

Africa Women in Banking and Finance Conference & Awards (AWBFA) 1st Edition



Lagos Marriott Hotel



20th March 2026

Theme:

“Driving change, inspiring leadership, and shaping the future of **women** in Finance”



AWBFA '26

AFRICA WOMEN IN BANKING AND
FINANCE CONFERENCE & AWARDS



Woman
Banker



[REGISTER NOW](#)

AWBFA 2026

Introduction

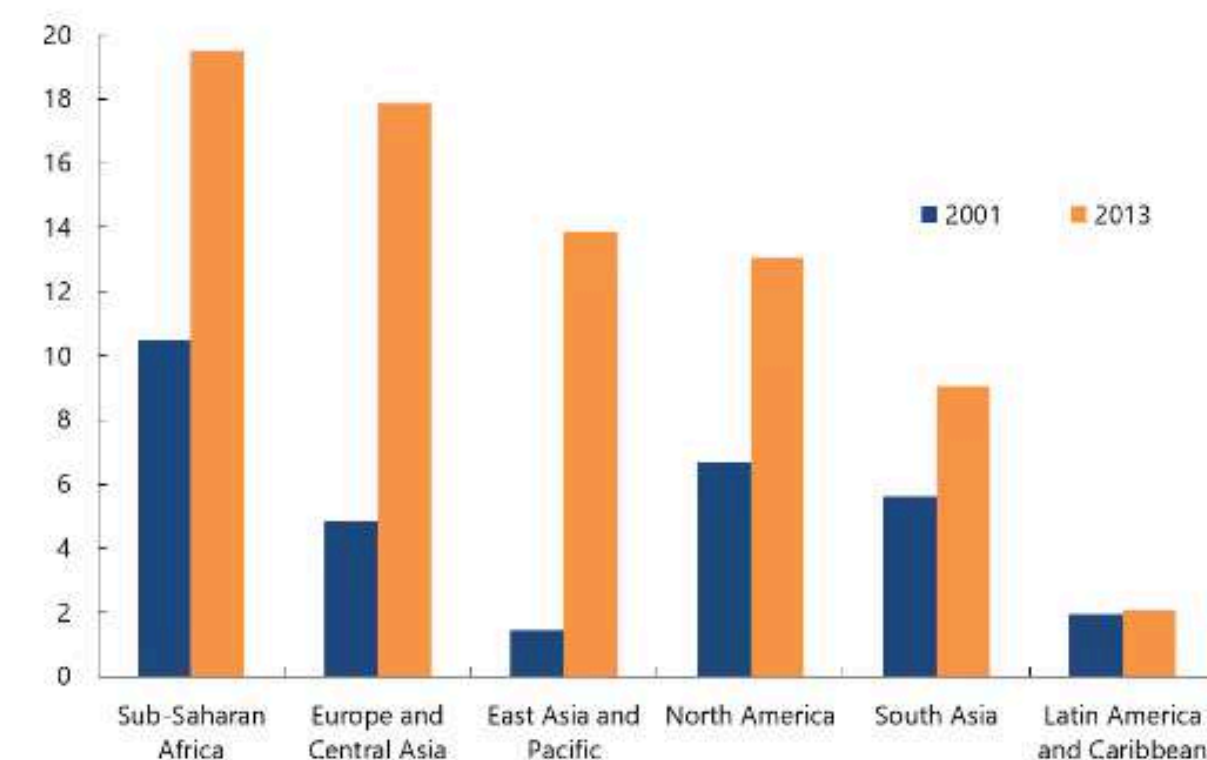
The Africa Women in Banking and Finance Conference and Awards (AWBFA) is a landmark gathering created to celebrate, connect, and empower women across Africa's banking and financial services landscape.

This inaugural edition brings together top executives, innovators, regulators, and rising leaders to foster meaningful conversations, share insights, and spark collaborative action toward advancing women in leadership.

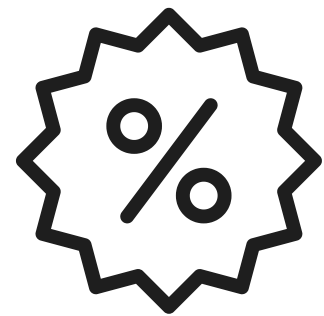
Bank boss bias

Women accounted for less than 2 percent of financial institutions' chief executive officers and less than 20 percent of executive board members.

(in percent of total board members)



Why Now?



Women occupy **less than 30% of senior leadership positions** in global banking.



Strategic platforms like AWBFA help **accelerate career advancement**, promote diversity, and drive innovation.



The industry needs more spaces to spotlight female achievements, unpack emerging trends, and **build actionable roadmaps for gender parity**.

Why Nigeria ?

- As of 2025, **Nigeria's banking industry stands out** across Africa for its **strong representation of women** in top leadership roles.
- Currently, **nine major banks are led by female Chief Executive Officers**, meaning women account for approximately **35% of bank leadership**. This level of representation surpasses many other sectors within the country and is notable even by global standards.
- This remarkable leadership presence reflects deliberate and **sustained efforts to promote gender diversity**, alongside the proven impact of female executives in driving innovation, strong financial performance, and more **inclusive growth across Nigeria's banking sector**.



Event Overview

Dates & Venue

- Conference & Awards Gala: **20th March 2026**
- Venue: **Lagos Marriott Hotel**

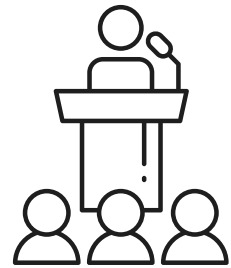
Target Audience

Over **200 high-value attendees**, including:

- C-suite executives, directors, managers from banks, fintechs, and regulatory institutions
- High-potential female professionals and emerging leaders
- HR leaders, D&I advocates, industry analysts, and policy influencers



Event Highlights



Conference & Awards Gala

- **Keynote Speeches** from top women reshaping Africa's financial sector
- **Panel Discussions** on leadership, innovation, equity, fintech, and future trends
- **Workshops & Masterclasses** on negotiation, leadership, board readiness, and personal brand growth
- **High-Impact Networking Sessions** (both structured and informal)
- **Awards Gala Night** to celebrate outstanding women shaping the industry



Awards & Recognition

- Honoring exceptional women for leadership, innovation, impact, and excellence
- Exclusive networking dinner with industry leaders and key stakeholders

Event Highlights

The inaugural edition of the Africa Women in Banking and Finance Conference and Awards will feature our most wide-ranging and comprehensive agenda to date, delivered across six dedicated content streams, including:



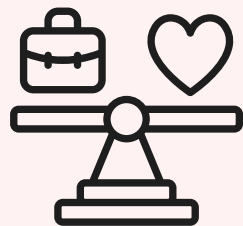
**LEADERSHIP AND
REPRESENTATION**



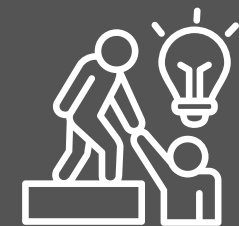
**GENDER DIVERSITY AND
INCLUSION INITIATIVES**



**FINANCIAL INCLUSION
AND ACCESS FOR WOMEN**



**WORK-LIFE BALANCE
AND WELL-BEING**



**MENTORSHIP,
SPONSORSHIP, AND
STRATEGIC NETWORKING**



**LEGISLATIVE AND
POLICY SUPPORT FOR
GENDER EQUITY**

Event Agenda

Join us at the Africa Women in Banking and Finance Conference & Awards, a premier platform dedicated to celebrating the achievements, leadership, and impact of women across Africa's banking and finance sector. Engage with industry leaders, gain valuable insights, and explore pathways to professional growth, excellence, and empowerment.



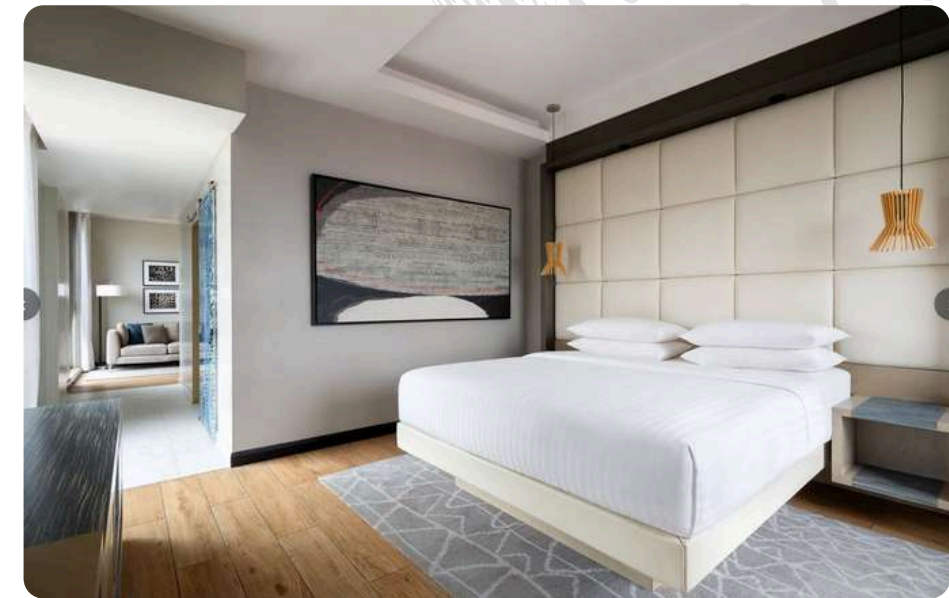
TIME	SESSION	DETAILS / SPEAKERS
08:00 – 09:00	Registration	Arrival & Registration at Lagos Marriott Hotel
09:00 – 10:00	Conference Opening & Welcome Remarks	Opening Address and Welcome Session
10:00 – 10:30	Networking Break	Tea & Coffee
10:30 – 11:30	Panel Session 1	Leadership & Representation – Breaking Barriers: Women's Representation and Leadership in Africa's Banking Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uchenna Agbo (Under Confirmation) – Chief Commercial Officer, Optasia UK• Joana Adwoa Bannerman – Head Subsidiaries Business Development UEMOA, Access Bank , Ghana• Jocelyne Nguessan – Deputy General Manager, Banque Atlantique, Côte d'Ivoire
	Panel Session 2	Challenges and Solutions – Overcoming the Odds: Addressing Barriers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chinwe Iloghattu – CEO/MD, Nova Bank Nigeria• Njideka Esomeju, FCIB – Deputy General Manager, Access Bank

TIME	SESSION	DETAILS / SPEAKERS
11:30 – 12:30	Panel Session 3	Financial Inclusion for Women: Bridging the Gap for Economic Empowerment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shimi Ntuyabaliwe – CEO, BRAC Microfinance, Sierra Leone • Theopista Ntale Sekitto – African Ambassador, Global Banking Alliance for Women; Uganda Country Director, New Faces New Voices • Rafiat Onitiri, FCIB – Managing Director, FIC; Chairperson, Association of Professional Women Bankers
12:30 – 13:30	Networking Lunch	Lunch & Informal Networking
13:30 – 14:30	Panel Session 4	Impact of Technology – Fintech for Her: How Digital Innovation is Empowering Women in African Banking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinwe Iloghattu – CEO/MD, Nova Bank Nigeria • Oluwatosin Olaseinde – Founder, Money Africa & Ladda
14:30 – 15:30	Panel Session 5	Private Equity, Venture Capital & Startups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leila Farah Mokaddem – Non-Executive Director; Former Director-General, African Development Bank • Nana Araba Abban, FCCA – Founder & CEO, ICoach-U; Board Member, Evergreen Pension • Dina Adel – Director, Investment Banking (Egypt) Insurance – Insuring Her Future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Mazimba – Regional Manager, Prudential Life Assurance, Zambia
15:30 – 16:30	Networking Break	Refreshments & Networking
20:00	Awards Ceremony	Africa Women in Banking & Finance Awards Night

Venue Spotlights

The Africa Women in Banking and Finance Conference and Awards (AWBFA) will be held at the **Lagos Marriott Hotel Ikeja**, 122 Joel Ogunnaike St, Ikeja GRA, Lagos 100271, Lagos

[VIEW MAP](#)



Meet The Team



Media Team



Schola Andem (Arpa)
GMD/GCEO,
The Chlo Haven Group



Chando Erege
GCOO,
The Chlo Haven Group



Alex Olanrewaju
Group Head of Marketing,
Creatives & Communications,
The Chlo Haven Group



Dr. Yetunde Adegbite
Managing Partner,
The Chlo Haven Group



Prince Dotun Akinwunmi
Managing Partner,
The Chlo Haven Group

Judging Panel



Joy Macknight

Judging panel Chair
Financial Journalist
UK



Ireti Samuel-Ogbu

Africa Finance Corporation
Board Chairman



Amanda Pullinger

CEO Debbie's Dream Foudation
Co-Founder at Global Female
Invostors Network
New York USA



Helena Tunga Mboti

Economist - Standard Bank
Group Namibia

Judging Panel



Clarine Stenfert

Head of Trade Finance
The World Bank, Washington



Wassila H. Ben Amor

Founder & President
Tunisian Women in Banking
& Finance



Agnes Malebane

Founder & CEO Women
Working for Change
South Africa



Dr. Anino Emuwa

Founder 100 Women Davos
France

Judging Panel



Lilia Tira

Senior Advisor
The Platforms Association, UK



Mr. Wycliffe Ngwabe

Country Lead and lead
Technical specialist
United Nations capital
Development Fund (UNCDF)



Elizabeth Rossiello

Aza Finance USA

Our Expert Line-up of Speakers Includes:



Rafiat Onitiri

Managing Director Financial
Inclusion Center
Chairperson Association of
Professional Women Bankers



Leila Farah Mokaddem

Non executive Director of
Multiple Boards, Former
Director General at AfDB



Theopista Ntale Sekitto

Africa Ambassador
Global Banking Alliance for
Women
Uganda Country Director –
New Faces New Voices



Chinwe Iloghalu

MD/CEO of NOVA Bank

Our Expert Line-up of Speakers Includes:



Jocelyne N'Guessan
Deputy General Manager
Banque Atlantique



Shimi Ntuyabaliwe
CEO, BRAC Microfinance Sierra
Leone



Nana Araba Abban FCCA
Founder CEO ICoach -U
Board Member Evergreen
Pension



Dina Adel
Director Investment Banking

Our Expert Line-up of Speakers Includes:



Oluwatosin Olaseinde

Founder/CEO of Money
Africa & Ladda



Jane Mazimba

Regional Manager
Prudential Life Assurance



Uchenna Agbo

Chief Commercial Officer,
Optasia UK



Njideka Esomeju FCIB

Deputy General Manager,
Access Bank

Our Expert Line-up of Speakers Includes:



Joana Adwoa

Bannerman

Head Subsidiaries Business
Development UEMOA
Access Bank , Ghana



AWBFA
'26

AFRICA WOMEN IN BANKING AND
FINANCE CONFERENCE & AWARDS

Call for Nominations



Woman
Banker

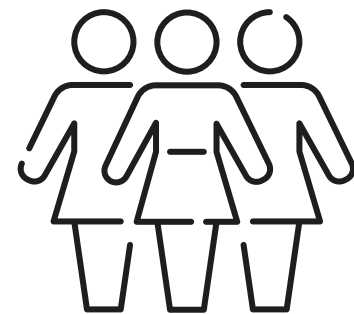


AWBFA 2026

Africa Women in Banking & Finance Awards 2026 — Nomination Opens



The inaugural **AWBFA Awards**, organized by Woman Banker Magazine, are now open for nominations.



The awards **celebrate visionary women** and transformative projects shaping the future of banking and finance across Africa.



These recognitions highlight **exceptional leadership, innovation, and institutional commitment** to advancing gender diversity within the financial sector.

Award Categories

We invite nominations across the following distinguished categories:

LEADERSHIP & STRATEGY

Women Banker CEO/MD
Women in Bank Boards
Women in Central Banks

WOMEN IN FINANCE

Women in Private Equity
Women in Fintech
Women in Insurance



SPECIALIZED SECTORS

Women in Wealth Management
Women in Compliance
Women in Corporate finance
Women in Syndications
Women in trade finance
Women in Risk management
Women in Marketing
Women in HR
Women in Legal

INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT

Banking on Women

Award Evaluation Criteria

Nominees will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Alignment with Core Values:** Demonstrated commitment to organizational or industry values through actions such as training, mentorship, and community engagement.
- **Authenticity and Passion:** Evidence of genuine enthusiasm, purpose, and dedication to their work.
- **Distinctiveness:** Clear differentiating factors that set the nominee apart from peers within the industry.
- **Impact and Results:** Verifiable and measurable outcomes, including but not limited to revenue growth, sales performance, operational efficiency, or reduced staff turnover.
- **Innovation and Originality:** Introduction of fresh ideas, creative solutions, or unique approaches that drive meaningful change.
- **Leadership and Character:** Positive influence on people, organizations, communities, or causes, including resilience, ethical conduct, and strong problem-solving capabilities.
- **Measurable Change:** Demonstrated impact through tangible indicators such as cultural transformation, improved productivity, or increased client and stakeholder engagement.
- **Evidence-Based Examples:** Provision of specific, concrete examples and documented achievements rather than general or anecdotal praise.

How to Nominate

To register, you are required to **submit your profile** (500–750 words) **along with 3 key achievements** and a **high-resolution picture**.

Nomination Deadline: 15th of February 2026

Nomination Email: info@womanbanker.com

For enquiries: Reach us via WhatsApp at +41 76 709 64 90

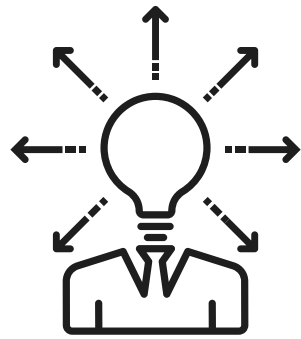
Join us in celebrating outstanding women shaping Africa's financial future.



Sponsorship Opportunities

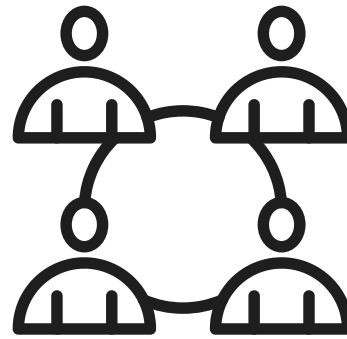


Why Sponsor AWBFA?

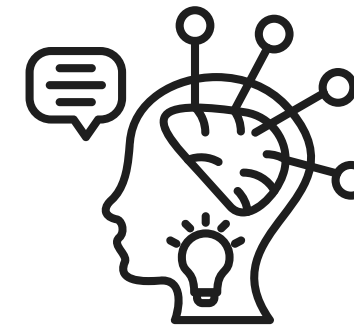


Brand Leadership:

Position your organization as a champion for diversity, innovation, and women's advancement.



Industry Access: Engage directly with top decision-makers, regulators, and influencers.



Thought Leadership: Gain speaking and visibility opportunities that reinforce your role in shaping the future of finance.

Sponsorship Tiers & Benefits

TIER	INVESTMENT	KEY BENEFITS
PLATINUM SPONSOR	\$70,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Naming rights to a major event segment (e.g., Awards Night)• Prime logo placement on all branding, media assets & stage backdrop• 10 VIP seats + full gala table• 20 sqm premium exhibition space• Speaking opportunity at conference opening or keynote session• Brand featured in press releases, interviews & digital campaigns• One dedicated media spotlight (video or interview)• Logo on step-and-repeat, lanyards, delegate bags & LED screens• Certificate & appreciation trophy
DIAMOND SPONSOR	\$50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logo on major event materials, website & stage backdrop• 6 VIP seats at the Awards Gala• 10 sqm exhibition booth• Speaking slot in one thematic conference session• Full-page advert in program brochure• Featured social media promotion• Opportunity to sponsor one award category

Sponsorship Tiers & Benefits

TIER	INVESTMENT	KEY BENEFITS
GOLD SPONSOR	\$25,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logo on event banners, website & brochure • 4 VIP seats • 6 sqm exhibition booth • Half-page advert in programme brochure • Inclusion in press & social media announcements • Opportunity to include branded corporate gift in delegate bags
SILVER SPONSOR	\$15,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logo on website & event backdrop • 2 VIP seats • 4 sqm exhibition booth • Quarter-page advert in event brochure • Mention in social media acknowledgment posts
EXHIBITOR PACKAGE	\$3,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard 3×3m exhibition booth • Access to all conference sessions • Company logo in exhibitor listing • 2 complimentary passes • Opportunity to distribute marketing materials or samples

Exclusive / Additional Sponsorship Opportunities

Ideal for brands seeking targeted visibility or tailored placement:

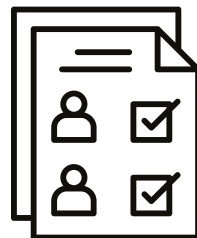
CATEGORY	INVESTMENT	DETAILS
Banquet Dinner Sponsor	\$20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Branding of entire dinner setup, stage, menus, and programme
Award Category Sponsor	\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sponsor an award (e.g., Banker of the Year). Logo on trophy + stage mention
Conference Bag Sponsor	\$3,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logo on delegate bags
Lanyard Sponsor	\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logo on all attendee lanyards
Media Lounge Sponsor	\$4,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Branding of press/interview zone
Networking Cocktail Sponsor	\$8,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Branding + short remarks opportunity during cocktail

Thought Leadership & Branding Extensions



Custom Opportunities

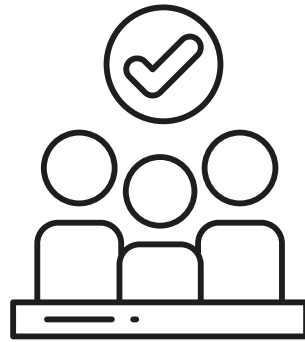
- **Panel Host:** Moderate a topical industry conversation
- **Video Message:** 60-second leadership message played during the conference
- **Branded Giveaways:** Tote bags, notebooks, pens, tech items
- **Social Media Amplification:** Posts and stories across event channels



Post-Event Visibility

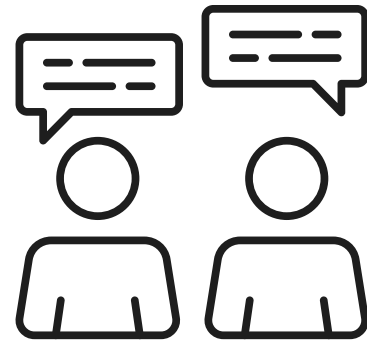
- Access to opt-in attendee contact list
- Feature in post-event publication (interview or branded article)

Expected Outcomes



For Attendees

- New insights, leadership tools, mentorship pathways, and expanded networks



For Sponsors

- Elevated brand positioning
- Direct access to industry leaders
- CSR alignment with gender inclusion initiatives



For the Industry

- A stronger, more inclusive, and forward-thinking financial ecosystem

How To Get Involved



Sponsor: Select a tier or request a customized package



Speak: Nominate a leader to deliver a talk or moderate a session



Attend: Register your team for the conference and the awards gala

Thank YOU!

FOR FUTHER INFORMATION:

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AWBFA '26

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FINANCE CONFERENCE & AWARDS



Lagos
Marriott
Hotel



20th
March
2026



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STRATEGIC AND
EVENT EXECUTION
PARTNER



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