



WCF Africa Summit
Africa's Global Future: Integrated, Innovative and Sustainable

Dates: 9 – 10 April 2025
Radisson Blu Hotel, Nairobi Upper Hill
Nairobi, Kenya

PROGRAMME

Day one sets the tone for strategic dialogue on Africa's economic integration, innovation, and sustainability. The agenda begins with high-level insights on AfCFTA implementation and how Africa can effectively participate in global value chains. Attendees will explore critical issues such as inclusive financial strategies, digital trade transformation, and overcoming barriers for women in business. Interactive panel discussions and engaging keynote addresses will provide practical solutions and stimulate collaboration among policymakers, industry leaders, and experts.

Day	Time	Event
Day 1 – April 9, 2025 - Accelerating AfCFTA implementation, enhancing women's participation in trade, bridging financial inclusion gaps, and digital transformation of SMEs.	07:30–08:30	Registration and Breakfast Networking
	08:30–10:10	Opening Session <i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Dr Erick Rutto – Chamber President, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KNCCI) ii. Rifat Hisarcıkloğlu – Chair, ICC World Chambers Federation (WCF) iii. Philippe Varin – Chair, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) iv. H.E. Sakaja Arthur Johnson – Governor, Nairobi City County v. Hon. Wycliffe A. Oparanya – Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development vi. H.E. Dr. William Ruto – President of the Republic of Kenya
	10:10–10:40	Networking Coffee/Tea Break
	10:40–11:00	Opening Session (Continues) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vii. H.E. Mr. Beyene Russom – Dean of African Diplomatic Corps and Eritrea Ambassador to Kenya viii. Elizabeth Wasunna-Ochwa, Business Banking Director, Absa Bank Kenya ix. Gagan Gupta, Founder and CEO, ARISE Group (Critical success factors & Regulatory expectations for SEZ's) x. Dr. Stephen Jackson – UN Resident Coordinator xi. Ms. Mary Porter Peschka – IFC's Regional Director for East Africa xii. John Denton – Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
	11:00–11:20	Fireside Chat: Navigating opportunities and risks for business in Africa and around the world <i>Speaker:</i> Philippe Varin (Chair, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)) and Jasmine Wambui (Moderator).
	11:20–12:30	Panel Discussion: Leverage AfCFTA to Drive Africa's Participation in Global Value Chains <i>Moderator:</i> Amb. Amina Mohamed – Former Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Kenya. <i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Mr. Joseah Rotich - Ag Director External Trade, State Department for Trade, Kenya

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Gen. Wilson Mbasu Mbadi – State Minister for Trade, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Uganda iii. H.E. Damphey Bediako Asare – High Commissioner of Ghana to Kenya iv. Patrick Obath – ICC Vice Chair v. Frank Matsaert MBE – Senior Adviser & Global Lead for Trade and Infrastructure, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change vi. Mr. Isaac Tongola – Executive Director, FairTrade Africa (not on stage as panel – giving closing remarks – 5 mins – from lectern) vii. Mr. Reuben Gisore, a Technical Director at the African Organisation for Standardisation – ARSO (Not on the stage – question from audience or lectern)
	12:30–13:30	Lunch Break
	13:45–15:00	<p>Panel Discussion: <i>Women in Trade and Business – Overcoming Barriers and Driving Economic Growth</i> Moderator: Rose Rono – Gender Inclusion Expert Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Keynote - Elizabeth Wasunna-Ochwa, Business Banking Director, Absa Bank Kenya (from lectern, back to audience seating) ii. Marie-Christine Oghly – First Vice-Chair, Paris Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry (France); Chair, WCF Women’s Council iii. Rim Siam – Egypt Chamber of Commerce iv. Hon. Susan Auma Mang’eni – Principal Secretary, State Department of MSME Development, Kenya v. Zainab Mohamed, Chairperson, Women in Business (WIB), KNCCI vi. Laure Paugam – Executive Director, French Chamber of Commerce in Kenya; Founding Member, EuroCham Kenya
	15:00–15:10	<p>Special Address: <i>Perspectives from China–Africa Cooperation</i> Speaker: Mr. Yu Jianlong (Secretary General, China Chamber of International Commerce)</p>
	15:10–15:40	<p>Panel Discussion: <i>Bridging the Financial Divide – Unlocking Inclusive Growth in Africa</i> Moderator: Richard Ngatia, General Council of the ICC / World Chambers Federation:</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Omolara Ololade Akanji – Member, ICC Executive Board (Nigeria) ii. Pedro Xavier Faz de los Santos – Lead, Financial Services for Equality and Growth, CGAP, World Bank iii. Dr Jane Kiringai, Special Advisor, World Data Lab iv. Yvonne Oerlemans – General Manager, Netherlands Business Hub; Founding Member, EuroCham Kenya

		v. Dr. Julius Kipng'etich, Group CEO, Jubilee Insurance
	15:40–16:00	Networking Coffee/Tea Break
	16:00–17:15	<p>Panel Discussion: <i>Digitalising Trade and Enabling SME Inclusion – Standards, Legal Reform and Adoption on the Continent</i></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Pamela Mar – Managing Director, Digital Standards Initiative, ICC</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Wambui Wanjiku – Regional Lead for East Africa, IOTA Foundation ii. David Ngarama – CEO, Kenya Trade Network Agency (KenTrade) iii. Mike Truter – Representative, SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) iv. Jeremiah Mutune, Pan African Head: Trade and Working Capital Digital Propositions and Partnerships, Absa Bank Kenya v. Hassan Al Hashemi – Vice President, Dubai Chambers

Day two of the summit continues with focused dialogues and interactive sessions emphasizing chamber collaborations, entrepreneurial innovation among African youth, and sustainable trade practices. Concluding sessions highlight strategies for resilient and inclusive growth, ensuring Africa's trade future is sustainably positioned. The summit will close with a gala dinner, celebrating partnerships and outcomes achieved.

Day	Time	Event
Day 2 – April 10, 2025 - Chamber-led collaboration, youth entrepreneurship and innovation, sustainable trade practices, and building resilient and inclusive trade ecosystems.	08:00–09:00	Breakfast Networking
	08:00–09:45	African Chamber Presidents' Meeting (Invite Only)
	09:00–10:00	Masterclass: Engaging with the DSI to Digitalize Trade on the Continent
	09:00–12:30	B2B Session
	10:00–12:30	WCF General Council Meeting (World Chambers Federation)
	10:30–11:00	Networking Coffee/Tea Break <i>Coffee/tea break during the forum. Delegates can network</i>
	11:00–12:00	Masterclass: Understanding the Ripple Effects – U.S. Tariff Changes and Africa's Trade Outlook <i>Speaker: Valerie Picard – Head of Trade (Global Policy), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)</i>
	12:30–13:30	Lunch Break
	13:45–15:00	Panel Discussion: Chambers as Catalysts – Unlocking Collaboration for Africa's Trade and Growth <i>Moderator: Chabuka J. Kawesha – Vice President (Southern Africa), Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PACCI)</i> <i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Tanniar Leba – President and Founder, Canadian African Business Chamber ii. Gennadiy Chyzhykov, President of the Ukraine Chamber of Commerce iii. Kiprono Kittony, Chair, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KNCCI) Board of Trustees iv. Toki Mabogunje, WCF Vice-Chair for Africa
	15:00–15:45	Panel Discussion: Opportunities for African Entrepreneurs – Innovative Solutions for Young Entrepreneurs to Tap into New Markets <i>Moderator: Bernard Wambugu – Technology Entrepreneur</i> <i>Panelist:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Yo Han Kim – Director, International Youth Fellowship (IYF) ii. Keisuke Shimoyamada – 2025 JCI (Junior Chamber International) President iii. Patricia Nzolantima – Serial entrepreneur, investor, and ICC Board Member (DR Congo) iv. Julian Kassum, International Chamber of Commerce, Deputy Secretary General - Network v. Hazel Okoth – Africa Consultant, International Trademark Association (INTA)

	15:45–16:15	Networking Coffee/Tea Break
	16:15–17:00	Panel Discussion: <i>Advancing Sustainable Trade – Strategies for Resilient and Inclusive Growth for Africa’s Future</i> Moderator: Caroline Njuki, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO in Kenya Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Madeline Muga – Strategy and Impact Director, Fairtrade Africa ii. Charles Wokabi, Head of Sustainability and Corporate Affairs, Absa Bank Kenya iii. Declan Galvin – Chairman, BIK (Business Ireland Kenya) iv. Dr. Modupe Taylor-Pearce – CEO, BCA Leadership v. Filippo Amato – First Counsellor, Head of Trade Section, Delegation of the European Union to Kenya
	17:00–17:15	Summit Closing & Key Takeaways
	19:00–21:00	Gala Night Dinner