



CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE ENTERPRISE
INNOVATIONS IN RESPONSIBILITY: A PANEL CONVERSATION ON ACCOUNTABILITY PRACTICES IN
AFRICAN ENTERPRISES

About CIPE

The Center for International Private Enterprise is a business-oriented NGO working at the intersection of democracy, governance and economic development, partnering with business associations, think tanks and other organizations to implement homegrown, private sector solutions to local challenges. CIPE's mission is to strengthen democracy through private enterprise and market-oriented reform, fulfilling a vision of a world where democracy delivers the freedom and opportunity for all to prosper.

Founded in 1983 and based in Washington, DC, CIPE is active in over 80 countries with a worldwide network of civil society and private sector partners, and field offices and representatives in 30 countries. In nearly 40 years, CIPE has carried out close to 2,000 projects in over 100 countries.

CIPE's programs are funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the US State Department, USAID, and foreign government donor agencies as well as private foundations. CIPE is an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a core institute of the NED.

Panelists

Michele Crymes, Deputy Director, CIPE Anti-Corruption & Governance Center (ACGC)

Michele Crymes is the Deputy Director of ACGC, where she works on a variety of global transparency and integrity initiatives. The Center focuses on developing nimble, evidence-based anti-corruption programming for countries with new, pro-reform leadership. Crymes plays an integral role in a pioneering approach to corporate compliance that supports companies seeking to manage corruption, labor, and environmental responsibilities and liabilities.

Lola Adekanye, Program Director, CIPE Africa

Lola Adekanye leads the Business Integrity and Anti-Corruption Programs in Africa at CIPE. She works on a diverse portfolio that spans 12 countries and is leading the launch of a global due diligence product designed to standardize compliance for SMEs across Africa.

Shaza Bala Elmahdi, Country Director, CIPE Sudan

Shaza Elmahdi is Sudan Country Director at CIPE based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She works closely with partners representing the private sector, civil society, and government to implement CIPE's strategy in Sudan, which is to empower the private sector to lead economic dialogue that strengthens peace and stability in Sudan and to support the private sector to fully participate in the post-conflict business rehabilitation and reconstruction process.

Samia Tnani, Chief Credit Officer, AfricInvest Private Credit

Samia Tnani, Chief Credit Officer at AfricInvest Private Credit, the debt vehicle of the AfricInvest Group is a seasoned credit professional with strong expertise on the African continent. In her



current role, Samia drives credit transactions for African SMEs to finance their growth in a sustainable manner. Samia is passionate about gender finance, she volunteers with the Cartier Women Initiative as Jury member for Sub-Saharan Africa. She holds a board position with the Fondation de la Maison de Tunisie in Paris.

Thematic Focus

This event will serve to highlight and share best practices from CIPE's Ethics 1st (E1st) initiative, which is a multistakeholder initiative led by CIPE that enables African businesses and companies in emerging markets. Its efforts focus on standardizing business practices, developing sound corporate governance and business-integrity systems, and creating pathways for accountable and sustainable investment in the region. E1st provides a platform to:

- Allow African businesses to demonstrate due diligence data to investors
- Provide credible third-party compliance data to global business, enabling increased investment in African enterprises and their communities
- Build compliance capacity for regulatory, anti-corruption, and environmental standards among African business and SMEs

Contribution to the Forum and SDGs

The E1st initiative works toward achieving important sections of the SDGs, notably:

- **SDG 1 – No Poverty**
Empowering African businesses – especially SMEs - to be an active partner in global value chains means that more of this investment remains in their communities.
- **SDG 13 – Climate Action**
By helping African businesses build compliance reporting ability, the E1st program is devoted to ensuring that investment in Africa is environmentally sustainable, prioritizing environmental impact as an important determinant of investment.
- **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**
One of the core ideas underpinning CIPE's creation of the E1st program is that an accountable, corruption-free private sector provides a background that actively supports accountability and inclusivity in public sector institutions. E1st specifically empowers women and MSMEs, putting more resources and knowledge at their disposal, to ensure that they can take their rightful place as active participants in a just, accountable private sector and society at large.

Proposed Event Itinerary – Time TBD by Conference Assignment

09:00 – 09:15 Opening Remarks, Lola Adekanye
Description of the E1st Program with video

09:15 – 09:45 Panel Discussion – Lessons Learned from E1st

09:45 – 10:15 Q&A Session with Audience