



[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*

**26 – 29 OCTOBER 2026**

EMPERORS PALACE CONVENTION CENTRE · JOHANNESBURG · SOUTH AFRICA

CONVENED BY

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

*in partnership with the*

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

## ASSOCIATE INSTITUTIONS

Through Governance Council · Board · Association



## DAY 0 · WELCOME DINNER

Monday, 26 October 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   |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 17:00 – 17:30 | <b>Arrival and Registration</b><br><i>Delegate registration, protocol orientation and venue ingress.</i>                                                                   | Protocol team, Conference Secretariat and Host Province representatives                                                      | <i>This is a Sponsors Space</i>   |
| 17:30 – 18:00 | <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 Africa, ICBMD and African country representatives                    | <i>This is a Sponsors Space</i>   |
| 18:00 – 18:20 | <b>Opening and Purpose</b><br><i>Formal opening of the conference and acknowledgement of principal partners.</i>                                                           | Dr Albert Jeleni, CEO, IfEDI Africa                                                                                          | <i>This is a Sponsors Space</i>   |
| 18:20 – 18:40 | <b>Welcome Address</b><br><i>Address on Ekurhuleni as Gauteng's aviation, logistics and industrial gateway to Africa.</i>                                                  | Ald. Nkosindiphile Xhakaza, Executive Mayor, Ekurhuleni                                                                      | <i>— This is a Sponsors Space</i> |
| 18:40 – 19:10 | <b>Keynote Address</b><br><i>Strategic address from the Host Province on Gauteng's positioning within the African economic development agenda.</i>                         | Hon. Panyaza Lesufi, Premier of Gauteng                                                                                      | <i>This is a Sponsors Space</i>   |
| 19:10 – 19:40 | <b>Response</b><br><i>Joint Strategic Response — Industry–Academia Collaboration for Inclusive Economic Transformation</i>                                                 | Prof Letlhokwa George Mpedi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Johannesburg, & Mr Gregory Mofokeng Vice President BBC           | <i>This is a Sponsors Space</i>   |
| 19:40 – 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>This is a Sponsors Space</i>   |

# DAY 1 · INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT & DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

Tuesday, 27 October 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 — This is a Sponsors Space</i>              |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | <b>Board Welcome and Strategic Framing</b> <i>Formal welcome, acknowledgement of principal partners and framing of the conference purpose.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Prof K. John Maluleke</b> , IfEDI Africa Board Member, Transport Economist and Logistics Specialist | <i>Proposed Principal Partner acknowledgement — This is a Sponsors Space</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>                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Hon. Parks Tau</b> , Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Republic of South Africa          | <i>Proposed Opening Plenary Supporting Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</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> | BUSA, COMESA, UNU, Farmers Of Thought, UNIVEN                                                          | <i>Proposed Knowledge and Data Partner · Atlas Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</i> |

## Regional Strategic Responses — Detail

| TIME          | PROGRAMME SEGMENT                                                                                                                          | DIGNITARY / STRATEGIC ROLE                                               | PROPOSED SPONSOR PLATFORM / TBC |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10:00 – 10:15 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 1: Business Perspective</b><br><i>Senior business or institutional representative</i>                       | Mr Khulekani Mathe, Chief Executive Officer, Business Unity South Africa |                                 |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 2: Government Perspective</b><br><i>Senior government representative</i>                                    | H.E. Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe, Secretary General, COMESA                 |                                 |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 3: Academic Perspective</b><br><i>Senior academic or university representative</i>                          | Prof Tshilidzi Marwala, United Nations University                        |                                 |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 4: Community or Practice Perspective</b><br><i>Senior community, LED or practice representative</i>         | Prof Joshua Maponga III, CEO, Farmers Of Thought                         |                                 |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | <b>Moderated Synthesis and Audience Engagement</b><br><i>Chair-led synthesis connecting regional perspectives to the conference theme.</i> | Dr Mpho Tshikororo, Deputy Organiser, ACOEDI 2026                        |                                 |

| 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 — This is a Sponsors Space</i> |

| TIME                                                                                                                                                                                                  | STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | INNOVATION & VENTURE LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | ENTERPRISE & INFORMAL ECONOMY LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | DIGITAL & INDUSTRIAL LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | SUSTAINABILITY & ESG LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| 11:45 – 12:45                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Industrial Policy &amp; Investment Pipelines</b><br>Thematic Convenor & Strategic Framing Speaker: <u>Ms Gillian Chigumira</u> , Senior Economist, TIPS<br>Strategic Framing Address: 10 minutes<br><br>Presenter 1: Thembokuhle Mnomiya-Ngcobo<br>Presenter 2: Kwena Komape<br>Rapporteur: Atlas capture<br>Sponsor: Proposed Structural Lab Partner — This is a Sponsors Space | <b>Innovation Hubs &amp; Venture Builders</b><br>Thematic Convenor & Strategic Framing Speaker: <u>Ms Audrey Verhaeghe</u> , Anza Capital<br>Strategic Framing Address: 10 minutes<br><br>Presenter 1: Dr Michael Twum-Darko<br>Presenter 2: Siphwe Masoka<br>Rapporteur: Atlas capture<br>Sponsor: Proposed Innovation Lab Partner — This is a Sponsors Space | <b>MSME Growth &amp; Market Access</b><br>Thematic Convenor & Strategic Framing Speaker: <u>Mr Bheki Twala</u> , Founding President, TECSA<br>Strategic Framing Address: 10 minutes<br><br>Presenter 1: Mr Similo Nkala, ZimTrade<br>Presenter 2: Prof Edward Malatse Rankhumise<br>Rapporteur: Atlas capture<br>Sponsor: Proposed Enterprise Lab Partner — This is a Sponsors Space | <b>AI, Data &amp; Digital Platforms</b><br>Thematic Convenor & Strategic Framing Speaker: <u>Prof Kola Ijasan</u> , Research ICT Africa<br>Strategic Framing Address: 10 minutes<br><br>Presenter 1: Sanelisiwe Andrea Ndlovu<br>Presenter 2: Wilson Takavadii Nyamanhindi<br>Rapporteur: Atlas capture<br>Sponsor: Proposed Digital Lab Partner — This is a Sponsors Space | <b>Green Economy &amp; ESG Implementation</b><br>Thematic Convenor & Strategic Framing Speaker: <u>Dr Kudakwashe Ndhlukula</u> , Executive Director, SACREEE<br>Strategic Framing Address: 10 minutes<br><br>Presenter 1: Nolufefe Giyose<br>Presenter 2: Industry / development case<br>Rapporteur: Atlas capture<br>Sponsor: Proposed Sustainability Lab Partner — This is a Sponsors Space |
| 12:45 – 13:45 · Lunch and Networking (All Delegates) · Proposed Sponsor: Lunch Partner — This is a Sponsors Space · VIP networking with CEOs, HODs, Vice-Chancellors, African delegates and investors |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 13:45 – 14:45                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>AfCFTA &amp; Trade Corridors</b><br>Thematic Convenor: <u>Ms Gillian Chigumira</u><br><br>Presenter 1: Mr Richard Ncube, National Railways of Zimbabwe<br>Presenter 2: Pierre Calitz and Thulani Hlongwane<br>Presenter 3: Dr Thandiwe Euphronia Khumalo and Mr A. Mpambane<br>Rapporteur: Atlas capture<br>Sponsor: Proposed Trade Corridor Partner — This is a Sponsors Space  | <b>Venture Capital &amp; Financing Innovation</b><br>Thematic Convenor: <u>Ms Audrey Verhaeghe</u><br><br>Presenter 1: Samuel Obeng Kwarteng<br>Presenter 2: Patricia Marsh Umeche and Sam Watermeyer<br>Presenter 3: Vusi Mokoena<br>Rapporteur: Atlas capture<br>Sponsor: Proposed Venture Finance Partner — This is a Sponsors Space                        | <b>Informal Economy Formalisation</b><br>Thematic Convenor: <u>Mr Bheki Twala</u><br><br>Presenter 1: Tendai Chimucheka and Nokhutula Tinotenda Nyati<br>Presenter 2: Industry / development case<br>Presenter 3: Innovation / showcase<br>Rapporteur: Atlas capture<br>Sponsor: Proposed Inclusive Enterprise Partner — This is a Sponsors Space                                    | <b>Future of Work &amp; Skills Systems</b><br>Thematic Convenor: <u>Prof Kola Ijasan</u><br><br>Presenter 1: Prof Joshua Maponga III, CEO, Farmers Of Thought<br>Presenter 2: Industry / development case<br>Presenter 3: Innovation / showcase<br>Rapporteur: Atlas capture<br>Sponsor: Proposed Skills Partner — This is a Sponsors Space                                 | <b>Climate Policy &amp; Business Adaptation</b><br>Thematic Convenor: <u>Dr Kudakwashe Ndhlukula</u><br><br>Presenter 1: Institutional case<br>Presenter 2: Industry / development case<br>Presenter 3: Innovation / showcase<br>Rapporteur: Atlas capture<br>Sponsor: Proposed Climate Partner — This is a Sponsors Space                                                                    |

| TIME          | STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | INNOVATION & VENTURE LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | ENTERPRISE & INFORMAL ECONOMY LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | DIGITAL & INDUSTRIAL LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | SUSTAINABILITY & ESG LAB                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14:45 – 15:45 | <p><b>Institutional Architecture &amp; Coordination</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> <u>Mr Zwelibanzi Sapula</u>, Executive Director, SADC-DFRC</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> H.E. Mrs Nardos Bekele-Thomas, AUDA-NEPAD</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Chuene A. Semono</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Institutional Architecture Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Entrepreneurial Universities &amp; Talent Pipelines</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> <u>Prof Rushiella Songca</u>, MUT</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Sisonke</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed University Innovation Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Incubation &amp; Enterprise Development Models</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> Dr Dell Gines, Economic Development Leader</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Nolwandle Witness Ngcobo and Dr Thandiwe Euphronia Khumalo</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Clever Dhewa and Kumbirai Patrick Mukapiku</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Incubation Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Industry 4.0 &amp; Smart Manufacturing</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> <u>Dr Thulani Dlamini</u>, CEO, CSIR</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Industry showcase</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Innovation / demo</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Industry 4.0 Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Circular Economy &amp; Green Innovation</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> Mr Mosa Mabuza, Chief Executive Officer, Council for Geoscience</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Industry showcase</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Innovation / demo</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Circular Economy Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> |
| 15:45 – 16:45 | <p><b>Financing Structural Transformation</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Mr Zwelibanzi Sapula</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Mr Cyril A. Okoye, Secretary-General, AADFI</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Ms Bongiwe Kunene, BASA</p> <p><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed DFI / Bank Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p>                                                                                           | <p><b>Corporate – Startup Collaboration</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Prof Rushiella Songca</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Industry showcase</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Innovation / demo</p> <p><b>Presenter 3:</b> Implementation case</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Corporate Innovation Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p>                                                                     | <p><b>Local Economic Development Systems</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Dr Dell Gines</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Institutional case</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case</p> <p><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed LED Systems Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p>                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Digital Infrastructure &amp; Blockchain</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Dr Thulani Dlamini</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Jackson Mambozoukuni, Ayanda Deliwe and Sthembile Ntsele</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Innovation / demo</p> <p><b>Presenter 3:</b> Implementation case</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Digital Infrastructure Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p>      | <p><b>Inclusive Development &amp; Social Impact</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Mr Mosa Mabuza</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Dr David Molapo</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Industry / development case</p> <p><b>Presenter 3:</b> Innovation / showcase</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Social Impact Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p>                                                                              |

| TIME          | STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION LAB               | INNOVATION & VENTURE LAB                    | ENTERPRISE & INFORMAL ECONOMY LAB           | DIGITAL & INDUSTRIAL LAB                    | SUSTAINABILITY & ESG LAB                    |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 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 1 EVENING · CEO / HOD PLENARY & GALA

Tuesday, 27 October 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 | <b>Executive Reception</b>                                                | Arrival drinks and curated executive networking              | <i>Proposed Gala Partner / Platinum Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</i>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 19:15 – 19:30 | <b>Welcome and Call to Order</b>                                          | MC introduces CEOs / HODs and the Inner Circle               | <i>Dr Glenda Maluleke, Conference Chair · sponsor acknowledgement</i>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 19:30 – 19:50 | <b>Leadership Provocation — The Human Side of Economic Transformation</b> | Opening economic question to frame the debate                | <i>Dr David Molapo, Founder, I Can Leadership Institute Africa; CEO, I CAN 4IR</i>                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 19:50 – 20:25 | <b>Guest of Honour Address</b>                                            | Address by Guest of Honour                                   | <i>Hon. Bogolo Joy Kenewendo, Minister of Minerals and Energy, Republic of Botswana</i>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 20:25 – 21:20 | <b>Main Course · Inner Circle Plenary Debate</b>                          | Executive debate on the key challenges surfaced during Day 1 | <i>H.E. Mrs Nardos Bekele-Thomas (AUDA-NEPAD); Dr Sidi Ould Tah (AfDB); Ms Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi (ACET); Adv Christopher T. Mugaga (ZNCC); Dr Sam Jones (UNU); Ms Bongiwe Kunene (BASA) · Proposed Platinum Partner executive seat — This is a Sponsors Space</i> |
| 21:20 – 21:45 | <b>Dessert and Audience Reflection</b>                                    | Interactive Q&A and digital audience poll                    | <i>Dr Mpho Tshikororo · Proposed Technology Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</i>                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 21:45 – 22:00 | <b>Closing Remarks and Commitments</b>                                    | Summary, commitments and next steps                          | <i>Dr Glenda Maluleke, Chair, ACOEDI 2026 Governance Council</i>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 22:00 onwards | <b>Networking and Digestifs</b>                                           | High-level networking                                        | <i>Proposed VIP Table Partners — This is a Sponsors Space</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

## DAY 2 · KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH & PRACTICE SESSIONS

Wednesday, 28 October 2026

*Bridging Research, Policy and Practice*

◆ Day 2 opens with a morning plenary focused on bridging the industry–academia gap, followed by host-country words of support and 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 — This is a Sponsors Space</i>              |
| 09:00 – 09:20 | <b>Welcome and Purpose Address</b><br><i>Formal welcome, Day 2 framing and acknowledgement of conference principal partners.</i>                                                                                         | Prof Vusani Moyo, Board Member, IfEDI Africa; Associate Professor of Finance, University of Venda | <i>Proposed Principal Partner acknowledgement — This is a Sponsors Space</i>          |
| 09:20 – 09:50 | <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>                                       | Hon. Mooketsi Prince Maele, Minister of Higher Education, Republic of Botswana                    | <i>Proposed Opening Plenary Supporting Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</i>         |
| 09:50 – 10:00 | <b>Words of Support from the Host Country</b><br><i>Host-country support for continental higher education, skills, research and innovation collaboration.</i>                                                            | Hon. Buti Manamela, Minister of Higher Education and Training, Republic of South Africa           | <i>Proposed Opening Plenary Supporting Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</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> | SACCI, Afreximbank, AAU, ZimTrade, ICBMD/IfEDI Africa                                             | <i>Proposed Knowledge and Data Partner · Atlas Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</i> |

## Regional Strategic Responses — Detail

| TIME          | PROGRAMME SEGMENT                                                                                                                                                              | DIGNITARY / STRATEGIC ROLE                                                      | PROPOSED SPONSOR PLATFORM / TBC |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10:00 – 10:15 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 1: Business Perspective</b><br><i>Senior business or institutional representative.</i>                                                          | Adv Mtho Xulu, President, South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry        |                                 |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 2: Continental Trade Policy Perspective</b><br><i>Continental trade policy, value chains, investment, industrialisation and implementation.</i> | Dr George Elombi, President and Chairman of the Board, Afreximbank              |                                 |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 3: Academic Perspective</b><br><i>Senior academic or university representative</i>                                                              | Prof Olusola B. Oyewole, Secretary-General, Association of African Universities |                                 |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | <b>Regional Strategic Response 4: Community or Practice Perspective</b><br><i>Senior community, LED or practice representative</i>                                             | Mr Similo Nkala, ZimTrade                                                       |                                 |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | <b>Moderated Synthesis and Audience Engagement</b><br><i>Chair-led synthesis connecting regional perspectives to the conference theme.</i>                                     | Prof Michael Twum-Darko, Deputy Chair, ACOEDI 2026 Governance Council           |                                 |

| 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 — This is a Sponsors Space</i> |

| TIME                                                                                                                                                             | STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | INNOVATION & VENTURE ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | ENTERPRISE & INFORMAL ECONOMY ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | DIGITAL & INDUSTRIAL ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | SUSTAINABILITY & ESG ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| 11:45 – 12:45                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>Economic Diversification and Industrial Policy</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> Ms Gillian Chigumira, Senior Economist, TIPS</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Peter Madisha</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Mmaphale Kgahliso Maoto</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Structural Room Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Innovation Hubs and Venture Builders</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> Prof Sibongile Muthwa, NMU</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Prof Michael Kahn</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Matlala Mpubane Emanuel</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Innovation Room Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>SME Development Ecosystems and Market Access</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> Adv Christopher T. Mugaga, CEO, ZNCC</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Dr Amany Asfour, Africa Business Council</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Dr Anisha Ramsaroop and Nomava Keswa</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Enterprise Room Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>AI, Data Economies, Digital Sovereignty and Economic Data Systems</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> Prof Kola Ijasan, Research ICT Africa</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Dr Oluwatosin Bamigboye</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Nikita Dwarika</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Digital Room Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Green Innovation, Circular Economy and Sustainable Business Models</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> Prof Sylvester Mpandeli, Water Research Commission</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Londiwe Hlatshwayo</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Mr S. S. Khumalo and Dr Thandiwe Euphronia Khumalo</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Sustainability Room Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> |
| 12:45 – 13:45 · Lunch and Networking (All Delegates) · Proposed Sponsor: Lunch Partner — This is a Sponsors Space · Cross-sector networking and speaker exchange |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| TIME          | STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | INNOVATION & VENTURE ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | ENTERPRISE & INFORMAL ECONOMY ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | DIGITAL & INDUSTRIAL ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | SUSTAINABILITY & ESG ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| 13:45 – 14:45 | <p><b>Regional Value Chains, AfCFTA, Infrastructure, Trade and Logistics</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Ms Gillian Chigumira</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> H.E. Elias M. Magosi, SADC</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Ms Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi, President &amp; CEO, ACET</p> <p><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Trade and Infrastructure Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p>                                | <p><b>Entrepreneurial Universities, Open Innovation and Talent Pipelines</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Prof Sibongile Muthwa</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Philasande</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper</p> <p><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed University and Innovation Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p>                                     | <p><b>Informal Economy, Incubation and Enterprise Support Systems</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Adv Christopher T. Mugaga</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Sinenhlanhla T.N. Khumalo</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Mongezi Ashley Wondo</p> <p><b>Presenter 3:</b> Ms Daisy Kambalame, MCCI Malawi</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Enterprise and Incubation Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p>           | <p><b>Future of Work, Skills Systems and Industry 4.0</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Prof Kola Ijasan</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Dr Naledi Gallant</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Mrs Nyasha Chimucheka and Ntombizanele Zigqolo</p> <p><b>Presenter 3:</b> Dr Vincent Dumisane Mahlangu</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Skills and Industry Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p>                                                         | <p><b>ESG Governance and Climate Policy</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Prof Sylvester Mpandeli</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper</p> <p><b>Presenter 3:</b> Practice or innovation paper</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed ESG and Climate Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p>                                                                               |
| 14:45 – 15:45 | <p><b>Institutional Architecture and Financing Structural Transformation</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> Mr Vishaal Lutchman, Group CEO, GIBB</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Mrs Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, Director, UNECA-IDEP</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Governance and DFI Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Venture Capital Ecosystems and Corporate–Startup Collaboration</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> Ms Audrey Verhaeghe, Anza Capital</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Venture and Corporate Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Territorial LED Systems and Local Economic Development</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> Professor Joseph Francis, Director IRD at UNIVEN</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Dr Mbombi Masenyani</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Liyema Ndungane</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed LED Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Digital Platforms, Blockchain and Digital Infrastructure</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> Mr John Omo, Secretary-General, African Telecommunications Union</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Digital Platform Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Inclusive Development and Social Impact</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor &amp; Strategic Framing Speaker:</b> Mr Simon Baloyi, President and Chief Executive Officer, Sasol Limited</p> <p><b>Strategic Framing Address:</b> 10 minutes</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Academic paper</p> <p><b>Presenter 2:</b> Policy / research paper</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Atlas capture</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Proposed Social Impact Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</p> |

| TIME          | STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | INNOVATION & VENTURE ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | ENTERPRISE & INFORMAL ECONOMY ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | DIGITAL & INDUSTRIAL ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | SUSTAINABILITY & ESG ROOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| 15:45 – 16:45 | <p><b>Financing Structural Transformation and Investment Corridors</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Mr Vishaal Lutchman</p> <p><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 — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Innovation Ecosystems, Knowledge Transfer and Commercialisation</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Ms Audrey Verhaeghe</p> <p><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 — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Enterprise Development, Formalisation and Support Systems</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Professor Joseph Francis</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Khanyisile Mandleni, Olabanji Oni, Gift Donga and Chumasande Dapula<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 — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Smart Manufacturing, Industry 4.0 and Economic Data Systems</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Mr John Omo</p> <p><b>Presenter 1:</b> Dr Thandukwazi Richman Ncube, Asanda Mthobisi Doyisa, Sanele Minenhle Shabalala and Thuthukani Justice Manzi<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 — This is a Sponsors Space</p> | <p><b>Climate Adaptation, Circular Economy and Sustainable Business Models</b></p> <p><b>Thematic Convenor:</b> Mr Simon Baloyi</p> <p><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 — This is a Sponsors Space</p> |
| 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

Wednesday, 28 October 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 | Grand Finale Reception                 | Networking and the ACOEDI 2026 highlights reel                 | <i>Proposed Closing Dinner / Awards Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</i>                                                                                                             |
| 19:15 – 19:30 | State of Industry and Academia Address | An industry and academic address                               | <b><i>Dr Amany Asfour</i></b> , President, Africa Business Council                                                                                                                     |
| 19:30 – 20:15 | Guest of Honour Address                | Address by designated Guest of Honour                          | <b><i>Dr Jumoke Oduwole</i></b> , Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Federal Republic of Nigeria                                                                              |
| 20:15 – 21:00 | Main Course and Innovation Awards      | Recognition of institutional, academic and industry excellence | <b><i>Dr Mary Morolong-Nonkwelo</i></b> , Founder, The Empowerment Network; Social Entrepreneur and Leadership Practitioner. <i>Proposed Awards Partner — This is a Sponsors Space</i> |
| 21:00 – 21:15 | Continental Call to Action             | Conference closing and forward agenda                          | <b><i>H.E. Elias M. Magosi</i></b> , Executive Secretary, Southern African Development Community · IfEDI Africa · Governance Council                                                   |
| 21:15 – 22:00 | Dessert and Celebration                | Music and high-level networking                                | <i>All delegates · sponsor acknowledgement</i>                                                                                                                                         |

## POST-CONFERENCE TECHNICAL TOUR & FIELD ENGAGEMENT

Thursday, 29 October 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 — This is a Sponsors Space · IfEDI Africa · Gauteng Growth and Development 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>OR Tambo Special Economic Zone · Gauteng Growth and Development Agency</i>                                            |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Transit and Refreshments                         | Travel to next site with light refreshments en route.                                                    | <i>Proposed Tour Sponsor — This is a Sponsors Space</i>                                                                  |
| 11:00 – 13:00 | Site Visit 2: Local Economic Development Project | Municipality or agency engagement on implementation, challenges and partnerships.                        | <i>City of Ekurhuleni Economic Development Department</i>                                                                |
| 13:00 – 13:45 | Closing Networking Lunch                         | Informal engagement with local stakeholders and practitioners.                                           | <i>City of Ekurhuleni · 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 Africa · Scientific and Technical Committee · rapporteurs</i>                                                   |
| 14:15         | Delegates Depart                                 | End of the official conference programme.                                                                | <i>ACOEDI 2026 Conference Secretariat · Technical Tour Coordinator</i>                                                   |