







AFRICA SOCIAL IMPACT

S U M M I T2 0 2 3

COMMUNIQUE & POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS





he second edition of the Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS) hosted by Sterlina One Foundation and the United Nations Nigeria. With the theme "Global Vision, Local Action: Repositioning the African **Development Ecosystem for Sustainable** Outcomes", took place from the 10th – 11th of August, 2023, at the Eko Convention Centre, Lagos. Nigeria It attracted more than 1500 inperson delegates and over 4,300 registrants from 57 countries. ASIS once again proved to be a multi-stakeholder forum bringing together a diverse range of influential experts and leaders from across the African private, public and third sectors including the international development community. They included African Heads of State, global business leaders, permanent secretaries, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society groups, entrepreneurs, and investors, as well as international development and technical partners.

The theme of the Summit underscores the imperative of harmonizing global aspirations with grassroots efforts to drive enduring progress across the African continent. This approach recognizes the interconnectedness of the world while honoring the unique cultural, social, and economic contexts within individual African nations. By coupling a broad global vision with targeted local initiatives, Africa can effectively tackle its multifaceted challenges and harness its abundant

opportunities. The theme emphasizes the need for collaboration among international stakeholders, governments, civil societies, and local communities to co-create innovative solutions that address issues ranging from poverty and healthcare to infrastructure and education.

By repositioning the African development ecosystem, the continent can foster sustainable growth, ensure inclusive prosperity, and pave the way for a future where Africa's potential is fully realized on the global stage.

From the keynote addresses, goodwill messages, presentations and conversations over the 2 days of the Summit, we were able to identify evidence-based strategies for; improving impact investment and quality education access in Africa, financing scalable climate change solutions, increasing the operational efficiency of civil society organizations, funding health programs in underserved communities, harnessing our youth population and their creative talents, improving how we report the progress being made on the continent and accelerating action on water.





August 10, 2023





he Summit began with an amazing opening remark from the CEO of Sterling One Foundation, Mrs. Olapeju lbekwe, who welcomed all the participants and underlined the significant role of impact investors as key players in directing capital towards responsible ventures that hold the potential for sustainable solutions. She went further to emphasize the need for strategic collaborations, which is not just a choice but a necessity. She also explored the dynamic interplay among the private sector, public sector, governments, and impact investors in a time marked by both challenges and opportunities. Speaking afterward was Mr. Abubakar Suleiman, the MD/CEO of Sterling Bank and Member of the Board of Trustees of the Sterling One Foundation, whose insights illuminated the very essence of the Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS) as a response to the acknowledged void within prevailing paradigms, be it within the private sector or governmental spheres, where robust solutions to our global challenges have yet to crystallize.

He ended with a resounding clarion call as he said,

"let us elevate ourselves beyond conventional competition and direct our collective energies toward a collaborative expedition. The heart of this Summit resonates not only in the exchange of ideas but in our collective determination to translate discourse into tangible action. Let us recognize the potential of our conversations to leave a lasting imprint on our world. The true value of this Summit rests in its potential to inspire individuals and collectives alike, to surpass mere rhetoric and carve out pragmatic paths towards real-world transformation. At the crux of this vision lies collaboration, the seamless merging of diverse perspectives, experiences, and expertise."





ext was the Co-convener of ASIS 2023, Mr. Matthias Schmale, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations Nigeria, who underscored Africa's emergence as a beacon of hope, led by Nigeria, accentuating the continent's inventive contributions across diverse fields, particularly Nigeria's trailblazing endeavors. He exuded positivity about the event fostering new alliances and yielding substantial economic gains. While addressing climate change, he recognized Africa's private sector's comprehensive engagement, advocating the integration of sustainability into the core of how private sector players do business, using the Principles of the UN Global Compact as a guide. Schmale championed elevating women's representation in the workforce for sustainable progress, urging motivations beyond profits to encompass societal wellbeing.

He highlighted the potential of synergizing strengths from both sectors, drawing upon the concept that

"SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL." He offered strategies to amplify social impact and spotlighted government participation as pivotal in propelling these initiatives, stressing an enabling environment's significance for optimal social impact effectiveness.







oodwill messages were received from Mr. Weert Börner, the German Consul General, who highlighted the pressing global challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. He emphasized that armed conflicts often hinder the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), necessitating a smart transition towards positive impact. He outlined three key areas of focus: food security, clean and renewable energy, and gender equality. Ultimately, he conveyed that the central goal for his country is to limit climate change and enhance well-being for all, acknowledging the challenges in achieving SDGs, but emphasizing Germany's dedication to the cause.



Ms. Jette Bjerrum, the Consul General of the Danish Embassy, while echoing Mr. Börner's thoughts, highlighted partnerships, social responsibility, and the efforts of Danish companies for sustainable solutions stressing that conversations about social impact were similar to conversations about good business strategy and operations.

Mr. William Stevens, the Consul General of the United States of America highlighted the opportunity for improved trade relations and Africa's role in addressing global issues, while highlighting that it was time for the world to start seeking African solutions to global problems.

He further stated that; "No vision of progress can be complete without the active participation and empowerment of women and youth", which explains the existence of initiatives such as African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), and other targeted mentorship programs, and



investments opportunities by the United States to help unlock the potential of these demographics.

The British High Commissioner, Richard Montgomery, represented by Claire Allan, Head of Social Development, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, highlighted the UK's sustained commitment to the UK Africa Investment Summit which has been a platform for unlocking trade investments. She also cited other sustainable growth investments, stating that; "In 2022, the UK allocated £591 million to the British International Investment Finance Facility VII. Moving forward, over the subsequent five years, this body pledges that 33% of all its investments will be climate-

conscious. "In addition to her remarks, Lucy Pearson, Country Director for British Council in Nigeria, underscored Nigeria's youth as catalysts for economic progress and detailed the British Council's backing initiatives to support them.

H.E., Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, emphasized partnerships between private sector and the government, questioned poverty projections, and outlined Lagos State's support for SDGs and its tech hub status.





KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

he first keynote address was delivered by Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, the United Nations Deputy-Secretary General who began her speech by expressing gratitude to the organizers for hosting an event that champions marketoriented strategies and expedites significant investments across Africa. She accentuated the summit's commitment to integrating the youth, empowering women, addressing climate challenges, and promoting circular economy principles.

While acknowledging the nearing conclusion of the SDG 2030 timeline, she emphasized the significant progress still required across different nations. Despite obstacles posed by democratic issues, gender inequality, gradual climate reforms, and economic hardships within African countries, she expressed optimism about the potential for advancement, highlighting Africa's youthful population as a strong contributor to making it the best business opportunity across the globe today. She stressed the importance of enhanced collaboration among stakeholders from government, private, and development sectors to drive progress

and bring the SDGs closer to fruition by 2030 and concluded by wishing for productive deliberations and encouraging actionable outcomes that can contribute to a prosperous and triumphant future for the African continent.

Prof. Oyebanji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, the Senior Special Adviser on Industrialization to the President of the African Development Bank, who delivered the second keynote address, underscored that industrialization is key for Africa's advancement, citing the success of rich nations that have shifted from agrarian economies to advanced industrial ones.

He spotlighted Africa's paradox of owning 65% of global arable land yet struggling with food sustenance, the economic implications of reliance on food imports, and the urgency of change due to rapid urbanization. In a global context, he shed light on food insecurity in countries like Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria, pinpointing underlying issues such as prejudice against investing in local resources.





- He examined the complex dynamics that led to a global food security crisis and the "middle-income trap" that positions Nigeria within lowincome economies. He further explored agribusiness's potential, emphasizing the need for industrialization, citing examples from the Netherlands and China.
- One of the recommendations presented is for increased Agricultural productivity and Outputs to stay competitive in the global markets. To do this, he advocated the promotion of value addition through Agro Processing. Development of secondary cities known as SAPZ, Special Ago-industrial Processing Zones. Create a zone that maximizes the congregation of companies to provide tax incentives, enhancing job creation and improving the economy.
- He also called for the enhancement of Sustainable and Cultural practices and that Africa can regain its lost glory through industrialization to transform Africa from a consumption nation to a production powerhouse.

Specific propositions from his session were:

- Investing in agro-processing and dedicated industrial zones to foster local production.
- Expanding Exports and Diversifying the economies.
- Nurturing Inclusive Growth and Public-Private Collaboration.
- Investing in Infrastructure and Education.
- Promoting Sustainability and Managing Population Growth.
- Transitioning from rural-based economy to an urban-centered one, complemented by a strategy emphasizing production and export overconsumption.





POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OPENING CEREMONY

A. To Enhance Gender Equality:

- Develop targeted programs addressing cultural norms and legal barriers.
- Increase women's representation in decision-making through quotas or incentives.
- Improve access to quality education and vocational training for girls and women.
- Promote gender equality through awareness campaigns.

B. To Accelerate Climate Reforms:

- Strengthen policies for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable land use.
- Foster partnerships for technology transfer and climate adaptation.
- Implement emission reduction regulations and sustainable waste management.
- Develop climate resilience strategies for vulnerable communities.

C. To Address Economic Challenges:

- Improve business environment through regulatory reforms and reduced corruption.
- Invest in critical sectors like infrastructure, healthcare, and education.
- Enhance financial access for marginalized communities.
- Establish social safety nets for economic downturns.

D. For Strengthening Stakeholder Collaborations:

- Establish multi-stakeholder platforms for collaborative efforts.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and best practices exchange.
- Foster regular dialogue among stakeholders.

E. For Monitoring and Accountability:

- Enhance data collection and reporting for SDG progress.
- Establish oversight bodies for policy implementation.

 Align national plans with SDGs and adapt to emerging challenges.

F. For Capacity Building and Skill Development:

- Invest in education and training for modern economy skills.
- Support vocational training in technology, renewable energy, and agriculture.
- Design skill programs in partnership with the private sector.

G. For Knowledge Sharing and Innovation:

- Support research and development addressing specific challenges.
- Share successful strategies among regional countries.
- Encourage cross-border collaboration for social impact.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Establishment of working groups for each challenge to develop action plans.
- Continuous review sessions for progress updates
- Encourage private sector investment through incentives.
- Collaboration with international partners for funding and assistance.
- Development of communication strategy for SDG awareness.
- Creation of a platform for sharing success stories.
- Involvement of youth and marginalized communities in policy development.



PANEL SESSIONS

The summit had various panel discussions covering the following thematic areas - Impact Investment, Education, Climate Change, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), Health, Talent Attraction, and Gender Conversations.

Outcomes from these conversations between the panelists from the public, private, and development sectors provided key solutions and opportunities for collaboration in addressing the sustainable development goals by 2030.

Panel 1: IMPACT INVESTMENT
Topic: Catalytic Capital for Scaling Impact:
The State of the Impact Ecosystem in Africa

Key recommendations:

- Promote collaborative mindsets and platforms like 'Africa One' that bridge the gap between innovators, investors, and various stakeholders.
- Enhance data availability and transparency.
- Diversifying NGO funding sources, building of institutional strength, and fostering collaboration as crucial strategies.
- Foster inclusive investment.
- Support local innovators and SMEs via innovation hubs and networks as intermediaries between startups and local communities.
- Strengthen institutional sustainability.
- Promote inclusivity and gender equity.
- Tailor programs to real needs.
- Leverage government and private sector partnerships.
- Ensure policy harmonization across regional bodies and governments to harmonize policies that facilitate entrepreneurship, innovation, and investment across borders.
- Adoption of consistent regulations and standards that promote crossborder trade, investment, and collaboration, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), to enable startups to scale regionally and access larger markets.
- Strengthen commitment, delivery, and vocal advocacy.

- Embrace local context.
- Focus on sustainable impact.

The session concluded with recommendations to prioritize inclusivity and employ effective storytelling to communicate the impact of catalytic capital initiatives.

PANEL 2: EDUCATION

Topic: Youth Employability, Future of Work, and Africa as the Next Global Talent Sourcing Frontier

Key recommendations:

- Promote Foundational Literacy and Education
- Boost Technological Capabilities in schools:
- Strengthen Youth Engagement and Economic Growth
- Curriculum Modernization for Global Relevance including infusion of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in schools.
- Create Diverse Employment Perspectives
- Advance Funding Mechanisms for Education leveraging a dedicated, impactful education fund and consider investment models centered on student potential.
- Promote Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships
- Enhance Inclusivity in Education to promote equal educational access, emphasizing the girl child and efficient resource allocation.
- Stimulate Structural Reforms in Education, directing more resources



to local entities for primary education.

I. Foster Private Sector Contributions for foundational literacy, enhancing resource availability and teacher training.

Panel 3: Climate Change

Topic: Climate Financing and Scaling

Promising Solutions

Key recommendations:

- Collaboration among various stakeholders.
- Prioritize Energy Efficiency in Buildings.
- Promote Sustainable Financing.
- Prioritize Equitable Housing.
- Broaden Climate Dialogue emphasizing the relationship between energy and poverty.
- Diversify Energy Sources focusing on renewable sources and promoting electric vehicle initiatives.
- Revise Waste Perceptions by promoting the transformation of waste into income and employment sources.
- Engage Educational Institutions on Climate Action by collaborating with schools to integrate environmental concepts into curriculums.

The discussion concluded by highlighting the interconnectedness of environmental factors, urban planning, and human behavior, emphasizing the need for holistic and aggressive approaches to climate action, particularly within urban areas. It underscored the importance of collaborative efforts, private sector involvement, accountability, and innovative financial instruments in addressing climate challenges and promoting sustainable practices for a more resilient future.

PARALLEL SESSIONS:

The parallel sessions for Day 1 of the summit were on the **Creative Industry**, **ESG Reporting**, and a **Nonprofit** Strengthening Workshop

Session 1: Creative Economy: African Narrative Change Leveraging the Media and Entertainment Roundtable

Key recommendations:

dations and Action Point

- Empower Authentic Storytelling with educational programs that empower Africans to tell their own stories.
- Strategic Communication and National Branding Investments.
- Adopt the Creative Vibrancy Index.
- Leverage World Cultural Cities Forum Research.
- Present harmonized data to the government: to ensure that cultural policies, investments, and infrastructure decisions are grounded in factual insights rather than assumptions.
- Foster African-led Initiatives.
- Facilitate Intra-African Trade.
- Change in Perception and Value Chain Exploration with the potential for significant economic impact.
- Invest in Research and Education.
- Domestic Platform Development and Global Distribution.

The roundtable discussion emphasized the need for strategic investments, innovation, policy support, and effective distribution strategies to drive positive change in the African creative economy, harnessing the power of storytelling, culture, and media and entertainment.



Session 2: ESG Reporting and Sustainable Investing Roundtable

Key recommendations:

- Collaborative Partnerships:
- Emphasize Data Collection for precise metric measurement and reporting,
- Commit to Continuous Learning.

The session highlighted the transformation of ESG reporting, the need for standardized practices, and the integration of sustainable principles into various industries. It emphasized the importance of accurate data, transparent reporting, and governance to drive effective ESG strategies and contribute to sustainable business practices.

Session 3: Impact Workshop for NGOs.

Key recommendations:

- Emphasize Inter-NGO Collaborations to share insights, leverage collective strengths, and maximize impact.
- Prioritize Impact over Fundraising
- Transparency and Accountability
- Leverage Established NGOs for Credibility
- Utilize Free Capacity Building and Digital Resources.
- Strengthen Communication by creating platforms where smaller NGOs have a voice to encourage inclusivity and collective problemsolving.
- Promote Partnerships with the Private Sector to diversify sources of support.

The "Impact Workshop for NGOs" highlighted the complexities of nonprofit operations and the critical importance of aligning funding strategies with operational efficiency and social impact goals. The insights shared by the panelists underscore the need for NGOs to be adaptable, innovative, and strategic in their approaches to funding and operations in an ever-evolving landscape.





August 11, 2023





n the first round of speeches, several salient points were made by notable speakers. Ms. Connie Nielsen of the Human Needs Project, who used a case study of her organization's project in Kibera, Kenya to emphasize support for local women's businesses and youth development. Mr. Elvind Fjeldstad discussed a state of emergency in Nigeria's food sector, with a \$12 million investment from Norway, urging a shift from headlines to deadlines and announcing the upcoming 12th Norwich Business Summit. Mr. Adrian Clamp from KPMG in his keynote highlighted the role of government as an ecosystem catalyst, effective ecosystem regulations, and the need for interconnectedness to enhance value flow.

Mrs. Monilola Udoh, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs, Nigeria, stressed the importance of coordination, collaboration, and decentralization across sectors, calling for government education. Joyce Banda, former President of Malawi, underscored the severe impact of climate change in Malawi, urging dedicated efforts and a holistic approach. Aso, gender equality in education was emphasized, calling for public-private collaboration to address the issue.

Panel Session I: Health
Topic: Funding and Scaling Health Programs
in Africa

Key recommendations:

- Develop an Integrated Healthcare System - that combines public and private sectors, fostering collaboration for seamless care delivery.
- Embrace a Youth-Centric Approach
- Strategic Resource Allocation to
 PHCs
- Rural Outreach Strategies
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Increased Government Investment
- Private Sector Collaboration
- Health Insurance Expansion
- Preventive Health Promotion
- Healthcare Workforce Development
- Infrastructure Enhancement
- Community Engagement
- Long-Term Sustainability
- Equitable Access Promotion

Overall, the recommendations provided emphasized the need for increased funding, data-driven decision-making, innovative partnerships, and a shift towards preventive care. These steps, when collectively implemented, have the potential to enhance the quality of healthcare, promote sustainability, and address the challenges



faced by low-income communities. The discussion underscored the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach to create lasting impact in the healthcare sector.

Panel Session 2: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Topic: Accelerating Action on Water for Climate Resilience and Economic Transformation

Key recommendations

A. For Integrated Water Management and Sustainable Practices:

- Emphasize the adoption of sustainable practices in water usage, particularly in industrial production, to ensure responsible waterstewardship.
- Encourage industries to implement replenishment strategies, like Coca-Cola's approach, to offset water consumption and contribute to water resource conservation.

B. For Collaborative Partnerships and Equitable Distribution:

- Foster collaborative partnerships between governments, local communities, and relevant stakeholders to ensure equitable distribution and sustainable management of water resources.
- Prioritize technical capacity-building within communities to empower them in actively managing and conserving water resources.

C. For Community Engagement and Inclusion:

- Promote engagement of local communities, marginalized groups, and stakeholders in water-related decision-making processes.
- Align resources and involve these groups in the development and implementation of water solutions to enhance community ownership and effectiveness.

D. For Technological Advancements for Water Management:

- Invest in advanced technologies for comprehensive water management, spanning data analysis, storage, treatment, distribution, and preservation.
- Encourage the adoption of innovative tools and techniques that enhance efficiency, accuracy, and real-time monitoring in water resource management.

The panel underscores the significance of collaborative efforts, sustainable practices, and technological innovation in addressing water challenges. By implementing these recommendations, societies can enhance their resilience to climate change, ensure equitable access to water resources, and drive economic transformation.

Panel Session 3: Gender Equality Session Topic: Gender Conversations: Promoting Access to Opportunities for Development, and Equity

Key recommendations

A. For Empowerment through Access to Resources and Mentorship:

- Advocate for increased access to low-interest loans and mentorship programs to support women's entrepreneurial endeavors and career advancement.
- Encourage the establishment of mentorship networks that connect experienced women leaders with aspiring professionals to provide guidance and support.

B. For Comprehensive Education and Menstrual Health Awareness:

- Promote comprehensive education that addresses both male and female students, with a particular focus on raising awareness about menstrual health management.
- Collaborate with educational institutions to integrate menstrual health education into curricula, ensuring a supportive and informed environment for girls and women.



C. For Gender-Specific Policies and Quotas for Representation:

- Call for the implementation of gender-specific policies that address the unique needs and challenges faced by women in various sectors.
- Advocate for quotas and targets for female representation in leadership positions and decisionmaking roles across businesses and organizations.

D. For Tackling Underrepresentation and Breaking Barriers:

- Address the persistent underrepresentation of women in sub-Saharan Africa through targeted initiatives and awareness campaigns.
- Work to break down barriers that hinder women's participation and advancement, including gender biases, cultural norms, and systemic inequalities.

The insights shared underscored the importance of creating an inclusive and supportive environment for women. The recommendations highlight the need for comprehensive strategies that encompass financial empowerment, education, policy reforms, and awareness campaigns to empower women, promote gender equality, and combat gender-based violence. The conversation emphasized the pivotal role of collaboration among various stakeholders in driving positive change for women in Africa.

Panel Session 4: Talent Attraction Session Topic: Talent Management as a Vehicle for Addressing Youth Unemployment in Nigeria and Africa

Key recommendations:

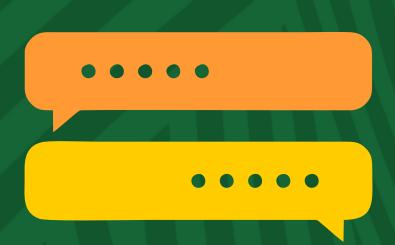
- Alignment of Education with Industry Needs:
- Soft Skills Development and Integration into academic programs.
- Practical Exposure during Education.
- Promote Global Competitiveness.
- Effective Data Management Strategies.
- Reconsideration of Retirement Policies.
- Scaling Employability Initiatives through Technology.
- Focused Retooling and Reskilling.
- Continuous Engagement with the Industry.
- Equity in Recruitment.

The discourse ignited with incisive inquiries, the intricate dynamics of homegrown employment initiatives and the pervasive gender imbalance in professional spheres.

The recommendations converged on augmenting employment avenues, cultivating entrepreneurial ecosystems, and fortifying women to explore multifaceted career trajectories.







CHATS FOR CHANGE

The "Chats for Change" session featured Olumide Fayankin of Vendease, who shared his mission in aiding restaurants and hotels in procuring food supplies and generating jobs. Seun Alley introduced Fez Delivery, a last-mile logistics platform addressing delivery challenges in Nigeria. Motunrayo Fatoke highlighted education's transformative impact, emphasizing the need for funding and prioritization, while lyin Aboyeji, discussed entrepreneurial success factors, government collaboration, and EdTech startup incentives. The discussion encompassed food procurement, logistics solutions, education's importance, and entrepreneurial strategies.





n a culmination that marked the successful conclusion of the event, Matthias Schmale, the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator of the United Nations in Nigeria and Olapeju Ibekwe, the CEO of Sterling One Foundation, the coconveners of the summit, extended their heartfelt gratitude to all the participants who contributed to the remarkable success of the gathering and expressed their sincere appreciation to the esteemed partners who joined hands in making the event possible, underscoring the significance of collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges at hand.

Mr. Schmale's extended special appreciation to the Sterling One Foundation for their substantial support, recognizing their pivotal role in ensuring the event's accomplishment. His words resonated with a deep sense of appreciation and acknowledgement, encapsulating the collective commitment demonstrated throughout the event.

Mrs. Ibekwe wholeheartedly thanked the partners, sponsors, speakers, and dedicated volunteers who shared their expertise, time,

and resources to make the event an enriching and enlightening experience. With genuine gratitude, she acknowledged the participants who attended, recognizing their presence as a testament to their shared commitment to the cause. Her closing remarks echoed the event's spirit of unity and collaboration, leaving a lasting impression on all those in attendance.

In summary, the summit addressed various strategies to accelerate the actualization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria, on the African continent and globally. Sterling One Foundation, through the outcomes of the Africa Social Impact Summit will be initiating and spearheading conversations and implementation strategies that stakeholders can utilize, advancing the calls for policy frameworks where necessary and working with all stakeholders to mainstream the summit's outcomes for impact.

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Let us work together to scale impact.