



COMMUNIQUE



11^e Edition Africa Think Tank Summit

From Taxation to Action: Bridging
Policy and Implementation in
Public Financial Management
(PFM) in Africa"

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Addis Ababa
SHERATON HOTEL

CO-HOSTED BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC
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CO-ORGANISÉ PAR LE
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The **African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)**, in collaboration with the **African Union Commission (AUC)**, the **African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)**, and **Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia** through the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Revenue with financial support from the **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation** and the **World Bank Group**, convened the **11th Africa Think Tank Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 8 to 10 October 2025** under the theme “**From Taxation to Action: Bridging Policy and Implementation in Public Financial Management (PFM) in Africa**”. Strategic partners, including the **African Leadership Excellence Academy (AFLEX)**, the **Policy Studies Institute (PSI)**, and the **Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF)**, made significant contributions to shaping the event.

Over **500 participants**, including **300 in-person** delegates from more than **40 African countries and non-African countries**, attended the Summit, representing government ministries, parliaments, African think tanks, research institutions, civil society, private sector entities, and development partners. The Summit covered a total of **24 sessions, including 8 plenary, 4 parallel thematic, 4 parallel stakeholders, 7 sides events, and one special training session**.

Key sessions focused on harnessing technology and artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance revenue efficiency, empowering think tanks as catalysts for reform, promoting gender- and climate-responsive fiscal governance, and fostering partnerships among governments, civil society, and the private sector. Side events explored innovative themes, including health taxation, Africa-Europe collaboration, and export competitiveness, reinforcing the importance of collaboration and knowledge-based leadership in achieving fiscal sovereignty.

Discussions emphasized the need to bridge the persistent gap between visionary policies and real-world implementation by addressing capacity constraints, weak accountability mechanisms, and limited digital integration within PFM systems. Participants highlighted that Africa’s transformation must be self-financed, data-driven, inclusive, and institutionally resilient.

Following the deliberations underscoring the urgency of strengthening Africa's domestic resource mobilization and fiscal governance systems, delegates propose the following recommendations with some commitments to support initiatives for fixing the missing link between tax policy formulation and implementation:

➔ **Technology-oriented Tax system:**

Governments were urged to strengthen domestic resource mobilization through fair, efficient, and technology-enabled tax systems while reducing reliance on official development assistance and debt.

➔ **Evidence-based PFM systems:**

Participants called for institutionalizing evidence-based and transparent PFM systems, including citizen budgets, joint audit follow-up mechanisms, and effective oversight by parliaments and civil society.

➔ **AI-powered Revenue Management:**

Delegates emphasized leveraging AI and digital innovation for predictive revenue analysis, expenditure tracking, and improved compliance across sectors.

➔ **Enhancing Policy Influence of Think Tanks:**

Sustainable funding and formal collaboration frameworks were recommended to enhance think tanks as key actors in translating policy into action.

➔ **Inclusive Fiscal Governance:**

Mainstreaming gender and youth engagement, simplifying compliance for SMEs, and supporting women-led enterprises to promote equitable outcomes.

➔ **Strengthening PFM Capacity Building:**

ACBF and partners were called upon to scale up capacity-building programs, leadership development, and the creation of a continental PFM competency framework.

➔ **Innovative Financing in PFM:**

Countries were encouraged to explore innovative financing mechanisms such as health and environmental taxes, public-private partnerships, diaspora bonds, and digital economy taxation.

➔ **Leveraging cross-continental partnerships:**

ACBF and the Africa-Europe Foundation committed to embed the Africa-Europe Think-Tank platform to deepen knowledge exchange and joint research collaboration, and serve as an ideas bank for the AU-EU Partnership.

Finally, participants agreed that **ACBF**, in partnership with the **AUC and AUDA-NEPAD**, will disseminate the Summit's key recommendations across Member States and regional bodies, develop a **Post-Summit Action Plan (2025–2026)** aligned with the **Agenda 2063 Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan**, facilitate **capacity-building sessions for national PFM actors**, and produce an **annual Africa PFM Progress Report** to monitor progress on reforms and innovations emerging from the Summit.

Participants expressed **sincere appreciation** to the Government and People of the **Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia** for their warm hospitality and to all organizing and development partners for their continued commitment to **Africa's fiscal transformation and sustainable development**.

The **official launch of the Africa Think Tank Platform (ATTP) Project** was welcomed as a major step toward sustained knowledge exchange and coordinated reform efforts across the continent.

Issued in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 10 October 2025



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