



# 4TH AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY CONFERENCE

AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY  
AT AN INFLECTION POINT

[www.africanphilanthropyconference.com](http://www.africanphilanthropyconference.com)

## The History and Objectives of the Conference

The African Philanthropy Conference is an annual gathering of the continent's philanthropic institutions and stakeholders. It is a platform for sharing experiences, collective reflection and development of philanthropic and social investment practices of the continent's people.

The Conference also provides an opportunity for partners to strengthen networks and support research to accelerate the understanding of the complexities in practices that aid the maturity of the field of African philanthropy and social investment.

Since its inception, the Conference has provide an opportunity to academics, practitioners, philanthropic leaders, donors, researchers, think tanks and government officials to reflect on the issues that are confronting the ecosystem.



The 1st African Philanthropy Conference was held in 2019 under the theme *"The State of Philanthropy in Africa: Setting the Agenda"* at Wits Business School in South Africa, with a keynote address from Hon. Graça Machel.



The 2nd African Philanthropy Conference was hosted virtually in 2021 under the theme *"The Role of African Philanthropy in Surviving COVID-19"* with keynote addresses from Tsitsi Masiyiwa, Everjoice Win and Dr. John Nkengansong.



The 3rd African Philanthropy Conference was a hybrid gathering hosted in 2022 under the theme *"Systems Change and The New Normal in African Philanthropy"*. That year, the inaugural African Philanthropy Academic Conference was hosted as a platform to engage on research related to philanthropy and social investment.



# 4TH AFRICAN PHILANTHROPY CONFERENCE

The 4th African Philanthropy Conference and 2nd African Philanthropy Academic Conference will be hosted from Monday 31 July to Friday 4 August in 2023 under the theme “**African Philanthropy at an Inflection Point**”, during which participants and delegates will engage on the themes four dimensions; these being **People, Power, Policy and Practices**.

The specific objectives of this year’s Conferences inform the themes, subthemes, programme and report. These objectives are:

- Exchanging knowledge about various models and approaches to African philanthropy.
- Defining the narratives, spaces and roles that the philanthropic sector fulfils in academia, civil society and corporate sectors.
- Creating an environment where participants can engage on the challenges that the philanthropic and social investment sector will face in the foreseeable future, and cocreate solutions for these.
- Developing strategies, systems or platforms that support the collective and sustainable development of the philanthropic and social investment sector on the continent.

The Conferences will be charged with the responsibility of unravelling some of issues that lie within the theme and devise the future for philanthropy, especially in Africa.

## Defining the Theme


In economics, an inflection point can be considered as a dramatic, drastic, and systemic event leading to synchronised economic decline. Typically, a real-life inflection point requires ingenuity and innovative thinking to cope, transform, or respond. The diverse responses to the global and regional crises, for example the COVID-19 pandemic illustrated several inflection points with real and long-lasting impacts on society. Considering the strides that philanthropy has made in providing and enabling solutions to crises, the sector is at an inflection point with a real task to respond, cope and shape or influence the future.

Philanthropy at an inflection point can also refer to the sector's potential to shape what is next—an ecosystem that needs to respond to the changing world, and a sector forging new frontiers in the quest to make the world a better place for all. While each trigger for an inflection point may be different, the need for change is universal and inevitable. This has seen philanthropy undergo a transformation and pivot in a manner that can be detrimental to the established order of the ecosystem. In the case of COVID-19, the inflection points for the philanthropic ecosystem occurred when all of a sudden authorities instituted lockdowns and limited movements which meant that in-contact activities suffered a dramatic halt. This dramatic halt exposed the disparities existing within the ecosystem itself, including the fact that while other organisations could shift operations overnight to virtual offices, a great number were left in limbo, almost subjected to instant extinction.

In Africa, these shifts coupled with the myriad of other issues has led to African philanthropy to grapple with developments such as localisation, developing a south-south approach, and harnessing the local capacity for resource mobilisation. This requires the sector to be strategic, agile, and innovative. While the events following the outbreak of the pandemic witnessed unprecedented responses by African philanthropy, they also created legacy issues that need firm and intentional attention.

Other urgent issues that the sector is facing include climate change, climate advocacy, climate change adaption vs climate change mitigation, governance, technology, and many other new challenges. These issues have the potential to





refocus and pivot how philanthropy is practiced, lived, and experienced especially in Africa. They are simply the inflection point for the sector which must be confronted. Philanthropy in Africa and African philanthropy have a choice to influence the shape of the curve.

The Conferences will seek to answer the question: What would the world look like if philanthropy took on bigger issues, influenced large systems and systems change, and cultural narratives like capitalism, equity, democracy, and systemic racism?

## People

This dimension of philanthropy in Africa is experiencing significant inflection points, with a growing recognition of the importance of diversity and inclusion including the ways in which philanthropic actors are engaging a wider range of actors to drive change in their communities; the emergence of new actors such as impact investors, social entrepreneurs, corporate social responsibility programmes, sports personalities and artists, and a shift towards local ownership and knowledge. Women and youth are also playing an increasing important role in shaping philanthropy in Africa.

*Emerging actors* focuses on the emergence of new actors in philanthropy in Africa, including impact investors, social entrepreneurs, corporate social responsibility programmes, sports personalities, artists, diaspora and High Net-worth Individuals and how these bring new resources and approaches to philanthropy in the continent.

*Pan-African and Feminist Philanthropies* focuses on the important role of feminism in the history of philanthropy in Africa as well as its achievements, including its unique perspectives and experiences, and the ways in which feminism is driving change in their communities.

*Youth and the next generation of Philanthropy* looks at the involvement of young people in philanthropic initiatives widely witnessed through diverse avenues, their experiences and how the philanthropic horizons impact their own growth and what they seek to accomplish.



## Power

This dimension relates to the distribution and exercise of power within the sector, including the role of external actors like international donors, governments, and civil society organisations. An inflection point in this dimension is the growing emphasis on localisation and community ownership in philanthropy, challenging traditional power dynamics within the sector. This shift towards localisation and community ownership is driven by a desire for more locally-led and sustainable solutions to social and economic challenges.

*Power dynamics and local ownership* examines the balance of power between donors and beneficiaries of philanthropy in Africa, and the ways in which this power dynamic is shifting with the rise of community philanthropy and other forms of locally driven giving. The sub-theme also explores the importance of local ownership and participation in practice, including the potential for greater community involvement in programme design, implementation, and evaluation, the emergence of Community Philanthropy and the role of local organisations in driving change and impact.

*Philanthropy and system change* explores the special feature of growing aspiration in philanthropy to achieve system change. It will study the emergence of new forms of philanthropic governance and accountability mechanisms, including the rise of participatory grant-making and other forms of more democratic decision-making. It will also explore the potential for collaboration and partnerships between philanthropic organisations and other actors, including governments and civil society, to drive policy and regulatory reforms to support effective programme design, implementation, and evaluation, to support the growth and sustainability of the philanthropic sector.

*Philanthropy, International Cooperation and Finance for Development* examines the potential place, roles and perspectives for cooperation between African Philanthropies and International initiatives on the international philanthropic landscape as stakeholders.

## Practice

This dimension encompasses the narratives of what currently define African philanthropies. An inflection point in this dimension is the shift in strategies, methods, and tools used by philanthropic organisations to achieve their goals towards more participatory and collaborative forms of philanthropy. Collaborative and participatory approaches to philanthropy empower local communities to drive change and can lead to more sustainable and impactful outcomes. This shift was intensively caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted the urgent need for systemic and long-term solutions to social and economic challenges.

*Innovative technology for resource mobilisation* focuses on the potential for innovation and technology to drive change and impact in philanthropy in Africa, including the use of digital technologies to reach new audiences and improve the effectiveness of philanthropic interventions. It focuses on the strategies and approaches to mobilise resources using technology including crowdfunding platforms and other innovative funding mechanisms.

*Faith-based philanthropy, traditional philanthropy and emerging models of vertical philanthropy* will explore the evolution of traditional horizontal and faith-based practice, in an ecosystem dominated by the institutionalization of vertical philanthropy in Africa as well as the potential of combining both sides. It will also explore the impact of these types of practices in promoting local development.

*Community philanthropy* will explore the strength of community practices in the philanthropic sector and the need for harnessing its potential to decolonize the source of funding.



## Policy

This dimension refers to the regulatory and institutional frameworks that shape the sector, including laws, regulations, and governance structures. An inflection point in this dimension is the increasing recognition of the importance of transparency and accountability in philanthropy. Philanthropic organisations are increasingly expected to be transparent about their activities and impact, and to be accountable to their stakeholders.

*Regulatory frameworks* looks at the role of regulatory frameworks in shaping the philanthropic sector in Africa, including the potential for more enabling legal and policy environments to support the growth and sustainability of organisations. It will also focus on the role of governments in shaping philanthropic activity and the ways in which regulations can either support or hinder philanthropic efforts.

*Exploring new financing models* examines the role of financing models in shaping the philanthropic sector in Africa, including the potential for innovative financing models to increase the availability of resources for philanthropic organisations and support their sustainability.

*Governance and leadership* focuses on the role of governance and leadership in shaping the philanthropic sector, including the potential for more effective governance structures and leadership practices to support the growth and impact of philanthropic organisations. This sub-theme will also explore the importance of transparency and accountability in the philanthropic sector, including the potential for greater transparency and accountability to build trust and legitimacy with key stakeholders such as donors, beneficiaries, and the public.





## The African Philanthropy Lifetime Achievement Award

There are many individuals and institutions that have been pivotal in the emergence and growth of African philanthropy over the last several decades. More often their contributions go unnoticed.

The Annual African Philanthropy Lifetime Achievement Award was initiated in 2021 to recognise and celebrate these individuals while they are still alive. The Award is given to an individual who has contributed immensely to the growth, practice, trajectory and meaning of African philanthropy for the last twenty and plus years. The Award also recognizes an individual who has contributed to mentoring leaders and practitioners in the philanthropy sector through various interventions and mechanisms. These include the provision of guidance, linkages with opportunities to improve oneself and their institutions, giving of their time, resources and networks as well preparing young leaders for succession.

Importantly, the Award identifies an individual who has also contributed to knowledge building of the African philanthropy sector not just in an academic understanding but in other various non-academic ways that include storytelling, presentations, building of processes, policies and systems in the practice of philanthropy, writing and reflections conducted in various ways that provide data for the sector.

The 2021 recipient is Human Rights and Peace Advocate, **Akwasi Aidoo** and the 2022 recipient is Elder and Humanitarian, **Hon. Graça Machel**. For the 2023 Award, a Committee has been established to solicit nominations and select a candidate.

## Format and Logistics

The Conferences and Lifetime Awards will be as in-person event, with the opening and closing sessions available for livestreaming. This year's edition offers the option to visit historical landmarks in Dakar with transportation and bilingual guides (English and French) provided. The guided tours will be hosted on Sunday 30 July and the selection of the site can be made during the online registration.

### Venue

The Academic Conference will be hosted at the **Museum of Black Civilisations** from the Monday 31 July to Tuesday 1 August with networking cocktail inside the museum from 18h00 on the 31st. The Main Conference will take place from the Wednesday 2 to Friday 4 August in Saly, located 90.7 km from Dakar, at the **Palm Beach Hotel Conference Centre**.

The Lifetime Achievement Award will be celebrated at Palm Beach Hotel during the Gala dinner scheduled on the 3rd of August.



Museum of Black Civilisations



Palm Beach Hotel Conference Centre



## Registration

Participants can subscribe to [www.africanphilanthropyconference.com](http://www.africanphilanthropyconference.com) to receive regular updates and notifications on the programme, speakers, and registration to the Conference. The registration fee is US \$300 covering the entire programme from Sunday 30 July to Saturday 5 August; and excludes flights and accommodation.

## Accommodation and travel arrangements

All registrants are expected to handle their flight booking and hotel arrangements with Novotel and Hotel Palm Beach.

## Transportation and shuttle services

A shuttle bus will be provided for all participants from Novotel to the Museum on the 31st of July and the 1st of August. Transport will be available for transfers from Dakar to Saly for participants who attend the Academic Conference. A shuttle bus will be available for participants residing outside Palm Beach Hotel, in one of the suggested hotels.

## Programme Outline

Day 1: 2nd August 2023	
Practices	
Opening Keynote	
<b>Plenary session 1</b>	Transformative Philanthropy Practices - session 1
<b>Plenary session 2</b>	Transformative Philanthropy Practices - session 2
<b>Parallel 1</b> Innovative Technology for Resource Mobilisation	This subtheme focuses on the potential for innovation and technology to drive change and impact in philanthropy in Africa, including the use of digital technologies to reach new audiences, the strategies and approaches to mobilise resources using technology including crowdfunding platforms and other innovative funding mechanisms.
<b>Parallel 2</b> Faith-based, Traditional and Emerging Models of Vertical Philanthropy	This subtheme will explore the evolution of traditional horizontal and faith-based practice, in an ecosystem dominated by the institutionalisation of vertical philanthropy in Africa as well as the potential of combining both sides. It will also explore the impact of these types of practices in the effort to promote local development.
<b>Parallel 3</b> Community Philanthropy	This subtheme will explore the strength of community practices in the philanthropic sector and the need for harnessing its potential to decolonise the source of funding.
Consolidation of breakaways and closing of day	



## Day 2: 3rd August 2023

### People

#### Keynote Address

<b>Plenary session</b>	Strengthening agency and building people power
<b>Parallel 1</b> Emerging Actors	This subtheme focuses on the emergence of new actors in philanthropy in Africa, and how these are bringing new resources and approaches to philanthropy.
<b>Parallel 2</b> Pan-African and Feminist Philanthropies	This subtheme focuses on the important role of feminism in the history of philanthropy in Africa as well as its achievements, including its unique perspectives and experiences, and the ways in which feminism is driving change in their communities.
<b>Parallel 3</b> Youth and the next generation of Philanthropy	This subtheme will focus on the involvement of young people in philanthropic initiatives widely witnessed through diverse avenues, their experiences and how the philanthropic horizons impact their own growth and what they seek to accomplish.

#### Consolidation of breakaways

### Power

<b>Plenary session</b>	Localising and communalising power
<b>Parallel 1</b> Power Dynamic and Local Ownership	This subtheme examines the balance of power between donors and beneficiaries, and the ways in which this power dynamic is shifting with the rise of community philanthropy and other forms of locally driven giving.
<b>Parallel 2</b> Philanthropy and System Change	This subtheme explores the special feature of growing aspiration in philanthropy to achieve system change. It will study the emergence of new forms of philanthropic governance and accountability mechanisms in Africa.
<b>Parallel 3</b> Philanthropy, International Cooperation and Finance for Development	This subtheme will examine the potential place, roles and perspectives for cooperation between African Philanthropies and International actors or initiatives, on the international philanthropic landscape as stakeholders.

Consolidation of breakaways
End of sessions
Gala Dinner
Lifetime Achievement Awards

Day 3: 4th August 2023	
Policies	
Keynote Address	
<b>Plenary session</b>	Creating an enabling environment
<b>Parallel 1</b> Regulatory frameworks	This subtheme focuses on the role of regulatory frameworks in shaping the philanthropic sector, including the potential for more enabling legal and policy environments to support the growth and sustainability of philanthropic organisations.
<b>Parallel 2</b> Exploring new Financing models	This subtheme examines the role of financing models in shaping the philanthropic sector in Africa, including the potential for innovative financing models to increase the availability of resources for philanthropic organisations and support their sustainability.
<b>Parallel 3</b> Governance and leadership	This subtheme will also explore the importance of transparency and accountability in the philanthropic sector, including the potential for greater transparency and accountability to build trust and legitimacy with key stakeholders such as donors, beneficiaries, and the public.
Consolidation of breakaways	
<b>Plenary session</b>	Shaping the futures we want
Closing Remarks	
End of Conference	



## The convening partners

**African Philanthropy Forum** is a learning community of strategic philanthropists and social investors committed to inclusive and sustainable development throughout the continent. They have invested in the development of the Toolkit for African Philanthropists and the “Why Give” Series, which hosts interviews with Africa’s strategic philanthropic leaders to showcase their motivations for giving.

**African Philanthropy Network** is a space for institutions to interrogate and intervene in the power dynamics that shape how resource mobilisation, distribution and spending impact the possibilities of transformative change in Africa. They focus towards the multi-stakeholder end of the philanthropy spectrum with emphasis on models, acts of participation and development, empathy and a chain of solidarity.

**The Centre on African Philanthropy and Social Investment** was established to bridge the gap in the study, research and practice of philanthropy and social investment. The Centre is a source of knowledge, a cultivator of partnerships, and a catalyst for innovation, community engagement and a heightened sense of citizenship and social responsibility throughout.

**The East Africa Philanthropy Network** that brings together organisations to nurture a local giving and resource mobilisation culture through effective grant-making, advocacy and networking. This includes looking into the resource bases, capacity, credibility, practices development actors and the operational context that supports local giving and grant-making.

**The Southern Africa Trust** undertake activities that contribute to the reduction of poverty and inequality, with the objective of strengthening the voice and agency of poor people in regional policy processes, reducing poverty and inequality in Southern Africa, in ways that promote regional interconnection and a regional agenda.

**TrustAfrica** seeks to strengthen African initiatives that address the most difficult challenges confronting the continent and support civic engagement that achieves justice, accountability and equitable development. They are committed to generating and testing new ideas and promoting good among its grantees.



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