



As 2024 draws to a close, it is with immense pride and gratitude that we reflect on the remarkable strides made by Africa Policy Conversations (AfPC) this year. From empowering communities with transformative programs to driving grassroots development and fostering dialogue on critical policy issues, our work has been a testament to our unwavering commitment to shaping homegrown solutions for Africa's progress.

This year, AfPC has continued to serve as a dynamic platform for policy innovation and collaboration, leveraging the dedication of our volunteers and the expertise of stakeholders across sectors. With over 500 volunteers from diverse backgrounds, we have worked tirelessly to amplify voices, engage citizens, and deliver impactful initiatives.

In this document, we provide a comprehensive review of our accomplishments in 2024. From hosting agenda-setting town halls, to pioneering research, to cultivating spaces for leadership development, we have sought to push the boundaries of what is possible when people come together with a shared vision for change. Each initiative highlights our commitment to building a sustainable, inclusive, and thriving Africa.

This review is not just a reflection of what we have achieved—it is a call to action for what lies ahead. As we look toward the future, we remain steadfast in our mission to inspire visionary leadership, foster civic engagement, and champion evidence-based policy solutions across the continent.



## Unveiling of Our Advisory Council Members 🕕 😂 🥮 💿 🕑









A major highlight of 2024 was the unveiling of AfPC's Advisory Council. This council consists of distinguished professionals and experts from various sectors, all committed to providing strategic advice and guidance to help achieve AfPC's goals and objectives. The esteemed members of our Advisory Council are:



## Tosin Kasali - Vice President, Business Development at HMS Host

Tosin Kasali is a business development professional with over 15 years of experience in various sectors, including food and beverage and telecommunications. He has worked with companies in retail and healthcare and is currently focused on developing innovative restaurant and retail concepts in U.S. airports. Tosin specializes in client relationship management at the CXO level, with skills in P&L management, project management, and financial analysis. He effectively uses digital marketing to engage executives and is a member of the Harvard Business Review Advisory Council, contributing to industry best practices.



## Dr. Lavina Ramkissoon - Ambassador to the African Union, Sixth Region Global (East Africa, Southern Africa, and African Diaspora)

She is a prominent leader in artificial intelligence, recognized for her work in responsible AI and ethics. With expertise in psychology, technology, and economics, she advocates for the unification of the African tech space. Lavina has received multiple accolades, including a Top 10 Advancing Al finalist and a Top 100 Woman in Al Ethics. As a founder of various initiatives, she enhances data through collective knowledge and holds key roles across sectors. Known as the #aiMOM, she drives innovation in AI and promotes ethical policies, striving for a more inclusive technological landscape in Africa.



## Oluwatoyin Emmanuel Olubake - Investment Director, Novastar Ventures

Oluwatoyin is a seasoned investment professional with over 14 years of experience in growth markets, specializing in impact investing and venture capital. As the Investment Director at Novastar Ventures, he focuses on AgTech, FinTech, and CleanTech startups driving economic growth in Nigeria. With expertise in agribusiness, renewable energy, and technology, he has held key roles such as Board Director at Esoko and Associate Director of Portfolio at Acumen. A Mechanical Engineering graduate from the University of Nottingham, Oluwatoyin is passionate about fostering entrepreneurship and driving sustainable development in Africa.



## Amanda N. Henry - Vice President, Business Development and Women's **Wellness at Therabody**

Amanda Henry is a dynamic leader with over 15 years of experience in Public Relations, Creative Direction, and Entrepreneurship in the Fashion and Tech industries. She specializes in brand communication, strategy, and storytelling, particularly through experiential events. As the head of Brand Partnerships at Therabody, Amanda creates innovative collaborations that set industry standards. She thrives in creative environments and is passionate about investing in the future, actively supporting female founders as an Angel Investor. Her focus on empowering female-led brands and early-stage consumer startups aims to foster a diverse and inclusive business landscape.



## Ala'a Kolkaila - Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center; Atlantic Council Millennium Fellow; MIT-Sloan Fellow '25

Ala'a Kolkaila, a 2024 Millennium Fellow, merges economic development with tech innovation. She has advised Egypt's ministers on sustainability, led UNECA's blue economy research, and advanced financial inclusion for eight million farmers. With advanced degrees in economics and public administration, Kolkaila is a fellow at MIT Sloan and the Belfer Center, focusing on emerging tech policies. She is also launching a venture to integrate real-time citizen data into policymaking, promoting participatory governance.

We are excited to work with this exceptional group of leaders as they bring their expertise and vision to support AfPC's mission.

## **Notes from AfPC Board of Trustees**



As 2024 draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey this year has been. First and foremost, I thank God for His continued grace and faithfulness, especially for the gift of health. Earlier this year, I faced a personal health challenge that truly shook me, but by God's grace, I am doing much better now. This experience was a reminder of the fragility of life and the importance of staying grounded in faith and gratitude.

This year has been a season of growth and stretching, and while it has been filled with its fair share of challenges and obstacles, I am grateful to say it has been a successful one. We have made remarkable strides at AfPC. One of our proudest achievements is the expansion of our community. We now have a vibrant UK community that has added immense value to our work. We have also deepened our grassroots presence through two impactful town hall meetings in Lagos and Abia State, where we engaged with local communities and heard their concerns firsthand. Additionally, our election observance efforts in South Africa further extended our reach across the continent.

Another significant milestone was the establishment of our Advisory Council, a group of seasoned professionals and experts from various fields who are committed to helping AfPC achieve its mission and vision. Their insight and support will be crucial in amplifying the impact of our work as we continue to grow.

We also kick-started our "Node" initiative, a knowledge and resource center designed to foster dialogue, research, and collaboration on pressing policy issues across Africa. This is just the beginning of a broader vision we have for equipping the next generation of leaders.

This year, we also witnessed elections in Ghana and other African countries, and the rising demand from our youth for better leadership. There is a palpable energy, and they are eager to get involved in governance. At AfPC, we have worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between the people and their leaders, but we know there is still much work to be done. The need to equip emerging leaders is critical, and we remain committed to this cause.

As we look to the future, we are more determined than ever to create a lasting impact and implement our strategic plans for 2024. In the coming year, we will continue to focus on game-changing advocacy and policy implementation in critical areas such as the health sector, trade and investment, and the creative industry. These efforts will include launching programs aimed at improving healthcare access, fostering trade and investment partnerships, and supporting the growth of Africa's creative industries. Additionally, we will focus on fundraising for the groundbreaking of our "Node" initiative, which will serve as a hub for policy research, collaboration, and dialogue.

Another significant goal for 2024 is to host an annual event in Africa, preferably in South Africa or kenya. This event will bring together policymakers, thought leaders, and key stakeholders to discuss and shape Africa's future. Furthermore, we are excited to collaborate with the National Policy Alliance in the US, alongside the Congressional Black Caucus, to plan a trip to Nigeria and

other parts of Africa. This partnership will help strengthen the connection between the African diaspora and the continent, fostering greater collaboration on key issues. We plan to collaborate with organizations, thought leaders, policy experts, and civil society groups – all those who are ready to invest in Nigeria and work toward solving the economic and governance challenges that hinder her growth and development.

Thank you to everyone who has supported AfPC throughout this year. Your dedication and commitment continue to inspire us. We are excited for what lies ahead, and with your continued partnership, we will achieve even greater things in the coming year.

Wishing you all a peaceful and prosperous new year.



With gratitude, Chinenye Uwanaka Co-founder, Africa Policy Conversations (AfPC)

#### Dear AfPC Community Members',

As we approach the end of another year, we wanted to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude for your continued support and engagement with The Africa Policy Conversations (AfPC). Your active participation and insightful contributions have been instrumental in shaping our work and driving impactful discussions on critical issues facing Africa.

This year, we've been fortunate to:

#### \*Host several:

- 1. Policy Conversation events within and outside Africa
- 2. TownHall events
- 3. Grassroot Engagements
- 4. Webinars
- 5. Election Observations
- 6. Post Publications, and
- 7. Make Policy Recommendations

While we are proud of our accomplishments, we recognize that there is still much work to be done. We are committed to continuing our mission of revolutionizing Policies across Africa and fostering a vibrant community of thinkers and doers.

In the coming year, we plan to continue our quest for a better Africa. We believe that together, we can make a significant impact on Africa's future. Thank you once again for your support, and we look forward to working with you in 2025 and beyond.

Wishing you a fun and relaxing Christmas season and a prosperous New Year!



Warmly,
Uchechi Mba-Uzoukwu
Co-Founder,
Africa Policy Conversations (AfPC)

As 2024 draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared this year. From vibrant dialogues to transformative ideas, your unwavering passion and commitment have fueled our collective mission to reimagine the future of policy in Africa.

This year has been a tapestry of growth, innovation, and impact. Together, we've tackled pressing issues, celebrated bold ideas, and spotlighted the voices shaping our continent's narrative. Whether through spirited conversations or thoughtful collaborations, you've made Africa Policy Conversations a space where ideas can ignite action.

As we look to 2025, we're excited about what lies ahead. New opportunities, expanded networks, and deeper engagements await—all fueled by the same spirit of collaboration that defines our community. But before we leap into the new year, let's take a moment to celebrate our shared wins. You've been instrumental in making this community a hub of excellence, and for that, we are immensely grateful.

Here's to a restful holiday season filled with joy, reflection, and anticipation for the journey ahead. Let's continue working on inspiring change, breaking barriers, and amplifying African voices in 2025 and beyond.



With warm regards and endless gratitude, Jackie Ugokwe, Co-founder, Africa Policy Conversations (AfPC)

As the year comes to an end, it has been a transformative period at Africa Policy Conversations (AfPC). I am deeply inspired by the impact we have made and the significant strides we have taken in advancing our mission for the benefit of Africans across the continent and in the diaspora.

One of this year's highlights was our X (formerly Twitter) Space event on "Assessing the Impact of Protests Globally," where we explored the recent protests in the UK and examined the critical role of protests in amplifying citizens' voices within democratic systems. Such discussions underscore the vital importance of citizen engagement in shaping policies that reflect the will and needs of the people.

Additionally, the Lagos Town Hall Meeting hosted by AfPC featured an engaging panel discussion titled "Active Citizenship: Good Governance and Representation at the Grassroots Level." This discussion was designed to provide valuable insights into the role of grassroots engagement in fostering accountable and inclusive governance.

Beyond these professional achievements, this year has also reminded us of the value of collaboration, and the shared principles that unite us. I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone at AfPC for your hard work, dedication, and teamwork, which have been instrumental in advancing our mission.

As we embrace this Christmas season, may it bring you and your loved ones peace, joy, and moments of reflection.



Yours sincerely, Andi Daze, MCIArb., M.CIoD Trustee, Africa Policy Conversations (AfPC)

## **Notes from AfPC Volunteers**



As I reflect on the past year, i am glad for the opportunity to manage one of AfPC's community. Together, we've achieved notable milestones: written insightful articles, explored partnerships and meaningful connections. I'm particularly proud of the organization's ongoing projects such as "Framing a new legislature" and other initiatives.

As we step into a new year, I look forward to more active participation of community members, strategic partnerships and collaborations and networking in the community.



Uduakobong Okon, Community Lead, Legal and Strategic Affairs, Africa Policy Conversations (AfPC)

As we conclude 2024, we reflect with pride and gratitude on a year of transformative progress within the programs of African Policy Conversations. Through rigorous research, dynamic dialogues, and collaborative efforts, we have tackled critical policy issues, fostering meaningful conversations that inspire change.

Our programs have amplified diverse voices, strengthened partnerships, and championed evidence-based policymaking across Africa. Looking ahead to 2025, we are committed to collaborating with all community leads to deepen our impact by expanding research initiatives, promoting more inclusive and innovative dialogues, and driving actionable policy recommendations.



Bahago Kashema, Community Lead, Programs Africa Policy Conversations (AfPC)

This past year has been both an interesting and challenging journey as a Community Lead for Programs (Gender). I have witnessed impactful projects that promote Citizen Engagement, African Collaboration, Democracy, Transparency and Accountability for Good Governance. These initiatives have not only driven change but also personally inspired growth that has deepened my passion for African development. As we look to the new year, I'm committed to building on our momentum and empowering more individuals to become active citizens. The journey to a better Nigeria and Africa requires true commitment to collective progress, and look forward to continuing this work together.



Bahago Kashema, Community Lead, Programs Africa Policy Conversations (AfPC)

# SA Descides Webinar - Roadmap to the pre-election period in South Africa





On February 29, 2024, Africa Policy Conversations (AfPC) hosted a thought-provoking webinar that brought together prominent speakers from diverse communities and sectors across South Africa. The event delved into critical factors expected to shape the outcome of the 2024 South Africa general elections.

In preparation for the webinar, our dedicated South African AfPC volunteers conducted a comprehensive study to understand the perspectives of the electorate. Their findings revealed key issues driving voter concerns, including economic inequality, the energy crisis, land redistribution, education disparities, healthcare inequities, violence and crime, and corruption.

The webinar served as a platform to unpack these pressing issues and explore the policies South Africans should prioritize in the manifestos of political aspirants. By fostering dialogue on these critical topics, the event aimed to empower citizens with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions at the polls and advocate for meaningful, transformative policies.

# Economic Equality and Land Redistribution Remain Core Concerns

Addressing economic disparities and ensuring fair land redistribution were highlighted as critical priorities for voters. Panelists emphasized that aspirants' manifestos must include actionable policies to tackle unemployment, wealth gaps, and equitable access to resources.

## Energy Crisis as a Decisive Electoral Factor

The ongoing energy crisis in South Africa emerged as a central issue, with participants urging voters to demand comprehensive and sustainable energy policies from candidates. Panelists called for long-term solutions to ensure reliable electricity access, drive industrial growth, and enhance overall economic stability.

## The Role of Accountability in Fighting Corruption

Corruption was identified as a major factor eroding trust in governance. Speakers stressed the need for political aspirants to present clear strategies to enhance accountability, strengthen institutions, and restore public confidence in leadership through transparent and ethical governance practices.

# The Role of the Diaspora in Nation Building and Inclusive Governance in Africa 2024



AfPC hosted a dynamic event in London, United Kingdom, focused on Diaspora Engagement and Policy Recommendations. Bringing together members of the UK African community, the event served as a vibrant platform for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange.

The event featured insightful panel sessions with esteemed speakers such as Gbite Oduneye, Chantal Uwizera, James O. Maduekeh, Onyekachi Wambu, and others.

These panelists shared their expertise and perspectives on a range of topics, including access to capital, initiatives supporting African youth, and the role of the diaspora in contributing to Africa's development.









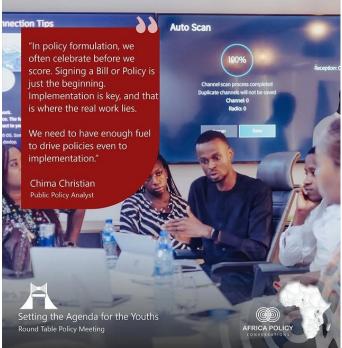


# **Setting the Agenda for the Youth Roundtable Discussion**

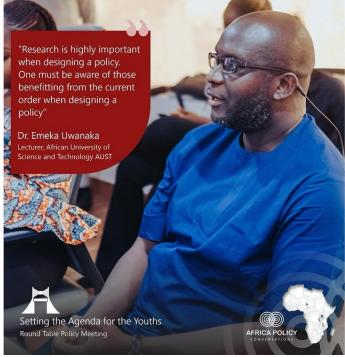


In April 2024, AfPC convened a dynamic round table event themed "Setting the Agenda for the Youth." This gathering brought together a diverse cohort of young people representing various organizations and sectors across Nigeria.

Held in Abuja, Nigeria, the event served as a pivotal platform for Nigerian youth to voice their concerns, identify pressing challenges, and collectively chart a course towards meaningful solutions.







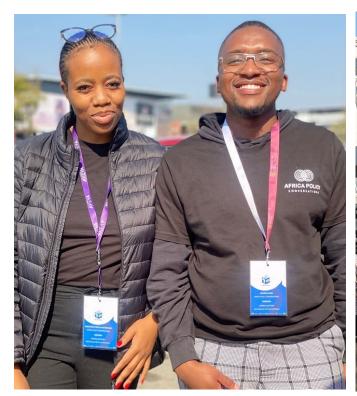
Throughout the day-long event, participants engaged in candid and insightful discussions, exploring a wide range of topics pertinent to youth empowerment and socioeconomic development in Nigeria.

From access to quality education and healthcare to unemployment, entrepreneurship opportunities, and sociopolitical inclusion, the conversations delved deep into the multifaceted issues facing Nigerian youth today.



## **South Africa Election Observation 2024**









The Africa Policy Conversations (AFPC) South Africa community actively participated in observing the 2024 South African general elections. This initiative aimed to assess the electoral process, monitor transparency, and gauge citizen engagement.

Our community volunteers visited polling stations across various regions, reporting an impressive voter turnout that reflected the public's commitment to shaping their nation's future. Observers noted the orderly conduct of the elections, highlighting areas of improvement such as logistical coordination and accessibility for all voters.

The findings from this observation will contribute to AFPC's broader efforts to promote democratic processes across Africa.

## **Democracy Day Sensitization Walk**











On #DemocracyDay, June 12th, 2024, AfPC organized a Democracy Day Sensitization Walk, engaging directly with grassroots communities to understand their perspectives on democracy. Our team met with traders, sellers, drivers, and other everyday Nigerians to discuss the state of the nation's democratic processes and their impact on the lives of citizens. During our interactions, we discovered that many had lost hope in the Nigerian democratic system due to years of unfulfilled promises and governance challenges.

These conversations were both eye-opening and deeply impactful, underscoring the need to bridge the gap between governance and the people.

## **Nurturing Nigeria's Future Event**



AfPC proudly collaborated with the Nigerian Professionals Network to host the Nurturing Nigeria's Future event in London. This impactful gathering brought together members of the Nigerian diaspora, State Governors, the Minister of Trade and Investments, and the Director General of NITDA to explore opportunities for fostering greater diaspora investment in Nigeria.



The event served as a unique platform for investors, change agents, and thought leaders to engage directly with key policymakers, ask critical questions, and explore pathways for collaboration at both federal and subnational levels.

A courtesy visit to the Nigerian High Commission in the UK, led by Torera Sotinwa of AFPC and Olumide Lawal, Convener of the Nigerian Professionals Network, laid the groundwork for this successful event. The High Commission pledged its full support, recognizing the importance of the diaspora's role in Nigeria's development.

## **AfPC X (formally Twitter) Spaces**



In August 2024, AfPC hosted a series of impactful discussions aimed at examining the global effects of protests on various spaces. This initiative was particularly timely, given the significant protests occurring in Nigeria during that period. The discussions brought together thought leaders, policy experts, professionals from diverse backgrounds, including:



**Samson Itodo**, Executive Director of Yiaga Africa, who has been instrumental in advocating for democratic governance and civic engagement in Nigeria.



**Oluomo of Derby**, founder of the NIUK Community, who has worked to amplify the voices of Nigerians in the diaspora and foster community engagement.



**Azeezat Yishawu**, Speaker of the Nigeria Youth Parliament, representing the interests and concerns of young Nigerians in the political landscape.



A key focus of these conversations was exploring the role that leaders, particularly parliaments and legislatures, should play in addressing protests. Participants discussed how democratic systems can respond to the persistent calls for good governance and meaningful representation of youth voices across Africa. They questioned whether current political frameworks are equipped to meet the hopes and aspirations of citizens demanding accountability and reform.

These conversations were not only significant but also timely, given the #EndBadGovernance protests, which took place from August 1 to August 10, 2024. By hosting these discussions, AfPC continues to create a platform for reflection and action among leaders who are committed to addressing the underlying issues that fuel such protests.

## **Lagos Town Hall Meeting**



On September 28, 2024, AfPC hosted the Lagos Town Hall Meeting at The Nest Innovation Technology Park, Yaba, bringing together a dynamic mix of citizens, community leaders, entrepreneurs, and government representatives at federal, state, and local levels. The event provided a platform to address the key socio-economic challenges facing Lagosians, emphasizing innovation, active citizenship, and the transformative role of grassroots governance.







Lagos, often celebrated as Nigeria's economic powerhouse, thrives on its entrepreneurial spirit and vibrant culture. However, beneath this vitality lie significant challenges; limited access to leaders, inadequate representation, and systemic issues like energy deficits and gaps in governance. The Town Hall meeting sought to bridge this gap by creating a space for collaboration and mutual understanding. Some of the highlights and achievements from the town hall meeting include: Introduction of The Policy Champions Program, ensuring that citizen feedback gathered during the meeting will inform future town halls and track progress on implemented solutions.

The event underscored the critical role of grassroots engagement in building accountability and driving impactful policy reforms.

## **Aba Virtual Round Table Meeting**



The Abia Agenda Setting Meeting, hosted by Africa Policy Conversations (AFPC) on December 2, 2024, convened a diverse group of stakeholders to shape the future of Abia State.



Ezechikamnayo Ezindu Jubilee Former Deputy Chairman, Umunneochi Local Government, Abia state Nigeria.



**Hon. Chimereze Okeigbo Okoro** Special Adviser to the Governor of Abia State on IGR



Joseph Ikpe CEO, GAFFOAN) and GFP www.gaffoan.org. Business Development Consultant.



Prince Uruakpa Economist. Founding member, GAFFON. CEO, Kembla Wears.



**Ebere Chiemela**Southeast Nigeria Regional
Coordinator for YALI,
Co-founder, TechRookies.



UKWA
Director, Initiative for
Adaptive Thinking
and Strategic
Leadership



**Ugomdi Toskyme** Convener, Aba Fashion Week. Creative Director, Toskyme Fashion House



Hon. Njoku
Chidiebere christian
Councilor representing
AmasaaWard 5 in
Osisioma Ngwa
Legislative Council.



Kelechi Imo Executive Director, Transformative Justice and Development Network (TRAJDEN), Advocate for effective policies



Comr. Cokey Lordson Nwachukwu Former Deputy Chairman, Ikwuano LGA. Former NANS JCC Chairman, Abia State.



**Igwe Uguru** Founder, Rad 5

The event featured four impactful panel sessions focusing on Local Governance, Public-Private Partnerships, Powering Aba: Reviving Industries and Enhancing the E-Commerce Sector, and Building a Thriving Ecosystem.

Panelists included Aba-based industry experts from the private sector, current and former government officials, including LGA chairpersons and councilors, as well as the Special Adviser to the Abia Governor on Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).

These discussions provided a platform for exchanging ideas on governance, industrial revival, and economic collaboration, culminating in actionable recommendations to drive Abia State's sustainable development and innovation.

## **AfPC Community Awards**

Africa Policy Conversations (AFPC) is a volunteer-driven organization powered by the passion, dedication, and professionalism of over 500 volunteers from across Africa and beyond. These dynamic individuals bring their best every day to help us achieve our mission of championing homegrown policies that drive meaningful change across the continent. We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on their remarkable contributions!



#### **Leadership Excellence Award!**

### **Congratulations to Mojisola Awoyinfa!**

Moji leads AFPC's UK community with unmatched dedication, driving impactful policy conversations both online and offline. She's a true innovator, organizing events, commemorating key dates, and collaborating seamlessly with fellow volunteers. She has been a key player in the facilitation of most of our programs in the UK. We say Thank you, Moji, for your exceptional leadership and commitment to AFPC's vision!



#### **Community Impact Award!**

#### **Congratulations to Gabriella Onah!**

A passionate lawyer and AFPC's Community Lead, Programs (Gender), Gabriella has spearheaded impactful initiatives, from recognizing 50 African Remarkable Women to organizing a democracy sensitization walk on Nigerian Democracy Day. Her dedication to creating change inspires us all! Thank you, Gabriella, for your remarkable contributions!



#### **Collaboration Champion Award!**

**Congratulations to Dieketseng Nzhadzhaba,** our South Africa Community Lead!

Dieketseng has been instrumental in fostering partnerships for AFPC's impactful programs in South Africa, including the South Africa Elections Observation initiative and the SA Decides Webinar. Her collaborative spirit is driving change and making a difference! Thank you for your incredible efforts!



## **Outstanding Contribution Award!**

#### **Congratulations to Torera Sotinwa!**

Torera's dedication and exceptional efforts have been pivotal to AFPC's success. Her contributions have consistently gone above and beyond, leaving a lasting impact on our mission to champion homegrown policies in Africa.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and hard work!

## **AfPC Community Awards**



#### **Innovative Thinker Award!**

## **Congratulations to Bahago Kashema!**

Bahago's creative ideas and forward-thinking approach have driven meaningful innovations within AFPC. His ability to think outside the box continues to inspire progress and elevate our mission of advancing homegrown policies in Africa.

Thank you for your ingenuity and vision!



## A heartfelt shoutout to Uduakobong Okon, our Community Lead, Legal and Strategic Affairs!

Uduakobong's unwavering commitment, expertise, and dedication have been instrumental in steering AFPC's legal and strategic initiatives. Her leadership continues to strengthen our mission and empower our community.

Thank you for your exceptional service!



## **Special Recognition!**

## A huge thank you to Remmy Tortun, our AFPC UK Lead (Strategy and Design)!

Remmy's exceptional creativity and strategic insights have been pivotal in shaping AFPC's initiatives in the UK. Her dedication to impactful designs and innovative strategies continues to elevate our work and inspire our community. We celebrate your invaluable contributions!





