



**14–16
JULY 2026**
ACCRA, GHANA

Kempinski Hotel Gold
Coast City
Accra, Ghana

High-Level Regional Convening on the Financialization of Politics in Africa

**Advancing Reform, Transparency,
Accountability and
Democratic Integrity**

Convening Partners



**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**



DAY 1 TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2026

Diagnosing the Problem: *Understanding Financialised Politics in Africa*

The morning begins with the opening ceremony followed by a high-level panel examining the phenomenon broadly and the responsibilities of leaders across state and society. The afternoon dissects dimensions of financialized politics through plenary and parallel sessions.

GRAND OPENING CEREMONY

8:00 – 9:00am	Arrival, accreditation & registration
9:00 – 11:00am	Welcome Remarks • Prof. Henry Kwasi Prempeh, Executive Director, CDD-Ghana • Mr. Brian Kagoro, Managing Director, Open Society Foundations • Mr. Jorge Valladares, Lead, Political Integrity Policy, Transparency International • Hon. Kwami Edem Senanu, Chair of the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption Messages • Ms. Brigitte Strobel-Shaw, Acting Director, Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC • Ms. Vivian Hilde Opsvik, Deputy Head of Cooperation, Norwegian Embassy in Ghana • Hon. Dr. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlins, Second Vice-President, Pan African Parliament • Hon. Dr. Dominic Ayini, Attorney General, Ghana • Rt. Hon. Alban Kingsford Sumana Bagbin, Speaker of Parliament, Republic of Ghana Keynote Address • Her Excellency Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, Vice President of the Republic of Ghana

11:00 – 11:30am

Group Photograph, Tea Break & Media Engagement

HIGH-LEVEL OPENING PANEL

Sub-Theme: Statesmanship, Democratic Integrity, and the
Future of Political Finance Governance in Africa

11:30am – 1:00pm

Session 1: High-Level Panel Discussion

This session frames the overall challenge of financialized politics and opens a dialogue on the responsibilities of leaders - political, institutional, civil society, and private sector in addressing it.

Panelists:

- Hon. Edem Kwami Senanu, Chairperson, African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AUABC)
- Mr. Paul Banoba, Africa Regional Advisor, Transparency International
- Mr. Jonathan Gador, Coordinator, National Anti-Corruption Programme, Office of the President, Ghana
- Mr. Brian Kagoro, Managing Director, Open Society Foundations
- Hon. Yassine Fall, Vice President PASTEF - Les Patriotes and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs & Justice, Senegal

Moderator: Mr. Samson Itodo, Executive Director, Yiaga Africa

1:00 – 2:00pm

LUNCH BREAK



Programme

Masters of Ceremonies:

Samson Lardy Anyenini and Kathleen Ndongmo

Day 1

AFTERNOON: DISSECTING THE PROBLEM - PARALLEL SESSIONs

2:00 – 3:30pm Session 2: choose from the following three

Parallel Session A - The Commodification of Democracy

Using the Fishbowl methodology, this session examines democracy as a permanent struggle against the commodification of politics; explores possibilities of financing democracy without financing domination; and interrogates where political money comes from and where it goes.

Fishbowl discussants:

- Dr. Roukaya Kasenally, Director of Programmes and Knowledge Management, African Media Initiative, University of Mauritius
- Dr. Mathias Hounkpe, Head of Elections and Political Process Department, EISA
- Ms. Aisha Dabo, Co-Founder & Coordinator , AfricTivistes, Senegal
- Mr. Jamie Hitchen, Independent Research Analyst, Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Moderator: Ms. Caroline Gaita, Executive Director, Mzalendo Trust

Parallel Session B - Political Capture and Elite Domination

This session also uses Fishbowl methodology to explore how financial power restructures state authority and democratic accountability - examining how business elites become political kingmakers, and the role of informal financiers, brokers, oligarchic actors, and shadow networks in shaping candidate selection, policy priorities and regulatory decisions.

Fishbowl discussants:

- Dr. Clayton Vhumbunu, University of Free State, South Africa
- Mr. Rafael Marques de Morais, Independent Journalist, Angola
- Ms. Beauty Emefa Narteh, Executive Secretary, Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition
- Prof. Rachel Sigman, Associate Professor, Josef Korbel School of Global and Public Affairs, University of Denver, USA
- Mrs. Hussaina Gambo, Assistant Director, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC), Nigeria

Moderator: Mr. Hennie van Vuuren, Director, Open Secrets

Parallel Session C - Non- Compliance and the Limits of Enforcement

This session uses Fishbowl Methodology to explore why enforcement so often falls short – interrogating the structural and political barriers that undermine compliance frameworks and spotlighting innovative mechanisms and successful interventions that offer replicable models across the continent.

Fishbowl discussants:

- Dr. Sa'eed Husaini, Researcher, CDD-West Africa
- Dr. Roger Koranteng, Head, Public Sector Governance, Commonwealth Secretariat
- Ms. Olufunto Akinduro, Senior Adviser in the Africa and West Asia Regional programme, Int. IDEA
- Mr. Ibrahima Balde, Director of Trainings and Communication, General Directorate for Elections, Senegal

Moderator: Dr. Kamau Wairuri, Edinburgh Napier University

3:30 – 4:00pm TEA BREAK

Session 3: CLOSING PLENARY – The Impact of New Technology and Media on the Political Finance Ecosystem

4:00 – 5:00pm Closing Plenary: Interrogating technology and media trends effects on financialised politics
A selection of researchers and practitioners bring together the key dimensions of the rapidly changing technological, environmental and the emergence of new media and the intended and unintended impacts and effects on the financialized politics phenomenon

Panel discussants:

- Dr. Heather Thuynsma, Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria
- Mr. Peter Mac Manu, Political Campaign Strategist
- Prof. Victor Adetula, Department of Political Science, University of Jos
- Mr. Alioune Badara Mbengue, CEO ANDAKIA

Moderator: Mr. Selase Kove-Seyram, Independent Journalist

TUESDAY EVENING - AFRICAN ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY COMMEMORATION Sub-theme: Financialized Politics, Corruption, and the Cost to African Citizens

6:00 – 9:00pm In commemoration of African Anti-Corruption Day 2026, this special cultural evening uses art, performance, and public reflection to illuminate the growing intersection between corruption, money power, and democratic decline in Africa. The evening seeks to invoke artistic expressions of the convening's deeper deliberations.

Welcome Reception & Cultural Evening

- Commemoration Statement: Dr. Joseph Whittal, Commissioner, CHRAJ
- Commemoration Statement: Hon. Kwami Edem Senanu, Chairperson, AUABC
- Ignite Talk: Prof. Khabele Matlosa - The Political Economy of Money, Power and Democracy in Africa
- Cultural performances: spoken word and live music



Programme

Masters of Ceremonies:

Samson Lardy Anyenini and Kathleen Ndongmo

Day 2

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY, 15 JULY 2026

FROM PROBLEM TO SOLUTIONS: Exploring Pathways for Reform

Day 2 shifts from diagnosis to solutions. The morning opens with a plenary on the UN Resolution framework for continental political finance standards. The afternoon runs parallel sessions examining solutions for specific constituencies and problem areas - women's political participation, youth engagement, elite capture, the role of the private sector, and the benefits and challenges of technology. The day closes with a fireside chat.

8:30 – 9:00am

Arrival & registration

MORNING PLENARY

Session 4: Domesticating CoSP Resolution 11/7: Towards Continental Standards on Political Finance Transparency

9:00 – 10:30am

Plenary Session

This session provides a strategic update on the African Model Law on Political Finance Transparency being spearheaded by AUABC in collaboration with CDD-Ghana, ACFIM-Africa, TI-Ghana, and GACC. Building on UNCAC Resolution 11/7 adopted at the Doha Conference of States Parties (December 2025), the discussion examines ongoing efforts to establish continental standards and the technical, political and institutional pathways to AU adoption.

Panelists:

- Ms. Martha Munthali, Senior Policy Officer, AUABC
- Dr. Kojo Asante, Director for Policy Engagement & Partnerships, CDD-Ghana
- Mr. Jorge Valladares, Political Integrity Policy Lead, Transparency International
- Ms. Isatou Batonon, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Hub for Africa, UNODC

Moderator: Mr. Henry Muguzi, Executive Director, ACFIM

10:30 – 11:00am

Tea break

Session 5: PARALLEL SESSIONS - ROUND 1: SOLUTIONS FOR PARTICULAR CONSTITUENCIES

11:00am – 12:30pm

Parallel Sessions (Round 1)

Parallel Session D - Women's Political Participation and the Cost of Politics

This session uses the Fishbowl method to examine the financial barriers that disproportionately exclude women from political competition and explores policy and institutional solutions - including disclosure requirements, public campaign funding, spending limits, and gender-responsive political finance regulation.

Fishbowl Discussants:

- Dr. Njoki Wamai, Assistant Professor, United States International University-Africa
- Mr. Kizito Tenthani, CEO, Registrar of Political Parties, Malawi
- Ms. Aminata Fall Niang, President, Senegalese Female Lawyers Association
- Ms. Esther Tawiah, Executive Director, GENCED, Ghana

Moderator: Ms. Cynthia Mbamalu, Director of Programmes, Yiaga Africa

Parallel Session E - Youth Participation and Democratic Engagement

This session uses Fishbowl methodology to explore the structural financial barriers facing young people who seek to engage in formal politics, examines models for youth-centred political finance reform, and discusses how to create more accessible political environments.

Fishbowl Discussants:

- Hon. Gift Ostallos Siziba, Former Member of Parliament, Zimbabwe
- Mr. Fred Bauma, Executive Director, Ebuteli, DRC
- Hon. Charity Lenia, Member of Parliament, Uganda
- Mr. Emmanuel Ametepey, Executive Director, Youth Advocates Ghana

Moderator: Ms. Martha Munthali, Senior Policy Officer, AUABC

Parallel Session F - Rethinking Political Finance in Africa: Lessons from Diverse Approaches

This session is looking at the approaches and methodologies used by different actors to address undue political financing of politics, policies, and elections on the continent. This panel seeks to critically examine the efforts by bringing together diverse perspectives and experiences from different countries and institutional contexts. By interrogating what has worked, what has not, and the factors that explain these outcomes, the discussion aims to surface practical lessons and innovative practices. Ultimately, the goal is to deepen understanding of how more effective, context-responsive, and sustainable political finance systems can be designed and strengthened across Africa.

Panel Discussants:

- Dr. Ebrima Sall, Executive Director, TrustAfrica
- Dr. Niranjan Sahoo, Snr. Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, India
- Mr. Tom Moby, South Consulting, Kenya
- Mr. Moustapha Ka, President, OFNAC, Senegal

Moderator: Mrs. Mary Awelana Addah, Executive Director, Transparency International - Ghana

12:30 – 2:00pm LUNCH BREAK

Session 6: PARALLEL SESSIONS - ROUND 2: BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

2:00 – 3:30pm Parallel Sessions (Round 2)

Parallel Session G - The Role of the Private Sector in Reforming Political Finance Systems in Africa

This session examines how elite financial networks capture political institutions and explore the responsibilities and potential contributions of the private sector in reforming political finance. It looks at transparency obligations, anti-corruption measures, and how business actors can be part of the solution rather than the problem.

Panel Discussants:

- Mr. Ousmane Ndiaye, Executive Director, UNACOIS, Senegal
- Mr. Joe Jackson, CEO, Dalex Finance, Ghana
- Mr. Samuel Appiah Darko, Director of Strategy, Research & Communications, Office of the Special Prosecutor
- Dr. Ohene Aku Kwabong, Founder and Managing Partner, Songhai Group

Moderator: Ms. Nancy Muigei, Program Manager, OSF

Parallel Session H - Benefits and Challenges of Technology in Political Finance

This session examines how digital platforms have transformed political finance - amplifying opaque financing, enabling covert influence operations, facilitating micro-targeting and disinformation, and creating new transnational financing channels. It also explores how technology can be harnessed for transparency, disclosure, and accountability.

Panel Discussants:

- Mr. Raymond Archer, Ag. Executive Director, EOCO
- Ms Afia Asare-Kyei, Meta Oversight Board
- Ms. Karabo Rajuili, Director, Country Implementation, Open Ownership
- Mr. Matsobane Nkoko, Manager, Political Party Financing, Electoral Commission of South Africa

Moderator: Mr. Bernard Avle, General Manager, Citi Fm and Channel One TV

Parallel Session I: Foreign fundings, sovereignty and the integrity of political processes

his panel will explore the complex interplay between foreign funding, national sovereignty, and the integrity of political processes. It will examine how external financial flows can both support democratic development and, if insufficiently regulated, risk influencing political competition and public decision-making. Discussions will highlight policy and regulatory frameworks aimed at preserving transparency, accountability, and national ownership of political systems. The session will also provide a platform to identify balanced approaches that uphold openness to international cooperation while safeguarding the credibility and independence of democratic institutions.

Panel discussants:

- Ms. Nozipho Ndebele, Associate Director, OSF
- Mr. Gary Klaukka, Executive Director, European Network of Political Foundations (ENOP)
- Mr. Mulle Masau, National Coordinator, Election Observation Group, Kenya
- Dr. Sarah Bireete, Chair, Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors (Virtual)

Moderator: Ms. Typhaine Roblot, Co-Founder, Partnership for Integrity (P4I)

3:30 – 4:00pm

TEA BREAK

Session 6: CLOSING PLENARY - Pulling the Solutions Together

4:00 – 5:00pm

Day 2 Closing Plenary

A fireside chat on the feasibility of current solutions for tackling the financialization of politics in Africa

- Mr. Oliver Baker Vormawor - Advisor, Democracy Hub
- Ms. Cynthia Mbamalu, Director of Programmes, Yiaga Africa

Moderator: Mr. Evans Mensah, Editor & Head of Political Desk, Multimedia Group

5:00pm

End of Day 2



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Programme

Masters of Ceremonies:

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Day 3

DAY 3 - THURSDAY, 16 JULY 2026

FROM SOLUTIONS TO ACTION: Roadmap to Reform - Close by Midday

Day 3 moves from deliberation to action. The morning session focuses on translating the insights of the preceding two days into concrete reform commitments. The programme is designed to close before lunch.

8:30 – 9:00am

Arrival

Session 7: IGNITE TALK - SPARKING THE REFORM MOMENT

9:00 – 9:20am

Ignite Talk: The Case for Reform - Why Now?

A concise, high-energy talk setting the tone for the action-planning session. The speaker makes the compelling case for why the reform moment is now - synthesising the evidence, the political will, and the continental momentum.

- Hon. Alhaji Inusah Fuseini, Former Minister and MP, Ghana

PANEL OF KEY PLAYERS FOR REFORM

9:20 – 10:45am

Reform Panel: Who Does What and How?

This session brings together the key institutional actors and change-agents whose roles are central to advancing political finance reform across the continent. Panellists speak specifically to their institution's reform commitments and proposed contributions.

Panelists:

- Hon. Kwami Edem Senanu, Chair of the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC)
- Dr. Joseph Whittal, Commissioner, CHRAJ
- Dr. Steven W. Kayuni, African Union Commission for International Law
- Mr. William Nyarko, Executive Director, Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability
- Dr. Bossman Asare, Deputy Chairman, Corporate Affairs, Electoral Commission of Ghana

Moderator: Mr. Paul Banoba, Africa Regional Advisor, Transparency International

10:45 – 11:15am

TEA BREAK

Session 8: THE ACCRA DECLARATION

11:15 – 11:50am

Adoption of the Accra Declaration

This session presents, deliberates, and formally adopts the Accra Declaration - a continental statement of commitment to political finance transparency, accountability, and democratic integrity. Delegates are invited to affirm the Declaration's key commitments and outline their follow-up actions.

- Presentation of the draft Accra Declaration: Prof. Khabele Matlosa
- Plenary discussion and amendments
- Formal adoption by delegates

Moderator: Ms. Laura Jaymangal, Transparency International

CLOSING KEYNOTE & CEREMONY

11:50am – 12:30pm

Keynote Address

- Dr. Ibn Chambas, High Representative for Silencing the Guns

Closing Remarks

- Prof. Audrey Gadzekpo, Chair of the CDD-Ghana Board
- Ms. Mwende Mueke, Associate Director, Open Society Foundations
- Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Kwabena Ansah, Chair, Transparency International Ghana
- Mr. Joel Bregman, My Vote Count (MVC) & Community of Practice
- Hon. Nandita Suneechur, Board Member, AUABC
- Prof. Francis Doodoo, Presidential Advisor, National Anti-Corruption Programme

Celebratory closing

12:30 – 2:00pm

LUNCH BREAK

CLOSE – END



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