

**Monday 13 November 2023**  
**12:00 – 16:45 SAST: CTICC1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Roof Terrace**

The Africa Tech Festival 2023 LeadersIn Africa Summit is an exclusive, invite-only leadership event for the continent's most senior and influential tech leaders.

Run under Chatham House Rules to foster frank, actionable dialogue between Africa's tech senior leaders, this interactive, curated content feature explores the critical, sector-shaping issues pertinent to Africa's digital development journey.

As the world becomes increasingly digital 'Tech for Good' businesses will play a fundamental role in shaping the way we live, learn, play and do business – through enhanced productivity, efficiency and, importantly, in addressing the most intractable issues facing our society and environment.

The LeadersIn Africa Summit 2023 exists to unite and inspire the most innovative thinkers to use technology to transform business, society and champion positive socioeconomic change.

The Summit is designed to be highly interactive with an insightful scene-setting panel discussion, curated roundtable sessions, and a special focus on impactful networking to facilitate meaningful connection through shared knowledge and experience.

In 2023 we'll cover the topics most critical to success in Africa's tech renaissance - talent & skills, gender inclusion, meaningful connectivity, energy & connectivity, SME & start-up enablement, and more - with a keen focus on sustainability and inclusivity.

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November
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**12:00 – 12:30: Registration**

**12:30 – 13:15: Private Networking Lunch**

**13:15 – 13:25: Chair's Opening Remarks**

**13:25 – 14:10: Panel: Harnessing Emerging Tech in tackling Africa's Net-Zero and ESG challenge**

Delivering on the continent's ambitious net zero and ESG commitments may be defining challenge of our generation. While governments and social institutions have important roles to play, businesses are perfectly placed to action the change the world needs, now. Seizing that opportunity requires taking meaningful action – and reporting on it. So, what business must do to reach these goals and how emerging technologies can accelerate a path to sustainability and help reach the net zero target?

**14:10 – 14:45: Coffee Break**

**14:45 – 16:15: Roundtable discussions**

**16:15 – 16:45: 2023 LeadersIn Africa Summit Closing Remarks**

**16:45 – 17:30: LeadersIn Drinks Reception & Networking**

## LeadersIn Africa Summit 2023: Roundtables

### **1. Women in Tech 2023: Pathways & Pitfalls for Africa's Aspiring Female Leaders**

**Delivered in Partnership with The Tony Blair Institute**

### **2. Futureproofing Africa's Telcos: Strategies for a New Digital Era**

*Driven by changing markets and the shifting demands of consumer and enterprise customers, African telecoms is an industry undergoing an exciting transformation. For Africa's telcos, change is nothing new but recent years have thrown up some truly disruptive factors: an accelerating connectivity drive for 'meaningful' internet access, infrastructural deterioration and reorganisation, a burgeoning African middle class, growing competition with tech giants and OTT providers, amongst others.*

*Africa's telcos have never been more important and, while the industry remains at the centre of the continent's connectivity network, profit from these core services can no longer be relied upon for growth. So, evolution has centred on diversification to business models which target revenue from data, network sharing, digital services like mobile banking & financing, media, entertainment, and other lifestyle-focussed products.*

*This special LeadersIn Africa roundtable explores how Africa's telecoms providers are adapting to stay profitable and thrive into the future with top industry leaders.*

**Delivered in Partnership with Detecon**

### **3. Enterprise Empowered - Supercharging the Digital Disruption of Africa's SMMEs**

*Small, medium & micro enterprises are Africa's economic backbone. The sector's scale is breathtaking: SMMEs comprise 90% of the private sector, employ >80% of the workforce, and number >44 million. The fact that its power remains 'potential' is indicative of a sector which remains acutely underserved.*

*This roundtable will explore how placing SMMEs at the centre of the digital revolution and equipping them with the tools to thrive will unlock economic development across sector, region, and demographic.*

*Join sector experts and industry leaders as we unpack why SMMEs are often late digital adopters and how improved access to communities, markets, financial services, and data can help tackle the investment gap; and why policy must be the first step in creating enabling lending frameworks and nurturing ecosystems for the continent's nascent enterprises.*

### **4. Africa's Skills Revolution: Equipping the Next Generation of Tech Leaders**

*A median continental age of 20, 60% of the population under the age of 25, Africa is the world's youngest continent - you've heard the stats, but what do they really mean? The answer is very little without the education and training to turn Africa's youthful population into skilled, productive contributors and beneficiaries of the continent's Fourth Industrial Revolution.*

*There's no denying the incredible potential Africa's youth presents but to be talking about 'potential' in 15 years would be an opportunity squandered.*

*This roundtable session unpacks how governments, NGOs, tech giants, and start-ups are working to ensure the continent's youth are given the connectivity, environment, skills and opportunities to ensure Africa takes its rightful place on tech's global stage. Will look at why prioritising in-demand industry skills is so critical to ensuring employability in a labour market adding an average of 11 million workers*

*each year, and the imperative of providing fledging entrepreneurs with the right support at the right time can take micro-enterprise to global business.*

#### **5. Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable Energy as the Foundation of The 4IR**

*From East Africa's windy valleys, across the vast Saharan desert, into the surging Congo River, Africa is blessed with an enviable super-abundance of renewable energy resources. Every single nation on the continent has enough natural potential to meet its energy needs many times over. This alone has not translated into the 'Green Energy Revolution' hoped for by many - yet.*

*Africa sits on the edge of a monumental opportunity - to be a genuine world-leader in the development and integration of sustainable energy solutions, and no industry stands to benefit from this more than information and communications technology.*

*The good news is that many of the most powerful drivers of change already exist - natural renewable resources, technological leapfrogging, and, perhaps most importantly, growing public awareness and pressure that demands political action.*

*This roundtable session will explore the potential of this Green Energy Revolution and the truly transformative decade that could follow for the African continent. We'll unpack the significant obstacles this revolution faces: enduring electricity, internet & transport infrastructure challenges, lack of a cohesive trade and knowledge exchange framework, and inadequate sector investment.*

#### **6. Networks of the Future: New Models to Connect Africa's Underserved**

*Connecting off-grid communities to the internet is a complex operation, requiring a multitude of deployment considerations, all of which relate to one key factor: cost. Traditional access networks rarely align with the specific needs of underserved areas and a new approach - one that moves away from connecting underserved areas as 'islands' - is required.*

*We'll explore the continent's evolving approach to connecting consumers and enterprise, how innovations in strategy, power and investment are producing more viable ways to build and operate connectivity networks, driving improved capacity, coverage, and affordability.*

*Industry insiders will unpack how industry collaboration can help build complementary networks to leverage the strengths of fibre, satellite, backhaul, and terrestrial to deliver constant, affordable internet, and how innovations on networks-as-a-service, renewable energy, edge grids, and infrastructure sharing are redefining Africa's connectivity models.*