

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO AFRICA'S CHALLENGES DEMOGRAPHY, URBANIZATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

22-24
OCTOBER
2025

Marrakech
Morocco

The **International Institute for Sustainable Transition in Africa** is pleased to invite you to participate in the **Second Edition of the Africa Transition Forum (ATF 2025)**. This edition will focus on the theme **"Innovative Solutions to Africa's Challenges: Demography, Urbanization, and Climate Change"**, addressing the major issues the continent is currently facing.

ATF 2025 will bring together experts, policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders from the private sector and civil society to explore practical and sustainable solutions to these interconnected challenges. The event will take place from **October 22 to 24, 2025, in Marrakech, Morocco**, a symbolic venue where discussions on sustainable transition can unfold in an inspiring environment conducive to innovation. We look forward to welcoming you to this pivotal event, where new perspectives and valuable collaborations will emerge.

CONTEXTUALIZATION

Africa, a continent rich in diversity and potential, faces significant challenges that demand immediate attention and innovative, sustainable responses. Paradoxically, while Africa accounts for %17 of the global population, its contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions remains marginal. However, it disproportionately bears the brunt of climate change impacts. Simultaneously, the continent is experiencing exceptional demographic growth, leading to rapid and sometimes unstructured urbanization, which exacerbates pressures on the climate, land use, natural resources, infrastructure, and social systems.

- Demographics: Africa's Youth as a Major Demographic Challenge

Africa is the youngest continent in the world, with more than %60 of its population under the age of 25. This demographic dynamic is both an asset and a challenge: The need to educate, train, and integrate this youth into societies that are still undergoing transition. The challenge also lies in creating economic, professional, and social opportunities for a rapidly growing population while reducing social inequalities. African youth must be at the heart of sustainable transition and innovation strategies to ensure inclusive and equitable growth, particularly in key sectors such as agriculture, energy, and entrepreneurship.

- Urbanization: A Rapidly Expanding Phenomenon

Urbanization in Africa is accelerating at an unprecedented rate. According to United Nations projections, nearly %60 of the African population will reside in urban areas by 2050. While this rapid urban expansion presents undeniable opportunities, it also generates considerable challenges, particularly in spatial management, urban planning, access to basic services, housing, and mobility. Existing infrastructure, often inadequate, struggles to keep pace with urban growth, posing risks to quality of life, access to potable water, energy, and sanitation services. Urbanization also affects the climate by reducing atmospheric carbon sequestration, increasing surface temperatures, and heightening the risk of flooding. African cities must reinvent themselves, adapting to local realities to mitigate climate-related hazards and become hubs of sustainability.

- Climate: A Devastating Impact, but a Call for Innovative Solutions

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges facing Africa today. Although the continent is responsible for less than %4 of global greenhouse gas emissions, it is already suffering from its devastating consequences, including rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, flooding, and ocean acidification. Climate variability and extreme weather events are becoming increasingly intense, with particularly severe impacts in densely populated urban areas. These phenomena exacerbate poverty, weaken agriculture, disrupt ecosystems, and destabilize communities. However, Africa also possesses innovative solutions, often rooted in nature and traditional knowledge, that must be implemented to mitigate these impacts through an innovative and sustainable transition. Renewable energy, sustainable resource management, and climate-smart agriculture represent key levers in addressing these challenges and strengthening the resilience of African communities.

AFRICA TRANSITION FORUM 2025

The **Africa Transition Forum ATF 2025** functions as a dynamic and comprehensive platform for high-level collaboration and exchange, aiming to address the urgent challenges arising from demographic growth, urbanization, and climate change. By fostering dialogue and innovative thinking, the Forum seeks to transform these challenges into tangible opportunities for sustainable development and technological advancement across Africa. Through its initiatives, the Forum positions Africa at the center of global solutions, driving efforts towards a future that is both resilient and equitable for all. This collaborative approach underscores the continent's critical role in shaping a more sustainable and inclusive global future.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this edition are as follows:

- 1- Showcase cutting-edge research and solutions to address demographic dynamic, the urbanization and its impact on climate, and address their evolution within a changing climate in Africa.
- 2- Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders, including policy makers, educators, researchers and local communities, to respond to these challenges.
- 3- Foster partnerships between governments, academia, the private sector and civil society for scalable solutions adapted to local contexts.

The proposed solutions must integrate Africa's specific realities while remaining scalable at regional and global levels. From sustainable urban management to innovative agricultural solutions, as well as initiatives for improved environmental governance and renewable energy adapted to local contexts, the discussions at the forum will open pathways to addressing the challenges of climate change, demographics and urbanization.

KEY TOPICS

Submissions are invited on the following themes:

1. Demographic Growth and Sustainable Cities: Rethinking African Urbanization

- New models of sustainable urban development
- Demographics, Governance, and Sustainable Cities
- Infrastructure, public services and rapid growth
- Strategic planning, Connectivity and urban governance in response to demographic pressure

2. Climate and Territorial Resilience: Innovating in Response to Global Changes

- Adaptation strategies for African cities facing extreme climate events
- Integrated risk management solutions for climate resilience
- Green infrastructure and energy transition
- Urban agriculture as a tool for sustainability

3. Youth, Employment, and Demographic Dividend: Investing in Human Capital

- Creation of decent and sustainable jobs and entrepreneurship
- Migration and territorial development
- Inclusion policies and Women empowerment
- Health, Education, training, and skills for the future

4. Innovation, Technologies, and Financing: Catalyzing the Transition

- Urban architecture and the reinvention of African cities
- Digital technologies for urbanization and climate management
- Digitalization for good governance and citizen participation
- Innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable urban projects
- Innovative partnerships to support climate and urban resilience

TARGET AUDIENCE

Focused on collaboration, innovation, and sustainable, forward-thinking solutions, ATF aims to foster meaningful dialogue and facilitate partnerships across diverse sectors. This event invites a wide range of participants, including:

- **Researchers and academics:** Experts and thought leaders who are advancing knowledge and driving innovation within their respective fields.
- **Policy and decision-makers:** Government officials and key stakeholders who influence and shape public policies at both national and local levels.
- **Private sector leaders and investors:** Business executives and financial actors who contribute to economic growth and explore opportunities for investment in emerging sectors.
- **Non-governmental organizations NGOs and civil Society:** Organizations actively engaged in addressing the pressing challenges of the forum, while advocating for sustainable development.
- **Young leaders and community innovators:** Emerging changemakers who are contributing to social transformation by introducing fresh perspectives and sustainable solutions.

KEY DATES

Call for Abstracts Launch February 1, 2025

Abstract Submission Deadline March 31, 2025

Notification of Acceptance May 15, 2025

Forum Registration Deadline July 31, 2025

Forum Dates October 22–24, 2025

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| | HIGH INCOME COUNTRIES | LOW INCOME COUNTRIES |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ACADEMICS | 300 Euros | 200 Euros |
| STUDENTS | 150 Euros | 100 Euros |
| OTHERS | 350 Euros | 250 Euros |

Fees grant access to:

- Access to all forum sessions and workshops.
- Conference materials and networking events
- Lunch and coffee breaks.
- Certificate of participation.

SUBMISSION

Authors are invited to submit an abstract (600-1000 words) in English or in French, according to the template available on the Forum Website <https://atf.africa-transition.com/>

Abstracts can only be submitted online.

CONTACT US

For general inquiries, please contact:

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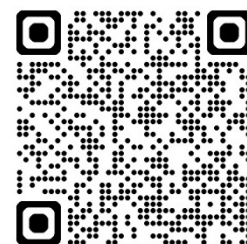
Additional information will be available on the Forum website

<https://atf.africa-transition.com/>

Abstract Submission Deadline
March 31, 2025

Submission Form <https://urlz.fr/tXy2>

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