key Francophone and Anglophone Africa markets like Nigeria and Cameroon, representations in countries like Cote d'Ivoire plus partnerships with law firms across DR Congo, Senegal, Benin and beyond, Epena Law serves as a pivotal gateway connecting international investors to overlooked opportunities in Francophone Africa.

Our firm, Epena law, is honored to be the driving force in spearheading and facilitating this vital initiative. With robust support from our esteemed sponsors and partners, we remain committed to orchestrating an exchange of ideas and opportunities that will redefine the economic landscape of our continent. Our versatility makes us the ideal catalyst to accelerate more seamless, mutually beneficial partnerships and investments in African countries through platforms like the Francophone Africa Business Summit.

Have any questions about the
Francophone Africa Business Summit?
Our team is here to help!

General Inquiries:

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**Sponsorship Opportunities &
Partnerships**

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We look forward to connecting in
Lagos for this momentous business
Summit! Do not hesitate to reach out
to us at the access points above for
any Summit-related needs or
requests.



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