



2025 FiCS Summit Concept Note Proposal

[Breakout session \(panel\)](#)

UNLOCKING SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS IN AFRICA

Date and Time: Friday 28th February 2025 - 10H45 – 12H15

Coordinator(s)

Coordinator 1, Habeau Jean-François, Senior Advisor at Meridiam/ General Manager FAST-Infra Group, jean-francois.habeau@meridiam.org

Coordinator 2, Ricardo Santos, Economist, EIB, r.santos@eib.org

Coordinator 3, Lisa Satolli, Project Lead, Humanitarian and Resilience Investing Initiative at World Economic Forum, Lisa.Satolli@weforum.org

Coordinator 4, Sheila Senfuma Nakanyike, Senior Manager, Sustainable Finance, Africa Europe Foundation, Sheila.nakanyike@africaeuropefoundation.org

Detailed information about the session

Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening a sustainable finance system: through a multi-stakeholders discussion, mobilizing FICS's members along with Ministers, philanthropies and private investors representatives, the session will provide recommendations - based on expertise and experience of the participants- to improve and renew the international financial architecture and to mobilize the necessary resources to achieve the SDGs and the Paris Action Agenda' objectives.
-----------	--



2025 FiCS Summit Concept Note Proposal

- **Knowledge sharing:** participants will be invited to share their experiences and lessons learnt, including on blended finance mechanisms & partnerships between PDBs and private investors from a practitioners perspective;
- **Illustrate the role of FICS members** to initiate and lead innovative instruments & collaboration with private investors to leverage international and national private finance;
- **Promote international cooperation and partnerships**, between PDBs and private investors particularly through the experience of FICS members, the Fast-Infra Group and through the participation of non FICs members to the session.
- **Feed the discussions on focus areas of the 2025 FiCS Summit**, particularly on the theme of "Inclusive finance for sustainable growth".
- Based on the conclusions and findings of recent reports (from EIB, WEF and the AUDA-NEPAD Africa Europe Foundation) and from a ground perspective of investors in Africa such as Meridiam, the session will address the following main discussion points:
 - What are the main challenges and opportunities to scale up investment for sustainable development in Africa without adding to Africa's government debt burdens,?
 - What are the respective roles and instruments of MDBs, PDBs, private investors and a broader ecosystem of development partners, governmental actors and philanthropic organisations in scaling up investment for sustainable infrastructures in Africa, and how to reinforce partnerships between them?



2025 FiCS Summit Concept Note Proposal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which instruments, tools and innovative collaborations will allow to secure the scaling up of blended finance mechanisms, in particular in Africa's frontier markets? • Considering the emergency to deliver sustainable infrastructures and investments in a fast-growing urban continent: what are the main challenges and opportunities of this market in Africa for MDBs, PDBs and private Investors? Which additional challenges might Africa's frontier markets face?
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow the audience to understand current situation in the banking and financial sectors in Africa. • Underline the importance for MDBs and PDBs to continue supporting financial sector development and deepening in Africa. • Facilitate strategic alignment and awareness: Engage key stakeholders to enhance the alignment of European Commission and international partnership objectives with AU Agenda 2063, fostering commitment to impactful infrastructure investments as both continents navigate pivotal political and global events. • Stress the role for MDBs and PDBs in terms of supporting investment in sustainable infrastructure, digitalisation and climate transition on the continent and to help overcome the barriers faced by private investors. • Strengthen Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration: Foster dialogue that encourages collaboration between African and Global partners, including government officials, DFIs, CSOs, development and philanthropic partners and private sector investors, to overcome infrastructure investment barriers, promote sustainable development, and prevent increased debt burdens for African nations. • Provide high level recommendations on renewing the financial architecture to scale up investment in sustainable infrastructure in Africa through partnerships between PDBs and private investors, and feed the recommendations work of the FICs.



2025 FiCS Summit Concept Note Proposal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrate applicable solutions to secure investment conditions for PDBs and private investors
Target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDBs; • Government officials and policymakers related to investment and infrastructures and local governments; • Bilateral cooperation agencies and other credit exports agencies; • Development agencies; • Private investors (equity, commercial banks) and operators (industrials, constructors, solutions providers); • Think Tanks, philanthropies and NGOs. • Academic and research institutions
Outcome of the event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage MDBs and PDBs to review their climate engagement efforts with the financial sector in Africa in line with the critical role outlined in the report between bank's climate actions and their climate perceptions. • Recommendations on renewing the financial architecture to scale up investment in sustainable infrastructure in Africa, and feed the recommendations work of the FiCS; • Inspiring practices and experiences delivered in blended finance instruments & partnerships led by PDBs & private investors for sustainable and inclusive growth; • Establish a strong foundation and clear direction to ensure that recommendations on sustainable infrastructure investment are strategically positioned for dissemination at the 4th Financing for Development (FfD4) conference. This alignment will reinforce their relevance to FfD4 priorities, maximizing their impact on global investment strategies. • Encourage participation in country alliances in African markets to support multisectoral collaborations to scale up investments in sustainable infrastructure.



2025 FiCS Summit Concept Note Proposal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforcing partnerships and generating new partnerships between African and European institutions to drive impactful projects and improve financial sustainability without increasing debt burdens.
Session format Select which applies:	Panel session
Session partners	European Investment Bank, World Economic Forum, Africa-Europe Foundation, Meridiam & FAST Infra Group
Proposed Moderator	Sheila Senfuma Nakanyike, Senior Manager, Sustainable Finance and Global Governance, Africa Europe Foundation
Proposed Speakers/Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambroise Fayolle, Vice President, European Investment Bank -Confirmed Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) -Confirmed Thierry DEAU, CEO, Meridiam - Confirmed Louis Downing, CEO Global Infrastructure Basel -Confirmed Prof. Joshua Yindenaba Abor _ Financial Economist and Professor of Finance, University of Ghana – Confirmed Hassatou Diop N'Sele, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, African Development Bank Group - Confirmed <p>Opening Remarks – David Masondo, Deputy Minister of Finance of RSA</p>