



Africa Summit

AFRICA AT THE HEART
OF A CHANGING WORLD

9:00AM – 5:00PM | MAY 27TH, 2025.

MAISON DE LA PAIX CHEMIN
EUGÈNE-RIGOT 2, 1202 GENÈVE

CONCEPT NOTES



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brief

In a world defined by shifting power dynamics, Africa stands at the forefront of global transformation. With its youthful population, abundant resources, technological innovation, and growing influence, the continent is poised to play a pivotal role in shaping a multipolar world. The African Summit in Geneva 2025 will bring together policymakers, thought leaders, innovators, graduate students and activists to discuss Africa's potential to lead in democracy, Health and humanitarian resilience, and technological innovation, while addressing challenges to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.



Introduction 01

Africa is increasingly becoming central to the world's geopolitical, economic, and cultural evolution. With a population projected to exceed 2.5 billion by 2050—40% of the global youth population—the continent is poised to serve as a hub of creativity, innovation, and leadership. Africa's emerging markets, abundant natural resources, and rapid adoption of digital technologies underline its growing influence. However, this influence comes with the responsibility of addressing internal challenges such as governance deficits, health and humanitarian infrastructures, and socio-economic inequality. The African Summit in Geneva 2025 aims to explore how Africa can consolidate its strengths to lead in a multipolar world, where global power is shared and diversified among multiple regions and actors.

▶▶ **Africa's Democratic Future**

Africa's democratic systems remain fragile but hold immense potential to contribute to global stability. While there has been significant progress—more than half of the continent's nations now conduct regular elections—challenges persist, including election-related violence, judicial overreach, and corruption.



In recent years, a concerning regression has emerged with a spate of military coups and unconstitutional power transitions in countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Niger. This resurgence of military takeovers threatens to erode hard-won democratic gains and undermine regional and international confidence.

The Summit will explore actionable strategies to strengthen Africa's democratic institutions and governance structures. Conversations may touch on how digital tools can increase transparency and encourage citizen participation. For instance, the use of blockchain technology for election integrity, as piloted in Sierra Leone, presents a potential model that could be adapted more widely. Lessons from countries like Botswana—which consistently ranks high in governance indices—may also provide valuable insights into resilience and accountability within democratic systems. With over 70% of African nations committed to democratic frameworks under the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance, the summit aims to stimulate meaningful dialogue and encourage practical steps toward fulfilling these commitments, particularly amid growing challenges to democratic stability.

»» **Africa's Health Financing**

Health financing is a defining issue for Africa, as the continent continues to grapple with fragile healthcare systems and heavy dependence on external aid. Africa's health sector has been largely shaped by foreign funding mechanisms, making it vulnerable to shifts in global priorities.

The summit will explore pathways to financially independent and sustainable health systems, ensuring Africa can respond to existing and emerging health challenges without over-reliance on external donors. The discussions will highlight the consequences of decreasing international funding, such as the USA's withdrawal from global health commitments, and assess whether other nations will follow suit. The conversation will also delve into how historical aid structures have shaped African healthcare systems—analyzing both their benefits and drawbacks. The summit will ask critical questions: Can Africa reshape its health financing landscape? Should donor funding be prioritized through institutions that strengthen local organizations and governments?

»» **Africa's Technological Landscape**

Africa's technological landscape is another area of transformative potential, with the continent increasingly seen as a global hub for innovation. Over the past decade, Africa has witnessed a 46% annual growth in tech startups, with countries like Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa leading the charge. Mobile money services, pioneered by Kenya's M-Pesa, have revolutionized financial inclusion, allowing millions to access banking services for the first time.

However, Africa's innovation is not limited to fintech; advancements in agritech, such as Ghana's Farmerline, and health tech, like Zipline's drone delivery of medical supplies in Rwanda, demonstrate how technology is addressing local challenges. The summit will focus on how Africa can leapfrog traditional development pathways through technology. Discussions will explore building sovereign digital infrastructures, fostering homegrown AI solutions, and empowering youth and women in STEM. With 60% of Africa's population under the age of 25, the digital economy represents a unique opportunity to drive sustainable growth and position Africa as a leader in global innovation.



»»» Summit Outlook

The summit will bring together key stakeholders, including representatives from international organizations such as the African Union and United Nations, civil society leaders, and private sector innovators. Held in Geneva, a global center for diplomacy and development, the event aims to promote dialogue and partnerships between Africa and the international community. By the conclusion of the summit, participants are expected to outline a roadmap highlighting potential commitments in governance, health and humanitarian resilience, and technological advancement, positioning Africa to play an influential role in shaping its future in a rapidly changing world.

The African Summit in Geneva 2025 will thus serve as a platform to articulate Africa's priorities and solutions in addressing shared global challenges. In a multipolar world, Africa's voice is not just necessary — it is indispensable. By highlighting the continent's strengths and addressing its challenges, the summit seeks to redefine Africa's global narrative as a leader, innovator, and partner in building a more equitable and sustainable world.

summit Objectives

1

Explore actionable strategies to strengthen Africa's democratic institutions and governance, ensuring resilience in an evolving global order.

2

Rethink health and humanitarian financing in Africa, exploring sustainable solutions to reduce dependency on external aid and build resilient healthcare systems.

3

Showcase Africa's capacity for technological innovation, emphasizing its ability to leapfrog traditional barriers and shape the digital future.

Key Panels



Panel 1: Strengthening Africa's Democratic Future

Objective:

Explore actionable strategies to build robust, inclusive, and accountable democratic institutions, empowering citizens and ensuring stability in a rapidly changing global landscape.

Potential Discussion Points:

- Addressing current democratic trends, back slide with Military coups, electoral integrity and judicial independence.
- Enhancing citizen participation using technology for governance transparency.
- Tackling corruption through institutional reforms. Building African-led regional mechanisms to uphold democracy in times of crisis.

03

Key Panels

Panel 2:

Rethinking Health and Humanitarian Financing for Africa

Objective:

Explore the current context and climate regarding overall health financing sustainability in Africa. With eventual participation from stakeholders that work on at Global, Regional, and country level, as well as the Governmental and non-Governmental recipients. The aim is to get a full overview of the shifts that are necessary in order for the African continent to reduce or eliminate the heavy dependence on external funding for health while developing scalable strategies of growth to build their own mechanisms and sources of funding for existing and emerging health challenges.

Potential Discussion Points:

Address the current climate: USA withdrawing funding, the lead up to this change and what this has meant

Look back to how institutions have been shaped around aid and how mechanisms of health financing have existed within the African context.

What needs to change in order to give power to African States and organizations.

Looking forward – steps that can be taken and built on, to reach a state of lower reliance and higher empowerment

Panel 3: **Tech Leapfrogging—How Africa Can Innovate on Its Own Terms?**

Objective:

Examine how Africa can harness technology to address unique challenges, create solutions tailored to local contexts, and establish itself as a leader in global innovation.

Potential Discussion Points:

- Developing localized AI solutions for agriculture, health, and education.
 - Scaling blockchain technology for financial inclusion and secure governance.
 - Building a sovereign African digital infrastructure (e.g., data centers, cloud systems).
 - Empowering youth and women in STEM to lead Africa's digital revolution.
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04

expected outcomes

Summit Declaration:

A commitment to practical, time-bound initiatives addressing key themes, to be reviewed at future summits.

05

Target Participants

- **Representatives from the African Union, United Nations, and international organizations.**
- **Civil society leaders, youth activists, and tech enthusiasts**
- **Technology innovators, graduate students, and private sector representatives.**

Summit Venue and Format

Location:

Ivan Pictet Auditorium (A1)

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