

AFRI-CANADA POST SUMMIT REPORT AND POLICY RECOMMENDATION

AfriCanada Business Summit 2025
Bridging Continents, Driving Innovation

PREPARED BY:

**CLAN: Canada's Leading African
Network and HumanSquad**

 AfriCanada
Business
Summit

 **canada's leading
african network**

INTRODUCTION

The AfriCanada Business Summit 2025 convened over 300 leaders from across Africa and Canada to deliberate on the future of bilateral relations grounded in innovation, trade, and equitable partnership. This report synthesizes key policy insights and strategic recommendations that emerged, offering a roadmap to embed Canada's Africa Strategy (2023) into durable, systemic frameworks.



Tunde Omotoye

Convener of AfriCanada
Summit and Founder of CLAN

CONTEXT & STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE

Canada's renewed focus on Africa marks a pivotal opportunity to elevate economic, cultural, and technological cooperation. The Africa Strategy (2023) emphasizes expanded trade, youth leadership, innovation, and diaspora engagement as central pillars. However, realizing these goals requires coordinated policy action that fosters cross-border collaboration, removes systemic barriers, and leverages the power of diaspora networks.



CLAN's summit underscores the urgent need for institutional mechanisms that transform intent into measurable impact, creating a sustainable bilateral ecosystem.

POLICY LANDSCAPE & KEY CHALLENGES



Fragmented Trade and Investment Frameworks

Current policies limit seamless market access due to complex visa regimes, inconsistent tax agreements, and cumbersome export documentation.



Underutilized Diaspora Capital and Talent

The African diaspora in Canada represents an untapped engine for entrepreneurship and investment, constrained by insufficient visa pathways and a lack of targeted support programs.



Limited Innovation and Research Collaboration

Despite world-class academic institutions and growing startups, there is no dedicated infrastructure to catalyze joint research, co-innovation, or talent exchange between Canada and African countries.



Insufficient Cultural and Economic Diplomacy

Cultural ties remain underleveraged, with a lack of structured programs promoting creative industries as drivers of soft power and economic growth.

A VISION FOR CANADA-AFRICA ENGAGEMENT

To overcome these challenges, CLAN advocates for a transformative Canada-Africa Innovation & Trade Hub. A bi-national institution with operational bases in Toronto and Abuja. This Hub would:

- 01** Serve as a centralized platform for trade facilitation, policy incubation, and market intelligence sharing.
- 02** Provide tailored support for diaspora entrepreneurs through dedicated visa pathways, mentorship, and access to capital.
- 03** Foster academic and research partnerships to accelerate technology transfer, joint innovation programs, and fellowship exchanges.
- 04** Elevate cultural diplomacy through creative fund initiatives that empower artists, filmmakers, and cultural entrepreneurs to connect markets and narratives.



POLICY & PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

For the Canadian Government

▶ **Establish a Formal Canada-Africa Innovation & Trade Hub**

Designate this institution as a focal point for bilateral economic and innovation engagement, backed by cross-ministerial collaboration.

▶ **Implement a Diaspora Entrepreneur Visa Pathway**

Streamline immigration processes to enable African diaspora business founders to scale operations on both continents.

▶ **Expand CanExport and Trade Facilitation Programs**

Prioritize diaspora-led enterprises and African markets in existing export development initiatives

▶ **Modernize Trade Agreements**

Negotiate visa, tax, and export frameworks to reduce barriers and incentivize bilateral commerce



AfriCanada
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Agenda

POLICY & PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

For African Governments

▶ **Partner in Policy Development and Trade Missions**

Collaborate on pilot programs that simplify export documentation and foster startup-friendly regulatory environments.

▶ **Promote Talent Mobility and Innovation Exchange**

Facilitate the participation of youth and entrepreneurs in fellowship and co-innovation programs



POLICY & PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

For Academia and Private Sector

▶ **Catalyze Research and Innovation Networks**

Develop joint academic conferences, incubators, and fellowship programs focusing on high-impact sectors such as technology, agriculture, and clean energy.

▶ **Support Diaspora-Led Investment Vehicles**

Mobilize venture capital and seed funds targeting startups bridging Canada and Africa.

▶ **Advance Cultural Diplomacy**

Invest in creative industry platforms that enable storytelling and cross-cultural collaboration



KEY THEMES FROM THE SUMMIT

Trade & Policy Access

Urgent calls for the formation of bilateral trade councils and streamlined visa regimes.

Startup & Investment Ecosystem

Highlighted the critical role of diaspora venture capital and startup showcases.



Diaspora Capital Mobilization

Discussions focused on leveraging remittances and real estate investments for sustainable impact

Cultural Collaboration

The Canada-Africa Creative Fund was proposed as a game-changer for arts and media.

Women & Youth Empowerment

Dedicated forums emphasized scaling inclusive innovation with support from diaspora-led organizations

CONCLUSION

The AfriCanada Business Summit 2025 has clearly demonstrated that the future of Canada-Africa relations hinges on strategic, coordinated policies that empower innovation, trade, and diaspora leadership. CLAN is committed to driving this agenda forward as the convener and catalyst of systemic change.

By institutionalizing the proposed Innovation & Trade Hub and embracing a holistic, partnership-driven approach, Canada and Africa can co-create a future of shared prosperity, technological advancement, and cultural richness.

Together, we can truly bridge continents and co-build the future.



ABOUT CLAN



Canada's Leading African Network (CLAN) is a pan-Canadian organization dedicated to fostering collaboration between African, Caribbean and Canadian stakeholders across business, government, and civil society. CLAN's mission is to amplify Black African and Caribbean diaspora leadership and strengthen Canada-Africa-Caribbean ties through innovation, policy advocacy, and community engagement.



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CONTACT

Email

tunde.omotoye@humansquad.ca

Website

www.clancanada.org

Social Media

@clan_centre

