

# IfEDI AFRICA

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026

### OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM

Stage 1 nomination form

*Recognising Excellence. Celebrating Impact. Advancing Africa.*

Presented at ACOEDI 2026 | 26-29 October 2026 | Emperors Palace Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

#### BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THIS FORM

These Excellence Awards recognise people, institutions, partnerships and sustained practice. They are separate from ACOEDI paper, research-presentation and innovation competition awards. Complete one form per category. Keep the nomination focused on demonstrated results and evidence. For competitive awards, the primary assessment period is 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2026.

#### Section A - Award category

| Select                   | Competitive category                                                     |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Economic Development Professional of the Year                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Young Economic Development Professional of the Year                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CEDEL Ethical Leadership Award                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Economic Development & Innovation Institution of the Year                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Municipal Economic Development Excellence Award                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Economic Development Agency Excellence Award                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | University & Knowledge Institution Economic Development Leadership Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Enterprise & Innovation Ecosystem Excellence Award                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Economic Development Partnership of the Year                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence-to-Policy & Practice Impact Award                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Economic Development Enablers & Catalysts Excellence Award               |

Note: Distinguished Contribution to African Economic Development & Innovation is a special honour and does not use this standard competitive nomination form.

### If selecting Enablers & Catalysts, indicate the primary application area

- ☐ Energy   ☐ Water   ☐ Transport & Mobility   ☐ Digital Infrastructure / Data / AI  
☐ Land & Spatial Development   ☐ Finance   ☐ Procurement   ☐ Skills / Knowledge  
☐ Trade & Market Access   ☐ Tourism / Culture / Sport   ☐ Natural Resources / Food Systems  
☐ Climate / Green / Circular Transition   ☐ Human Settlements   ☐ Health Systems   ☐ Human Mobility /  
 Diaspora  
☐ Other enabling system / capability: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section B - Nominee details

| Field                                                                                                                      | Information |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Nominee / Institution / Partnership name                                                                                   |             |
| Nominee type <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership |             |
| Position / institutional type                                                                                              |             |
| Organisation (for individual nominees)                                                                                     |             |
| Province / Country                                                                                                         |             |
| Website (if applicable)                                                                                                    |             |
| Primary contact person                                                                                                     |             |
| Email                                                                                                                      |             |
| Telephone                                                                                                                  |             |
| Date of birth (Young Professional category only)                                                                           |             |

### Partnership details - complete only for Economic Development Partnership of the Year

| Partner organisation | Sector / type | Role in partnership | Country |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------|
|                      |               |                     |         |
|                      |               |                     |         |
|                      |               |                     |         |
|                      |               |                     |         |
|                      |               |                     |         |

### Section C - Nominator details

| Field                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Information |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Nominator name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |
| Organisation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |             |
| Position / title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |             |
| Email                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |             |
| Telephone                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |             |
| Relationship to nominee <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor <input type="checkbox"/><br>Colleague <input type="checkbox"/> Client <input type="checkbox"/> Partner organisation <input type="checkbox"/><br>Community stakeholder <input type="checkbox"/> Self-nomination <input type="checkbox"/><br>Other: _____ |             |

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## Section D - Nomination summary

In no more than 250 words, explain why this nominee should be recognised in the selected category. Lead with the strongest results and what makes the contribution exceptional.

### Nomination summary - maximum 250 words

## Section E - Challenge or opportunity addressed

In no more than 300 words, describe the economic-development or innovation challenge/opportunity, the context, who was affected, and why action was necessary.

### Challenge / opportunity - maximum 300 words

## Section F - Intervention, leadership and what was exceptional

In no more than 400 words, explain what the nominee did, how the approach differed from routine practice, the partnerships or leadership involved, and why the work deserves recognition in this specific category. Directly address the published category-specific criteria in the Awards Handbook.

### Intervention and excellence - maximum 400 words

Enablers & Catalysts nominations: explain the causal link between the selected enabler and the economic-development outcome. Do not rely on technical scale, infrastructure size or sector performance alone; show what productive activity, investment, enterprises, jobs, market access, productivity, inclusion or place-based transformation was unlocked.

## Section G - Measurable impact

Provide only indicators that are relevant and supportable. Leave irrelevant rows blank. Clearly state the measurement period and evidence source where possible.

| Impact indicator                              | Result / change | Evidence source |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jobs created / sustained                      |                 |                 |
| Investment facilitated / mobilised            |                 |                 |
| Enterprises supported / scaled                |                 |                 |
| Revenue / productivity / exports              |                 |                 |
| People trained / capability strengthened      |                 |                 |
| Youth / women / community outcomes            |                 |                 |
| Policies / institutional decisions influenced |                 |                 |
| Systems / processes / governance improved     |                 |                 |
| Research / knowledge translated into practice |                 |                 |
| Other material outcome                        |                 |                 |

## Section H - Sustainability and wider value

In no more than 250 words, explain how the results will continue, how the work has been institutionalised or funded, and whether it can be replicated, scaled or inform practice elsewhere.

**Sustainability / institutionalisation / replication - maximum 250 words**

## Section I - Ethics, governance and public value

In no more than 200 words, describe how the nominee demonstrated integrity, accountability, professional standards, inclusion, collaboration and public value in delivering the work.

**Ethics, governance and public value - maximum 200 words**

## Section J - Key supporting evidence

List the 3-5 strongest items submitted with this Stage 1 nomination. Shortlisted finalists may be asked for additional evidence.

| No. | Evidence item | What claim it supports |
|-----|---------------|------------------------|
| 1   |               |                        |
| 2   |               |                        |
| 3   |               |                        |
| 4   |               |                        |
| 5   |               |                        |

## Section K - Independent referee

The referee should be able to speak independently and from direct knowledge about the credibility and significance of the nominee's achievements. The Secretariat may contact the referee directly. A referee with

a material conflict must disclose it. The endorsement may be completed below or submitted separately by the referee to [awards@ifedi.org](mailto:awards@ifedi.org), clearly identifying the nominee and category.

| Field                                                                 | Information |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Name                                                                  |             |
| Organisation                                                          |             |
| Position / title                                                      |             |
| Email                                                                 |             |
| Telephone                                                             |             |
| Relationship to nominee                                               |             |
| Any relationship or potential conflict relevant to the awards process |             |

Referee endorsement - maximum 150 words: Please state, from your own knowledge, why the nominee's achievements and impact are credible and exceptional.

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| <b>Referee endorsement</b> |
|----------------------------|

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Referee signature | Date |
|                   |      |

## Section L - Disclosure, declaration and nominee consent

Please disclose any material relationship that could reasonably be perceived as relevant to the awards process, including governance, employment, advisory, financial, sponsorship, partnership, professional or institutional relationships involving the nominee/nominator and IfEDI Africa, ACOEDI, the Awards Council, Awards Secretariat or known adjudicators. Disclosure does not automatically disqualify a nomination; it enables appropriate recusal and independent handling.

### Relationship / conflict disclosure

- I certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand that supporting evidence may be independently verified and that additional information may be requested.
- I have disclosed any material relationship or potential conflict of which I am aware that could reasonably be perceived as relevant to the awards process.
- I understand that persons with a material conflict are required to recuse themselves from screening, scoring, verification, moderation and deliberation on the affected nomination.
- I understand that submission does not guarantee shortlisting or selection and that an award may be withheld where the required standard is not achieved.
- I understand that material misrepresentation may result in disqualification or withdrawal of recognition.
- For a third-party nomination, I understand that nominee consent must be obtained before finalist confirmation, verification and public announcement.

|                                                         |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Nominator name                                          | Date |
| Signature                                               |      |
| Nominee consent - required before finalist confirmation | Date |
| Nominee signature                                       |      |

### Confidentiality and evidence handling

Submitted information and evidence will be used for eligibility screening, adjudication, verification and awards administration. Access should be limited to authorised persons with a legitimate role in the process. Confidential or commercially sensitive information will not be published without appropriate permission.

## Stage 1 submission checklist

- ☐ Completed nomination form.
- ☐ 3-5 key supporting evidence items or accessible references/links.
- ☐ One independent referee endorsement.
- ☐ Signed declaration and relationship/conflict disclosure.
- ☐ Submitted by 20 September 2026, 23:59 SAST.

### SUBMIT TO

awards@ifedi.org | info@ifedi.org  
www.ifedi.org | +27 (0) 87 551 0639

## Official use only

| Field                                                                                                                                            | Official record |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Nomination reference number                                                                                                                      |                 |
| Date received                                                                                                                                    |                 |
| Eligibility check <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Additional information required |                 |
| Assigned category                                                                                                                                |                 |
| Conflict and recusal check completed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                    |                 |
| First-round adjudicator allocation                                                                                                               |                 |
| Shortlisting outcome                                                                                                                             |                 |
| Finalist consent received <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                               |                 |