



AFRICA AND EUROPE:

COOPERATION ON DIGITAL TRANSITIONS AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The 11th Africa Day International Conference takes place under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Slovenia His Excellency Mr Borut Pahor and within the framework of the Bled Strategic Forum. This high-level annual event is co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, the Chatham House Africa Programme and the European Commission.

Slovenia's high-level Africa event seeks to improve policy outcomes for citizens in Europe and Africa as a result of mutual understanding and strengthened cooperation between the two regions. Expert discussions at this year's edition will examine collaborative links between Africa and Europe in promoting responsible innovation and governance of emerging technologies, as well as the role of technology in shaping creative and cultural economies.

09.00 – 10.00 Welcome and opening keynote addresses

H.E. Mr Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia

H.E. Dr Anže Logar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

H.E. Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami), Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Nigeria

H.E. Hon. Dr Peya Mushelenga, Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Namibia

Mr Firmin Edouard Matoko, Assistant Director-General, Priority Africa and External Relations, UNESCO

Ambassador Ramses Joseph Cleland, Acting Chief Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Ghana

SHORT VIDEO MESSAGES BY:

H.E. Ms Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for International Partnerships, European Commission

H.E. Prof. Mohammed Belhocine, Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, African Union Commission

Chair: **Ms Natalia Al Mansour**, Head of the Department for Africa and the Middle East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

10.00 – 10.05 Video break: Slovenia – Land of Artificial Intelligence

10.05 – 11.25 Session 1 | Collaborations on citizen-centred technology governance

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ambassador Mr Tadej Rupel, National Coordinator for External Aspects of Digitalization, Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

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Prof. John Shawe-Taylor, Director, International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI); UNESCO Chair in Artificial Intelligence, Slovenia and United Kingdom

Dr Papa Gueye, Director-General, National School of Regional Cybersecurity, Senegal

Mr Ahsan Mahboob, Head, Sibanye-Stillwater Digital Mining Laboratory (DigiMine), Wits Mining Institute (WMI), South Africa

Ms Koliwe Majama, Senior Programme Officer, Mozilla Foundation, Zimbabwe

Ms Katja Majcen, Digital Policy Expert, Unit for Science Technology Innovation and Digitalisation, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission

Chair: **Prof. Carlos Lopes**, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

11.25 – 11.30 Video break: IRCAI

11.30 – 12.45 Session 2 | Shaping sustainable digital societies and economies

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Ms Mercy Kimalat, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Startups and SME Enablers of Kenya (ASSEK), Kenya

Mr Fred Uduma, President, Slovenia – Nigeria Chamber of Commerce, Slovenia and Nigeria

Ms Vesna Virant, Commercial Director, Medex d.o.o., Slovenia

Mr Ibrahim Nouhoum, Co-founder, International African Forum, Slovenia and Mali

Mr Boris Nicolas Erjavec, Executive Director, Pomurski sejem d.o.o., Slovenia

Chair: **Mr Robert Rakar**, Director, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Primorska, Slovenia

12.45 – 13.15 Session 3 | Language diversity and digital transition

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Dr Maina wa Mũtonya, Professor and Researcher, African and African Diaspora Studies, Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Kenya and Mexico

Ms Mama Adjetej-Nii Owoo, Founder and Lead Researcher, Afroliteracies, Canada

Mr Asmelash Teka Hadgu, Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer, Lesan, Ethiopia

Chair: **Ms Aleksandra Gačić**, Doctoral Student, Postgraduate School at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia

13.15 – 13.30 Closing remarks

Ms Tighisti Amare, Deputy Director, Africa Programme, Chatham House

Ms Marjeta Jager, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission

Mr Jernej Müller, Political Director and Director-General for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

Chair: **Ms Natalia Al Mansour**, Head of the Department for Africa and the Middle East, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

13.30 – 13.35 Video presentation: D4D Hub

