



DISCUSSION
FRAMEWORK FOR

GLOBAL
STRATEGY
NEXUS

AFRICA SUMMIT -
LAGOS NIGERIA

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UNLOCKING PRIVATE SECTOR POTENTIAL FOR AFRICA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A Strategic Framework for Sustainable Growth and
Global Competitiveness

For Discussion at the Global
Strategy Nexus 2025, Africa
Summit, Lagos Nigeria

ABOUT THE GLOBAL STRATEGY NEXUS

The Global Strategy Nexus is a premier series of events designed to explore the most pressing global risks and emerging opportunities. These high-level forums will bring together global leaders, policymakers, industry experts, and thought leaders across three strategically chosen locations—Lagos, Brussels, and New York—throughout 2025. The goal of this initiative is to facilitate meaningful discussions on governance, economic strategies, technological innovations, and sustainable development while offering actionable insights and frameworks for the future.

The event will draw heavily from the Global Strategy Outlook 2025 report, which serves as the foundation for discussions across the three venues. This report explores the challenges and opportunities in global governance, economic recovery, technology, and climate change, providing a roadmap for navigating these complexities.

The Global Strategy Nexus 2025: Africa Summit is a premier forum convened by The Sixteenth Council, aimed at addressing Africa's pressing governance and economic challenges through the power of private-sector leadership. As the world faces increasing political fragmentation, economic uncertainty, and rapid technological disruptions, Africa's need for innovative, private-sector-driven solutions has never been greater.

In recent years, the world has witnessed an unprecedented wave of change in political, economic, and technological dynamics. Rising political instability, such as the fragmentation of political systems, the rise of populist movements, and the increased frequency of geopolitical tensions, have created challenges for global governance. The evolving landscape of global trade, coupled with the aftershocks of the pandemic, has further complicated the economic environment. As countries grapple with inflationary pressures, rising debt burdens, and stagnating growth, particularly in emerging markets, the global economy is at a crossroads. The Global Strategy Outlook 2025 highlights the increasing uncertainty that nations face in navigating these challenges, with governments and international organizations struggling to maintain stability.

CHAPTER 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Introduction

Africa's economic future hinges on the ability to unlock the full potential of the private sector. With over 1.4 billion people, a fast-growing consumer market, and vast natural resources, the continent possesses all the ingredients for sustainable economic growth. However, poor infrastructure, weak governance, overreliance on raw commodity exports, and geopolitical instability have hindered its ability to attract large-scale investments.

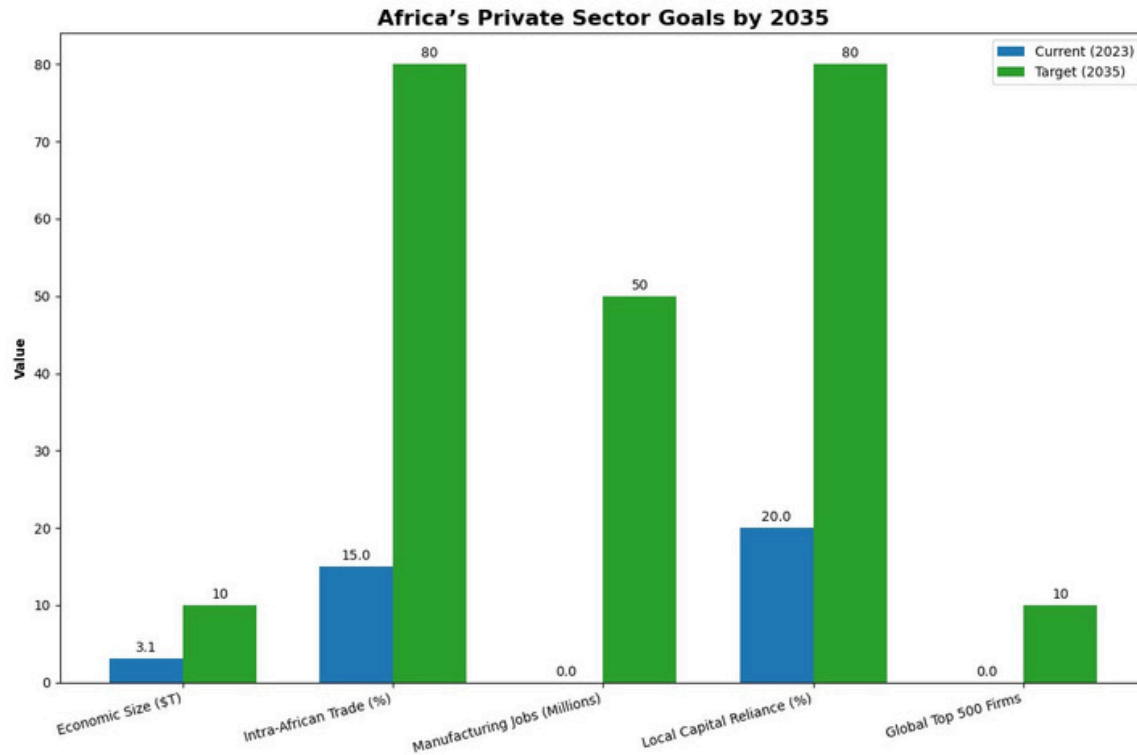
As global economic power shifts, Africa must position itself as a competitive investment hub by fostering an efficient business environment, enabling industrialization, and leveraging regional integration under agreements such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

This document provides a practical, actionable blueprint to unlock Africa's private sector potential by addressing key constraints, leveraging geopolitical trends, and fostering innovation-driven growth.

1.2 The Vision: Africa's Economic Transformation by 2035

By 2035, Africa's private sector should drive:

- A \$10 trillion economy, up from \$3.1 trillion today.
- 80% intra-African trade, reducing dependence on Western and Asian markets.
- A robust industrial sector, creating 50 million new manufacturing jobs.
- Deep financial markets, with African businesses raising capital locally instead of relying on foreign debt.
- Global competitiveness, with African firms among the world's top 500 multinationals.



1.3 Current Challenges Facing Private Sector Growth in Africa

Africa's private sector remains constrained by several structural barriers:

Economic & Financial Challenges

- Limited access to capital – 90% of African SMEs lack formal financing.
- Overreliance on commodity exports, leading to economic vulnerability.
- Weak domestic capital markets, forcing businesses to depend on expensive foreign loans.

Regulatory & Business Environment Challenges

- Cumbersome bureaucracy – Africa ranks low in the Ease of Doing Business Index.
- High taxation and policy instability, discouraging long-term investments.
- Weak contract enforcement, reducing investor confidence.

Infrastructure & Industrialization Gaps

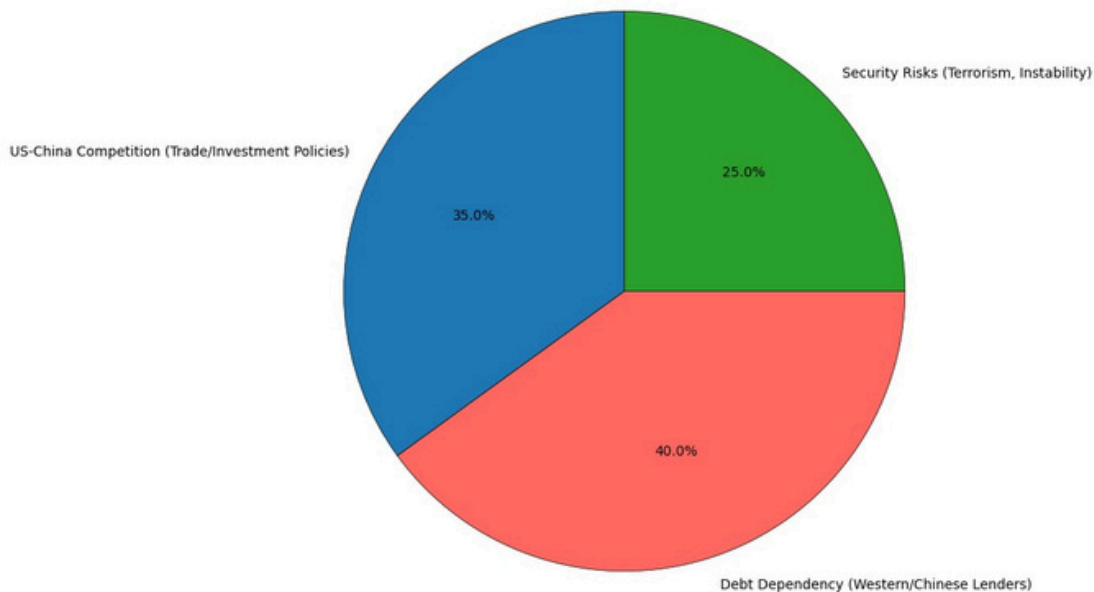
- Power shortages, with Africa generating only 160GW for 1.4 billion people (compared to the US's 1,200GW for 330 million people).

- Poor transport and logistics, increasing the cost of trade.
- Low manufacturing capacity, making Africa import-dependent.

Geopolitical & Global Trade Challenges

- US-China competition influencing Africa’s trade and investment policies.
- Debt dependency on Western and Chinese lenders, limiting economic sovereignty.
- Security risks, including terrorism and political instability in key markets.

Geopolitical & Global Trade Challenges for Africa (Hypothetical Weighting)



1.4 Core Pillars of Private Sector-Led Economic Growth

Pillar 1: Strengthening Africa’s Business & Investment Climate

- Implement aggressive regulatory reforms to reduce business setup costs.
- Introduce one-stop investment centers to streamline processes.
- Strengthen property rights and contract enforcement to attract foreign capital.

Pillar 2: Accelerating Industrialization & Value-Addition

- Invest in special economic zones (SEZs) to drive manufacturing.
- Encourage local value-addition in mining and agriculture.

- Expand regional supply chains to reduce import dependency.

Pillar 3: Enhancing Access to Capital & Domestic Financial Markets

- Develop pan-African investment funds to finance large-scale projects.
- Expand local stock exchanges and bond markets for long-term financing.
- Support fintech innovation to provide capital to SMEs.

Pillar 4: Leveraging Geopolitical Shifts for Africa's Economic Advantage

- Strengthen Africa's role in BRICS+ to diversify financial partnerships.
- Reduce overreliance on Western and Chinese lenders by expanding intra-African investments.
- Position Africa as a neutral global trade hub, benefiting from US-China competition.

1.5 Implementation Roadmap (2025–2035)

The plan is structured into short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategies:

Short-Term (2025–2028)

- Implement business-friendly reforms in at least 15 African countries.
- Establish at least five new SEZs focused on manufacturing.
- Expand AfCFTA trade volume by 25%.

Medium-Term (2028–2032)

- Develop pan-African infrastructure networks for power and transport.
- Achieve 50% intra-African trade under AfCFTA.
- Reduce African businesses' dependence on foreign loans by 30%.

Long-Term (2032–2035)

- Ensure Africa produces 60% of its industrial goods locally.
- Position African companies among the world's top 500.
- Achieve a continent-wide \$10 trillion economy.

1.6 Potential Challenges & Risk Management

- Political Resistance – Push for public-private partnerships (PPPs) to drive reforms.
- Funding Constraints – Expand local financial markets to reduce foreign dependency.

- Security & Geopolitical Tensions – Strengthen regional cooperation to enhance stability.

1.7 Conclusion: Seizing the Opportunity for a New Economic Future

Africa stands at a defining moment. With the right reforms, policies, and investments, the continent can transition from an underdeveloped, resource-exporting economy to a global powerhouse led by a dynamic private sector.

This blueprint serves as the foundation for discussions at Global Strategy Nexus 2025 – Africa Summit Lagos Edition, shaping a new vision for Africa’s economic future.

CHAPTER 2: AFRICA'S BUSINESS LANDSCAPE IN 2024

2.1 Introduction

The state of Africa's private sector in 2024 is shaped by post-pandemic recovery, global economic realignments, and regional policy shifts. While there have been some improvements in foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, industrial growth, and the expansion of financial technology, structural weaknesses continue to limit Africa's economic potential.

The key issues defining Africa's private sector today include:

- Limited access to finance – Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which make up 90% of businesses, face challenges securing investment.
- Weak industrial base – Africa accounts for less than 2% of global manufacturing output.
- Heavy reliance on commodity exports, making economies vulnerable to global price fluctuations.
- Inefficient supply chains and high logistics costs, reducing competitiveness.
- Geopolitical uncertainty, with increasing competition between the US, China, and Europe for influence in African economies.

This chapter provides a comprehensive assessment of the African business environment in 2024, identifying challenges, opportunities, and areas for policy intervention to unlock private sector potential.

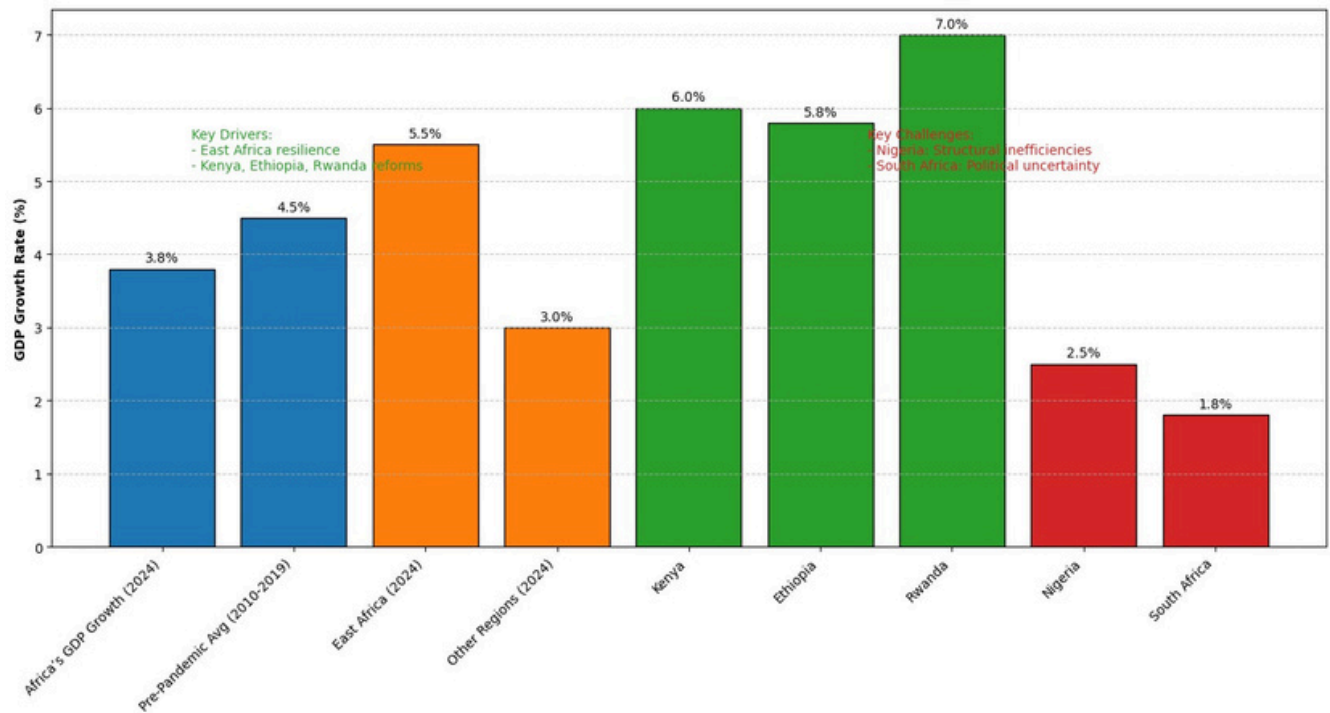
2.2 Africa's Economic Performance in 2024

2.2.1 GDP Growth Trends

Africa's economic growth in 2024 has been mixed, with some countries demonstrating resilience while others struggle with high inflation and debt.

- Africa's GDP is projected to grow by 3.8% in 2024, lower than the pre-pandemic average of 4.5%.
- East Africa remains the fastest-growing region, led by Kenya, Ethiopia, and Rwanda.
- Nigeria and South Africa, the continent's largest economies, continue to experience sluggish growth due to structural inefficiencies and political uncertainties.

Africa's Economic Growth in 2024: Regional & Country Performance



2.2.2 Inflation and Debt Crisis

- Debt servicing now consumes over 50% of government revenues in many African countries, reducing fiscal space for investment in infrastructure and business development.
- High inflation rates, driven by supply chain disruptions and currency devaluations, have reduced consumer purchasing power and increased business costs.
- Countries such as Ghana, Zambia, and Ethiopia are restructuring debt, highlighting Africa's growing reliance on external loans.

2.3 Key Sectors Driving Private Sector Growth

2.3.1 Financial Services and Fintech

- Africa's fintech sector has grown rapidly, with investments exceeding \$5 billion in 2024.
- Digital payment adoption is at an all-time high, with mobile money transactions surpassing \$1 trillion.
- Challenges: Regulatory barriers, cybersecurity concerns, and a lack of regional integration in payment systems.

2.3.2 Manufacturing and Industrialization

- Manufacturing accounts for 11% of Africa's GDP, but remains concentrated in a few countries, such as South Africa, Egypt, and Morocco.
- Challenges: Weak supply chains, limited infrastructure, and high energy costs.
- Opportunities: AfCFTA can drive regional industrialization if tariff and logistics barriers are addressed.

2.3.3 Agriculture and Agri-business

- Agriculture employs over 60% of Africa's workforce, yet productivity remains low due to outdated practices and climate challenges.
- Opportunities: Investment in mechanization, agro-processing, and export-driven value chains.
- Challenges: Lack of financing for smallholder farmers and inefficient land policies.

2.3.4 Energy and Infrastructure

- Africa's energy deficit remains a key barrier to industrial and private sector growth.
- Current power generation capacity: 160GW (less than that of Germany, which has 230GW).
- Opportunities: Expansion of renewable energy (solar, wind, and hydropower) and public-private partnerships for infrastructure development.

2.3.5 Digital Economy and Technology

- Africa's digital economy is growing, with internet penetration exceeding 50%.
- Tech hubs are emerging in Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, and South Africa, attracting significant venture capital investment.
- Challenges: Digital divide, lack of high-speed internet in rural areas, and cybersecurity risks.

2.4 Trade and Investment Climate in 2024

2.4.1 African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Progress

- The AfCFTA, the world's largest free trade area, covers 54 African countries, but implementation challenges remain.

- Trade under AfCFTA is still below expectations, with intra-African trade accounting for only 17% of total African trade (compared to 60% in Europe and 30% in Asia).
- Opportunities: Reducing trade barriers, improving cross-border infrastructure, and harmonizing regulatory frameworks.

2.4.2 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Trends

- FDI inflows to Africa totaled \$100 billion in 2024, with key investment destinations including Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, and Ethiopia.
- China remains Africa's largest investor, particularly in infrastructure and energy.
- The US and Europe are refocusing on Africa through initiatives such as the Global Gateway and the G7's Build Back Better World (B3W).

2.4.3 Geopolitical Influences on Africa's Business Climate

- US-China Competition: Africa is being courted by both superpowers for influence, leading to increased investment opportunities but also risks of debt dependency.
- Russia's Engagement: Russia has deepened economic ties with Africa through arms deals and energy investments.
- The Role of BRICS+: Africa's participation in BRICS+ is creating new trade and financing opportunities, reducing dependence on Western financial institutions.

2.5 Major Constraints to Private Sector Development

2.5.1 Policy and Regulatory Bottlenecks

- Unstable policies and inconsistent regulations deter long-term investment.
 - Excessive bureaucracy and corruption increase business costs.
- Weak enforcement of contracts and intellectual property rights affects investor confidence.

2.5.2 Infrastructure Deficit

- Transport costs in Africa are 75% higher than in other regions, making goods expensive.
 - Poor logistics and port inefficiencies delay trade.
- Power shortages and unreliable electricity supply increase operational costs.

2.5.3 Limited Access to Finance

- SMEs face high interest rates (often above 20%), making loans unaffordable.
- African stock markets remain underdeveloped, limiting capital-raising opportunities.
- The banking sector favors large corporations over small businesses.

2.5.4 Skills Gap and Workforce Development

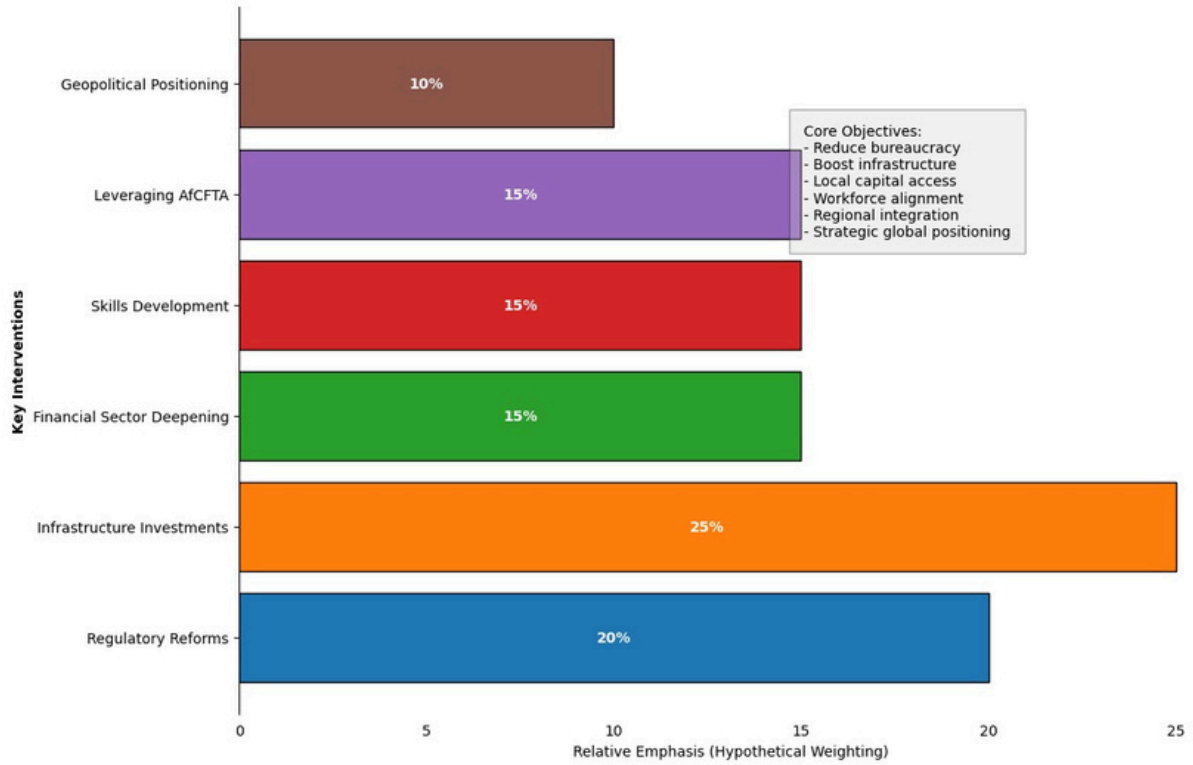
- Africa's workforce is growing rapidly, but skills development is lagging.
- Mismatches between education and labor market needs hinder private sector productivity.
- Opportunities: Strengthening technical and vocational education (TVET) to meet industry demands.

2.6 The Way Forward: Laying the Foundation for a Thriving Private Sector

To overcome these challenges and unlock Africa's economic potential, the following strategic interventions are required:

1. Regulatory Reforms – Simplify business registration and eliminate bureaucratic inefficiencies.
2. Infrastructure Investments – Prioritize energy, transport, and digital connectivity.
3. Financial Sector Deepening – Develop local capital markets to reduce reliance on foreign debt.
4. Skills Development – Align education with industry needs to build a productive workforce.
5. Leveraging AfCFTA – Strengthen regional trade networks and harmonize policies.
6. Geopolitical Positioning – Navigate global power dynamics to Africa's advantage.

Strategic Pillars for Africa's Private Sector Growth



Conclusion

Africa's business landscape in 2024 presents both opportunities and challenges. While private sector-led growth is possible, significant reforms are needed to create a more competitive, investment-friendly environment.

CHAPTER 3: POLICY AND SECTORAL STRATEGIES FOR UNLOCKING PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH

3.1 Introduction

For Africa to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic development, the private sector must become the engine of growth. This requires policy reforms, investment-friendly environments, and sectoral strategies to address existing structural challenges.

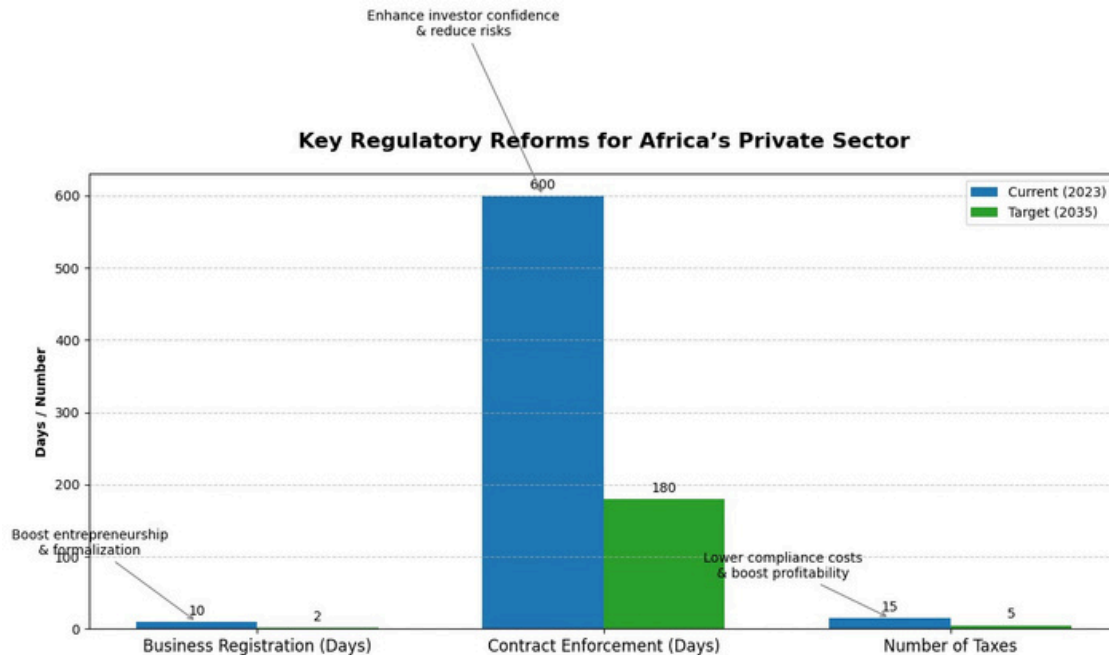
This chapter outlines specific policy recommendations and targeted strategies across key economic sectors, focusing on regulatory improvements, financial sector deepening, trade facilitation, industrialization, and workforce development.

For Africa to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic development, the private sector must become the engine of growth

3.2 Policy Reforms for an Enabling Business Environment

3.2.1 Strengthening Regulatory Frameworks

- Simplify business registration: The process of starting a business should take no more than 48 hours across Africa.
- Improve contract enforcement: Strengthen judicial efficiency to reduce disputes and ensure investor confidence.
- Reduce multiple taxation: A streamlined tax system that lowers the burden on businesses is essential.



3.2.2 Combating Corruption and Bureaucracy

- Digitize government services: Automated systems can reduce human interference in business approvals and licensing.
- Enhance transparency in procurement: Open tendering and e-procurement can reduce corruption in government contracts.
- Strengthen anti-corruption agencies: Agencies should be independent and well-funded to tackle corporate fraud.

3.2.3 Lowering the Cost of Doing Business

- Reduce power tariffs for businesses: High electricity costs make African manufacturing uncompetitive.
- Improve transport and logistics: Cut port clearance time to less than 48 hours to reduce trade bottlenecks.
- Ensure stable exchange rate policies: Currency fluctuations deter long-term foreign investment.

3.3 Industrialization and Manufacturing Strategy

3.3.1 Expanding Local Manufacturing

- Develop Special Economic Zones (SEZs) with tax incentives and reliable infrastructure.

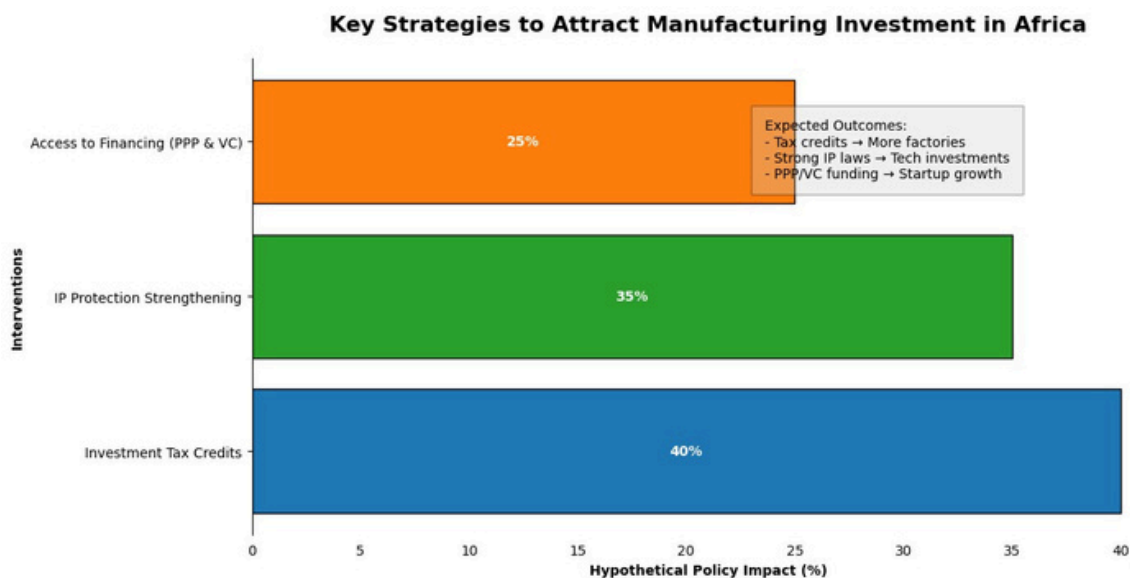
- Support agro-processing industries to add value to Africa’s agricultural products.
- Encourage import substitution in critical industries such as pharmaceuticals, machinery, and electronics.

3.3.2 Strengthening Infrastructure for Industrial Growth

- Invest in industrial parks to cluster industries and optimize resource use.
- Expand energy access to power manufacturing hubs, using a mix of solar, wind, and hydro energy solutions.
- Modernize ports and transport systems to improve trade efficiency.

3.3.3 Attracting Investment into Manufacturing

- Offer investment tax credits for companies that set up factories in Africa.
- Strengthen Intellectual Property (IP) protection to attract technology investments.
- Enhance access to financing through public-private partnerships and venture capital funding.



3.4 Enhancing Trade and Market Access

3.4.1 Leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

- Remove non-tariff barriers that hinder intra-African trade.
- Harmonize standards and regulations to ease cross-border commerce.
- Improve regional transport corridors for efficient trade logistics.

3.4.2 Strengthening Global Trade Partnerships

- Negotiate fair trade agreements with the EU, US, China, and BRICS nations.
- Enhance value addition in exports to reduce Africa's dependence on raw material exports.
- Promote regional value chains by integrating industries across African countries.

3.5 Financial Sector Development

3.5.1 Expanding Access to Credit for Businesses

- Develop credit guarantee schemes to support SMEs.
- Lower interest rates for businesses investing in productive sectors.
- Encourage local capital markets to fund private sector projects.

3.5.2 Strengthening Financial Inclusion

- Expand mobile banking and digital finance solutions.
 - Encourage fintech innovation to serve underbanked populations.
- Develop microfinance policies that support rural entrepreneurs.

3.6 Human Capital and Workforce Development

3.6.1 Aligning Education with Industry Needs

- Enhance technical and vocational training (TVET) to meet labor market demands.
- Encourage STEM education to boost innovation and industrial growth.
- Promote entrepreneurship training to develop a business-oriented mindset.

3.6.2 Creating Employment Opportunities

- Provide tax incentives for businesses hiring young professionals.
- Invest in digital skills development to prepare Africa's workforce for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- Encourage private sector participation in skills training programs.

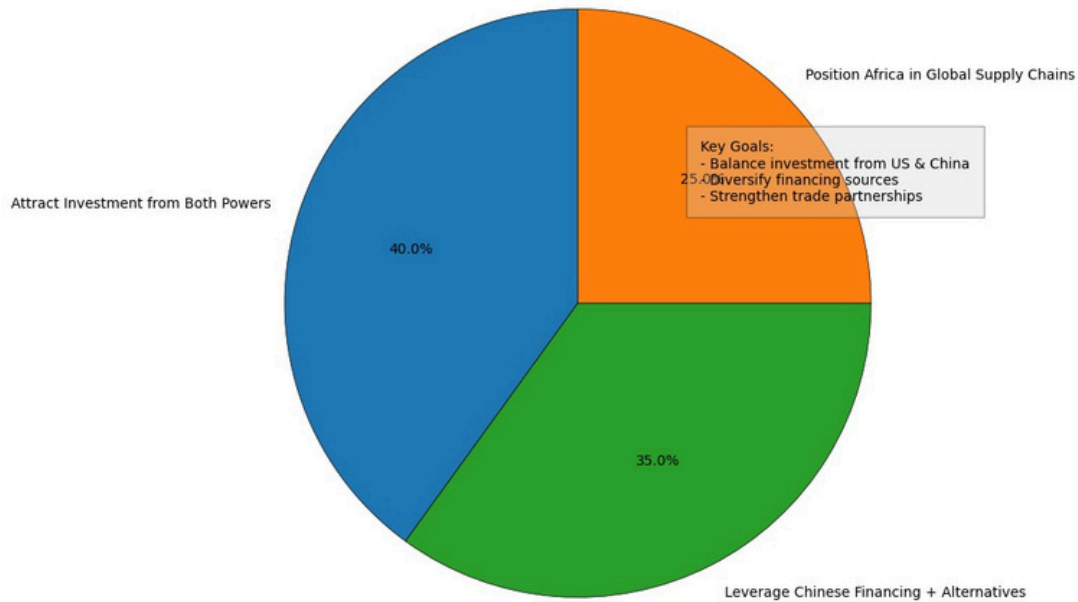
3.7 Leveraging Geopolitical Shifts for Economic Gains

3.7.1 Navigating US-China Rivalry

- Attract investment from both powers while maintaining economic sovereignty.

- Leverage infrastructure financing from China while seeking alternative investment sources.
- Position Africa as a strategic trade partner in global supply chains.

Africa's Strategies for Navigating US-China Rivalry



3.7.2 Africa's Role in BRICS+ and Emerging Markets

- Expand African participation in BRICS+ financing initiatives.
- Strengthen ties with India, Russia, and Latin America for diversified trade.
- Develop regional blocs to negotiate better trade terms.

3.7.3 Increasing African Influence in Global Economic Governance

- Push for greater representation in global institutions like the IMF and WTO.
- Develop an African Monetary Fund to reduce reliance on Western financial institutions.
- Encourage a unified African economic policy stance in global negotiations.

3.8 Conclusion: A Strategic Roadmap for Unlocking Africa's Private Sector

Key Takeaways:

1. Regulatory reforms must create an enabling business environment.
2. Industrialization and trade strategies should focus on value addition and regional integration.
3. Financial sector deepening is essential for private sector expansion.
4. Workforce development will drive innovation and employment.
5. Geopolitical positioning can unlock new economic opportunities.

CHAPTER 4: INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

4.1 Introduction

To unlock Africa's private sector potential and drive sustained economic growth, well-defined investment strategies and implementation mechanisms are required. This chapter outlines financing models, investment policies, and execution strategies to mobilize resources effectively, ensuring that the vision for a thriving private sector becomes a reality.

4.2 Mobilizing Domestic and Foreign Investments

4.2.1 Strengthening Domestic Investment Channels

To reduce over-reliance on external funding, Africa must expand local investment capacity by:

- Developing vibrant stock and bond markets to encourage African businesses to raise capital locally.
- Expanding pension fund investments in infrastructure and industrial projects.
- Encouraging diaspora investment through tax incentives and sovereign diaspora bonds.
- Enhancing domestic savings rates by improving financial literacy and expanding banking access.

4.2.2 Attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

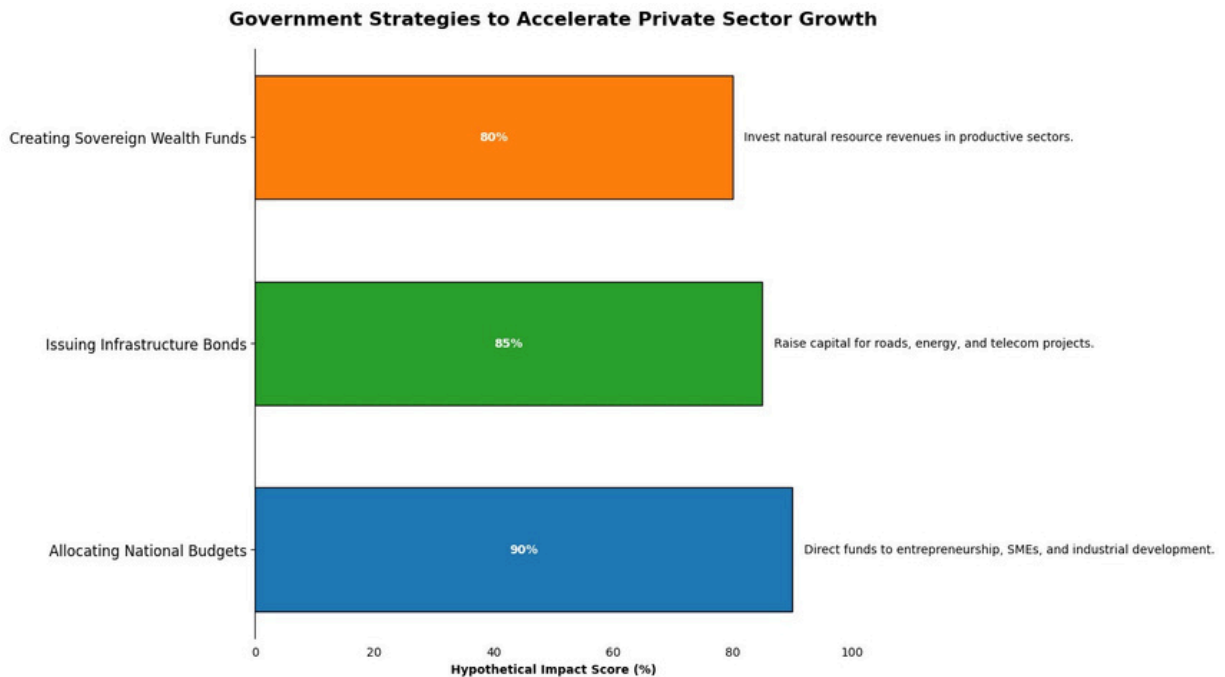
To become a top investment destination, African nations must:

- Improve ease of doing business by simplifying regulations and reducing bureaucratic bottlenecks.
- Offer investment incentives such as tax holidays, low corporate tax rates, and export incentives.
- Enhance political and economic stability through strong governance and anti-corruption measures.
- Position Africa as a global supply chain hub by leveraging its young workforce and strategic location.

4.2.3 Unlocking Public Sector Investment for Private Sector Growth

Governments can accelerate private sector growth by:

- Allocating a percentage of national budgets to support entrepreneurship and industrialization.
- Issuing infrastructure bonds to finance large-scale projects.
- Creating sovereign wealth funds to manage natural resource revenues and invest in productive sectors.



4.3 Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Infrastructure and Industry

4.3.1 Leveraging PPPs for Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure gaps hinder business growth. To address this, Africa must:

- Expand PPP models in transport, energy, and telecommunications to attract private sector investment.
- Ensure regulatory frameworks support long-term private investment in public infrastructure projects.
- Develop bankable infrastructure projects that meet international investment standards.

4.3.2 PPPs in Industrialization and Manufacturing

To boost manufacturing, PPPs should focus on:

- Establishing industrial parks and free trade zones with world-class infrastructure.

- Developing local supply chains by connecting small businesses to large industrial projects.
- Attracting global technology firms through incentives and joint ventures with local businesses.

4.4 Financing Models for SMEs and Large-Scale Projects

4.4.1 Expanding SME Financing

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of Africa's economy, but they face financing challenges. Solutions include:

- Establishing SME-focused development banks to provide affordable credit.
- Introducing credit guarantee schemes to reduce lending risks for commercial banks.
- Encouraging venture capital and private equity investment in African startups.
- Developing fintech solutions to improve access to finance for small businesses.

4.4.2 Funding Large-Scale Industrial and Infrastructure Projects

For large-scale projects, financing should come from:

- Blended financing that combines public funds, private investment, and development finance.
- Long-term infrastructure bonds issued by governments and regional blocs.
- Strategic partnerships with multilateral institutions such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and World Bank.

4.5 Implementation Roadmap and Accountability Mechanisms

4.5.1 Creating a Strong Implementation Framework

To ensure the success of private sector development strategies, governments must:

- Establish high-level investment councils to coordinate private sector policies.
- Set clear Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for investment and industrial growth targets.
- Appoint independent monitoring agencies to track policy execution.

4.5.2 Strengthening Institutional Capacity

Effective implementation requires:

- Training government officials to manage investment projects efficiently.
- Streamlining government agencies to reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies.
- Encouraging policy continuity beyond political cycles to maintain long-term investment confidence.

4.5.3 Ensuring Transparency and Anti-Corruption Measures

To maintain investor confidence, Africa must:

- Digitize public procurement systems to reduce corruption.
- Strengthen anti-corruption bodies with full independence and legal backing.
- Improve judiciary efficiency to handle investment disputes fairly and swiftly.

4.6 Conclusion: The Path to Sustainable Private Sector Growth

Key Takeaways:

1. Investment strategies must prioritize both domestic and foreign funding sources.
2. PPPs are crucial for bridging Africa's infrastructure and industrialization gap.
3. SME financing requires targeted policies to unlock entrepreneurship potential.
4. Implementation mechanisms must ensure policy continuity and investor confidence.

CHAPTER 5: REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

5.1 Introduction

Africa's economic growth depends not only on domestic reforms and private sector development but also on regional integration and global economic positioning. By leveraging intra-African trade, regional economic blocs, and strategic international partnerships, African nations can unlock new markets, investments, and competitive advantages.

This chapter examines how Africa can:

- Strengthen intra-African trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- Enhance regional industrial cooperation to boost manufacturing and value addition.
- Position Africa strategically in global trade and investment agreements.
- Navigate geopolitical shifts to maximize Africa's economic influence.

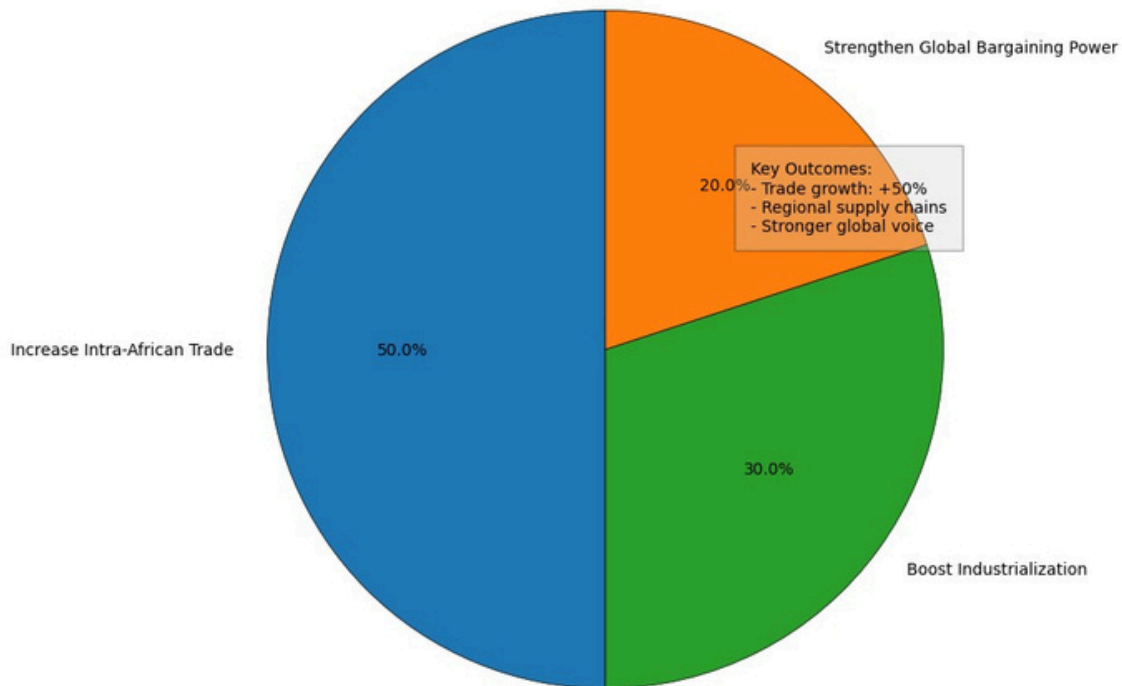
5.2 Strengthening Intra-African Trade and Economic Integration

5.2.1 The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Its Potential

AfCFTA, the largest free trade area in the world by population, presents a historic opportunity to boost intra-African trade. If fully implemented, it could:

- Increase intra-African trade by over 50% by eliminating tariffs and trade barriers.
- Boost Africa's industrialization by creating regional supply chains.
- Strengthen Africa's bargaining power in global trade negotiations.

Potential Benefits of AfCFTA (Fully Implemented)



5.2.2 Addressing Barriers to Regional Trade

Despite AfCFTA's potential, Africa's intra-regional trade remains low (around 16%) compared to Europe (70%) and Asia (59%). To improve this, African governments must:

- Streamline customs procedures to reduce border delays.
- Improve transport and logistics networks to lower trade costs.
- Harmonize trade regulations and standards across countries.
- Ensure full implementation of AfCFTA protocols, including the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) to facilitate cross-border transactions.

5.2.3 Strengthening Regional Economic Blocs for Industrialization

Africa's regional economic communities (RECs) – ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, COMESA, etc. – should serve as pillars of economic growth. Governments should:

- Develop regional manufacturing hubs to enhance production capacity.
- Establish regional energy and transport corridors to facilitate trade.

- Coordinate macroeconomic policies to stabilize investment environments.

5.3 Enhancing Africa's Position in Global Trade and Investment

5.3.1 Negotiating Favorable Trade Agreements

Africa's participation in global trade is often dominated by raw material exports. To move towards value-added exports, Africa must:

- Renegotiate trade agreements to secure better market access for manufactured goods.
- Reduce dependency on commodity exports by diversifying trade portfolios.
- Expand partnerships with emerging economies (China, India, UAE) while strengthening ties with traditional partners (EU, US).

5.3.2 Developing a Coordinated Investment Strategy

To attract foreign direct investment (FDI) on favorable terms, Africa needs:

- A unified African investment code to standardize regulations across countries.
- A continental investment promotion agency to market Africa's economic potential globally.
- A joint infrastructure investment fund to finance large-scale projects with international partners.

5.4 Leveraging Africa's Geopolitical Position for Economic Growth

5.4.1 Africa's Role in Global Supply Chains

With global supply chains shifting due to US-China tensions and COVID-19 disruptions, Africa has an opportunity to:

- Position itself as an alternative manufacturing hub by attracting foreign industries.
- Capitalize on nearshoring and friendshoring trends by integrating into Western supply chains.
- Promote local value addition in key industries like automobiles, electronics, and pharmaceuticals.

5.4.2 Strategic Engagement with Global Powers

Africa's relations with China, the US, the EU, and emerging economies should focus on:

- Technology transfer and industrial cooperation, not just resource extraction.
- Fair and transparent trade deals that benefit African businesses.
- Strengthening Africa's voice in global institutions like the WTO and IMF.

5.5 Implementation Framework for Regional and Global Economic Partnerships

5.5.1 Institutional Strengthening for Regional Trade

To ensure effective economic integration, governments must:

- Empower AfCFTA institutions to enforce trade rules.
- Strengthen regional development banks to fund cross-border projects.
- Enhance data-sharing among African economies to improve trade policy coordination.

5.5.2 Monitoring and Accountability in Global Agreements

Africa's trade and investment agreements must be monitored to ensure:

- Compliance with trade commitments by both African and foreign partners.
- Fair dispute resolution mechanisms to protect African businesses.
- Regular reviews of agreements to adapt to global economic changes.

5.6 Conclusion: The Path to a Globally Competitive Africa

Key Takeaways:

1. AfCFTA is Africa's best tool for intra-regional trade expansion and industrialization.
2. Regional economic blocs must take the lead in driving industrial growth.
3. Africa must shift from raw material exports to value-added global trade.
4. A unified approach to foreign investment will enhance Africa's global influence.
5. Strategic geopolitical positioning will determine Africa's future in global supply chains.

CHAPTER 6: TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

6.1 Introduction

Africa's economic future depends on technological innovation and digital transformation. With over 1.4 billion people, the continent has the potential to become a global leader in fintech, e-commerce, artificial intelligence (AI), and industrial automation. However, Africa must overcome key challenges, including poor digital infrastructure, low internet penetration, limited access to capital, and a skills gap in emerging technologies.

This chapter explores how Africa can:

- Develop a thriving digital economy through innovation and investment.
- Use technology to enhance governance, education, and healthcare.
- Leverage artificial intelligence, blockchain, and automation for economic growth.
- Improve digital infrastructure and bridge the digital divide.
- Position itself as a major player in the global tech industry.

6.2 Strengthening Africa's Digital Economy

6.2.1 The Rise of Africa's Fintech Sector

Africa is home to some of the world's fastest-growing fintech startups, revolutionizing banking, payments, and financial inclusion. Mobile money services like M-Pesa (Kenya), Flutterwave (Nigeria), and Chipper Cash (Pan-Africa) have transformed access to finance. However, challenges remain:

- Limited access to venture capital for tech startups.
 - Regulatory uncertainty in digital finance.
- Cybersecurity vulnerabilities and fraud risks.

Key Recommendations:

- Governments should create clear fintech regulations to encourage investment.
- Establish a Pan-African Digital Finance Framework to standardize fintech operations across borders.
- Invest in cybersecurity and digital identity verification systems to protect users.

6.2.2 Expanding E-Commerce and Digital Trade

E-commerce platforms like Jumia, Konga, and Takealot have shown Africa's potential in online retail. However, e-commerce growth is hindered

How to Join the Global Strategy Nexus Africa Summit as a Speaker or Sponsor

Overview

The Global Strategy Nexus Africa Summit is a premier gathering of thought leaders, policymakers, investors, and industry executives committed to shaping Africa's economic and strategic future. The Summit provides an exclusive platform for influential voices to share insights, drive conversations, and forge high-impact partnerships.

If you are a global leader, CEO, investor, policymaker, or expert with transformative ideas, you can join as a speaker to contribute to critical discussions. Organizations and corporations seeking to align their brand with Africa's growth and global strategy can become sponsors to gain high-profile visibility and strategic networking opportunities.

How to Join as a Speaker

Who Can Apply?

We are looking for:

- Heads of State and Ministers shaping economic and strategic policies.
- CEOs and Business Leaders driving innovation, investment, and economic transformation.
- Global Investors and Fund Managers interested in Africa's business landscape.
- Policy Experts and Academics offering insights into global strategy and governance.
- Tech Innovators and Founders leading Africa's digital revolution.
- Diplomats and Geopolitical Analysts influencing Africa's role in global affairs.

Speaker Requirements

1. **Expertise & Relevance:** Must have a strong track record in business, policy, investment, technology, or governance relevant to Africa's development.
2. **Thought Leadership:** Must present innovative ideas, case studies, or strategies that align with the Summit's key themes.
3. **Engagement:** Speakers must be available for pre-summit media engagements, interviews, and post-event discussions.
4. **Content Submission:** A brief topic proposal and bio must be submitted for review.

How to Apply:

Interested speakers should send a proposal including:

- Full Name and Title
- Organization/Affiliation
- Proposed Topic & Abstract
- Past Speaking Engagements (if any)
- Contact Details

Submit your application via email: admin@16thcouncil.Uk

Note: Speaker slots are limited, and selection is based on alignment with the Summit's agenda.

How to Join as a Sponsor

Why Sponsor?

Sponsoring the Global Strategy Nexus Africa Summit provides your organization with:

- High-Profile Brand Exposure among global policymakers, investors, and business leaders.
- Strategic Networking Opportunities with top decision-makers and emerging market players.
- Market Positioning as a key player in Africa's economic transformation.

Sponsorship Tiers

We offer flexible sponsorship packages to suit different levels of engagement and visibility:

1. Platinum Sponsor (Exclusive)
2. Gold Sponsor
3. Silver Sponsor
4. Supporting Partner

- How to Become a Sponsor

Organizations interested in sponsorship should contact the Summit team for a detailed sponsorship package and a customized partnership discussion.

Reach Out:

✉ Email: admin@16thcouncil.Uk

Final Notes

Both speaking and sponsorship opportunities are limited, and early application is recommended. Join us in shaping Africa's future at the Global Strategy Nexus Africa Summit—where leadership, investment, and innovation converge.

