

Pan-African Development Internship Program Report: Cohort 1



AfPC Pan-African
Development Internship
Program



Duration: March 12, 2025 – June 30, 2025
Participants: 58 interns from 12 African countries



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Program Overview

The inaugural cohort of the AfPC Pan-African Development Internship Program brought together a diverse group of young professionals from across Africa for a 12-week journey of intensive policy immersion, capacity development, and real-world engagement. Interns were grouped into thematic areas and working groups to deepen their understanding of Africa’s policy landscape and sharpen their leadership and technical skills.

Thematic Sessions & Group Activities

Kick-off Leadership Session

Facilitator: Prof. Habumuremyi Pierre Damien, Former Prime Minister of Rwanda

Date: March 13, 2025

Topic: Foundational Leadership Lessons (All Interns)

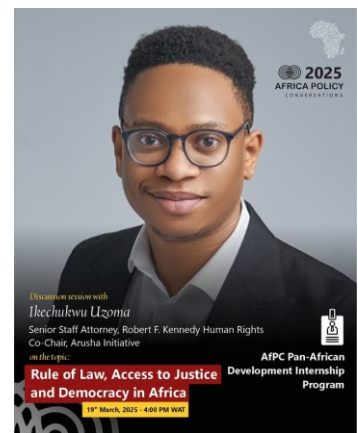


This session which was moderated by Chinenye Uwanaka explored the essence of transformative leadership, drawing from Prof. Habumuremyi Pierre Damien’s experience as a former Prime Minister of Rwanda. Interns engaged in powerful reflections on values-driven leadership, integrity in governance, and the importance of visionary thinking in building resilient African institutions. The session set the tone for the program, inspiring interns to embrace leadership as service and responsibility.

Thematic Groups & Facilitated Sessions:

1. Advocacy, Rule of Law & Access to Justice

Introduction to Rule of Law in Africa – Ikechukwu Uzoma
(March 19, 2025)



This session provided interns with a foundational understanding of the Rule of Law in Africa, exploring how legal systems, justice access, and democratic governance intersect. Led by Ikechukwu Uzoma, the session emphasized the role of youth in advancing legal reforms and holding institutions accountable through informed advocacy.

- Policy review and recommendations across multiple African countries
- Weekly access to justice research and presentations
- Policy survey and research for International Convention for Africa Day(ICAD)
- Donor outreach draft letters for (ICAD)

2. Climate & Sustainability

Introduction to Climate & Sustainability Policies – Mannat Jaspal (March 26, 2025)

- Individual policy deep-dive briefing paper
- Group research on Africa's critical natural resources for energy transition



Facilitated by **Mannat Jaspal**, this session unpacked key climate and sustainability policies shaping Africa’s future. Interns explored regional frameworks, environmental governance, and the critical role of youth in driving climate action and sustainability initiatives across the continent.

3. Technology & Innovation

- **Intro to Tech & Innovation Policies in Africa – Moses Faya (April 2, 2025)**

Led by Moses Faya, this session introduced interns to Africa’s emerging tech and innovation policy landscape. It highlighted the importance of digital inclusion, regulatory frameworks, and youth-driven innovation as tools for accelerating development and solving local challenges.



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4. Trade, Investment & MSMEs

- **Intro to Trade, Investment, and MSME Policies in Africa** - Dr Ogbo Okiti (April 16, 2025)

#TradeNotAidInAfrica campaign piloted



Dr. Ogbo Okiti guided interns through the fundamentals of trade, investment, and MSME policies in Africa. The session emphasized the urgency of boosting intra-African trade, supporting small businesses, and designing policies that unlock sustainable economic growth under the AfCFTA framework.

5. Gender

- **Intro to Gender & Gender Mainstreaming in Africa** - Zainab Haruna



Facilitated by **Zainab Haruna**, this session focused on gender and gender mainstreaming policies across Africa. Interns examined structural inequalities, the importance of inclusive policymaking, and practical strategies for promoting gender equity in governance and development spaces.

6. Access to Finance

- **Intro to Access to Finance Policies in Africa (May 14, 2025)** - Prof. Joseph Nnanna

Prof. Joseph Nnanna led this session on access to finance policies in Africa, shedding light on financial inclusion, regulatory barriers, and innovative financing models. Interns explored how effective policies can unlock capital for youth, MSMEs, and underserved communities across the continent.



General Sessions (All Interns):

- **Introduction to Impact Investing (May 7, 2025) - by**
Oluwatoyin Emmanuel-Olubake

Oluwatoyin Emmanuel-Olubake introduced interns to the concept of impact investing—blending financial returns with social and environmental impact. The session emphasized how youth-led ventures can attract mission-aligned capital and contribute meaningfully to Africa’s development goals.



- **Data Gathering for Policy Formulation –**
Obinna Uzoije (May 2, 2025)

Obinna Uzoije facilitated a hands-on session exploring the role of data in shaping effective public policies. Interns learned how to design surveys, collect meaningful data, and apply evidence-based insights to influence decision-making and drive policy innovation across Africa.



- **Fundamentals of Fundraising**

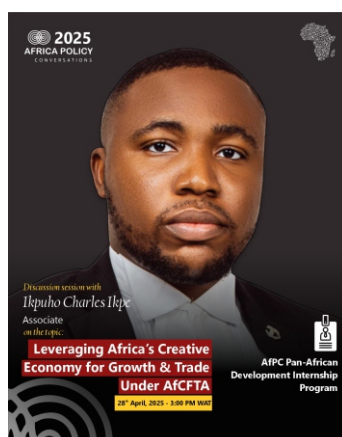
This session equipped interns with core fundraising strategies essential for non-profits, advocacy campaigns, and development programs. It explored donor engagement, proposal writing, and how to align fundraising efforts with organizational impact goals across Africa.



- **Leveraging Africa’s Creative Economy for Growth & Trade Under AfCFTA (April 28, 2025)**

- Ikpuho Charles Ikpe

Facilitated by Ikpuho Charles Ikpe, this session examined how Africa’s creative industries—fashion, art, music, film, and more—can be powerful drivers of economic growth and intra-African trade. Interns explored how the AfCFTA can unlock opportunities for creatives across the continent.



- **Personal Branding for Africa's Changemakers –**
Elijah Elvis Kraftzman (May 28, 2025)

Led by **Elijah Elvis Kraftzman**, this session empowered interns with the tools to craft compelling personal brands. It highlighted how authenticity, storytelling, and strategic communication can help young Africans position themselves as influential voices in policy, advocacy, and leadership.



- **Weekly Discussion Forums**

Interns actively participated in weekly forums to share insights, troubleshoot challenges, and foster peer-to-peer learning. These sessions strengthened collaboration, deepened thematic understanding, and built a strong sense of community across countries and working groups.

Most of the sessions were also planned and moderated by the interns and this was targeted at boosting their planning and presentation skills, as well as their confidence.

Working Groups & Skills Development

To complement the thematic experience, interns were embedded into functional **working groups** designed to strengthen technical, research, and communication skills across multiple areas of policy engagement.

1. Research & Publications Working Group

- Expanded the webinar report: "Empowering Grassroots Growth in Abia: Lessons from Global Success Stories"
- Led the major article publication: "We Can't Keep Guessing: Why Africa Needs to Stimulate Policies Before Launching Them"

2. Grant Writing & Partnerships Group

- Conducted institutional grant research
- Drafted partnership proposal documents with suggested areas of collaboration

3. Media & Communications Group

- Developed policy advocacy videos across countries
- Conducted interviews on policy awareness, especially around intra-African trade

4. Research & Publicity Group

- Launched and distributed AfCFTA-focused surveys in multiple countries
- Gathered over 300 responses assessing:
 - Internet penetration
 - Logistics and infrastructure
 - Ease of doing business
 - Trade barriers and storage infrastructure

20,000 Africans are joining this Survey! Your voice matters!

Trade, Innovation, and Youth Empowerment in Africa: What are the barriers?

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5. AfPC Policy Design Lab

- Supported interns in crafting capstone projects
- Offered continuous guidance in building practical, policy-based solutions across thematic areas



6. Access to Justice

- Bridging the gaps: Country perspectives on access to justice in Africa (written report and presentation).

7. Climate and sustainability:

- Youth perspective on climate and sustainability policies in Africa
- Researched natural resources in Africa most critical to the global energy transition

JOIN THE LIVE SESSION | 1st EDITION

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TRADE NOT AID IN AFRICA

SAT. 10TH MAY, 2025 | 6PM WAT

Moderators

Oyindamola Martins
Intern, Technology and Innovation Thematic Group APC

Sarra Ben Elkadhi
Intern, Trade, Investments and MSMEs Thematic Group APC

ICAD

TRADE NOT AID IN AFRICA

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible speakers, engaged audience, and dedicated moderators who made Saturday's Twitter Spaces session impactful. Your insights and energy continue to drive the conversations that matter for Africa's future.

Let's keep building together.

thank you

Monitoring, Evaluation & Engagement

Throughout the program, interns completed session-based **pre- and post-evaluation forms** to assess comprehension, impact, and skill acquisition. This rigorous monitoring and evaluation framework informed ongoing support and highlighted learning progress.

Weekly tasks, reports, and presentations kept interns actively engaged and accountable. Working groups collaborated across borders, and thematic groups deepened learning through expert-led sessions.

Capstone Projects

With the guidance of the AfPC team, each thematic group developed and refined a **capstone project** to be presented during the graduation ceremony. These projects showcase the application of knowledge and the real potential of youth-led solutions in areas like climate resilience, justice reform, access to finance, and healthcare delivery.

On graduation day, they presented these projects to **external stakeholders and potential partners** to explore opportunities to support or invest in these projects.



Capstone Projects Winners!



Conclusion

This internship has demonstrated the power of structured, pan-African, youth-centered policy engagement. Interns left the program equipped not just with knowledge but with practical experience in research, advocacy, innovation, and collaborative leadership.

AfPC remains committed to nurturing the next generation of African changemakers who will move the continent forward through policies rooted in local realities and driven by bold ideas.

Next Steps

Capstone Development: Top-performing interns will be supported to further develop their award-winning capstone projects with seed funding from their cash prizes.

Cohort II Preparation: Planning is underway for the next edition of the AfPC Pan-African Development Internship Program—expanding reach, refining curriculum, and deepening partnerships for greater impact.

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