AFRICA TRADE
Development Center

AfriCANDO 2026

27TH ANNUAL

U.S.-Africa Trade and Investment Conference & Expo

and

MEDAL OF GLORY AWARDS DINNER

AGENDA

Monday, November 16 – Thursday, November 19

Event Schedule

AFRICA TRADE
Development Center

AfrICANDO 2026

27TH ANNUAL
U.S.-AFRICA TRADE AND INVESTMENT CONFERENCE & EXPO
and
MEDAL OF GLORY AWARDS DINNER

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Registration and Booth Assignments

Registration, Booth Assignments, and Booth Setup.

AFRICA TRADE
Development Center

AfriCANDO 2026

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration and Accreditation
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Opening Session – Cultural Performance, Governor and other VIPs • The Future of U.S.-Africa Commercial Engagement Under AGOA
10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Expo Hall Open Expo Hall Open Until 7:00 PM
10:40 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Plenary I: Trade, Commerce, Industrialization and Creative Economy Opportunities in the Era of AfCFTA and AGOA
12:10 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.	Lunch
1:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Plenary Session II: Education and AI
2:40 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Plenary Session III: Insurance, Banking and Finance
4:00 p.m. – 5:10 p.m.	Plenary IV: Health
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	**Registration and Accreditation**
8:40 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	**Plenary V: Agriculture – Option A: Flagship Pitch**
10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	**Expo Hall Open** Expo Hall Open Until 7:00 PM
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	**Plenary VI: Infrastructure, Transportation, Public Works, AIIP and Housing**
11:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	**Plenary VII: Petroleum and Solid Minerals / Electric Utility and Energy**
12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	**Lunch**
2:00 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.	**Concurrent Breakout Block I (Running Simultaneously):** • Concurrent Breakout 1: NPPAN President / Small Holders First • Concurrent Breakout 2: A1 – Plantation Estates and Tree Crops • Concurrent Breakout 3: A2 – Agro Processing and Ukwa West SAPZ Hub • Concurrent Breakout 4: Trade/Export Readiness under AfCFTA and AGOA • Concurrent Breakout 5: Petroleum and Solid Minerals / Electric Utility and Energy • Concurrent Breakout 6: Health
3:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	**Concurrent Breakout Block II (Running Simultaneously):** • Concurrent Breakout 7: Finance and Smallholder Inclusion • Concurrent Breakout 8: Diaspora Investment and Skills Transfer • Concurrent Breakout 9: Education and AI • Concurrent Breakout 10: Insurance, Banking and Finance • Concurrent Breakout 11: Infrastructure and Housing • Concurrent Breakout 12: Industrialization and Competitive SME Development

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	**Registration and Accreditation**
9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	**Investors Roundtable**
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	**Expo Hall Open** Expo Hall Open Until 4:00 PM
10:30 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	**B2B Matchmaking by Appointment**
11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.	**Deal Room**
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	**Lunch**
2:10 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	**Conference Adjourned**
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	**Medal of Glory Awards (MOGA) Reception**
7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	**MOGA Dinner**

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MEDAL OF GLORY AWARDS DINNER

NOVEMBER 17-19, 2026

UMUAHIA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

ABIA STATE, NIGERIA

DAY ONE | TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2026

TIME	SESSION	CO-CHAIR(S) / SPEAKER(S)
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registrationand Accreditation	Registration Desk
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Opening Session – Opening Prayer, National Anthem, Cultural Performance, Governor and other VIPs • The Future of U.S.-Africa Commercial Engagement Under AGOA	MC Brian T. Neubert, Economic Counselor, U.S. Embassy Abuja
10:40 a.m. – 12:00 noon	**Plenary Session I:** Accelerating Trade, Investment, Industrialization and Creative Economy Growth Through AfCFTA and AGOA	Co-Chairs: Fred Oladeinde, President, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA) and Chairman, AGOA Civil Society Organization Network Grace. O. Adeyemo, Principal Partner, Legal Icon Chambers Dal Didia, Professor of Economics, Jackson State University
	Session Moderators	Alhaji Sheriff Balogun, National President, Nigerian American Chamber of Commerce and Advisory Board Member, AGOA Civil Society Organization Network West Africa Rev. Dr. Milenge Mwenelwata, AGOA CSO Network Secretariat Central Africa

	Welcome and Introduction	Session Co-Chairs Remarks: Dr. Salome Nkemakolam Honorable Commissioner for Trade and Industry Mike Akpara, Honorable Commissioner for Industry and SMEs Matt Ekwuruibe, Honorable Commissioner for Arts, Culture, Creative Economy, and Tourism Mazi Sam Ohuabunwa Chairman, Abia Think Tank Partners Mr. Rongai Chizema, AfCFTA Implementation & Coordination Expert | Directorate of Coordination and Programmes (DCP), AfCFTA Secretariat
12:10 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.	Lunch	
1:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Plenary Session II: Education and AI	**Co-Chair:** Dr. KarlS.Wright, Advisor on Education, The Foundation for Democracy in Africa **Panelists:** ProfessorUche Eme-Uche, Honorable Commissioner for Tertiary Education Elder Goodluck Chinedu Ubochi, Honorable Commissioner for Basic and Primary Education Professor Uwaoma Kalu Uche, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Gregory University Professor Amadike Eziuche Ugbogu Vice Chancellor of Abia State University Professor Okechukwu Anyamale Professor of Economics & Finance College of Business, Jackson State University, USA Mr. Bushabu Fidele Nyimi, Special Assistant to the Ministry of Education, Democratic Republic of Congo
2:40 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	Plenary Session III: Insurance, Banking and Finance	Co-Chair: Salomon O. Kanu, Esq., Kanu & Associates, PC Panelists:

		Mr. Uwaoma Ukandu, Honorable Commissioner for Finance Mrs. Ekeoma Ezeibe, is the Chairperson of the Nigerian Insurance Industry Committee on AfCFTA & Trade Agreements (NII-AfCFTA & Trade Agreements)
4:00 p.m. – 5:10 p.m.	Plenary IV: Health	Co-Chair: Alwell Okey Agbara Chairman of the Abia State Diaspora Commission Professor Enoch Ogbonnaya Uche MBBS, FWACS, FICS, FACS, Honorable Commissioner for Health
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception	

DAY TWO | WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2026

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	CO-CHAIR(S) / SPEAKER(S)
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration and Accreditation	Registration Desk
8:40 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	Plenary V: Agriculture – Option A: Flagship Pitch	Chair: Alhadji Sheriff Balogun, National President, Nigerian American Chamber Commerce (NACC) Dr. Cliff Agbaeze, FCIB, Honorable Commissioner of Agriculture
10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	Plenary VI: Infrastructure, Transportation, Public Works, AIIP and Housing	Chair: James Umekwe, Chairman, Abia Global Chamber of Commerce Panelists: Dr. Chimezie Isaac Ukaegbu, Honorable Commissioner for Transport Arc. Chiemela Uzoije, Honorable Commissioner for Housing Engr. Otumchere Oti, Honorable Commissioner for Public Works Ms. Sandra Ivonye Ntofon, MD/CEO Abia Industrial Innovation Park

11:20 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Plenary VII: Petroleum and Solid Minerals / Electric Utility and Energy	Mr. Tope Esan, Co-Founder & Advisor, Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) Professor Joel F. Ogbonna, Honorable Commissioner for Petroleum & Mineral Resources Engr. Eng. Ikechukwu Monday Honorable Commissioner for Power & Public Utilities
12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Lunch	—
2:00 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.	**Concurrent Breakout Block I (Running Simultaneously):** • Concurrent Breakout 1: NPPANPresident / SmallHoldersFirst • Concurrent Breakout 2: Plantation Estates and Tree Crops • Concurrent Breakout 3: Agro Processing and Ukwa WestSAPZ Hub • Concurrent Breakout 4: Trade/Export Readiness under AfCFTA and AGOA • Concurrent Breakout 5: Petroleum and Solid Minerals / Electric Utility and Energy • Concurrent Breakout 6: Health —	
3:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	**Concurrent Breakout Block II (Running Simultaneously):** •Concurrent Breakout 7: Finance and Smallholder Inclusion •Concurrent Breakout 8: Diaspora Investment and Skills Transfer •Concurrent Breakout 9: Education and AI •Concurrent Breakout 10: Insurance, Banking and Finance •Concurrent Breakout 11: Infrastructure and Housing •Concurrent Breakout 12: Industrialization and Competitive SME Development	

DAY THREE | THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2026

TIME	SESSION / TITLE	CO-CHAIR(S) / SPEAKER(S)
8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	RegistrationandAccreditation	Registration Desk
9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Investors Roundtable	—
10:30 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	B2BMatchmakingbyAppointment	—
11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.	Deal Room	—
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch	—
2:10 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Conference Adjourned	—
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	MedalofGloryAwards(MOGA) Reception	—
7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	MOGA Dinner	—