AFRICAN CEO COUNCIL
AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES

CORPORATE PROFILE

AFRICAN CEO COUNCIL

A pan-African membership organisation connecting chief executives and board leaders to markets, capital, knowledge and influence.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Context

Africa is entering a decisive period of economic, technological and institutional transformation. The continent's expanding population, growing consumer markets, digital innovation, natural resources, entrepreneurial talent and implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area present significant opportunities for sustainable economic development.

African enterprises, however, continue to operate in a challenging environment characterised by fragmented markets, infrastructure gaps, inconsistent regulations, restricted access to capital, high operating costs, skills shortages and limited cross-border collaboration. Climate-related risks, geopolitical uncertainty, technological disruption and changing international trade and investment requirements have added further complexity.

Chief executives are expected to navigate these challenges while maintaining organisational performance, protecting stakeholder interests, embracing innovation and identifying new growth opportunities. They require trusted relationships, relevant intelligence, stronger institutional representation and practical platforms through which they can engage investors, policymakers and other business leaders.

The African CEO Council exists to respond to this need by connecting credible African chief executives to markets, capital, knowledge and influence.

Background

The African CEO Council, legally incorporated as the African Council of Chief Executives, Inc., was established in New York City, United States of America, in October 2010.

It was conceived as an independent, non-partisan, pan-African membership-based organisation bringing together chief executive officers, and chairpersons, managing directors, presidents, founders, executive directors and other senior corporate leaders from Africa and the African diaspora.

The Council was created in recognition of the need for a trusted platform through which African business leaders could exchange knowledge, build strategic relationships, promote investment, strengthen corporate leadership and contribute collectively to Africa's economic development.

Following a period of limited activity, the Council has recently been reactivated and repositioned as a modern, action-oriented institution serving the changing needs of African chief executives and their organisations.

The reactivated Council gives a particular attention to practical member value, measurable outcomes, institutional credibility and cross-border business opportunities. Its programmes promote executive leadership, responsible business practices, market access, investment mobilisation, corporate governance, innovation and private-sector participation in public policy.



WHO WE ARE

Leadership for a stronger African private sector

Corporate Indentity

The African CEO Council is an independent, non-partisan, pan-African membership-based organisation dedicated to strengthening executive leadership, enterprise competitiveness and private-sector collaboration across Africa. It is CEO-level platform for serving chief executive officers, managing directors, executive chairpersons and qualifying board chairpersons across Africa and the African diaspora.

The Council provides a trusted platform through which chief executives can develop strategic relationships, access business intelligence, identify investment and partnership opportunities, strengthen their leadership capabilities and contribute to policies affecting the African business environment.

Membership is intended for credible chief executives and senior organisational leaders from established companies, growth enterprises, financial institutions, professional organisations, investment bodies and other qualifying private-sector institutions.

The Council also engages governments, regulators, development finance institutions, investors, multilateral organisations, diplomatic missions, professional bodies, universities, research institutions and development partners where such engagement supports its mission.

Its role is not limited to networking. The Council seeks to convert executive relationships into meaningful cooperation, including commercial partnerships, investment opportunities, policy recommendations, leadership development, market-entry support and collaborative initiatives.

The Council maintains a continental outlook while recognising the different economic, linguistic, regulatory and cultural environments in which African companies operate. Its activities may be delivered through continental programmes, regional engagements, country-level meetings, sector working groups, digital platforms and strategic institutional partnerships.

The African CEO Council is guided by the principles of integrity, professionalism, accountability, inclusion, responsible leadership, collaboration, innovation and measurable impact.

Our profile

The Council convenes senior business leaders to build trusted relationships, exchange practical knowledge, identify opportunities, strengthen governance and contribute informed private-sector perspectives to Africa's policy and development agenda. Its work is designed around the realities facing African enterprises: fragmented markets, uneven access to finance, rapid technological change, governance demands and the transition to sustainable growth.

Mission

To connect, equip and represent African chief executives so they can lead resilient enterprises, expand across markets and contribute responsibly to shared prosperity.

Vision

An Africa in which capable, ethical and connected business leaders build globally competitive enterprises and help shape inclusive economic progress.

Pan-African reach	CEO-level trust	Responsible influence
Cross-border relationships and programmes grounded in national and regional priorities.	A peer environment designed for candid exchange, practical cooperation and executive learning.	Evidence-led engagement that protects institutional independence and public credibility.

WHAT WE DO

Our Core Activities

In pursuit of its mission and objectives, the African CEO Council is devoted to executing the following core activities.

1. Executive Leadership Development
- Organize CEO leadership summits, executive forums, and masterclasses.
- Deliver executive education, governance, strategy, innovation, and digital transformation programmes.
- Facilitate mentoring and coaching for emerging business leaders.

2. Business Networking and Strategic Partnerships
- Connect CEOs with investors, governments, development partners, and multinational corporations.
- Organize high-level networking dinners, business roundtables, and executive retreats.
- Promote cross-border partnerships, joint ventures, and strategic alliances.

3. Policy Advocacy and Business Representation
- Represent the interests of African businesses before governments and regional institutions.
- Develop policy recommendations that improve the business environment.
- Advocate for private sector development, ease of doing business, and economic reforms.

4. Trade and Investment Promotion
- Facilitate investment missions across African countries.
- Organize trade fairs, investment forums, and business matchmaking events.
- Promote intra-African trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- Showcase investment opportunities in key sectors.

5. Corporate Governance and Ethical Leadership
- Promote international standards of corporate governance.
- Encourage ethical business practices, transparency, and accountability.
- Develop governance frameworks for member organizations.

6. Research, Publications and Knowledge Sharing
- Publish reports on African business trends and economic outlook.
- Produce leadership insights, CEO interviews, and industry analyses.
- Conduct surveys and benchmarking studies on executive leadership.

7. CEO Recognition and Excellence Awards
- Organize annual African CEO Awards.
- Recognize outstanding business leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, and organizations.
- Celebrate excellence in corporate leadership and business sustainability.

8. Capacity Building for CEOs, Boards and Entrepreneurs
- Support CEOs and entrepreneurs through executive mentoring.
- Provide business advisory and enterprise development services.
- Facilitate access to finance, markets, and technology.

9. Innovation and Digital Transformation
- Promote digital innovation and emerging technologies.
- Support AI, fintech, green technologies, and Industry 4.0 adoption.
- Connect startups with corporate partners and investors.

10. Sustainability and ESG Initiatives
- Promote Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles.

- Encourage responsible investment and sustainable business practices.
- Support climate resilience and green economic growth.

11. Women and Youth Leadership Development

- Develop programmes that empower women CEOs and executives.
- Promote youth entrepreneurship and future business leaders.
- Encourage diversity and inclusion in executive leadership.

12. International Relations and Global Engagement

- Build partnerships with international chambers of commerce and business councils.
- Coordinate CEO delegations to international investment and trade events.
- Facilitate business diplomacy between Africa and global markets.

13. Membership Services

- Executive networking opportunities.
- Business referrals and introductions.
- Access to exclusive research and market intelligence.
- Discounted participation in conferences and training.
- Leadership certification programmes.
- Executive advisory services.

14. Conferences, Forums and Signature Events

The Council may organize flagship events including:

- African Board Executive Training Seminars
- EU – Africa CEO Roundtables; EU – Africa CEO Roundtables; Asia – Africa CEO Summit
- Africa regional and country-level CEO Breakfast Meetings
- Africa Regional and National CEO and Industry Executive Roundtable Series
- Africa Corporate Governance Conference
- Africa Innovation & Digital Economy Forum
- Annual African CEO Awards Gala
- CEO Golf & Networking Tournament
- Overseas and Africa Regional Business Missions.



WHAT GUIDES US

Five strategic priorities

The Council concentrates its convening, research, partnerships and member services in five areas where collective CEO leadership can produce practical value.

01

Intra-African trade and market access

Helping enterprises navigate regional markets, build commercial relationships, use the African Continental Free Trade Area and overcome operational barriers to cross-border growth.

02

Access to capital for growth companies

Connecting credible businesses with banks, development finance institutions, investors and capital-market actors while improving investment readiness and financial leadership.

03

CEO board and governance capability

Strengthening strategic leadership, board effectiveness, ethics, risk oversight, succession planning and institutional resilience.

04

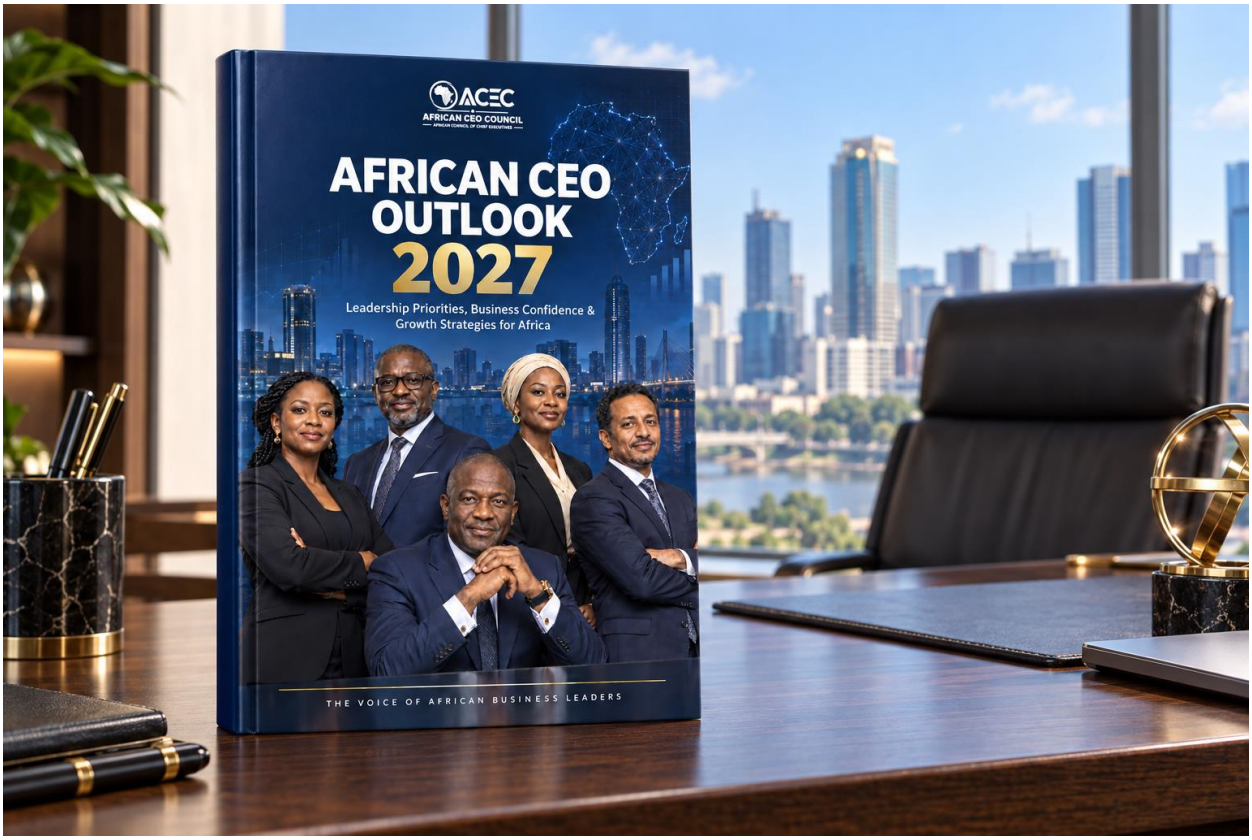
Digital transformation and responsible AI

Helping leaders convert technology into productivity and growth while addressing data governance, cybersecurity, workforce readiness and responsible artificial intelligence.

05

Sustainability and ESG leadership

Supporting commercially relevant environmental, social and governance practices, climate resilience, credible reporting and sustainable business transformation.



MEMBERSHIP

A trusted community for serving leaders

Membership is personal to the admitted executive. It is designed for leaders who carry significant responsibility for enterprise performance, governance and institutional impact.

Who may be considered

- Serving chief executive officers, group chief executive officers and managing directors of established enterprises.
- Executive chairpersons and qualifying board chairpersons with substantial governance responsibility.
- Heads of major public enterprises, development institutions and other organisations whose mandates align with the Council's purpose.
- Eligible African CEOs in the diaspora who maintain a meaningful professional or investment connection to Africa.

Admission principles

Admission is selective and subject to eligibility review, professional standing, and alignment with the Council's values, formal approval and payment of the applicable membership fee. Membership is not transferable and does not create an endorsement of a member's organisation, products or political positions.

Member value

Trusted peer network Build relationships with CEOs, board leaders, investors, policymakers and institutional partners.	**Market and capital connections** Access curated introductions, investment conversations and cross-border opportunity platforms.
Leadership intelligence Receive executive briefings, research, publications and practical learning opportunities.	**Policy engagement** Contribute informed business perspectives to structured dialogue on Africa's economic priorities.
Visibility and thought leadership Participate in interviews, panels, publications and selected leadership platforms.	**Member-only access** Use private forums, selected directories and invitation-only roundtables reserved for admitted members.

Key Benefits of Membership

Connecting African CEOs to markets, capital, knowledge and influence.

The African CEO Council provides a platform for African chief executives to build strategic relationships, exchange knowledge, access business intelligence and contribute to the continent's economic transformation.

Membership offers opportunities for CEOs to strengthen their leadership capabilities, explore cross-border business opportunities and engage with influential stakeholders across Africa and international markets.

a. **Pan-African Executive Network**
   Connect with fellow CEOs, business leaders, investors and institutional stakeholders to build meaningful relationships across countries, industries and markets.

b. **Business, Trade and Investment Connections**
Explore cross-border partnerships, market-entry opportunities, investor introductions, potential business partners, distributors and strategic alliances.

c. **CEO Roundtables and Executive Forums**
Participate in peer-level discussions on economic trends, corporate strategy, access to capital, governance, digital transformation, responsible AI and sustainability.

d. **Access to Capital and Investment Networks**
Gain opportunities to engage with commercial banks, development finance institutions, private-equity firms, venture-capital investors and other financing institutions. Members may also access guidance on investment readiness and financing proposals.

e. **Leadership and Governance Development**
Access executive education, leadership seminars, governance masterclasses, strategy sessions and professional development programmes designed to strengthen executive effectiveness and organisational resilience.

f. **Research and Executive Intelligence**
Access selected Council publications, market intelligence, policy briefs, sector reports, investment guides and the *African CEO Outlook*, subject to availability and applicable access arrangements.

g. **Executive Visibility and Thought Leadership**
Eligible members may be considered for executive interviews, leadership profiles, speaking engagements, expert commentary and contributions to Council publications, subject to editorial standards and programme requirements.

h. **Government and Institutional Engagement**
Participate in structured dialogue with relevant public institutions, regulators, investment-promotion agencies, development partners and regional economic organisations.

i. **Strategic Committees and Initiatives**
Contribute expertise to initiatives addressing intra-African trade, access to capital, corporate governance, digital transformation, sustainability and responsible business leadership.

j. **Membership Recognition and Support**
Approved members may receive an official membership certificate, authorised membership identification and access to the Council's private membership directory, alongside support for programme participation and professional introductions.

JOIN A NETWORK COMMITTED TO AFRICA'S BUSINESS FUTURE

The African CEO Council seeks to advance responsible executive leadership, strengthen African enterprise and promote greater collaboration across the continent. Members have opportunities to contribute to practical initiatives that support business growth, investment, innovation and sustainable development.

Membership is for eligible individual CEOs and is subject to the Council's admission criteria and policies.

PROGRAMMES

Platforms that turn membership into practical value

The Council's programme portfolio combines convening, executive development, research, publishing and market engagement.

African CEO Roundtables
Confidential, outcome-oriented national and regional discussions on business conditions, investment, competitiveness and public-private cooperation.

African CEO Leadership Institute
The Institute provides executive education, masterclasses and leadership development for CEOs and senior enterprise leaders.

African Board Leadership Forum
A governance and board-development platform bringing together directors and chairpersons of African enterprises and public organisations.

African CEO Outlook
An annual evidence-led report on CEO confidence, risks, investment intentions and the operating outlook across African markets.

Africa Investor Guide
A practical annual investment publication featuring countries, sectors, institutions, projects and market-entry intelligence.

African CEO Journal
A quarterly publication written by and for CEOs, featuring leadership insight, enterprise strategy and informed commentary.

African CEO Watchlist
The Council's official newsletter tracking executive appointments, business developments, opportunities, industry trends, economic policies, and institutional news.

Executive seminars and missions
Focused training seminars, such the African CEO Seminar, Executive Board Seminars, and policy dialogues, investor engagements and carefully selected overseas trade and investment missions.



PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborating for measurable African outcomes

The Council works with institutions that can contribute expertise, access, evidence, implementation capacity or resources while respecting its independence and integrity.

Potential partners

Partner group	Areas of collaboration
African and regional institutions	Trade integration, private-sector dialogue, investment facilitation, governance and continental programmes.
Governments and agencies	Market intelligence, national CEO roundtables, investment promotion and policy consultation.
UN and development organisations	Sustainable development, enterprise capability, inclusion, climate action and responsible business.
Financial institutions and investors	Access to finance, investment readiness, transaction pipelines and capital-market development.
Chambers and professional bodies	Member mobilisation, sector intelligence, technical expertise and joint convening.
Universities and knowledge partners	Research, executive learning, surveys, case studies and evidence dissemination.
Corporations and foundations	Programme support, subject-matter expertise, innovation and responsible sponsorship.

Partnership formats

Partnerships may include programme collaboration, research and knowledge partnerships, strategic sponsorship, executive learning, country and sector initiatives, content and distribution partnerships, institutional participation, and jointly defined projects with clear deliverables.



INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS

Independent credible and accountable

The Council's legitimacy depends on disciplined governance, careful membership, responsible partnerships and transparent institutional conduct.

Non-partisanship The Council does not serve a political party, candidate or partisan agenda.	**Funding independence** Funding must not purchase policy positions, research conclusions, admissions decisions or inappropriate access.
Research independence Research questions, methods, interpretation and publication decisions remain protected from sponsor influence.	**Integrity and conflicts** Members, officers, speakers and partners are expected to disclose relevant conflicts and uphold ethical conduct.
Privacy and discretion Member information and private discussions are handled responsibly; member-only resources remain restricted.	**Transparency** Material partnerships, sponsored activities and relevant institutional interests should be appropriately disclosed.

How we measure value

- Quality and diversity of admitted CEO participation.
- Commercial, investment and knowledge connections enabled for members.
- Actionable recommendations and commitments generated through programmes.
- Evidence of stronger leadership, governance and enterprise capability.
- Reach and practical use of Council research and publications.

ENGAGE WITH US

Join shape or support the Council's work

The African CEO Council welcomes engagement from eligible CEOs and from institutions seeking credible collaboration on African enterprise leadership, investment and sustainable growth.

For chief executives

Request membership information or accept a formal invitation to join the Council's founding membership community.

For institutions and partners

Propose a partnership, participate in a programme, contribute expertise, support independent research or collaborate on a national, regional or sector initiative.

Our Contacts

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