



[Host Province / Sponsor Logos — To Be Inserted Upon Confirmation]

# ACOEDI 2026

African Conference on Economic Development & Innovation

***Advancing African Prosperity***

*Bridging Research, Policy, and Industry for Sustainable Economic Innovation*

**01 – 04 SEPTEMBER 2026**

EMPERORS PALACE CONVENTION CENTRE · JOHANNESBURG · SOUTH AFRICA

CONVENED BY

**Institute for Economic Development and Innovation (IfEDI)**

*in partnership with the*

***International Conference on Business and Management Dynamics (ICBMD)***

PREPARED FOR

Governance Council · Board · Dignitaries · Sponsors · Selected Stakeholders

## MASTER PROGRAMME FOR CONFIRMATION

*Programme with Indicative Presenter, Dignitary and Sponsor Allocation*

Board and Stakeholder Circulation Draft · Subject to Governance Approval

## Programme Foreword: Governance and Purpose

The African Conference on Economic Development and Innovation (ACOEDI 2026) is convened by the Institute for Economic Development and Innovation (IfEDI) in partnership with the International Conference on Business and Management Dynamics (ICBMD). The conference is hosted at Emperors Palace Convention Centre, Johannesburg, in the economic heartland of the Republic of South Africa, and is positioned as a continental platform that links research, policy and industry in service of African prosperity.

This Master Programme for Confirmation has been prepared for circulation to the Conference Governance Council, Board, dignitaries, sponsors and selected stakeholders for comment and input. It serves three purposes: first, to confirm the structure, timing and intent of every conference segment; second, to clarify the strategic roles of government, academia, industry, development finance institutions, chambers of commerce and continental bodies across the four days; and third, to provide a transparent view of presenter capacity, proposed sponsor platforms and indicative dignitary engagement so that all stakeholders can plan their participation with confidence.

ACOEDI 2026 is governed by an independent Conference Governance Council supported by a Scientific and Technical Committee and the Conference Secretariat. Sponsors are positioned as enabling platforms whose contributions are gratefully acknowledged through visibility, hosting and partnership rights. Sponsors do not direct content, awards, peer review or programme decisions. Dignitaries are positioned for legitimacy, strategic direction and continental endorsement. This separation of roles ensures that ACOEDI 2026 retains the institutional credibility expected by government, universities, development finance institutions, corporates, chambers of commerce and continental partners.

The substantive output of the conference will be captured in the African Economic Development and Innovation Atlas 2026, drawing on rapporteur synthesis from every breakaway lab and room. Delegates and presenters are accordingly invited to view their contributions not only as conference inputs, but as part of a permanent continental knowledge record.

### CONSULTATION DISCLAIMER

Institutional, dignitary, chairperson and sponsor allocations in this programme are indicative planning placeholders and remain subject to formal invitation, confirmation, governance approval, protocol clearance and partnership approval. This document is circulated for comment and should not be treated as a final public programme.

*Issued by the Conference Secretariat on behalf of the Conference Governance Council, IfEDI and ICBMD. This document is a circulation draft for comment and confirmation.*

## How to Read This Programme

This Programme uses a small set of consistent structural elements. The guide below explains each element so that dignitaries, sponsors, delegates and the design and production team can navigate the document with confidence.

| PROGRAMME ELEMENT                      | WHAT IT MEANS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Plenaries</b>                       | Plenaries are open, high-level sessions for all delegates. They are designed to set strategic direction and provide continental and national framing. Plenaries are chaired by senior conference leadership and feature keynote and high-level panel contributions.                                                                         |
| <b>Breakaway Labs (Day 1)</b>          | Practical implementation sessions structured around five thematic labs. Each 60-minute block accommodates three presenters, a chair and a rapporteur. Labs are presentation and showcase platforms — not panel discussions by default.                                                                                                      |
| <b>Breakaway Rooms (Day 2)</b>         | Knowledge, research and practice sessions running in parallel rooms aligned to the five sub-themes. Each 60-minute block follows the same three-presenter structure, with academic, policy and practice papers represented.                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Presenter Slots</b>                 | Presenter 1, Presenter 2 and Presenter 3 placeholders denote confirmed speaking slots awaiting allocation by the Scientific and Technical Committee following peer review and acceptance.                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Dignitary Roles</b>                 | Dignitary placements indicate the institutional level and seniority required for legitimacy and strategic endorsement. All dignitary allocations are indicative and subject to formal invitation, protocol clearance and governance approval. Named individuals will be confirmed by the Conference Governance Council closer to the event. |
| <b>Sponsor Platforms</b>               | Proposed sponsor platforms identify where sponsor visibility, hosting and partnership rights may be extended. Sponsors are platform enablers; they do not direct content, awards, peer review or programme decisions. All sponsor allocations in this document are indicative and subject to confirmation.                                  |
| <b>Rapporteurs &amp; Atlas Capture</b> | A dedicated rapporteur is assigned to every breakaway lab and room. Their consolidated outputs feed directly into the African Economic Development and Innovation Atlas 2026.                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Standard Session Format</b>         | Each 60-minute breakaway block is structured as follows: Chair framing (3 min) → Presenter 1 (12 min) → Presenter 2 (12 min) → Presenter 3 (12 min) → Combined Q&A and synthesis (15 min) → Transition (6 min).                                                                                                                             |

## Symbolic Markers

◆ Plenary   ■ Breakaway Lab / Room   ♦ Gala / Dinner   ● Networking   ► Technical Tour   ★ Sponsor Platform   ● Dignitary Address

*These markers may be applied during graphic design layout to assist visual navigation in the printed and digital editions of the Programme.*

## Standard Breakaway Session Format

Breakaway labs and rooms are structured as parallel presentation and showcase platforms, not as panel discussions by default. Each 60-minute block accommodates three presenters followed by a moderated Q&A and an Atlas-capture synthesis. Panels may be used selectively for high-level synthesis where required.

| SESSION COMPONENT                     | ALLOCATION        | CUMULATIVE        |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Chair / session framing               | <b>3 minutes</b>  | <i>3 minutes</i>  |
| Presenter 1                           | <b>12 minutes</b> | <i>15 minutes</i> |
| Presenter 2                           | <b>12 minutes</b> | <i>27 minutes</i> |
| Presenter 3                           | <b>12 minutes</b> | <i>39 minutes</i> |
| Combined Q&A and rapporteur synthesis | <b>15 minutes</b> | <i>54 minutes</i> |
| Transition / buffer                   | <b>6 minutes</b>  | <i>60 minutes</i> |

## DAY 0 · WELCOME DINNER

Tuesday, 01 September 2026

*Arrival, Reception and Opening Engagement*

✦ *The Welcome Dinner sets the institutional tone for ACOEDI 2026, opens the official conference calendar and recognises the Host Province and principal partners.*

| TIME          | PROGRAMME SEGMENT                                                                                                                                                          | DIGNITARY / STRATEGIC ROLE                                                                                                   | PROPOSED SPONSOR PLATFORM / TBC                                               |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18:00 – 18:30 | <b>Arrival and Registration</b><br><i>Delegate registration, protocol orientation and venue ingress.</i>                                                                   | Protocol team, Conference Secretariat and Host Province representatives                                                      | <i>Proposed Welcome Function Partner — To Be Confirmed</i>                    |
| 18:30 – 19:00 | <b>Welcome Reception and Networking</b><br><i>Curated networking with provincial leadership, conveners and African country delegations.</i>                                | Premier's Office (Gauteng Provincial Government), IfEDI, ICBMD and African country representatives                           | <i>Proposed Welcome Reception Sponsor — To Be Confirmed</i>                   |
| 19:00 – 19:10 | <b>Opening and Welcome</b><br><i>Formal opening of the conference and acknowledgement of principal partners.</i>                                                           | Conference Chair / IfEDI representative                                                                                      | <i>Proposed Principal Partner acknowledgement — To Be Confirmed</i>           |
| 19:10 – 19:30 | <b>Keynote Address</b><br><i>Strategic address from the Host Province on Gauteng's positioning within the African economic development agenda.</i>                         | Premier of Gauteng or designated senior representative                                                                       | <i>Proposed Host Province / Welcome Dinner Partner — To Be Confirmed</i>      |
| 19:30 – 21:00 | <b>Welcome Dinner and Networking</b><br><i>High-level dinner with curated table groupings across government, academia, industry, DFIs and continental representatives.</i> | Premier, MECs, Executive Mayors, Vice-Chancellors, chamber leaders, DFIs and African diplomatic and regional representatives | <i>Proposed Welcome Dinner Partner · VIP Table Partners — To Be Confirmed</i> |

# DAY 1 · INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT & DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

Wednesday, 02 September 2026

*Strategic Framing and Continental Direction*

◆ *Day 1 establishes the continental framing of ACOEDI 2026 and convenes government, industry, academia, development finance institutions and African regional bodies in a single high-level platform.*

## Morning Plenary Sessions

| TIME          | PROGRAMME SEGMENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | DIGNITARY / STRATEGIC ROLE                                                                         | PROPOSED SPONSOR PLATFORM / TBC                                              |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07:30 – 09:00 | <b>Registration, Tea and Coffee, Networking</b><br><i>Delegate registration, exhibition activation and structured networking.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Conference Secretariat, sponsors, exhibitors and chamber representatives                           | <i>Proposed Registration / Coffee Sponsor — To Be Confirmed</i>              |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | <b>Welcome and Purpose Address</b><br><i>Formal welcome, acknowledgement of principal partners and framing of the conference purpose.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | IfEDI / ICBMD Representative                                                                       | <i>Proposed Principal Partner acknowledgement — To Be Confirmed</i>          |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | <b>Opening Keynote — Re-Architecting African Economies</b><br><i>Continental keynote setting the strategic agenda for African economic re-architecture and innovation-led growth.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Continental keynote by a recognised African economic development or international leader           | <i>Proposed Opening Plenary Supporting Partner — To Be Confirmed</i>         |
| 10:00 – 11:15 | <b>Regional Strategic Responses — Professionalisation as a Catalyst: Redefining Economic Development and Innovation Metrics in Africa</b><br><i>Four 15-minute regional strategic responses examining the professionalisation of economic development and innovation across Africa, drawing on business, government, academic and community perspectives from across the continent.</i> | IfEDI · Senior institutional, government, academic and industry representatives from across Africa | <i>Proposed Knowledge and Data Partner · Atlas Partner — To Be Confirmed</i> |

## Regional Strategic Responses — Detail

| TIME          | PROGRAMME SEGMENT                                                                                                                                                                         | DIGNITARY / STRATEGIC ROLE                                         | PROPOSED SPONSOR PLATFORM / TBC |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10:00 – 10:15 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 1: North Africa — Business Perspective</b><br><i>Senior business or institutional representative from North Africa.</i>                                    | Senior North Africa business or industry representative            |                                 |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 2: West Africa — Government Perspective</b><br><i>Senior government representative from West Africa.</i>                                                   | Senior West Africa government representative                       |                                 |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 3: Central Africa — Academic Perspective</b><br><i>Senior academic or university representative from Central Africa.</i>                                   | Senior Central Africa academic representative                      |                                 |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 4: East / Southern Africa — Community or Practice Perspective</b><br><i>Senior community, LED or practice representative from East or Southern Africa.</i> | Senior East / Southern Africa community or practice representative |                                 |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | <b>Moderated Synthesis and Audience Engagement</b><br><i>Chair-led synthesis connecting regional perspectives to the conference theme.</i>                                                | IfEDI / ICBMD Representative                                       |                                 |

| TIME          | PROGRAMME SEGMENT                                                                                | DIGNITARY / STRATEGIC ROLE               | PROPOSED SPONSOR PLATFORM / TBC                                                  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:15 – 11:45 | <b>Networking Break and Exhibition</b><br><i>Curated VIP walkthrough of the exhibition zone.</i> | Government, industry and VIP delegations | <i>Proposed Exhibition Zone Partner · Coffee Break Sponsor — To Be Confirmed</i> |

## DAY 1 · BREAKAWAY LABS · PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION SESSIONS

Breakaway Labs run in five parallel rooms. Each 60-minute block accommodates three presenters, a chair and a rapporteur. Sessions are designed as presentation and showcase platforms.

| TIME          | STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | INNOVATION & VENTURE LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | ENTERPRISE & INFORMAL ECONOMY LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | DIGITAL & INDUSTRIAL LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | SUSTAINABILITY & ESG LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:45 – 12:45 | <b>Industrial Policy &amp; Investment Pipelines</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Industrial Policy and Investment Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Structural Lab Partner — To Be Confirmed     | <b>Innovation Hubs &amp; Venture Builders</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Innovation Ecosystem Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Industry showcase<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Innovation / demo case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Implementation case<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Innovation Lab Partner — To Be Confirmed                                     | <b>SME Growth &amp; Market Access</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Enterprise Development and Organised Business Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Enterprise Lab Partner — To Be Confirmed         | <b>AI, Data &amp; Digital Platforms</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Digital Economy and Data Systems Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Industry showcase<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Innovation / demo case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Implementation case<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Digital Lab Partner — To Be Confirmed                      | <b>Green Economy &amp; ESG Implementation</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Sustainability, Climate and ESG Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Sustainability Lab Partner — To Be Confirmed |
| 13:45 – 14:45 | <b>AfCFTA &amp; Trade Corridors</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Trade, Regional Integration and Corridor Development Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Trade Corridor Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Venture Capital &amp; Financing Innovation</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Investment, Capital Markets and Development Finance Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Industry showcase<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Innovation / demo case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Implementation case<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Venture Finance Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Informal Economy Formalisation</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Local Economic Development and Informal Economy Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Inclusive Enterprise Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Future of Work &amp; Skills Systems</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Skills, Workforce and Human Capital Development Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Skills Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Climate Policy &amp; Business Adaptation</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Climate Policy and Sustainability Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Climate Partner — To Be Confirmed        |

| TIME                                                                                                                                                                                         | STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | INNOVATION & VENTURE LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ENTERPRISE & INFORMAL ECONOMY LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | DIGITAL & INDUSTRIAL LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | SUSTAINABILITY & ESG LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12:45 – 13:45 · Lunch and Networking (All Delegates) · Proposed Sponsor: Lunch Partner — To Be Confirmed · VIP networking with CEOs, HODs, Vice-Chancellors, African delegates and investors |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 14:45 – 15:45                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Institutional Architecture &amp; Coordination</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Governance, Planning and Institutional Coordination Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Institutional Architecture Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Entrepreneurial Universities &amp; Talent Pipelines</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Higher Education and Innovation Leadership Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed University Innovation Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Incubation &amp; Enterprise Development Models</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Incubation and Enterprise Support Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Industry showcase<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Innovation / demo<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Implementation case<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Incubation Partner — To Be Confirmed               | <b>Industry 4.0 &amp; Smart Manufacturing</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Manufacturing and Industrial Technology Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Industry showcase<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Innovation / demo<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Implementation case<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Industry 4.0 Partner — To Be Confirmed          | <b>Circular Economy &amp; Green Innovation</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Green Economy and ESG Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Industry showcase<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Innovation / demo<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Implementation case<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Circular Economy Partner — To Be Confirmed                               |
| 15:45 – 16:45                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Financing Structural Transformation</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Development Finance and Structural Investment Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed DFI / Bank Partner — To Be Confirmed                                 | <b>Corporate – Startup Collaboration</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Corporate Innovation and Venture Capital Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Industry showcase<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Innovation / demo<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Implementation case<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Corporate Innovation Partner — To Be Confirmed                                   | <b>Local Economic Development Systems</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Municipal, Chamber or Territorial Development Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed LED Systems Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Digital Infrastructure &amp; Blockchain</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Digital Infrastructure and Technology Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Industry showcase<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Innovation / demo<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Implementation case<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Digital Infrastructure Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Inclusive Development &amp; Social Impact</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Social Impact and Inclusive Development Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Social Impact Partner — To Be Confirmed |
| 16:45 – 17:15                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Lab Synthesis and CEO / Investor Transition</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Lab Synthesis and CEO / Investor Transition</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Lab Synthesis and CEO / Investor Transition</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Lab Synthesis and CEO / Investor Transition</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Lab Synthesis and CEO / Investor Transition</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## DAY 1 EVENING · CEO / HOD PLENARY & GALA

Wednesday, 02 September 2026 · Evening Programme

*From Strategy to Action*

✦ *A curated executive plenary and gala dinner. The Inner Circle Debate brings together CEOs, HODs, Vice-Chancellors and DFI leaders to interrogate the most consequential challenges raised during Day 1.*

| TIME          | SEGMENT                                   | FOCUS                                                              | DIGNITARY / SPONSOR ROLE                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18:30 – 19:15 | Executive Reception                       | Arrival drinks and curated executive networking                    | <i>Proposed Gala Partner / Platinum Partner — To Be Confirmed</i>                                                                                           |
| 19:15 – 19:30 | Welcome and Call to Order                 | MC introduces CEOs / HODs and the Inner Circle                     | <i>MC · Conference Chair · sponsor acknowledgement</i>                                                                                                      |
| 19:30 – 20:00 | Starter Course and Opening Provocation    | Opening economic question to frame the debate                      | <i>Moderator · economic commentator · IfEDI</i>                                                                                                             |
| 20:00 – 20:25 | Guest of Honour Address                   | Address by Head of State, Ambassador or designated Guest of Honour | <i>Head of State / Ambassador / Guest of Honour — To Be Confirmed</i>                                                                                       |
| 20:25 – 21:20 | Main Course · Inner Circle Plenary Debate | Executive debate on the key challenges surfaced during Day 1       | <i>CEOs, DGs / HODs, Vice-Chancellors, JSE / DFI, chamber leaders, African representatives · Proposed Platinum Partner executive seat — To Be Confirmed</i> |
| 21:20 – 21:45 | Dessert and Audience Reflection           | Interactive Q&A and digital audience poll                          | <i>Audience engagement supported by Proposed Technology Partner — To Be Confirmed</i>                                                                       |
| 21:45 – 22:00 | Closing Remarks and Commitments           | Summary, commitments and next steps                                | <i>Minister / Premier / Conference Chair / Governance Council</i>                                                                                           |
| 22:00 onwards | Networking and Digestifs                  | High-level networking                                              | <i>Proposed VIP Table Partners — To Be Confirmed</i>                                                                                                        |

## DAY 2 · KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH & PRACTICE SESSIONS

Thursday, 03 September 2026

*Bridging Research, Policy and Practice*

◆ Day 2 opens with a morning plenary focused on bridging the industry–academia gap, followed by Regional Strategic Responses. Four 60-minute breakaway blocks then run across five parallel rooms.

### Morning Plenary Sessions

| TIME          | PROGRAMME SEGMENT                                                                                                                                                                                                        | DIGNITARY / STRATEGIC ROLE                                                                 | PROPOSED SPONSOR PLATFORM / TBC                                              |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07:30 – 09:00 | <b>Registration, Tea and Coffee, Networking</b><br><i>Delegate registration, exhibition activation and structured networking.</i>                                                                                        | Conference Secretariat, sponsors, exhibitors and chamber representatives                   | <i>Proposed Registration / Coffee Sponsor — To Be Confirmed</i>              |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | <b>Welcome and Purpose Address</b><br><i>Formal welcome, Day 2 framing and acknowledgement of conference principal partners.</i>                                                                                         | IfEDI / ICBMD Representative                                                               | <i>Proposed Principal Partner acknowledgement — To Be Confirmed</i>          |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | <b>Opening Keynote — Bridging the Industry–Academia Gap</b><br><i>Continental keynote on closing the divide between academic research, policy and industry practice in Africa.</i>                                       | Continental keynote by a recognised African academic, industry or policy leader            | <i>Proposed Opening Plenary Supporting Partner — To Be Confirmed</i>         |
| 10:00 – 11:15 | <b>Regional Strategic Responses — Bridging Research, Policy and Practice</b><br><i>Four 15-minute regional strategic responses examining the research–policy–practice nexus across Africa, with moderated synthesis.</i> | Senior institutional, government, academic and industry representatives from across Africa | <i>Proposed Knowledge and Data Partner · Atlas Partner — To Be Confirmed</i> |

### Regional Strategic Responses — Detail

| TIME          | PROGRAMME SEGMENT                                                                                                                                      | DIGNITARY / STRATEGIC ROLE                              | PROPOSED SPONSOR PLATFORM / TBC |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10:00 – 10:15 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 1: North Africa — Business Perspective</b><br><i>Senior business or institutional representative from North Africa.</i> | Senior North Africa business or industry representative |                                 |

| TIME          | PROGRAMME SEGMENT                                                                                                                                                                         | DIGNITARY / STRATEGIC ROLE                                         | PROPOSED SPONSOR PLATFORM / TBC |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10:15 – 10:30 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 2: West Africa — Government Perspective</b><br><i>Senior government representative from West Africa.</i>                                                   | Senior West Africa government representative                       |                                 |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 3: Central Africa — Academic Perspective</b><br><i>Senior academic or university representative from Central Africa.</i>                                   | Senior Central Africa academic representative                      |                                 |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 4: East / Southern Africa — Community or Practice Perspective</b><br><i>Senior community, LED or practice representative from East or Southern Africa.</i> | Senior East / Southern Africa community or practice representative |                                 |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | <b>Moderated Synthesis and Audience Engagement</b><br><i>Chair-led synthesis connecting regional perspectives to the conference theme.</i>                                                | IfEDI / ICBMD Representative                                       |                                 |

| TIME          | PROGRAMME SEGMENT                                                                                | DIGNITARY / STRATEGIC ROLE               | PROPOSED SPONSOR PLATFORM / TBC                                                  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:15 – 11:45 | <b>Networking Break and Exhibition</b><br><i>Curated VIP walkthrough of the exhibition zone.</i> | Government, industry and VIP delegations | <i>Proposed Exhibition Zone Partner · Coffee Break Sponsor — To Be Confirmed</i> |

| TIME                                                                                                                                                    | STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | INNOVATION & VENTURE ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | ENTERPRISE & INFORMAL ECONOMY ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | DIGITAL & INDUSTRIAL ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SUSTAINABILITY & ESG ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:45 – 12:45                                                                                                                                           | <b>Economic Diversification and Industrial Policy</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Industrial Policy Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Structural Room Partner — To Be Confirmed                                           | <b>Innovation Hubs and Venture Builders</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Innovation Ecosystem Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Innovation Room Partner — To Be Confirmed                                                               | <b>SME Development Ecosystems and Market Access</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior SME and Enterprise Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Enterprise Room Partner — To Be Confirmed                                  | <b>AI, Data Economies, Digital Sovereignty and Economic Data Systems</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Digital Economy and Data Systems Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Digital Room Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Green Innovation, Circular Economy and Sustainable Business Models</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior ESG and Green Economy Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Sustainability Room Partner — To Be Confirmed |
| 12:45 – 13:45 · Lunch and Networking (All Delegates) · Proposed Sponsor: Lunch Partner — To Be Confirmed · Cross-sector networking and speaker exchange |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 13:45 – 14:45                                                                                                                                           | <b>Regional Value Chains, AfCFTA, Infrastructure, Trade and Logistics</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Trade and Regional Integration Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Trade and Infrastructure Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Entrepreneurial Universities, Open Innovation and Talent Pipelines</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Higher Education and Innovation Leadership Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed University and Innovation Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Informal Economy, Incubation and Enterprise Support Systems</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Local Economic Development Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Enterprise and Incubation Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Future of Work, Skills Systems and Industry 4.0</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Skills and Human Capital Development Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Skills and Industry Partner — To Be Confirmed        | <b>ESG Governance and Climate Policy</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior ESG Governance and Regulatory Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed ESG and Climate Partner — To Be Confirmed                              |

| TIME          | STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | INNOVATION & VENTURE ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | ENTERPRISE & INFORMAL ECONOMY ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | DIGITAL & INDUSTRIAL ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | SUSTAINABILITY & ESG ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14:45 – 15:45 | <b>Institutional Architecture and Financing Structural Transformation</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Governance, Planning and Development Finance Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Governance and DFI Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Venture Capital Ecosystems and Corporate–Startup Collaboration</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Investment, Capital Markets and Corporate Innovation Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Venture and Corporate Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Territorial LED Systems and Local Economic Development</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Municipal, Chamber or Territorial Development Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed LED Partner — To Be Confirmed                       | <b>Digital Platforms, Blockchain and Digital Infrastructure</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Digital Platform and Technology Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Digital Platform Partner — To Be Confirmed                 | <b>Inclusive Development and Social Impact</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Social Impact and Inclusive Development Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Social Impact Partner — To Be Confirmed                                     |
| 15:45 – 16:45 | <b>Financing Structural Transformation and Investment Corridors</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Development Finance and Structural Investment Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed DFI / Bank Partner — To Be Confirmed              | <b>Innovation Ecosystems, Knowledge Transfer and Commercialisation</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Innovation and Commercialisation Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Innovation Ecosystems Partner — To Be Confirmed                    | <b>Enterprise Development, Formalisation and Support Systems</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Enterprise Development and Organised Business Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Enterprise Development Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Smart Manufacturing, Industry 4.0 and Economic Data Systems</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Manufacturing and Industrial Technology Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Industry 4.0 and Data Partner — To Be Confirmed | <b>Climate Adaptation, Circular Economy and Sustainable Business Models</b><br><b>Chair:</b> Senior Climate Policy and Sustainability Representative<br><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper<br><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper<br><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper<br><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture<br><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Climate and Sustainability Partner — To Be Confirmed |
| 16:45 – 17:15 | Lab Synthesis and CEO / Investor Transition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Lab Synthesis and CEO / Investor Transition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Lab Synthesis and CEO / Investor Transition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Lab Synthesis and CEO / Investor Transition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Lab Synthesis and CEO / Investor Transition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## DAY 2 EVENING · THE SYNERGY GALA

Thursday, 03 September 2026 · Closing Dinner

*Recognition, Awards and Continental Commitments*

✦ *The Synergy Gala is the official closing dinner of ACOEDI 2026. It recognises outstanding institutional, industry and academic contributions through the Innovation Awards and issues a continental Call to Action.*

| TIME          | SEGMENT                                       | FOCUS                                                                                   | DIGNITARY / SPONSOR ROLE                                                                        |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18:30 – 19:15 | <b>Grand Finale Reception</b>                 | Networking and the ACOEDI 2026 highlights reel                                          | <i>Proposed Closing Dinner / Awards Partner — To Be Confirmed</i>                               |
| 19:15 – 19:30 | <b>State of Industry and Academia Address</b> | A joint industry and academic keynote                                                   | <i>One industry leader · one Vice-Chancellor / academic lead</i>                                |
| 19:30 – 19:55 | <b>Guest of Honour Address</b>                | Address by Head of State, Ambassador or designated Guest of Honour                      | <i>Head of State / Ambassador / Guest of Honour — To Be Confirmed</i>                           |
| 19:55 – 20:15 | <b>Cross-Table Reflection</b>                 | Curated cross-table discussions synthesising industry, academia and government insights | <i>Mixed seating: industry, academia, government, DFIs and African delegates</i>                |
| 20:15 – 21:00 | <b>Main Course and Innovation Awards</b>      | Recognition of institutional, academic and industry excellence                          | <i>Proposed Awards Partner — To Be Confirmed · government, industry and academic presenters</i> |
| 21:00 – 21:15 | <b>Continental Call to Action</b>             | Conference closing and forward agenda                                                   | <i>Conference Chair · IfEDI · Governance Council representative</i>                             |
| 21:15 – 22:00 | <b>Dessert and Celebration</b>                | Music and high-level networking                                                         | <i>All delegates · sponsor acknowledgement</i>                                                  |

## POST-CONFERENCE TECHNICAL TOUR & FIELD ENGAGEMENT

Friday, 04 September 2026

*From Conference Floor to Implementation Sites*

► *The Technical Tour translates conference dialogue into field experience. Delegates visit industrial and local economic development sites in Gauteng and link field lessons to the EDIAI, DICF and Atlas frameworks.*

| TIME          | SEGMENT                                          | DETAILS                                                                                                  | HOST / SPONSOR ROLE                                                            |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07:30 – 08:30 | Departure and Briefing                           | Transport departs from host hotel. Overview of sites, objectives and protocol.                           | <i>Proposed Technical Tour Partner — To Be Confirmed · IfEDI · host agency</i> |
| 08:30 – 10:30 | Site Visit 1: Industrial / Innovation Hub        | Industrial park, SEZ or innovation hub — focus on enterprise development, clustering and infrastructure. | <i>Senior SEZ / innovation hub representative · Gauteng host agency</i>        |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Transit and Refreshments                         | Travel to next site with light refreshments en route.                                                    | <i>Proposed Tour Sponsor — To Be Confirmed</i>                                 |
| 11:00 – 13:00 | Site Visit 2: Local Economic Development Project | Municipality or agency engagement on implementation, challenges and partnerships.                        | <i>Senior municipal, LED or chamber representative</i>                         |
| 13:00 – 13:45 | Closing Networking Lunch                         | Informal engagement with local stakeholders and practitioners.                                           | <i>Host municipality · project partner</i>                                     |
| 13:45 – 14:15 | Field Reflection and Atlas Capture               | Participants link field lessons to the EDIAI, DICF and Atlas frameworks.                                 | <i>IfEDI · Scientific and Technical Committee · rapporteurs</i>                |
| 14:15         | Delegates Depart                                 | End of the official conference programme.                                                                | <i>Conference Secretariat · Technical Tour Coordinator</i>                     |

## Presenter Capacity

ACOEDI 2026 provides total oral presenter capacity of 120 confirmed speaking slots across the two days of breakaway sessions, supplemented by overflow channels through posters, innovation showcases and exhibition demonstrations. Both days feature four standard 60-minute blocks (three presenters per room). This capacity is distributed proportionally across the five sub-themes to support balanced thematic representation.

| PROGRAMME AREA                       | SESSION BLOCKS                                              | PRESENTERS / BLOCK | TOTAL SLOTS           |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Day 1 Breakaway Labs</b>          | 5 rooms × 4 blocks = 20 blocks                              | 3 presenters       | 60 presenters         |
| <b>Day 2 Breakaway Rooms</b>         | 5 rooms × 4 blocks = 20 blocks                              | 3 presenters       | 60 presenters         |
| <b>Total Oral Presenter Capacity</b> | 40 blocks                                                   | 3 presenters       | <b>120 presenters</b> |
| <b>Overflow Option</b>               | Posters, innovation showcases and exhibition demonstrations | Flexible           | Additional capacity   |

# PROGRAMME SUMMARY · STATUS, CAPACITY AND CONTINENTAL BALANCE

For Confirmation by the Conference Governance Council

*Open dignitary roles, sponsor platforms, presenter capacity and institutional balance*

## Dignitary and Sponsor Status

The placements below indicate the institutional level required for each role. Sponsor platforms are extended through the Conference Secretariat and Sponsorship Lead, and are positioned as enabling platforms rather than as substitutes for dignitary engagement.

| MAJOR DIGNITARY ROLES — TO CONFIRM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | SPONSOR ROLES — OPEN PLATFORMS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Premier of Gauteng (or designated senior representative)</b> — Welcome Dinner keynote, Day 0</li> <li>▶ <b>Continental Opening Keynote</b> — AfCFTA, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA or AfDB principal — Day 1</li> <li>▶ <b>Minister / National Executive Representative</b> — Day 1 evening closing commitments</li> <li>▶ <b>Vice-Chancellors and DVCs</b> — Plenary panel, university lab chairs, gala address</li> <li>▶ <b>CEOs, HODs and Directors-General</b> — Inner Circle Plenary Debate, Day 1 evening</li> <li>▶ <b>Executive Mayors and Municipal Managers</b> — LED labs and Technical Tour hosts</li> <li>▶ <b>JSE / DFI Principals (DBSA, AfDB etc)</b> — Plenary and financing labs</li> <li>▶ <b>African Diplomatic and Regional Representatives</b> — Welcome Dinner and continental sessions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Principal / Platinum Partner</b> — Cross-conference visibility and gala hosting</li> <li>▶ <b>Welcome Dinner Partner</b> — Day 0 hosting platform</li> <li>▶ <b>Gala / Awards Partner</b> — Synergy Gala and Innovation Awards</li> <li>▶ <b>Five Lab Partners</b> — Structural, Innovation, Enterprise, Digital, Sustainability</li> <li>▶ <b>Knowledge &amp; Data / Atlas Partner</b> — Plenary and Atlas 2026 production</li> <li>▶ <b>B2B Deal Room / Investment Platform Partner</b> — CEO and Investors Roundtable</li> <li>▶ <b>Technical Tour Partner</b> — Post-Conference field programme</li> <li>▶ <b>Coffee Break, Lunch and Exhibition Zone Partners</b> — Hospitality and exhibition activation</li> </ul> |

Presenter Capacity Snapshot

PRESENTER CAPACITY SNAPSHOT

60 Day 1 Lab slots · 60 Day 2 Room slots · 120 Total oral presenter slots

Supplemented by an open overflow channel through posters, innovation showcases and exhibition demonstrations.

Institutional Balance · South Africa and the Wider Continent

ACOEDI 2026 visibly positions South Africa as the Host Country while ensuring strong continental representation through African Union structures, regional economic communities, continental DFIs and a curated set of African country delegations. This balance protects the conference's continental legitimacy.

SOUTH AFRICA · HOST COUNTRY

- Presidency / National Executive — through Ministerial representation
- The Tade, Stats, Treasury, Traditional
- Premier of Gauteng and Gauteng Provincial Government (host)
- Executive Mayors and municipalities across Gauteng
- Agencies and departmenets
- Capital Markets, Chambers and corporate sector representation
- Vice-Chancellors of South African universities
- SETAs, chambers, professional councils and innovation agencies

WIDER AFRICAN CONTINENT

- African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD
- AfCFTA Secretariat
- UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- SADC, ECOWAS, EAC and COMESA regional bodies
- Selected country representation: to be selected from each region
- African Vice-Chancellors and continental universities
- African DFIs, innovation agencies and chambers of commerce

FINAL PROGRAMME LOCK

All placeholders will be replaced with confirmed names, institutions, countries and sponsors before publication by the Conference Secretariat.

ACOEDI 2026 · Emperors Palace Convention Centre, Johannesburg · 01–04 September 2026