



ACDF 2025 at a Glance

ACDF Forum 2026 asks a harder question than most cyber gatherings: not whether Africa should be cyber-sovereign, but what sovereignty costs, who pays for it, and how it is built while the global order splinters into competing technology blocs. Over five days the Forum moves deliberately from capability on the ground, through candid ministerial decision-making and a main conference that treats implementation — not aspiration — as the real test, to competition, enterprise and the partnerships that turn commitments into action.

DAY	DATE	FOCUS
Day 1	Mon 2 Nov	Pre-conference — CAIP, DFIR in Action and Building & Operating a Modern SOC (parallel 2-day tracks) · open-call hands-on workshop
Day 2	Tue 3 Nov	Pre-conference · all tracks (day 2) · Practical MISP for CSIRTs (FIRST-powered, full day) · executive war game · Startup Hub showcase · Opening Reception & Gala Dinner (venue TBC)
Day 3	Wed 4 Nov	Main Conference I — the cost of sovereignty & a fragmented world · Pan-African Cyberlympics Finals · Closed Ministerial Roundtable
Day 4	Thu 5 Nov	Main Conference II — funding capability, ending donor dependence & building industry · Cyberlympics Awards & the Nairobi Communiqué
Day 5	Fri 6 Nov	ACDF Golf Tournament, Nairobi National Park Excursion & closing networking

DAY 1: Monday, 2 November 2026

Pre-Conference — Building Capability You Own

 08:30 – 09:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
 09:00 – 17:00 BOOTCAMP	CAIP Certification Bootcamp (Day 1 of 2) Certified AI Practitioner — intensive 2-day track A comprehensive, hands-on introduction to Artificial Intelligence and its practical applications in today's digital world. Participants gain a solid grounding in AI concepts, machine-learning fundamentals, generative-AI technologies and real-world implementation strategies. Designed for professionals, students and technology enthusiasts, Day 1 focuses on practical skills, industry use cases and responsible AI adoption. Facilitator Remi Afon, CISSP, CISM, CEH, PECB Certified Trainer, EC-Council Certified Trainer, GIAC GCSA
 09:00 – 17:00 WORKSHOP	DFIR in Action: From Evidence to Incident Report (Day 1 of 2) Phase 1 — the complete DFIR practitioner lifecycle A two-day, hands-on workshop delivering the complete Digital Forensics and Incident Response lifecycle — from the moment an alert fires to a forensically sound report reaching the CISO's desk. Day 1 is a facilitated skills build: each core discipline is taught, demonstrated live and then drilled hands-on — live acquisition, disk examination, memory forensics, log analysis and network forensics — with every participant working the same evidence and learning not just what to do, but when, in what order and why. Facilitator Dr. Robinson Tombari Sibe, CEO & Lead Forensic Examiner (Digital Footprints Nig. Ltd.)
 09:00 – 17:00 WORKSHOP	Building & Operating a Modern SOC (Day 1 of 2) From architecture to 24/7 detection and response A two-day, practitioner-focused workshop covering the end-to-end design and daily operation of a Security Operations Centre. Day 1 addresses the strategic and architectural foundations: SOC models and maturity tiers, technology stack selection, SIEM and SOAR deployment, log management and data-source ingestion, detection engineering and use-case development, and building runbooks and escalation playbooks that actually work under pressure. Facilitator Marvin Ngoma, Cybersecurity Operations Expert (ACDF Committee of Experts)
 13:00 – 14:00	Lunch & Networking
 14:00 – 16:00 WORKSHOP	Building Blue Team & CTI Agents with AI Hands-on lab — bring your own device A practical lab on using AI agents to augment security teams — automating repetitive analysis, enriching threat data, correlating indicators, and accelerating investigations. Participants work hands-on with practical approaches they can take home. Facilitator Oluwole Olakanmi, Cyber Operations (Darklens)

DAY 1: Monday, 2 November 2026*Pre-Conference — Building Capability You Own***17:00****Close of Day 1**

DAY 2: Tuesday, 3 November 2026

Pre-Conference · Executive War Game · Opening Gala

 08:30 – 09:00	Welcome Coffee
 09:00 – 16:00 BOOTCAMP	CAIP Certification Bootcamp (Day 2 of 2) & assessment <i>Day 2 moves from foundations to application — generative-AI tools, real-world implementation and responsible AI adoption through industry use cases — and closes with the certification assessment, adding a fresh cohort of certified AI practitioners to the talent base.</i> Facilitator Remi Afon, CISSP, CISM, CEH, PECB Certified Trainer, EC-Council Certified Trainer, GIAC GCSA
 09:00 – 16:00 WORKSHOP	DFIR in Action: From Evidence to Incident Report (Day 2 of 2) <i>Phase 2 — responding to a live, multi-layered incident</i> <i>Day 2 puts the skillset to work. Using the disciplines built in Phase 1, participants respond to a multi-layered cyber incident with real tools and workflows, then produce a forensically sound report and brief the room — leaving with the ability to run an investigation end to end.</i> Facilitator Dr. Robinson Tombari Sibe, CEO & Lead Forensic Examiner (Digital Footprints Nig. Ltd.)
 09:00 – 16:00 WORKSHOP	Building & Operating a Modern SOC (Day 2 of 2) <i>Phase 2 — operations, metrics and continuous improvement</i> <i>Day 2 shifts from design to operations: staffing, shift models and analyst workflows; threat-hunting and proactive detection; incident-handling and escalation in practice; metrics, SLAs and reporting to leadership; and embedding a continuous-improvement cycle so the SOC stays effective as threats evolve. Participants leave with a practical operating framework they can apply immediately.</i> Facilitator Marvin Ngoma, Cybersecurity Operations Expert (ACDF Committee of Experts)
 09:00 – 16:00 WORKSHOP	Practical MISP for CSIRTs: From Threat Feeds to Actionable Intelligence <i>A FIRST-powered workshop — full day</i> <i>A hands-on, full-day workshop, delivered in partnership with FIRST, on operationalising MISP (the Malware Information Sharing Platform) inside a CSIRT. Participants work through configuring and running a MISP instance, ingesting and structuring threat feeds, tagging and scoring indicators, correlating events, and sharing intelligence with trusted communities under TLP — turning raw feeds into intelligence a national or sector CSIRT can actually act on.</i> Facilitator Lawrence Muchilwa, Africa Regional Liaison, FIRST
 09:30 – 12:30 WAR GAME	Executive war game — deciding under a sovereignty crisis <i>A closed decision exercise for leaders. The scenario: a critical foreign dependency turns hostile, forcing hard calls on continuity, substitution and political response when it is the vendor, not the adversary, holding the leverage.</i>

DAY 2: Tuesday, 3 November 2026

Pre-Conference · Executive War Game · Opening Gala

 13:00 – 14:00	Lunch & Networking
14:00 – 16:30 SHOWCASE	Exhibition & ACDF Startup Hub — opening showcase <i>The exhibition and the ACDF Startup Hub open, putting African-built products and founders — the supply side of sovereignty — in front of buyers and investors.</i>
 19:00 – 22:00	Opening Reception & Gala Dinner — venue to be confirmed
19:30 – 21:00 GALA	Welcome & opening address Venue to be confirmed <i>The Forum opens formally over dinner at an offsite venue (to be confirmed): a welcome from ACDF and the host authorities and an opening address framing the week. Transfers will be provided from the main venue.</i>

DAY 3: Wednesday, 4 November 2026

Main Conference I — The Cost of Sovereignty

 08:30 – 09:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee
 09:00 – 09:15 SCREENING	ACDF Forum Highlights <i>A look back — moments from past ACDF editions</i> <i>A short screening of highlights from previous ACDF Forums, setting the scene for delegates as they settle in before the day's programme begins.</i>
 09:15 – 09:35 FIRESIDE CHAT	Setting the scene <i>An informal conversation ahead of the official opening</i> <i>A short, informal fireside chat that warms up the room and previews the themes of the day, ahead of the formal proceedings and the arrival of the Guest of Honour.</i>
 09:35 – 10:05 CEREMONY	Official Opening Ceremony <i>Formally opened by the Guest of Honour</i> <i>The Forum is formally opened by a senior government official / Cabinet Secretary, alongside ACDF, ATU, leadership and the host authorities, setting the terms of the debate: sovereignty measured by capability, not by declarations.</i>
10:05 – 16:55 COMPETITION	Pan-African Cyberlympics Finals <i>National champions compete for the continental title — running parallel to the main programme</i> <i>Immediately after the opening ceremony, the live final of ACDF's flagship competition begins and runs through the day. Teams that won national editions face realistic offence-and-defence challenges under the clock — visible proof that the talent to defend the continent is already here and home-grown.</i>
 10:05 – 10:55 OPENING KEYNOTE	What sovereignty actually costs <i>The bill behind the ambition</i> <i>A deliberately unromantic keynote that puts numbers and trade-offs to cyber sovereignty — the budgets, institutions, talent and political will it demands — arguing that naming the cost is the first honest step from vision to action.</i> Speakers Prof. Washington Yotto Ochieng, CBE, EBS, FREng (Imperial College London)
 10:55 – 11:35 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL	The strategy graveyard <i>Why national cyber plans stall — and what finally moves them</i> <i>Heads of national cyber authorities speak candidly about the gap between adopted strategies and working capability: budget cycles, mandates, accountability and the political economy that decides whether a plan becomes an institution or stays a document.</i> Speakers Dr. Martin Koyabe, Chairperson, Board of Directors (National Cybersecurity Agency, Kenya) Col. (Dr.) James J. Kimuyu, Director (NC4, Kenya) Heads of Rwanda's NCSA and Ghana's CSA — to be confirmed Dr. Vincent Ngundi, Director, Cyber Security (Communications Authority) Moderator Mr. Gilbert Nyandeje, ACDF

DAY 3: Wednesday, 4 November 2026

Main Conference I — The Cost of Sovereignty

 11:35 – 12:05	Break, Networking & Exhibition
 12:05 – 12:50 STRATEGIC PANEL	Non-alignment as cyber doctrine <i>Navigating the tech-bloc split without picking a master</i> <i>As the world fragments into rival technology spheres, this panel asks how African states keep their freedom of action — diversifying suppliers, resisting standards capture, and making non-alignment a deliberate strategy rather than an accident of procurement.</i> Speakers H.E. Joseph F. Johnson, Ambassador (Republic of Liberia to the Kingdom of Morocco) Kenya Special Envoy on Technology — to be confirmed Moderator Audrey Mnisi Mireku, Cybersecurity Expert and Immediate Board Member FIRST
 12:50 – 13:35 PANEL	Who controls the off switch? <i>Supply-chain dependence and the myth of the neutral vendor</i> <i>A hard look at the foreign hardware, software and cloud embedded in national systems, the leverage that dependence creates, and what a credible path to reducing it looks like in practice.</i> Speakers Jose Luis Carrera Jr., Director (EDGE Group, Beacon Red) — “Beyond Borders” Shay Gal, Founder & Principal (Line of State) — “Who Holds the Kill Switch?” Moderator To be confirmed
 13:35 – 14:35	Official Lunch & Networking
 14:35 – 14:55 KEYNOTE	Collaborative Defense <i>Breaking silos for a collective cyber shield in a digitally transforming continent</i> <i>Delivered by an INTERPOL Cybercrime Operations Officer working the continent's cross-border cybercrime desk. A first-hand account of what breaking institutional silos actually requires — and why the mutual-assistance conversation happening behind closed doors next matters to everyone in the room.</i> Speakers Kevin Kiban, INTERPOL
 14:35 – 17:35 CLOSED ROUNDTABLE	Closed Ministerial Roundtable <i>Toward a mutual-assistance pact for African cyberspace — by invitation, Chatham House Rule</i> <i>A closed session in which ministers and heads of national authorities work through the terms of collective defence — shared early warning, mutual assistance and common positions in international fora — feeding directly into the Nairobi Communiqué.</i>

DAY 3: Wednesday, 4 November 2026

Main Conference I — The Cost of Sovereignty

 14:55 – 15:40 PANEL	The systems a state cannot outsource <i>Securing sovereign identity and payment rails</i> <i>Digital identity and payments are becoming the load-bearing walls of the modern state. This panel examines how to secure and govern them as sovereign infrastructure, not as products bought off a foreign shelf.</i> Speakers Tim Theuri (Executive Head of Cybersecurity, M-PESA Africa) Dr. Charles Fodya (Director ICT, Malawi Revenue Authority) Joan Mburu (CISO, Airtel Kenya) Joel Kazoba (Head of Cybersecurity, Vodacom Tanzania) Moderator Patricia Eromosele, Director, Africa Chapter (Global Anti-Scam Alliance)
 15:40 – 16:25 PANEL	Whose data, whose rules? <i>Data protection, jurisdiction and the diplomacy of cross-border data</i> <i>Convened with data protection commissioners, diplomats and tech envoys, this panel joins three debates usually held apart: where African data actually lives, how privacy law travels across borders, and who negotiates the terms. It takes on data localisation and cross-border transfer rules, adequacy and the tension between data protection and lawful access, harmonising enforcement across national data protection authorities, and what “sovereign cloud” really guarantees — where cyber diplomacy, not procurement, decides the outcome.</i> Speakers Kenya Data Commissioner (ODPC) — to be confirmed Eskinder Mesfin Cherinet, Board Chair (Cloud Security Alliance Ethiopia) — “Harmonizing Cyber Governance” Keith Busingye, Head of Department, Public & Comparative Law (King Ceasor University) — “Who Owns Africa’s Health Data?” Tamar Kaldani, Data Protection Commissioner (Council of Europe) Moderator Mutheu Nyagah Khimulu, Board Member (African Centre for Security: Resilience, Science & Technology)
 16:25 – 16:45 DAY SUMMARY	The reckoning — what sovereignty demands of us <i>A synthesis of Day 3 that converts the day’s hard truths into the questions Day 4 must answer: who pays, who builds, and how commitments are turned into action.</i>
 16:45 – 16:55	Coffee, Networking & Exhibition

DAY 3: Wednesday, 4 November 2026

Main Conference I — The Cost of Sovereignty

 16:55 – 17:40 PANEL	Building Digital Forensics Labs & Capabilities From nothing to a functioning national capacity — and an evidential record that survives scrutiny <i>A panel on what it actually takes to stand up a digital forensics laboratory that holds up in court and under pressure: accreditation, validated tooling, chain-of-custody discipline, staffing and sustainable funding — and, critically, whether the resulting evidence and privilege actually survive litigation. Drawing on the speakers' experience building national and private-sector forensics capability, and on the rare vantage point of a lawyer who both examines digital evidence and litigates it.</i> Speakers Jason Jordaan, DFIRLABS Dr. Robinson Tombari Sibe, CEO & Lead Forensic Examiner (Digital Footprints Nig. Ltd.) Karl Obayi, Principal, Technology Chambers Limited — “Containment is not Preservation” Moderator <i>To be confirmed</i>
 17:40 – 17:50	Close of Day 3

DAY 4: Thursday, 5 November 2026

Main Conference II — Paying For It, Building It

09:00 – 09:20 OPENING REMARKS	Setting up the day — from cost to capability <i>A short opening carrying Day 3's reckoning into the practical business of funding and building capability that lasts.</i>
 09:20 – 10:00 FIRESIDE CHAT	Growing defenders faster than we lose them <i>The talent-sovereignty equation</i> <i>A fireside chat on the arithmetic of the workforce — producing skilled defenders at national scale and building careers compelling enough to keep that talent on the continent.</i> Speakers Lenah Chacha, Research Lab Manager (Upanzi Network, CMU-Africa) Joan Nwafor, Founder & CEO (Cyberodan Limited) — “Before the Career”
 10:00 – 10:40 PANEL	From aid to industry <i>Ending the donor dependence in African cybersecurity</i> <i>Much of the continent's cyber capability is still grant-funded and externally shaped. This panel asks how to convert time-limited projects into permanent institutions and a domestic industry that outlives the funding cycle.</i> Moderator To be confirmed
 10:40 – 11:10	Break, Networking & Exhibition
 11:10 – 11:35 FIRESIDE CHAT	Trust is the product <i>Why confidence in digital finance decides Africa's digital economy — paired with “The Cyber Risk Nobody Wants to Own”</i> <i>A keynote arguing that trust in banks, payments and fintech is the real currency of digital growth, paired with a fireside conversation on cyber insurance — what happens when digital trust breaks down, who absorbs the loss, and how the insurance ecosystem can evolve alongside Africa's digital economy.</i> Speakers Kendra Garrett, Insurance Professional — Cyber Risk & Underwriting (Sylvia A. Garrett & Associates Agency, LLC)
 11:35 – 12:15 PANEL	Securing the plumbing of a single market <i>Making cross-border trust the foundation of African integration</i> <i>Continental trade runs on cross-border data, payments and customs systems. This panel examines the security and harmonisation that let integration deepen trust between states instead of multiplying shared exposure.</i> Speakers Osama Okunbo, Security Engineer (Immibuddy) — “Trust Has No API” Moderator To be confirmed

DAY 4: Thursday, 5 November 2026

Main Conference II — Paying For It, Building It



12:15 – 12:55

PANEL

The Grid You Can't Reboot

Who actually controls the systems that keep the lights, water and trains running

Energy, water and transport infrastructure increasingly runs on foreign-built, foreign-operated technology — a sovereignty exposure with no digital equivalent, since a compromised grid can't simply be patched and restarted. This panel confronts IT/OT convergence, the funding gap for securing infrastructure that predates modern threats, and what credible incident response looks like when the system that fails is the one the country cannot function without.

Speakers

Dr. George Ologo, General Manager, IT & Cyber Security (BOSTenergies, Ghana)

Moderator

To be confirmed



12:55 – 13:25

PANEL

Buyers and builders at home

The economics of a sovereign cyber industry

What it actually takes to create both domestic demand and domestic supply — procurement that rewards local capability, patient investment, and the conditions for African companies to scale beyond their own borders.

Speakers

William Makatiani, CEO (Serianu)

Steve Mambo, CEO (Yelbridges)

Adedoyin Odunfa, Founder & CEO (Digital Jewels Africa)

Moderator

To be confirmed



13:25 – 14:25

Official Lunch & Networking



14:25 – 15:05

PANEL

AI on both sides of the fence

Offence, defence, and the models Africa doesn't own

A grounded discussion of AI-enabled attacks and AI-assisted defence — and the deeper sovereignty problem of depending on foreign models, data and compute for a technology now central to security itself.

Speakers

Olabode Agboola, President (Cyber Security Expert Association of Nigeria) — “Weaponized Autonomy”

Thulani Mabuza, Head of Cybersecurity Consulting (Orange Cyberdefense) — “Responsible Use and Integration of AI”

Shawn Taruvinga, Founder & CEO (ArdenzaTech) — “Securing AI-Powered Enterprises”

Uchechukwu Mpamah, Principal Technology Learning Specialist (QA Ltd) — “Securing Embedded AI in Business Systems”

Moderator

To be confirmed

DAY 4: Thursday, 5 November 2026

Main Conference II — Paying For It, Building It

 15:05 – 15:50 PANEL	Is Your AI Governed, or Just Deployed? <i>Literacy, shadow risk and the vendor contracts nobody stress-tested</i> <i>AI is entering African organisations faster than the governance built to control it. This panel confronts the gap head-on — from AI literacy as a boardroom requirement, to the shadow AI risk hiding inside “approved” tools, to vendor contracts that were never built to be unwound, using Kenya’s Worldcoin episode as a live case study.</i> Speakers Judy Ratanya, PECB Certified AI Risk Manager (Independent Consultant) — “AI Literacy: Skill or Compliance?” Catherine Bwire, CISO (Ecobank Uganda Limited) — “Stress-Testing Enterprise AI” Moses Omolaiye, Founder (MitigateIT) — “Governing the Ungoverned” Habiba Ngugi, Head of Department — Computing, AI & Data Science (King Ceasor University) — “The AI Vendor Contract Nobody Stress-Tested” Moderator Edafe Eduviere, Cybersecurity Consultant
 15:50 – 16:10 TALK	Built for Maturity: A Structured Approach to Establishing Sectoral CSIRTs <i>Sectoral CSIRTs are often established in response to regulatory, operational, or national cybersecurity priorities, but without a common baseline for what effective capability should look like from the outset. This talk argues for a more structured approach: using established maturity models such as OCF SIM3 to guide the design and development of sectoral CSIRTs across governance, people, processes, technology, and collaboration. It explores how national CSIRTs can translate such models into practical national baselines, then adapt them to the distinct needs of sectors such as finance, energy, telecommunications, health, and critical infrastructure — helping ensure new teams are not only established, but built to mature and succeed.</i> Speakers Lawrence Muchilwa, Africa Regional Liaison, FIRST
 16:10 – 16:30 STARTUP HUB	ACDF Startup Hub — Grand Final <i>African founders pitch for the continental prize</i> <i>The Startup Hub finalists pitch to investors and buyers — the clearest signal at the Forum that sovereignty is being built commercially, from the ground up.</i>
 16:30 – 16:55 AWARDS	Pan-African Cyberlympics — Awards Ceremony <i>Crowning the continental champions</i> <i>As part of the closing ceremony, the Forum crowns the Cyberlympics champions — celebrating the home-grown talent that makes sovereign defence possible — before turning to the Forum’s collective commitments.</i>
 16:55 – 17:25 CLOSING CEREMONY	Closing Ceremony & the Nairobi Communiqué <i>From commitments to action</i> <i>The Forum closes with adoption of the Nairobi Communiqué — a shared, specific statement of commitments designed to be tracked and delivered, not filed away.</i>

DAY 5: Friday, 6 November 2026

ACDF Golf Tournament & Closing Networking

 07:30 – 08:30	Arrival, breakfast & registration
 08:30 – 14:00 TOURNAMENT	ACDF Golf Tournament <i>Turning conversations into commitments</i> <i>An invitational round closing the Forum in a relaxed setting, where ministers, executives and partners convert the week's discussions into the relationships that carry the Nairobi Communiqué forward.</i>
 06:30 – 14:00 EXCURSION	Nairobi National Park Excursion <i>An alternative for delegates not playing golf</i> <i>A guided game drive through Nairobi National Park — the only national park bordering a capital city — departing early for the best wildlife viewing, and offering a relaxed close to the week for delegates who prefer wildlife and scenery to golf. Transfers provided from the main venue by the Tour guide company partners.</i>
 14:00 – 15:30	Awards Lunch & Prize-Giving
 15:30	Close of ACDF Forum 2026