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PAGE
26

**Gift Chidima
Nnamoko
Orairu** Presents
the Moroccan
Sahara as a
Continental
Gateway
Under HM King
Mohammed
VI's Leadership



PAGE
18

Dr. Hajar El Haddaoui:
Bridging Borders,
Humanizing
Technology



PAGE
10

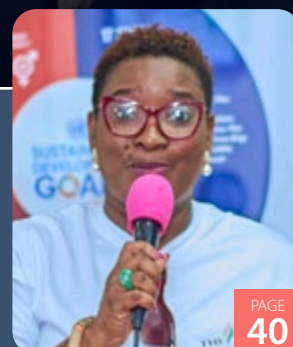
**Kosisochukwu Doose
Onwuegbuna:** The Voice of
a Rising Generation



PAGE
09

**LIBERIAN DIPLOMAT
KARISHMA PELHAM-RAAD:
A Model for Young Women
to Break Barriers**

**The Edge Credit Union:
Transforming Community
Banking and Advancing Women's
Empowerment in Africa**



PAGE
40



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06 PUBLISHER'S NOTE

07 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S NOTE

08 EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

09 EDUCATION

Liberian Diplomat Karishma Pelham-Raad: A Model for Young Women to Break Barriers

10 YOUTH ADVOCACY

Kosisochukwu Doose Onwuegbuna: The Voice of a Rising Generation

14 EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

The Return of a Peacebuilder Nation: How Liberia Reclaimed Its Place at the UN Security Council

24 PARTNERSHIP

- ENCG Casablanca and NAGI Forge Strategic Pan-African Partnership to Advance Digital Education and Leadership
- Gift Chidima Nnamoko Oraiur Presents the Moroccan Sahara as a Continental Gateway Under HM King Mohammed VI's Leadership

COLUMN: CHINA-NIGERIA RALATIONS

Gender Perspective: The Facts, Relevance and Prospects in History

THE EDGE

The Edge Credit Union: Transforming Community Banking and Advancing Women's Empowerment in Africa

TECHNOLOGY

Morocco Launches New School of Engineering for Digital Transition and AI

SPORTS

WAFCON 2024: A Continent's Declaration of Strength in Women's Football

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The New Africa

ABOUT US

The New Africa Magazine is a print and digital publication that focuses on the African continent and its people. The magazine covers a wide range of topics such as business, politics, culture, technology, and environment. It aims to challenge stereotypes and promote a more nuanced understanding of Africa. The New Africa Magazine features articles, interviews, and opinion pieces from a diverse range of writers and experts.



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OUR VISION:

We envisage a bold, prosperous, and united Africa where leadership reflects the richness of its people and innovation drives sustainable growth.

OUR MISSION:

To amplify African voices globally by celebrating excellence, empowering leaders, connecting changemakers, and inspiring future generations.



DR. GIFT CHIDIMMA
NNAMOKO ORIARU

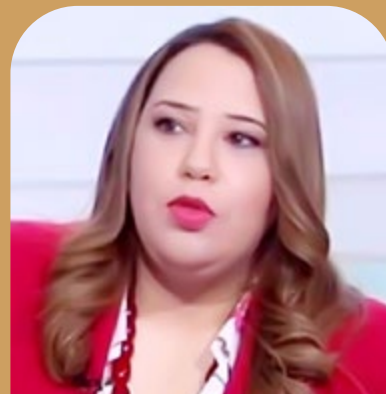
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Publisher's Note

This issue serves as a vivid showcase of the bold, thriving, and united Africa we envision. It is a blueprint for the future we are jointly shaping, where leadership genuinely embodies the diversity of our people and innovation drives sustainable development.

Within these pages, you'll discover the core of our mission in action. We amplify African voices globally by honouring excellence, from Karishma Pelham-Raad's diplomatic achievements to the sporting success of WAFCON 2024. We support leaders by showcasing innovative financial models like The Edge Credit Union and the strategic pan-African collaboration between ENCG Casablanca and NAGI.

Additionally, we are linking changemakers—from peacebuilders restoring Liberia's role at the UN Security Council to acclaimed Moroccan trailblazers and vital voices shaping Africa-China relations. Most importantly, we inspire future generations by highlighting the impactful voice of Kosisochukwu Doose Onwuegbuna and demonstrating Africa's confident assertion of its position, guided by visionary leaders like HM King Mohammed VI.

This publication is more than just a record of events; it actively contributes to shaping our continent's story. We are dedicated to being the platform that not only reports on this progress but also drives it forward.

Let's unite to honour these accomplishments and the limitless opportunities they represent.

With high hopes,

The Publisher



DR. GIFT CHIDIMMA
NNAMOKO ORAIRU
PUBLISHER, THE NEW AFRICA AMAZONS

From the Editor-in-Chief

This edition beats with the energy of a continent in development—a rhythm characterized not by one note, but by a vibrant symphony of growth. From international power centers to local communities, the stories we share showcase Africa's diverse and dynamic nature.

We proudly highlight the exceptional diplomatic talents, such as Hon. Karishma Pelham-Raad, who is setting a new leadership standard for young women, and celebrate Liberia's successful comeback on the global scene. We explore grassroots change drivers, from the innovative financial approach of The Edge Credit Union to the strategic partnership between ENCG Casablanca and NAGI that influences the continent.

This issue highlights important voices and perspectives shaping our future, from the insightful Kosisochukwu Doose Onwuegbuna to a new gender-based analysis of Africa-China relations. We also examine Morocco's strategic vision under HM King Mohammed VI, positioning it as a key gateway on the continent.

Finally, we celebrate the raw, unfiltered display of strength and power showcased by WAFCON 2024.

Together, these stories create a powerful mosaic: showcasing women breaking barriers, strategic nation-building, digital progress, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. This is the Africa we have the privilege to document.

Flip the page and find inspiration.



Lanem Law Kuma
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
The New Africa Amazons

Senior Editor's Reflection

This edition is more like weaving a tapestry of modern African achievement than simply assembling a magazine. Each strand—whether in diplomacy, finance, sport, or education—shines brightly individually, but when combined, they compose a compelling image of a continent in progress.

As you read, you will be struck by a common thread that binds **Karishma Pelham-Raad's** diplomatic journey with the roaring crowds of **WAFCON 2024**: it is a redefinition of strength. It's no longer just about perseverance; it's about masterful skill and claiming your seat at the table, whether in the UN Security Council or on the world's pitch.

Similarly, the innovative efforts of The Edge Credit Union and the digital education partnership between ENCG Casablanca and NAGI represent two complementary approaches. One fosters financial empowerment from the ground up, while the other promotes knowledge and connectivity from the top down. Together, they are vital for creating resilient, inclusive economies.

What about the voices? From Kosisochukwu Doose Onwuegbuna's inspiring perspective to detailed gender insights on Africa-China relations, this generation isn't waiting for the mic. They're creating their own platforms, similar to the Moroccan pioneers we celebrate, whose accomplishments under HM King Mohammed VI are opening new paths for advancement.

This edition is a profound reminder that Africa's story is not a monolith. It is a complex, brilliant, and interconnected ecosystem of change. This isn't just news; it's a glimpse into the future, and it is being written now.



KARIMA RHANEM
SENIOR MANAGING EDITOR,
THE NEW AFRICA AMAZONS

Liberian Diplomat Karishma Pelham-Raad: A Model for Young Women to Break Barriers

Harvard Business School Experience Underscores Her Journey from Family Breadwinner to Global Negotiator



The Harvard course—designed for top diplomats, executives, and global leaders—equips participants with advanced tools in negotiation, decision-making, and strategic influence, taught by some of Harvard's most esteemed faculty through behavioral science, case studies, and simulations

Karishma Pelham-Raad, Liberia's Assistant Minister for International Organizations, is urging young women and girls across Liberia not to let hardship stand in the way of their ambitions.

Speaking in an interview with FrontPage Africa from Harvard Business School in Boston, where she's attending the elite executive education program "Changing the Game – Negotiation & Decision-Making," Pelham-Raad recounted her own path of resilience.

"As a young girl, I became the breadwinner for my family, working to support my mother and siblings," she recalled. "Despite graduating high school with distinction, I had to put university on hold due to financial constraints. But I never lost hope—delay is not denial."

Now a rising diplomatic force,

Pelham-Raad's story is one of perseverance and determination. Her acceptance into the prestigious HBS program was further marked by her receiving the Dean's Scholarship, which covered more than half of her tuition. She personally covered the remaining cost, reinforcing her commitment to professional excellence and public service.

As Assistant Minister, she plays a pivotal role in shaping Liberia's engagements with major international bodies including the United Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, and the IAEA. Her portfolio includes leading complex negotiations and representing Liberia on high-stakes global platforms.

The Harvard course—designed for top diplomats, executives, and global leaders—equips participants with advanced tools in negotiation, decision-making, and strategic influence, taught by some of Harvard's most esteemed faculty through behavioral science, case studies, and simulations.

A senior Foreign Ministry official, speaking anonymously, hailed her participation as timely and strategic.

"This comes as Liberia prepares to assume its non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council (2026–2027), and steps up its role in regional integration and development efforts," the official said. "Her presence at Harvard is not just a personal achievement—it's a national symbol of possibility."

Pelham-Raad's journey from family breadwinner to Harvard-trained diplomat is resonating with young people across Liberia, especially girls facing adversity.

"Sharing my story is about letting young women know that even when life delays you, it doesn't define you," she said. "We are the ones we've been waiting for."

She expressed gratitude to President Joseph Boakai for entrusting her with the role of Assistant Minister and pledged to continue serving Liberia with distinction.

"It's an honor to represent Liberia on the global stage. I carry with me not just a title, but the hopes and dreams of young Liberians—especially young women—who believe they, too, can lead," she said.



Kosisochukwu Doose Onwuegbuna: The Voice of a Rising Generation

By Lanem Law Kuma,
Editor-in-Chief

In a world burdened by inequality, climate change, and governance challenges, a voice rises to inspire hope and action. That voice is Kosisochukwu Doose Onwuegbuna — a rising global youth leader and the visionary founder of a youth-led movement encouraging young people worldwide to reclaim their future.

Passionate, fearless, and deeply committed to social change, Kosisochukwu has carved her path in the demanding fields of youth advocacy and civic engagement. From national roundtables to UN-themed events and high-level policy forums, she has represented the bold, unapologetic voice of her generation. For her, leadership is not postponed to tomorrow. As she

often insists, “young people are not the leaders of tomorrow — they are the leaders of now.”

Her journey showcases the active strength of youth. In Washington, D.C., she walked with Nigerian Model UN delegates at the Abraham Lincoln Memorial, symbolically emphasizing that strong laws and good governance can shape the future of young people. She has advocated for cancer awareness among youth, highlighting health issues often ignored by policymakers. On the International Day of the Girl Child, she voiced her support for gender equality, reminding the world that when girls succeed, nations succeed too.

Despite being from Nigeria, Kosisochukwu’s influence goes far beyond her home country. At the North American Model United Nations in Washington, D.C., she proudly represented Vancouver with eloquence

and determination, standing alongside young people from all over the world. One of the highlights of her visit was a powerful diplomatic moment when she paid a courtesy call to Nigeria’s first female ambassador to the United States, urging her to advocate for policies that would greatly improve the lives of young Nigerians.

What sets her apart is her ability to connect local realities with global frameworks, grounding her advocacy in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For Kosisochukwu, youth leadership is not abstract — it is about shaping policies, changing narratives, and driving real transformation.

As the world watches a new generation rise, Kosisochukwu Doose Onwuegbuna embodies the energy, courage, and vision of youth leadership. She is not just building a movement; she is creating a future where young people



are recognized not as passive recipients of tomorrow, but as active architects of today.

“Young people are not the leaders of tomorrow — we are the leaders of now.” — Kosisochukwu Doose Onwuegbuna

Through her work, Kosisochukwu reminds us that leadership isn't something we save for the future. With courage, vision, and a strong commitment to change, she's building a movement that empowers young people everywhere to be seen not just as spectators, but as the architects of today. While the world often underestimates the power of youth, voices like hers show that the future is already here — and it's being shaped right now.



- *“When youth rise, nations shift. When girls rise, the world transforms.”*
- *“From local action to global change, Kosisochukwu is proof that youth voices shape the world we live in.”*
- *“Leadership is not postponed. It begins the moment young people decide to act.”*



Facts about Kosisochukwu Doose Onwuegbuna

- *Represented youth voices at national, UN, and global policy forums*
- *Represented Vancouver at the North American Model UN in Washington, D.C.*
- *Advocated for Nigerian youth policies in a meeting with Nigeria's first female Ambassador to the US*
- *Cancer awareness campaigner and gender equality advocate*



Diplomacy: Pelham-Raad, Team Secures Liberia's UNSC Return After 60 Years

By Eseh Oairu,
Contributing Writer

In a resounding victory for Liberia's global aspirations, the nation has secured a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 2026–2027 term. The announcement came on June 3, 2025, following a decisive vote at the UN General Assembly where Liberia garnered overwhelming support—181 out of 187 possible votes.

Though Liberia will not officially assume its seat until January 1, 2026, the success marks a turning point in

the country's international profile. At the heart was one of the *New Africa Magazine's* listed Outstanding African Women in 2024, the Assistant Minister for International Organizations, Karishma P. H. Pelham-Raad—whose strategic leadership transformed a national dream into a global reality.

"This victory is not just about a seat—it's about Liberia standing tall, with dignity and vision, on the global stage," Pelham-Raad said following the vote.

A Legacy Rekindled

This will be Liberia's first term on the

Council since 1961, reconnecting the country with its rich diplomatic heritage. As Africa's oldest republic, Liberia played a pivotal role in the formation of the Organization of African Unity and was among the original supporters of Israel's establishment in the UN in 1948.

Liberia's trailblazing history also includes Angie Brooks, the only Black woman to have ever served as President of the UN General Assembly. Pelham-Raad's campaign frequently invoked this legacy—not as a relic, but as a call to leadership.

"Our past is a foundation, not a resting place," she said. "Liberia is

stepping forward with purpose.”

Strategic Diplomacy with Global Reach

Launched on September 27, 2024, the campaign extended across diplomatic missions, regional forums, and multilateral negotiations. As Global Campaign Chair, Pelham-Raad led a robust team effort that projected Liberia as a credible partner in peace, conflict resolution, and environmental governance.

The messaging emphasized Liberia's post-conflict recovery, democratic reforms, and environmental significance—particularly its stewardship of over 40% of West Africa's remaining rainforest. These themes resonated strongly across Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

“Liberia knows the cost of conflict and the value of peace,” Pelham-Raad said. “That lived experience shapes our global perspective.”



National Unity, Global Support

The campaign's success was built on unprecedented cooperation across Liberia's diplomatic institutions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Liberia's Permanent Mission to the UN, and high-ranking officials—including President Joseph Boakai and Foreign Minister Sara Beysolow Nyanti—united behind the bid. The Liberian Senate also expressed full endorsement, making it a truly national endeavor.

“This is not one woman's achievement,” said Foreign Minister Nyanti. “This is Liberia rising as one voice.”



What Happens Next

Liberia's term on the Security Council will officially begin on January 1, 2026, joining 14 other countries tasked with addressing some of the world's most urgent issues—ranging from conflict mediation to sanctions and peacekeeping operations. Liberia joins four other newly elected countries: Colombia, Bahrain, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Latvia.

During its term, Liberia is expected to

champion issues such as peacekeeping reform, regional stability in West Africa, climate-security links, and inclusion of youth and women in peace processes.

“We come with ideas, empathy, and the will to act,” Pelham-Raad emphasized. “Liberia is ready to contribute, not just participate.”

A Nation Reintroduced to the World

Though not yet seated, Liberia's

election to the UN Security Council is already shaping the country's diplomatic identity. For Karishma Pelham-Raad, it is both the culmination of months of relentless diplomacy and the beginning of a new chapter in Liberia's global journey.

“Liberia's voice will soon echo in the chamber where peace and conflict are debated,” she said. “And that voice will speak not just for our nation—but for all who believe in resilience, cooperation, and global justice.”

Interview with Hon.
Karishma Pelham-Raad

The Return of a Peacebuilder Nation: How Liberia Reclaimed Its Place at the UN Security Council



Throughout history, some moments in international diplomacy are just procedural, while others carry deep significance. Liberia's election to the United Nations Security Council for 2024-2025, after being absent for 63 years, highlights this importance. It signals the country's return to the world's top arena for international peace and security—shifting from mere dialogue to becoming an active decision-maker, moving away from its past ties to civil war and instability.

This historic achievement, developed over many years, highlights a story of resilience, strategic diplomacy, and hope for post-conflict nations worldwide. The campaign was led by **Hon. Karishma Pelham-Raad**, whose leadership has been highly praised for its clarity, inclusiveness, and vision.

In this exclusive interview with **Lanem Law Kuma, The New Africa Amazon Editor in Chief**, **Hon. Pelham-Raad** discusses the journey of "The Return of a Peacebuilder Nation." She explains the core principles guiding the campaign, highlights Liberia's diplomatic legacy, and describes the challenging process of uniting the country behind a common foreign policy goal. She also outlines Liberia's main priorities on the Council, such as advancing climate security, promoting gender equality, and advocating for reforms in the multilateral system.

This conversation is more than just a diplomatic post-mortem; it's a powerful story of redemption and a strong statement that, as Hon. Pelham-Raad affirms, "even the most fragile nations can rise, rebuild, and lead."



Liberia has not held a seat on the UN Security Council since 1961. How does it feel to lead the nation back to this global stage after more than six decades?

It is an overwhelming honor and a deeply humbling experience to lead Liberia back to the United Nations Security Council after more than six decades. This moment is not just historic—it is a powerful testament to

how far Liberia has come. From a post-conflict nation rebuilding its institutions to now holding a seat at the world's highest decision-making table on peace and security, this victory reflects the resilience, hope, and diplomatic strength of the Liberian people. I'm proud to have contributed to this transformative chapter in our foreign policy.

As the campaign chair, your strategic leadership was widely credited for this diplomatic success. What personal principles guided you throughout this process?

I was guided by three core principles: strategic clarity, inclusive collaboration, and unyielding national pride. From the start, I believed this campaign had to reflect Liberia's renewed credibility on the world stage. I prioritized relationship-building with a sense of humility and purpose, ensuring that our message resonated not only with traditional allies but with every UN Member State. I also made sure our campaign remained inclusive, transparent, and above all, aligned with Liberia's vision for a peaceful, just, and cooperative world.

You've invoked the legacy of Angie Brooks and other Liberian diplomatic pioneers. How do you see yourself building on their trailblazing work?

Angie Brooks' legacy is not only Liberian; it is African and global. She shattered barriers and positioned Liberia as a beacon of diplomatic leadership at the UN. I stand on the shoulders of her generation and draw strength from their courage. As we return to the Council, I see my role as continuing that legacy—elevating Liberia's voice for peace, gender equality, multilateralism, and international justice. I want young African women to see themselves in global diplomacy and to know that they, too, can shape the future of international peace and security.

The campaign highlighted Liberia's post-conflict recovery and environmental leadership. How did these themes resonate with international partners?

Our message of resilience deeply



resonated because it is universal. Liberia's journey from war to peace—anchored in democracy, reconciliation, and institutional rebuilding—offered a compelling narrative of hope. At the same time, our commitment to climate security, sustainable development, and environmental protection gave our candidacy relevance in today's global context. Member States recognized Liberia not just as a beneficiary of peacebuilding, but as a contributor to global solutions on conflict prevention, food security, and climate adaptation.

This campaign was described as a truly national effort. How did you foster unity among Liberia's institutions and stakeholders to ensure this outcome?

From the onset, we embraced a whole-of-government, whole-of-nation approach. I worked closely with my Boss, The Minister of Foreign Affairs, H. E. Sara Beysolow Nyanti, the Office of the President, the entire Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our diplomatic missions abroad, and key ministries and agencies to ensure coordination and shared ownership. We consulted former diplomats, engaged civil society, and maintained bipartisan

“
Angie Brooks' legacy is not only Liberian, it is African and global. Our message of resilience deeply resonated because it is universal.
”

support. This campaign became a national project, a collective movement that transcended politics and reminded us that diplomacy is most powerful when it reflects the unity of a nation.

What are Liberia's top priorities once it assumes its seat in January 2026, particularly on issues like peacekeeping, regional stability, and climate security?

Liberia will champion five core priorities on the Council:

Conflict Prevention and Peacekeeping



– We will support stronger mandates for UN peace operations, especially in Africa, with emphasis on civilian protection, women’s participation, and political solutions.

Youth, Women, and Peacebuilding – Liberia will advocate for inclusive peace processes, drawing from our national experience where women and youth have been peacebuilders.

Climate and Security Nexus – We will push for recognition of climate change as a driver of insecurity, especially in the Sahel and West Africa.

Post-Conflict Transitions and Justice – Liberia will contribute to Council discussions on sustainable peace, justice mechanisms, and state capacity.

Multilateral Reform and African Representation – As a voice from Africa, we will promote fairer representation and increased African leadership in global governance structures, especially the UNSC. Advocating for two permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council and maintaining the three non-permanent seats for Africa.

“
*We will be a voice
of moral clarity,
cooperation,
and constructive
diplomacy.*
”

You’ve championed the inclusion of youth and women in peace processes. What steps is Liberia taking to institutionalize this vision globally?

Liberia will advocate for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250 on Women, Peace and Security, and Youth, Peace and Security. We are committed to ensuring that these frameworks are not just referenced in Council debates but operationalized in mandates, peacebuilding funds, and post-conflict programs. We will also seek to host side events and briefings that spotlight the role of women and youth in fragile

and post-conflict contexts, including in Liberia. Our aim is to institutionalize these voices at the heart of peace and security decision-making globally.

You mentioned that Liberia’s voice will not only speak for itself but for all who believe in “resilience, cooperation, and global justice.” What message do you want the world to hear from Liberia during its tenure?

Liberia’s message to the world is clear: even the most fragile nations can rise, rebuild, and lead. We will be a voice of moral clarity, cooperation, and constructive diplomacy. We will advocate for a global system that is fairer, more inclusive, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations. During our tenure, Liberia will stand up for peace, amplify the concerns of underrepresented regions, and act as a bridge between the Global North and South. Our voice will be rooted in lived experience and our actions will reflect our commitment to a safer, greener, and more just world.



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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



Digital
Cooperation
Organization



Bridging Borders, Humanizing Technology

An Exclusive Interview with Dr. Hajar El Haddaoui, Director General of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO)

Dr. Hajar El Haddaoui, the Director General of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), has built a career defined by strategic vision, inclusive leadership, and global cooperation. With more than two decades of experience spanning Europe, Canada, and the Middle East, she has led digital innovation at the intersection of technology, diplomacy, and social impact. Her ability to bridge global strategy with local realities has made her one of the most influential women in technology and digital transformation. In this exclusive conversation with **Karima Rhanem, Senior Managing Editor, The New Africa Amazon**, Dr. El Haddaoui reflects on the human side of digital advancement, the importance of inclusive policy, and the urgent need to close the digital divide.

You've worked across Europe, Canada, and the Middle East. How has this global experience shaped the way you lead in today's digital world?

My experiences across diverse regions have taught me the importance of cultural sensitivity and adaptability in leadership. In today's digital world, understanding varying perspectives helps create inclusive strategies that resonate with different audiences. It's about blending global insights with local needs to foster innovation, passion, and commitment from teams. In the realm of digital innovation, it's imperative to recognize and integrate diverse perspectives, allowing us to craft strategies that are not only inclusive but also resonant with distinct audiences.

You often speak about humanizing technology. What does that mean in real terms when it comes to how we design or deploy emerging tech?



approach is essential, where tech companies, governments, and civil society organizations work together. Leadership should be shared among these groups, with accountability measures such as regular assessments and transparent reporting to ensure that gender equity is not just a checkbox but a core principle in tech design and governance. In addition, digital inclusion is the foundation of a truly equitable digital economy. Leadership should focus on removing the barriers that prevent people—especially women, youth, and underserved communities—from accessing technology and participating meaningfully in the digital world.



Digital sovereignty is becoming a priority for many countries. How do you see global cooperation evolving in a world where tech is both a tool and a source of power?

The digital divide is one of the greatest barriers to economic and social progress today. It's not just about internet access—it's about access to education, jobs, and essential services. Right now, 2.6 billion people, roughly one-third of the global population, remain offline, cutting them off from opportunities that could transform their lives.

For individuals, this divide determines their future. A student in a rural area without internet access is immediately disadvantaged compared to peers in connected cities. Women, in particular, are disproportionately affected—globally, they are 19% less likely than men to use mobile internet, limiting their access to online education, financial services, and employment opportunities.

For businesses, the digital divide means exclusion from the global economy. Small and medium enterprises make up 90% of businesses worldwide, yet many in developing countries still lack digital access. Businesses that adopt digital tools grow 2.5 times faster than those that don't. Without connectivity, companies can't

Humanizing technology means designing systems that prioritize user experience and ethical considerations. In practical terms, this involves engaging end-users throughout the development process, ensuring that technology serves to enhance human capabilities rather than replace them. It's about creating tech solutions that are empathetic and accessible to all. This approach advocates for crafting solutions that are not only functional but also empathetic and accessible, catering to the needs of diverse populations.

In your view, who should take the lead in ensuring that gender equity is embedded in the design and governance of

“We must never lose sight of the human behind the screen. Digital inclusion is the foundation of a truly equitable digital economy – Dr. Hajar El Haddaoui”

emerging technologies—and how can we hold that leadership accountable?

I believe that a collaborative



“
Values and cultural perspectives are foundational in shaping AI governance
 – Dr. Hajar El Haddaoui
 ”

scale, innovate, or compete.

At a national level, the stakes are even higher. Countries with weak digital infrastructure struggle to attract investment, integrate into the digital economy, and participate in AI-driven growth. Without urgent action, the gap will only widen.

As countries prioritize digital sovereignty, we may see a shift toward regional alliances that balance autonomy with collaborative innovation. In this landscape, global

cooperation will become essential not just for sharing best practices but also for establishing norms and standards that address the power dynamics inherent in technology and the digital economy.

You've worked in both multinational corporations and the public sector. What's the biggest misunderstanding each side has about the other when it comes to driving digital

transformation?

A common misunderstanding is that the public sector often underestimates the speed and agility required in digital transformation, while the private sector may overlook the importance of public trust and regulatory considerations. Bridging this gap requires dialogue and partnership to align objectives and processes to ensure meaningful cooperation that delivers real impact.

When you speak at global forums, what issue or



dramatically enhance connectivity and access to information, fostering economic growth and education.

With AI partnerships expanding across borders, how do you see collaboration shaping responsible AI development—especially in regions that are still building their digital foundations?

Collaboration across borders in AI development must focus on building trust and establishing ethical standards that reflect the needs of diverse communities. It's crucial that as we innovate, we also share knowledge and resources to ensure that responsible AI practices are integrated from the ground up, particularly in developing regions.

Beyond technical standards, what role do values and cultural perspectives play in shaping AI governance frameworks across the DCO member states?

Values and cultural perspectives are foundational in shaping AI governance frameworks. They guide the ethical considerations we make, influencing how technologies are perceived and utilized. In DCO member states, this means fostering an inclusive dialogue that respects cultural differences while striving for universal ethical standards in AI development.

Last week, DCO launched the AI Evaluator in Geneva. The Policy Tool represents a significant step forward in translating the DCO Principles for Ethical AI, which were endorsed by the Organization's 16 Member States earlier this year. The DCO AI Ethics Evaluator is a comprehensive tool designed to assist individuals, organizations, governments, and both public and private sectors to systematically assess and address ethical considerations related to their AI systems, with a focus on human rights risks. It produces a report with a visual profile and actionable recommendations.



perspective do you feel still isn't getting the attention it deserves in the tech policy space?

One critical perspective that often gets sidelined is the impact of technology on mental health and well-being. As we push for innovation, we must also consider the psychological effects of digital tools and ensure that policies are in place to protect individuals from potential harm.

Leading transformation often means challenging the status quo. Can you share a time when you had to push against resistance to create meaningful change?

I recall a project where I advocated for a more inclusive approach to tech deployment in a multinational

corporation. Despite initial resistance from leadership who favored traditional methods, I engaged stakeholders through workshops and presentations that highlighted the benefits of inclusivity. Ultimately, we implemented changes that resulted in a more diverse team and innovative solutions.

Looking ahead, what innovations or technologies do you believe could truly shift the needle when it comes to closing the digital inclusion gap in underserved regions?

I see immense potential in mobile technologies and community-driven platforms that empower local entrepreneurs in underserved regions. Innovations like solar-powered internet access and affordable smartphones can



The International Center for Diplomacy is a Moroccan non-profit organization created on April 2, 2011, with the aim of improving the representation and influence of non-state actors in the continental and international policies of multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, the African Union and the European Commission, and to strengthen cooperation relations with other actors around the world.

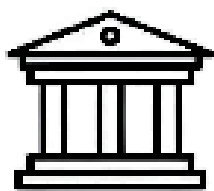
Our Goals

1. Improve the representation of women and youth in multilateral institutions and international policy dialogues
2. Promote effective diplomatic practices through exchange programs and trainings
3. Promote Morocco's nation branding globally
4. Promoting Morocco's development by contributing to national policy reforms and advocating for reinforcing its international conventional practice related to human rights and development goals

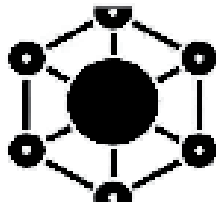
Theme

1. Gender equality & gender-based violence
2. Human rights
3. UN SDGs and AU 2063 Agenda
4. Women, Youth Peace and Security Agendas
5. Climate Change Resilience
6. Youth & Women's rights
7. Water Diplomacy
8. Global health and Sexual & Reproductive health
9. Girls' rights & Leadership
10. Economic empowerment
11. Comparative policies and legislations

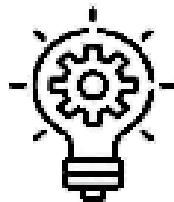
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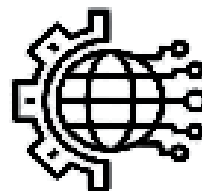
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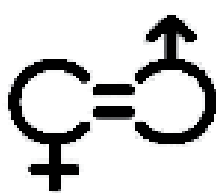
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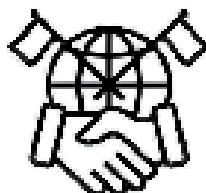
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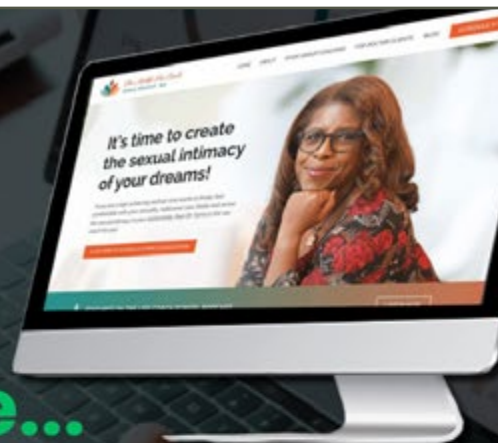
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ENCG Casablanca and NAGI Forge Strategic Pan-African Partnership to Advance Digital Education and Leadership

In a move that signals a bold step toward reshaping the future of higher education across Africa, the École Nationale de Commerce et de Gestion de Casablanca (ENCG Casablanca) and the New Africa Global Institute (NAGI) have signed a landmark partnership agreement to collaborate on academic innovation,

digital learning, and leadership development across the continent and the diaspora.

The agreement, signed in Casablanca on July 19, lays the foundation for a long-term collaboration between two institutions that share a strong Pan-African vision for education. ENCG

Casablanca, a public institution recognized for shaping Morocco's next generation of business and public sector leaders, joins forces with NAGI, a Nigerian-based institute dedicated to fostering African excellence through hybrid learning models and leadership training.



At the heart of the partnership is a shared mission: to expand access to high-quality, digitally enabled education while cultivating a new class of African thinkers, entrepreneurs, and changemakers. The agreement outlines key areas of cooperation, including student and faculty exchanges, collaborative research, executive training, virtual learning integration, and co-organization of academic events and leadership forums.

ENCG Casablanca will serve as a strategic academic and operational partner, facilitating student engagement, offering bilingual localization in Arabic and French, and organizing local academic activities in Morocco. NAGI will provide its robust digital infrastructure—including its learning management system, virtual library, and online teaching tools—to support scalable, inclusive education across borders.

Both institutions emphasized their



commitment to transparency, mutual respect, and innovation in delivering transformative opportunities to African learners across sectors and geographies.

As Africa continues to embrace

digital transformation, this partnership exemplifies the type of visionary collaboration that will be essential in shaping a generation of capable, connected, and confident leaders prepared to take on global and continental challenges.



Gift Chidima Nnamoko Orairu Presents the Moroccan Sahara as a Continental Gateway Under HM King Mohammed VI's Leadership

During a special event held at the National School of Business and Management (ENCG) Casablanca, Dr. Gift Chidima Nnamoko Orairu, Publisher of The New Africa Magazine, unveiled the magazine's third royal edition in honor of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, celebrating 26 years of transformational leadership.

Speaking before a distinguished

audience of academics, diplomats, and institutional leaders, Dr. Orairu described the edition as the culmination of a trilogy devoted to the Monarch's strategic influence in Africa. She emphasized how His Majesty's leadership model—grounded in sovereignty, stability, and human development—has reshaped the regional landscape, particularly in the Moroccan Sahara.

"We are truly impressed by how His Majesty has succeeded in transforming a decades-long regional dispute into a continental opportunity — turning the Moroccan Sahara into a gateway for trade, cooperation, and pan-African connectivity."

Dr. Orairu reaffirmed the magazine's full support for the Autonomy Plan, calling it "a credible,



serious, and sustainable solution” aligned with international legitimacy. She highlighted how development efforts in Dakhla and Laâyoune reflect this vision in action, where infrastructure, investment, and local governance demonstrate the integration of the Southern Provinces under Moroccan sovereignty.

She also praised the Atlantic Gas Pipeline as a symbol of growing Morocco–Nigeria relations and of the King’s broader Atlantic Vision, which repositions the Kingdom as a bridge linking Africa with global markets.

“This is not only a national achievement; it is an innovative approach to conflict resolution. It demonstrates how development, decentralization, and inclusion can turn tension into progress.”

The event—organized by the International Center for Diplomacy (ICD), the International Observatory for Peace, Democracy and Human



Rights (OSPDH), The New Africa Magazine, and ENCG Casablanca—offered a platform for African voices to reflect on Morocco’s sovereign model and its implications for the continent.

Dr. Orairu concluded by announcing that Casablanca and Dakhla will co-host the upcoming New Africa Global Economic Summit and Honours in October 2025, further celebrating Morocco’s leadership and regional partnerships.

SIGNATURE
DES CONVENTIONS

Moroccan Partnership Aims to Train a New Generation of Global Advocates for Peace, Rights, and Diplomacy

A groundbreaking partnership has been signed between three institutions: the National School of Commerce and Management of Casablanca (ENCG Casablanca), the International Center for Diplomacy (ICD), and the Geneva-based Observatory for Peace, Democracy and Human Rights (IOPDHR-GENEVA). This tripartite agreement is designed to empower students, professors, and civil society actors with the tools to lead in the fields of human rights advocacy, diplomacy, conflict resolution, and international

governance.

The partnership reflects a bold vision to strengthen South-South and South-North cooperation by bridging academic excellence with civil society expertise and multilateral diplomacy. By combining ENCG's academic strength with ICD's youth diplomacy platforms and IOPDHR's global human rights advocacy experience, the initiative seeks to build a new ecosystem of leadership rooted in international legality, equity, and sustainable development.

The agreement includes the creation

and support of student clubs within ENCG Casablanca focused on global advocacy, UN mechanisms, mediation, and peacebuilding. These clubs will receive direct mentorship from ICD and IOPDHR, ensuring exposure to real-world diplomatic processes, including UN simulations (MUNs), the production of shadow reports, and participation in consultations at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

A key element of the initiative is the promotion of international advocacy on the Moroccan Sahara issue. Students



and faculty will be trained to engage diplomatically on this national priority within the framework of international law, with the aim of developing a new generation of human rights ambassadors and credible youth voices on the global stage.

IOPDHR-GENEVA brings to the table its extensive work in international monitoring, legal research, and diplomatic advocacy, particularly in the MENA, Sahel, and African Union contexts. Its contribution will also focus on resilience-building in response to humanitarian crises, the climate-peace nexus, and inclusive governance in fragile regions.

ICD, meanwhile, will deploy its flagship programs—such as YouthLead AfricaNextGen, OutspokenGirls, Peace1325, and the ICD Policy Hub—to channel student potential into structured global engagement. These programs are designed to reinforce leadership, multilateral negotiation skills, and civic innovation across Africa and the diaspora.

ENCG Casablanca will act as both a hub and incubator, offering



institutional support and academic space for all activities, while embedding these initiatives into the school's strategic vision for internationalization, responsible citizenship, and business with human rights.

The partnership not only advances academic and civil society collaboration, but also highlights Morocco's commitment to shaping

future leaders capable of contributing meaningfully to global policy debates. With cross-cutting priorities including gender equality, peace and security, climate resilience, and the right to development, this initiative positions Casablanca as a rising node for transnational thought leadership and action.



Casablanca: Tripartite Partnership Agreement Signed to Strengthen Pan-African Cooperation in Justice, Judicial Diplomacy, and Governance

The Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates, the International Center for Diplomacy, and the National School of Business and Management (École Nationale de Commerce et de Gestion – ENCG) of Casablanca have signed a tripartite strategic partnership agreement, marking a significant step forward in advancing Pan-African cooperation in the fields of justice, judicial diplomacy, and governance.

The agreement was signed during the graduation ceremony of the 14th cohort of ENCG Casablanca and reflects a shared commitment to fostering structured and sustainable collaboration among African institutions working in legal, diplomatic, and governance domains.

This partnership brings together three prominent institutions: the Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates, a key platform for judicial cooperation and continental dialogue; the International Center for Diplomacy, recognized for its leadership in promoting institutional and diplomatic collaboration; and ENCG Casablanca, a national reference in higher education for business and management.

Together, they aim to reinforce the integration of African judicial systems and promote an inclusive, forward-looking model of legal and institutional

development that directly contributes to continental unity and capacity-building.

The agreement is structured around five strategic pillars. These include the creation of a digital distance learning platform for African legal training institutes, designed to expand access to legal education and strengthen the professional and technical skills of judicial actors across the continent. The development of continuing education programs tailored to African magistrates is also planned, with particular focus on commercial law, economic diplomacy, mediation, and the protection of investments.

Furthermore, the partnership will support the joint organization of seminars, conferences, and forums across various regional legal and economic communities, including the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU/UEMOA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the East African Community (EAC). Academic exchanges and the production of legal publications with continental impact will be encouraged, contributing to the growth of a shared African legal scholarship.

At the heart of this initiative is the promotion of preventive judicial diplomacy,

conceived as a tool for peace, stability, and sustainable development throughout the African continent.

Importantly, the partnership places a strong emphasis on empowering youth and students—particularly through academic programs and training opportunities—within the broader framework of South-South cooperation. By investing in the next generation of legal and governance professionals, the initiative seeks to build resilient institutions and inclusive systems aligned with Africa's long-term aspirations.

The Forum for Dialogue of African Magistrates plays a leading role in this initiative, reaffirming its commitment to a connected and innovative judicial community. The International Center for Diplomacy contributes its capacity to mobilize institutional actors and design regional cooperation frameworks, while ENCG Casablanca brings its expertise in academic development and educational engineering, ensuring the relevance and quality of the training and content delivered.

This tripartite agreement reflects a shared ambition to establish the African Magistrates Network as a continental reference point for legal innovation, capacity-building, and strategic cooperation in the service of justice, peace, and good governance.



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DCO Signs Strategic AI Cooperation Agreements with Morocco to Advance Digital Development

Morocco is strengthening its role as a regional digital leader through a new series of strategic agreements with the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO). These were signed during the first National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in Rabat under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI. The conference served as a platform for advancing cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence and digital development.

Themed “Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable and Responsible Development”, the conference brought together government officials, international technology leaders, and development organizations. Deemah AlYahya, Secretary-General of the DCO, hailed Morocco as a leading model in Africa and the Arab world, stating

that its digital vision places AI at the center of sustainable development and innovation.

During the event, the DCO signed multiple memoranda of understanding with the following Moroccan institutions:

Ministry of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform: To support innovation and inclusive digital development;

Ministry of National Education, Early Childhood, and Sports: For integrating digital technology into education and improving digital competencies;

Crédit Agricole du Maroc: To promote digital inclusion in rural areas and help digitize small agricultural enterprises;

Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills: To facilitate job crea-tion

using AI-powered platforms and support MSMEs;

Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development: To collaborate on green data cen-ters powered by renewable energy;

Mohammed VI Polytechnic University: To build sustainable data infrastructure and strengthen digital sovereignty;

Al-Jazari Institute (in Nador): A new center of excellence in AI training and research;

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): To promote digital inclusion in Africa and the Arab world;

Current AI: To support ethical use of artificial intelligence in various sectors.

These agreements aim to build a digital ecosystem that supports

youth, women, and small businesses, aligning with Morocco's broader national strategy to digitize 100% of administrative services by 2030, train 50,000 youth annually in AI and digital technologies, and raise the digital economy's contribution to 20% of GDP.

The DCO itself, established in 2020, includes 15 member states across Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and now Morocco. Representing over 600 million people, the DCO's mission is to foster inclusive digital cooperation and technological development.

Its strategic roadmap through 2035 centers on five pillars: expanding digital skills and internet access, promoting environmentally friendly AI, enhancing cybersecurity and data protection, building ethical and inclusive AI frameworks, and supporting entrepreneurship through regional innovation platforms.

By entering into these targeted agreements, Morocco reinforces its ambition to become a re-regional hub for artificial intelligence and digital innovation, serving as a bridge between Africa, Europe, and the Arab world.





China-Nigeria
Relations

with
PROF. JOSEPH GOLWA,
FSPPS



GENDER PERSPECTIVE

The Facts, Relevance and Prospects in History

Also known as a gender lens, gender perspectives have become a key analytical approach for examining how gender affects individuals' opportunities, social roles, interactions, and access to resources. In this context, gender is not seen as a fixed trait; instead, it is understood as a complex structure of relations embedded in institutions and cultures. The concept of gender perspectives can be traced back to feminist scholarship and international development efforts of the late 20th century. It gained further importance through global conferences, such as the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, which focused on gender equity in areas like poverty reduction and sustainable development. It developed from Women's Integration in Development (WID), which aimed to include women within existing systems, to Gender and Development (GAD), which seeks to transform unequal power structures.

The importance of gender perspectives in any relationship cannot be overstated, especially in our complex, multipolar world. As former Liberian President Dr. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf advised, "we must start by recognizing the importance of women's participation in all aspects of life, from the household to the market, from the community to the State." Certainly, adopting a gender perspective when analyzing global relationships is essential for addressing systemic inequalities and achieving sustainable outcomes across various fields. For

example, ignoring gender in decision-making processes, such as socioeconomic development programs, can worsen poverty—since women provide 60–80% of food in many developing countries. That is why international organizations advocate for promoting equity, as gender-based discrimination influences immediate needs and the long-term well-being of societies. Gender perspectives can be integrated through structural frameworks that analyze data, policies, and programs to include gender considerations. These tools help examine development dynamics in health, urban planning, and education by using data on disparities to guide effective interventions.

Africa-China relations are

“
Addressing differences in policy impacts and experiences between men and women... can reveal how Africa–China engagements impact genders differently, shaping opportunities and inequalities
”

often discussed in terms of trade, infrastructure, geopolitics, and the deep friendship that offers prospects for shared future benefits. However, an often-overlooked aspect is “gender”—how women's roles, rights, and representation intersect with this relationship. This neglected element may be influenced by deeply rooted patriarchal structures that have become systemic in modern times, regardless of women's capacities and potentials in Chinese and African societies. The gender perspective is applied through structured frameworks that analyze data, policies, and programs to incorporate gender considerations. For example, in policymaking, collecting gender-disaggregated data helps measure unpaid work and access to resources, as seen in initiatives such as the FAO's Plan of Action for Women in Development. Addressing differences in policy impacts and experiences between men and women, as well as boys and girls—often previously understated or ignored—can reveal how Africa–China engagements impact genders differently, shaping opportunities and inequalities, and prompting new questions about inclusivity and empowerment.

Additionally, the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) has been complemented by resolutions from the African Union (AU), ASEAN, and the United Nations. Efforts are ongoing to implement these resolutions according to regional needs, aligned with SDG Goal 5. Nonetheless, the unique nature of gender in Africa–China relations is evident in three key



Participants at the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum meeting held in Huairou, China, as part of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China on 4-15 September 1995. UN PHOTO/MILTON GRANT

areas:

Economic relations have mixed impacts. For example, Chinese-led construction projects in Africa create jobs, but most are in male-dominated technical fields. In entrepreneurship, African women engage informally with Chinese markets in Guangzhou or Yiwu, which empowers them economically but exposes them to risks, such as limited access to credit and inadequate legal protections. In the digital economy, partnerships in ICT and e-commerce, such as Alibaba's "eFounders Fellowship," provide platforms for women entrepreneurs, yet rural women face limited access to these opportunities. Connecting gender to the economy highlights both opportunities and challenges, as well as optimism and realism in these relationships.

Cultural and Social Dimensions—people-to-people exchanges broaden the range of contact. For example, many African women study in China, which could serve as a resource for future leadership; however, gender stereotypes sometimes block their progress in STEM

fields. Similarly, African women traders, tourists, professionals, and spouses of Chinese or African nationals encounter challenges related to integration, recognition, and discrimination. Representation in policy and diplomatic spaces is also vital; platforms such as FOCAC often fail to highlight women as negotiators or agenda-setters, thus maintaining gender gaps.

The area of Gender Norms and Development Cooperation includes health collaborations, where Chinese medical teams in Africa contribute to maternal and child health, but gender-sensitive approaches are rarely emphasized. In agriculture, women make up the majority of smallholder farmers and benefit from training programs; yet, many Chinese projects focus on technology transfer without addressing structural barriers, such as land rights.

Women's empowerment initiatives, such as vocational training centers, often lack long-term strategies for leadership inclusion. These three points emphasize that even in "development

aid," gender is frequently ignored or addressed only superficially. Along with issues like policy silence, data gaps, power dynamics, and socio-cultural barriers, there is an urgent need for more research on how to bridge these gaps. Moving forward, more focused, gender-sensitive approaches for Africa-China partnerships should be developed. This includes incorporating gender considerations into forums like FOCAC, supporting women entrepreneurs, promoting female leadership, and conducting gender-responsive research. The methods to achieve these goals will be discussed in future work.

Africa's relationships are reshaping the 21st century, making it essential to include a gender perspective—without it, half of the global population risks being left behind. As Kofi Annan said, "Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenges of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development, and building good governance." The world must listen and act on this timeless advice.



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Morocco Advances National AI Strategy Through Strategic Partnerships and Ethical Innovation

Morocco is moving forward with its artificial intelligence (AI) strategy through a series of national initiatives and partnerships designed to integrate AI into its development vision. Led by Amal El Fallah Sghirousni, the Minister Delegate in charge of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, the country is focusing on aligning technological innovation with sustainable development and social justice.

This vision was showcased during the first National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, held in Rabat under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI. The conference brought together policymakers, international experts, private sector leaders, and regional organizations to discuss the role of AI in development. It also featured the signing of eight memoranda of

understanding (MoUs) with national and international partners.

National Strategy Anchored in Ethical AI

In her keynote address, Minister Amal El Fallah emphasized that Morocco's digital transformation is not merely technological—it is a civilizational commitment aimed at enhancing quality of life and reducing inequalities. She outlined three central pillars of the national AI strategy:

1. *Digitizing 100% of public administrative services by 2030;*
2. *Creating over 300,000 new jobs in the digital economy;*
3. *Establishing strong cybersecurity and data protection frameworks to promote digital trust and attract investment.*

This strategy is closely aligned with

Morocco's goal to become a regional hub for artificial intelligence and digital innovation, building on its strategic geographic position and ongoing investments in renewable energy and infrastructure.

Multisectoral Agreements for Inclusive Development

At the closing of the conference, eight MoUs were signed between the Ministry of Digital Transition and several partners. These agreements are designed to promote AI across key sectors:

With the Ministry of National Education, Early Childhood, and Sports, to integrate digital tools into the educational system, improve digital content, and train teachers and students in digital skills.

With Crédit Agricole du Maroc, to support digital inclusion in

rural areas and help digitize small agricultural businesses.

With the Ministry of Economic Inclusion and Employment, to deploy AI-based platforms that analyze the job market and support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

With Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, to develop sustainable data centers and support Morocco's digital sovereignty.

The creation of the Al-Jazari Institute in Nador as a center of excellence in AI research and training.

With the Ministry of Energy Transition, to create renewable energy-powered data centers.

With the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to promote digital inclusion across Africa and the Arab world.

With the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) and Current AI, to promote innovation and ethical AI frameworks.

Building an Ethical and Inclusive AI Ecosystem

The conference concluded with a set of national recommendations. These include:

- *Establishing secure national data platforms;*
- *Strengthening cybersecurity;*
- *Using AI to improve access to education and healthcare, especially in rural and underserved areas;*
- *Deploying smart solutions to manage natural resources, water, and energy;*
- *Enhancing international cooperation, especially with African countries, to exchange expertise and address common challenges.*

These steps are part of Morocco's broader commitment to developing a responsible and ethical AI ecosystem that empowers all citizens while fostering competitiveness and sustainable growth.





Morocco Inaugurates First AI National Artificial Intelligence Conference

Morocco inaugurated its first National Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Rabat. Organized under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI by the Ministry of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, the two-day event was held at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University under the theme “An Efficient and Ethical AI Strategy Serving Our Society.”

The opening session was chaired by Amal El Fallah Seghrouchni, Minister Delegate in charge of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, and was attended by high-level figures including André Azoulay, advisor to His Majesty the King; Mohamed Ould Rachid, President of the House of Councillors; several government ministers; heads of constitutional institutions; and accredited ambassadors.



The conference aimed to define the contours of a sovereign and inclusive national strategy for artificial intelligence, adapted to Morocco’s societal needs and strategic priorities. Over the course of two days, the event brought together policymakers,

researchers, entrepreneurs, and civil society actors, united by a shared conviction: artificial intelligence is not just a technological shift, but a central pillar of Morocco’s future development.



Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch described the event as “a pivotal moment” for the country. He emphasized the need for a clear and decisive strategy in a world where AI is reshaping economic and geopolitical balances. Referring to Morocco’s strong digital infrastructure—with 103% internet penetration and over 38 million mobile subscriptions—he noted that the country has a solid foundation for digital transformation. He also pointed to projections of 240,000 AI-related job opportunities by 2030 and the training of 100,000 digital talents. “AI must not replace human intelligence—it must enhance it,” he said.

Several members of the government addressed the various dimensions of AI integration. Leila Benali, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, highlighted the essential link between AI and energy systems, stressing the importance of reliable and sustainable infrastructure to support intelligent technologies. She also pointed to AI’s potential in optimizing resource management, especially within the context of

Morocco’s growing renewable energy sector.

Mohamed Saad Berrada, Minister of National Education, Preschool, and Sports, characterized the current state of AI in Moroccan education as “a baby in gestation.” The expression captured both the early stage and the potential of AI to transform learning. He emphasized the importance of embedding digital skills and technological literacy from an early age to ensure long-term readiness.

Younes Sekkouri, Minister of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment, and Skills, called for an inclusive approach that enables all citizens—particularly young people—to understand and benefit from AI. He stressed that technology must serve as a vehicle for social equity and opportunity, not exclusion.

Representing the private sector, Chakib Alj, President of the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM), urged a coordinated national response to meet the training needs of the evolving economy. He called for the expansion of specialized educational institutions, particularly in fields like healthcare and higher education, to support the development of a skilled workforce capable of sustaining a robust AI ecosystem.

The first day of the conference was devoted to technical sessions and showcases by AI-powered startups, highlighting real-world applications across sectors such as agriculture, health, and education. The second day focused on the political and international dimensions of AI, addressing key issues such as algorithmic transparency, data protection, and the fight against disinformation.

Throughout the conference, Morocco’s leadership emphasized that the country does not intend to passively adopt foreign models. “We will build a Moroccan model of AI, rooted in our values of inclusion and shared progress,” said Prime Minister Akhannouch. That vision is supported by tangible priorities, including ethical governance of algorithms, citizen data protection, and long-term investment in national expertise.

Far from being a symbolic gesture, the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence marked Morocco’s entry into a new phase—one where AI is not only embraced but shaped to reflect national sovereignty, ethical integrity, and human-centered progress. As Akhannouch concluded, “The future is not something we endure—it’s something we build. And we have chosen to build it with determination, intelligence, and humanity.”



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The Edge Credit Union: Transforming Community Banking and Advancing Women's Empowerment in Africa

In the bustling centre of Accra, Ghana, where traditional banking often overlooks small entrepreneurs, a new financial institution has emerged with a different outlook—focusing on community support, financial inclusion, and women's empowerment to foster lasting change. The Edge Credit Union, founded by Tarragon Edge Limited, is more than just another bank; it serves as a symbol of hope for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) throughout Ghana. By combining financial assistance with expert mentorship and training, it offers a revolutionary

banking model that values people over profits and growth over exclusion. As Ghana's economy develops, The Edge Credit Union exemplifies the power of community-driven innovation and the significant benefits of investing in those traditionally left out of formal financial systems. **Lanem Law Kuma, The New Africa Amazon Editor-in-Chief**, takes a closer look at Edge Credit Union.

The Genesis of a Visionary Institution

- Foundational Principles: The

Edge Credit Union originated from a clear gap identified in Ghana's financial sector. After a distinguished banking career, Dr. Genevieve Pearl Duncan undertook comprehensive research on the hurdles faced by SMEs and uncovered a key paradox: although these businesses are vital to Ghana's economy, they frequently lack the resources and support essential for growth. Conventional banks see the lack of formal systems in small firms as too risky, leading to an exclusionary cycle that hampers innovation and development.

Dr. Duncan envisioned an organization that would offer not only financial backing but also expert advice to help create strong, organized businesses.

- **Leadership and Inspiration:** Dr. Duncan was driven by her dedication to sustainable development and her belief that collaboration rather than competition is essential for economic transformation. During the launch, she emphasized, "We cannot expect the big banks to do it all by themselves. There's a need for collaboration. So where you find expertise, you must leverage and support it" 1. Her leadership, along with Tarragon Edge Limited's expertise in SME advisory services, laid a strong foundation for a credit union that focuses on capacity building as much as capital provision. Her renowned contributions, including awards for her books, highlight her commitment to sharing knowledge and fostering financial innovation.

Empowering Women: A Core Mission

- **Targeted Financial Inclusion:** The Edge Credit Union is dedicated to empowering women, who have historically faced obstacles in accessing financial resources. Uniquely, the institution has committed 65% of its credit facilities to women-led businesses, supporting female entrepreneurs involved in trading, vocational work, and other sectors. This effort goes beyond offering loans; it aims to promote economic independence and allow women to make significant contributions to their communities and the broader economy.
- **Skills Development and Mentorship:** Beyond providing financial aid, The Edge Credit Union runs comprehensive coaching and mentorship programs tailored for young women. These initiatives aim to improve



skills in business management, innovation, and vocational trades, fostering a new generation of confident entrepreneurs capable of promoting sustainable development. By addressing both financial and educational barriers, the credit union acts as a catalyst for holistic empowerment, supporting the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8).

Innovative Services and Holistic Support

- **Tailored Financial Products:** The Edge Credit Union sets itself apart

with a range of innovative financial products designed to serve the diverse needs of its members. These include:

- **SME Saving:** Targeted at promoting a Savings culture in entrepreneurs and helping them to build wealth through compound interest
- **Lifestyle Accounts:** For individuals saving towards personal goals such as buying a car or going on holiday.
- **EduSave Accounts:** Dedicated to helping families save for higher education.
- **Kiddie Accounts:** Open to children as young as six months, fostering a culture of saving from an early age.
- **Personal Loans and SME Accounts:** Offering flexible terms and competitive interest rates to ensure



affordability.

- **Integrated Expert Access:** What truly distinguishes The Edge Credit Union is its distinctive consortium of consultants, which includes lawyers, risk managers, trainers, financiers, and investors. They offer members customized

advice and support. This holistic approach ensures entrepreneurs obtain not just funding but also the expertise and resources needed to establish strong business structures and handle challenges successfully. As Dr. Duncan highlighted, "We are going to offer training and mentoring to help entrepreneurs build the right

Table: The Edge Credit Union's Key Offerings and Their Impacts

Service/Product	Target Beneficiaries	Impact
Women-Led Business Loans	Women Entrepreneurs	65% of credit allocated to foster gender-balanced growth
EduSave Accounts	Families & Students	Promotes higher education and long-term financial planning
Skills Training	Youth & Vocational Learners	Enhances employability and business capabilities
Consortium Consulting	SMEs & Startups Provides expert guidance to build resilient enterprises	

business structures. We aim to create an ecosystem."

Impact on Communities and the Broader Economy

- **Localized Transformation:** The Edge Credit Union's impact is vividly evident in communities like Madina in Accra, where it has established its physical branch. By providing accessible financial services and skills training, the institution has become a cornerstone for local economic development. One notable example is its work with young women in vocational trades, enabling them to transform their skills into viable businesses 3. This localized approach ensures that growth is inclusive and rooted in the specific needs of the community.
- **Contributing to National Goals:** The credit union's activities align seamlessly with Ghana's broader economic objectives, including poverty reduction, job creation, and financial inclusion. As part of a network of 495 credit unions nationwide, The Edge Credit Union reinforces the critical role these institutions play as the backbone of communities. Daniel Kofi, Regional Manager of the Ghana Co-operative Credit Union Association, emphasized this point, noting that credit unions provide not only loans but also essential social services such as skills and vocational training.

Future Vision and Expansion Plans

- **Scaling Impact:** The Edge Credit Union is poised to expand its reach beyond Accra, with plans to establish presence in other parts of Ghana. This expansion will enable it to replicate its successful model of combining financial support with capacity building in regions where access to such resources is



of:

- **Community-Centered Solutions:** Financial institutions that prioritize the unique needs of their communities foster deeper trust and more sustainable growth.
- **Gender-Specific Initiatives:** Targeted support for women entrepreneurs can unlock significant economic potential and drive broader social change.
- **Holistic Support Systems:** Combining financial services with mentorship and training creates a powerful ecosystem for entrepreneurial success.

As Franklin Sowa, Director of Marketing at Graphic Communications Group, noted, "This is the best place where locals in the community can access finance and also save". The Edge Credit Union is more than a credit union; it is a movement towards equitable economic development, inspiring not only Ghanaians but the world at large.

Conclusion: Banking on People, Building the Future

The Edge Credit Union represents a paradigm shift in what banking can achieve when it prioritizes people and potential over profit alone. By championing women entrepreneurs, providing tailored financial products, and offering expert mentorship, it has created a replicable model for community-driven economic growth. As it continues to expand and refine its services, The Edge Credit Union stands as a powerful example of how finance with a conscience can transform lives, communities, and nations. For the international community, it offers a compelling vision of what is possible when banking returns to its roots—serving the people, nurturing their dreams, and building a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.



limited. By leveraging technology and partnerships, the credit union aims to amplify its impact, ensuring that more MSMEs and women entrepreneurs can benefit from its services.

- **Sustainable Development Alignment:** Future initiatives will continue to focus on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Gender Equality (SDG5), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17). The Edge Credit Union's dedication to these goals is not just

rhetorical; it is integrated into its core operations, from its emphasis on women's empowerment to its partnerships with industry experts and financial institutions.

A Model for Global Inspiration

The Edge Credit Union's innovative approach offers a blueprint for inclusive finance that can be adapted globally, especially in regions where traditional banking fails to meet the needs of local entrepreneurs. Its success underscores the importance



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- Low Interest Rate on Loans
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T-Kids Save

- Customized T-Piggy Bank for your Child
- Get High Interest On Savings
- Collateral Free Loans
- Easy account management for parents
- Join REES Kids Leadership Academy

Lifestyle Savings

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- Flexible Savings Options to match your Lifestyle Goals
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MSME Loan Rates:

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— Japanese Proverb



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Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

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Morocco Launches New School of Engineering for Digital Transition and AI

Morocco marked a new milestone in its digital transformation journey with the signing of a tripartite agreement to create a School of Engineering focused on digital transition and artificial intelligence. The agreement was signed by Minister Delegate for Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, Amal El Fallah Seghrouchni, alongside André Azoulay, Advisor to His Majesty the King and President of the Foundation for Research, Development and Innovation in Science and Engineering (FRDISI), and Azzedine El Midaoui, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation.

The new school will train engineers in emerging

technologies such as artificial intelligence and digital systems, aiming to support Morocco's strategic efforts to advance digital capabilities across all sectors. The signing took place during FRDISI's Board of Directors meeting, hosted at the École Supérieure de Génie Biomédical et des Techniques de Santé SUPTECH in Mohammedia.

In addition to the creation of the school, the meeting covered the approval of the Foundation's financial and activity reports for the previous year, adoption of strategic resolutions, and planning for the 2025–2026 operational cycle.

This initiative aligns with Morocco's national digital strategy, which emphasizes the training of youth in advanced technologies,



digital inclusion, and the development of an ecosystem that supports innovation. The new institution will

contribute to that vision by equipping students with technical skills that match Morocco's broader digital transformation goals.

Morocco's Strategic Sovereign Model: A Vision Rooted in Stability, Development, and African Solidarity

At the official launch of The New Africa Magazine's special royal edition on July 17, 2025, Ms. Karima Rhanem, President of the International Center for Diplomacy and Global Senior Managing Editor of the magazine, delivered a keynote presentation titled: "The Strategic Model of Sovereign Foresight of His Majesty King Mohammed VI." Her address offered an in-depth look into Morocco's distinctive and replicable leadership approach — one founded on sovereignty, strategic foresight, and people-centered development.

"The Strategic Model of Sovereign Foresight of His Majesty King Mohammed VI is more than a national policy framework. It is a Moroccan model with an African soul — anchored in sovereignty, open to the world, and oriented toward the future."

Ten Pillars of Sovereign Leadership

Ms. Rhanem detailed ten interdependent pillars that form the foundation of the Moroccan leadership model: strategic stability and gradual reform, human-centered development, institutional trust, South-South diplomacy, sovereignty-based mediation, moderate religious leadership, humanitarian migration, Atlantic integration, crisis preparedness, and a responsive, listening monarchy. Each component reflects a deeply rooted yet forward-looking vision of governance.

This holistic framework enables Morocco to balance historical legitimacy with innovation, reinforcing public trust and creating resilient systems prepared for global uncertainty.

Foreign Policy: Anchored in Sovereignty, Committed to Peace



She described Morocco's foreign policy under His Majesty King Mohammed VI as principled, consistent, and respectful of national dignity. Morocco maintains its territorial integrity without compromise, while promoting win-win partnerships rooted in mutual respect.

"Morocco responds with concrete actions and achievements, not rhetoric — prioritizing peace, development, and international cooperation."

Rather than imposing solutions, Morocco facilitates dialogue based on the sovereign choices of nations — a diplomacy of humility and wisdom.

The Southern Provinces: Sovereignty as a Driver of Development

Highlighting the Southern Provinces, Ms. Rhanem pointed to Dakhla and Laayoune as living examples of Morocco's Autonomy Plan in action. These cities have witnessed rapid infrastructure growth, economic expansion, and citizen-led development under national sovereignty.

"The development model in the Southern Provinces proves that

sovereignty, far from being restrictive, is a driver of growth, stability, and inclusion."

This transformation showcases how territorial integrity and inclusive development go hand in hand, setting a new standard for regional empowerment.

A Scalable Model for Africa

Ms. Rhanem emphasized that Morocco's strategic foresight is not a one-size-fits-all solution, but an adaptable model for other nations seeking sovereign, ethical, and future-driven governance. It provides direction for governments designing public policy, institutions restoring trust, businesses pursuing ethical performance, and youth and civil society seeking alignment between values and action.

"Morocco offers no universal recipes — but shares a proven, sovereign, and scalable model of leadership."

Through this model, Morocco presents not only a path forward for itself, but a compelling proposition for African renewal rooted in dignity, cooperation, and resilience.



Shaping Tomorrow's Workforce: How Artificial Intelligence and Digital Tools Are Redefining Human Resources

By *The New Africa Magazine*

As artificial intelligence and digital technologies continue to disrupt traditional industries, Human Resources (HR) departments are experiencing a profound transformation. This was the focus of a high-level roundtable held at the Institut Supérieur d'Ingénierie et des Affaires (ISGA) in Rabat, where experts convened to examine the future competencies required of HR professionals in a digital era.

Moderated by Professor Mariyam El Idrissi, the event featured contributions from Karima Rhanem, President of the International Center for Diplomacy;

Mactar Sarr, Chief Financial Officer at the Mohammed VI Foundation for Education; Charif Bounou, HR Director at Vivalis Salaf; and Abdelhamid Kheir, a doctoral researcher in human resources at Hassan II University.

Artificial Intelligence: Promise, Risk, and Responsibility

The discussion opened with a look at the increasing role of artificial intelligence in HR operations. While panelists acknowledged the benefits of automation and predictive analytics, they also raised important concerns.

Karima Rhanem pointed to the risk of algorithmic bias: "A poorly calibrated algorithm can unknowingly discriminate against certain profiles." Several speakers warned of gender bias embedded in AI systems trained on unbalanced or historically discriminatory data. "We cannot blindly trust outputs if the data itself reflects social inequality," added Sarr.

Beyond fairness, the panel emphasized that organizations must draw a clear line between artificial intelligence as a tool and intelligence as a human faculty. "Artificial intelligence must remain artificial," said Kheir. "We need to understand it, apply it, and govern



it — but never replace our ethical judgment with it.”

Bounou highlighted another emerging risk: overdependence. “If we offload too much responsibility to machines, we lose human critical thinking — and that’s a danger in itself.” He called for thoughtful human-AI collaboration, rather than blind automation.

Emotional Intelligence as a Prerequisite

A strong point of consensus emerged around the idea that emotional intelligence — including empathy, self-awareness, and relational insight — must be the foundation of any HR training program before introducing artificial intelligence tools.

“HR is fundamentally a human-centered discipline,” said Rhanem. “Before deploying machine learning or predictive analytics, HR professionals must be equipped to

read human emotion, build trust, and manage conflict with emotional maturity.”

Panelists agreed that technology without emotional literacy can create distance, misinterpret signals, and even cause harm. Sarr added, “Artificial intelligence may suggest a hiring decision, but only emotional intelligence can judge a candidate’s leadership potential or cultural fit.” The group advocated for an integrated training model where digital fluency is layered on top of core human capabilities — not the other way around.

From Administration to Strategy

Digital transformation has shifted HR from its traditional administrative role into a strategic leadership function. “The automation of routine tasks such as payroll, onboarding, and leave management has freed HR teams to focus on driving innovation and organizational alignment,” noted Bounou.

HR is now expected to interpret data, anticipate workforce needs, and shape culture. “The decisions are no longer intuitive,” said Sarr. “They’re guided by dashboards, key performance indicators, and predictive models — all grounded in data.” Kheir added that communication, evaluation, and training have become increasingly

hybrid, blending digital tools with human interaction.

The Infrastructure Question: Are We Ready?

But amid the optimism around innovation, a more sobering question was raised: to what extent are organizations actually prepared for the integration of AI?

Readiness, the panel agreed, is not just technical — it is structural and cultural. It requires resilient systems, strong internal bylaws, up-to-date legislation, and a workplace culture open to experimentation and transformation. “There is often a disconnect between technology deployment and organizational infrastructure,” warned Rhanem. “You cannot introduce AI into an environment with outdated processes and expect meaningful results.”

Kheir added that governance must evolve in parallel. “Without proper data policies, ethical frameworks, and digital leadership, even the most powerful tools will be misused or rejected.” The speakers called for organizations to conduct honest audits of their digital maturity and cultural readiness before investing in AI solutions.

The Competencies of the Future

Looking ahead, panelists



outlined a blended skill set for the HR leaders of tomorrow. Digital competencies — from Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS) and Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS) to Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and blockchain — are essential. But so are the interpretive and ethical capacities that guide their application.

“Understanding cybersecurity, compliance, and governance will be just as important as understanding the tools themselves,” said Rhanem. Kheir stressed the ability to analyze workforce data, while Sarr underscored the importance of conceptual literacy in AI and data science. Yet all agreed that life experience, soft skills, and relational intelligence remain irreplaceable.

Training the Next Generation

To prepare for this shift, organizations must adopt robust, adaptive training models. Bounou described internal programs

that combine e-learning and live workshops facilitated by the Information Technology department. Sarr emphasized the value of self-paced learning on platforms like Coursera, edX, and LinkedIn Learning, especially when paired with mentoring. Kheir called on academic institutions to embed digital HR modules into their curricula. Rhanem concluded that only training that integrates theory with real-world cases — using tools such as AI-powered recruitment software or sentiment analysis platforms — can truly equip HR professionals for what’s ahead.

The Role of Leadership

True transformation, the panel emphasized, requires leadership that embraces experimentation and empowers HR teams to shape innovation. That means involving HR professionals in tech projects from day one, promoting HR-Tech collaboration, creating internal learning labs, and embedding HR voices into corporate innovation

committees.

The HR of the Future: Human at the Core

In closing, panelists agreed that the HR function of the future will be hybrid — digitally enhanced but human-led. “The human element will always be essential, especially in complex areas like leadership, conflict resolution, and cultural development,” said Rhanem.

Sarr described tomorrow’s HR leader as a strategic analyst and ethical decision-maker. Bounou envisioned HR as a designer of human systems, harmonizing people and machines within a shared culture. Kheir added that artificial intelligence will serve not as a replacement, but as an amplifier of human capacity — provided emotional intelligence remains at the center.

The roundtable left no doubt: while digital innovation is reshaping the HR profession, its long-term success depends on balancing

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WAFCON 2024: A Continent's Declaration of Strength in Women's Football

By Esseh Orairu

For 22 days in July, the African continent converged under the Moroccan sun to celebrate the ascendance of women's football. The 2024 CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON), rescheduled from the previous year due to the Paris Olympics, was finally staged from July 5–26, 2025, across six host cities. What commenced as a 12-nation championship swiftly evolved into a continental festival—a powerful showcase of burgeoning

talent, resilience, and ambition.

From the opening whistle, the tournament was defined by its high intensity and competitive parity. The preliminary group stage delivered a compelling blend of established order and compelling surprises. While traditional powerhouses Nigeria, South Africa, and Morocco asserted their authority early on, the spirited performances of debutants and underdogs, notably Botswana and Mali, provided the tournament's narrative core. Their displays, even in defeat, signaled a significant shift: the hierarchy of African women's football

is being decisively challenged, and the competitive gap is narrowing.

The format, which featured three groups of four with the top two and best third-placed teams advancing, ensured no side could afford complacency. Every match carried immense consequence. The ensuing quarter-finals delivered the high-stakes drama emblematic of continental football, decided by nail-biting penalties, last-minute goals, and raw emotions of both triumph and despair.

By the semi-finals, the familiar



giants had navigated their path through. Nigeria's Super Falcons, the continent's most decorated side, demonstrated their trademark blend of experience and emerging talent. Morocco, propelled by fervent home support, displayed formidable determination to edge past their rivals. The defending champions, South Africa, saw their title defense end in the fine margins that define knockout football.

The final in Rabat was a spectacle that transcended the two competing nations, belonging instead to the entire continent. A capacity crowd, pulsating with song and rhythm, echoed the aspirations of millions. The match was a fitting culmination: a five-goal thriller featuring end-to-end action and the unique intensity synonymous with African football. Ultimately, Nigeria's experience and clinical finishing proved decisive in a 3-2 victory.



Yet, as fireworks illuminated the Moroccan night, the overarching narrative extended beyond a single trophy. This was a tournament about a continent witnessing its women excel on the global stage. The brilliance of Asisat Oshoala, the courage of Rosella Ayane, the flair of Thembi Kgatlana, and the fearlessness of rising stars from Senegal and Zambia collectively proclaimed a vital message: the game is growing, the talent pool is deepening, and the future is exceptionally bright.

For Morocco, it was a second consecutive heartbreak—hosting and reaching the final, only to fall

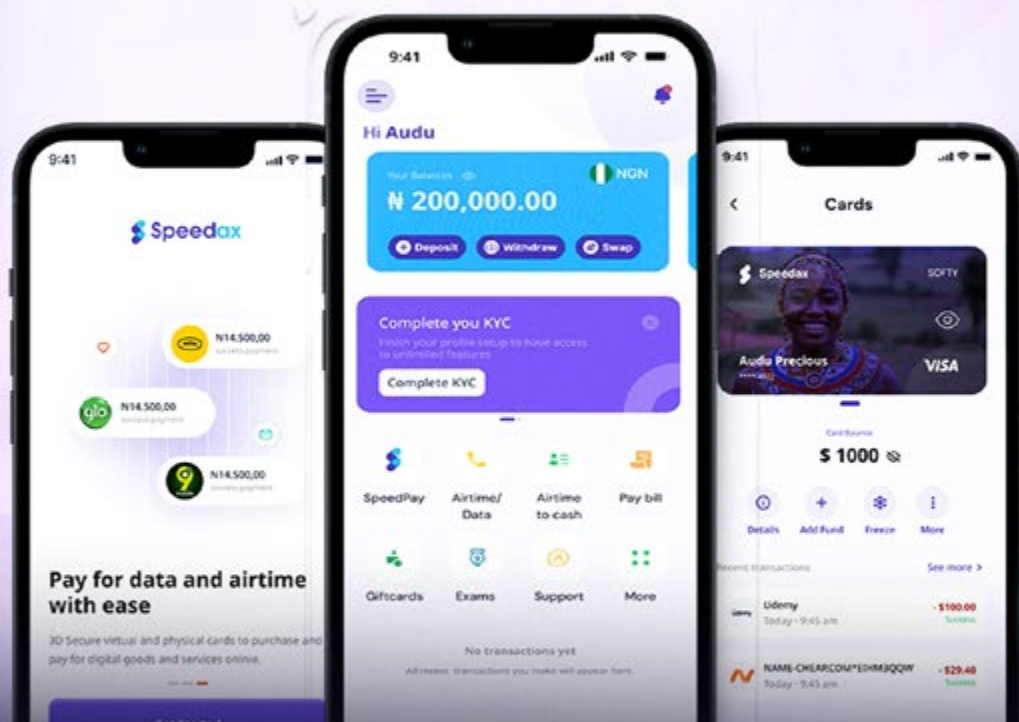
short. Yet, their consistent excellence stands as a point of continental pride, demonstrating how strategic investment, long-term vision, and national belief can fundamentally transform a team and inspire a nation.

WAFCON 2024 was more than a tournament; it was a declaration. Africa has announced that women's football is no longer a peripheral narrative but a central chapter in its sporting identity. While Nigeria lifted the trophy, the true victory belongs to the African game itself—now louder, stronger, and impossible to ignore on the world stage.





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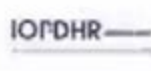
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