



Newsletter

May 2025

The 41st Annual Conference of the Association of Central Depositories and Clearing Houses of Africa and the Middle East (AMEDA)

Lagos, Nigeria (April 23–25, 2025)



- AMEDA 2025: Financial Infrastructures Driving Economic Growth
- Nigeria Hosts Landmark Financial Forum
- Egypt's Strategic Participation
- 2030 Vision Unveiled
- Calls for Financial Innovation and Cooperation



Under the rubric ‘Shaping the Future: Financial Markets & Infrastructures as catalysts for transforming Economies,’ it was hosted by the Central Securities Clearing System (CSCS) Plc from April 23 to 25, 2025 in Lagos, Nigeria.

This distinguished event, convening senior officials and experts from across the region, underscored the crucial role of financial market infrastructure in facilitating comprehensive economic transformation.

Principal Objectives of the Event



The annual conference, convened in Nigeria-recognized as one of the three largest economies on the African continent-was oriented towards several cardinal themes, the most prominent of which were:

- To underscore the strategic significance of financial market infrastructure in propelling economic transformation and fostering sustainable growth within an evolving global landscape.
- To facilitate substantive regional and international dialogue concerning the future trajectory of financial markets.
- To promote the interchange of insights and experiences regarding methodologies for cultivating a modern, resilient, and inclusive financial infrastructure that underpins economic development across Africa and the Middle East, thereby contributing to the establishment of prosperous and globally interconnected economies.
- To foster deliberation on innovation within the financial sector and the attendant challenges.
- To engage in discourse regarding the future of financial markets in driving economic growth and digital transformation initiatives.
- To provide a platform for the exchange of insights, experiences, and best practices among stock markets in Africa and the Middle East, with the aim of fortifying cooperation and activating strategic partnerships to elevate the standard of financial market infrastructure throughout the region.

Main Panel Discussions and Activities



The three-day forum encompassed a series of significant sessions and events centered on the pivotal role of financial market infrastructure in fostering economic transformation. Deliberations included a comprehensive review of the practical applications of contemporary technologies within financial market infrastructure, as well as in-depth analyses regarding the current state of financial market infrastructure across Africa and the Middle East.

Furthermore, the forum featured discussion panels addressing the resilience of financial markets and their preparedness to navigate global uncertainties, alongside the crucial role of capital markets as catalysts for economic transformation. These sessions benefitted from the participation of esteemed representatives from central banks, stock exchanges, technology firms, and financial market infrastructure institutions.

In addition, the event served as a prominent platform for the unveiling of the ambitious 2030 Vision for Africa and the Middle East, with the overarching strategic objective of establishing future-resilient financial markets inherently capable of achieving comprehensive and sustainable growth for the collective benefit of the regions.

This significant forum convened influential leaders from preeminent global financial institutions, distinguished representatives of key regional and international development banks, and impactful economic policymakers. Moreover, the program featured the highly anticipated launch of several insightful presentations focusing on pioneering and transformative solutions for financial markets, encompassing cutting-edge blockchain platforms, sophisticated artificial intelligence tools, and robust cybersecurity systems, complemented by engaging live demonstrations from innovative technology enterprises and dynamic startups.

Furthermore, the forum incorporated specialized discussion sessions dedicated to the critical examination of environmental, social, and institutional governance (ESG) investments within microfinance institutions, alongside a focused exploration of strategies to effectively address regulatory complexities inherent in cross-border financial infrastructures.

Impressive Turnout

This year's annual forum witnessed an unprecedented turnout and high-level government representation from member states, reflecting the event's importance at the regional and international levels.

This attendance was evident in the active participation and keen interest shown by the Nigerian government, through the direct presence of its representatives and the participation of all ministries. This significantly contributed to enriching the discussions and enhancing the intellectual content of the forum through valuable contributions and inspiring experiences.



Exceptional Participation from the Arab Republic of Egypt



At the AMEDA Annual Conference, the representative of His Excellency Kashim Shettima, Vice President of Nigeria, was honored in recognition of his sponsorship and support of the event's activities. The award, featuring the AMEDA organization's logo, was presented by Mr. Osama Mohi Eldin, Commercial Counsellor at the Egyptian Embassy in Nigeria.

This recognition reflects the efforts of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen bilateral relations and international partnerships. It also highlights the success of the ongoing coordination with the AMEDA organization, which is headquartered in Egypt.

AMEDA's President Speech



In his opening remarks, Mr. Abdullah Abdin, the President of AMEDA, expressed his sincere appreciation to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, its government, and its people, for their generous hospitality and cordial reception.

Furthermore, he expressed his sincere gratitude to the Central Securities Clearing System (CSCS) Plc, for their dedicated work in organizing and facilitating this important annual gathering of the Africa and Middle East Depositories Association (AMEDA).

Abdin also expressed his pleasure in meeting with an assembly of senior officials, decision-makers, and experts within the financial markets sector, which also included a number of prominent figures and delegates from leading global and regional financial institutions.

He also stressed the importance of this year's theme: «Shaping the Future: Financial Markets & Infrastructures as Catalysts for Transforming Economies.» This theme reflects deep awareness of the rapid transformations taking place in the global economy and the pivotal role played by the financial markets infrastructures in enabling economies to adapt, innovate, and achieve inclusive growth.

This conference assumes particular significance given its role as an important platform for exploring the challenges and opportunities presented by the evolving global landscape, especially within the context of digital transformation, which has become a fundamental determinant in shaping the trajectory of economic development.

Furthermore, it constituted a valuable occasion to promote substantive dialogue concerning financial innovation, deliberate on the impediments to the advancement of financial markets, and investigate modalities for harmonizing regional endeavors in pursuit of a more inclusive and sustainable economic future.

He also added that AMEDA holds the view that financial infrastructure is not solely a technical tool; it constitutes an essential mechanism for development and a sound basis for incentivizing investment, improving transparency, optimizing market efficiency, and realizing economic integration within the region.

Speech by Nigeria's Vice President



In a message delivered during the opening session, Vice President of Nigeria Kashim Shettima expressed his heartfelt intention to attend the conference in person but cited pressing national commitments. He emphasized his deep interest in the forum's discourse and commended CSCS and AMEDA for organizing this strategic and timely event.

He underscored the significance of the conference's theme, which aligns with Africa and the Middle East's need to reimagine financial systems for inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth. He highlighted the transforming nature of regional partnerships driven by innovation, demographics, and digital disruption.

Shettima described financial market infrastructures as essential, though often invisible, pillars of modern economies—institutions that enable trust, transparency, and the liquidity markets need. He reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to strengthening its financial infrastructure through reforms, public-private partnerships, and support for innovation. This includes expanding access to finance, deepening capital markets, and promoting financial inclusion through tools like green bonds and FinTech solutions.



The Conference Main Recommendations



Upon the conclusion of its activities, the conference promulgated several key recommendations that align with its objectives and aim to bolster innovation and sustainability initiatives, enhance collaborative endeavors, and elevate the standards of financial market infrastructure. The most salient of these recommendations are as follows:

1. It is imperative to emphasize the strategic significance of financial market infrastructure in reshaping the economic landscape of Africa and the Middle East, thereby supporting comprehensive economic transformation initiatives.



2. The promotion and exchange of insights, expertise, and best practices among financial institutions and stock markets within the region are strongly encouraged, with the objective of achieving financial integration and developing a unified infrastructure.
3. It is recommended to support technological innovation within the financial markets sector, with particular emphasis on the adoption of blockchain, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity technologies to ensure the resilience and sustainability of financial systems.



4. Efforts should be directed towards the establishment of sophisticated regulatory frameworks that are responsive to the demands of contemporary markets and address prevailing and prospective regulatory and supervisory challenges.
5. The strengthening of strategic alliances and regional and international cooperation is encouraged to cultivate an integrated and interconnected financial infrastructure that enhances market efficiency and transparency.
6. Action should be taken to establish a sustainable platform for institutional dialogue concerning the future trajectory of financial markets and the mechanisms for their advancement in accordance with global transformations.



7. Agreement has been reached on supporting financial inclusion and digital transformation initiatives, and investments in digital infrastructure are encouraged to promote equitable access to financial services.
8. Initiatives for training and capacity development in the domains of financial technology, central depository services should be undertaken, with the aim of preparing professionals to navigate the evolving financial landscape.
9. Emphasizing the importance of cybersecurity as one of the fundamental pillars of protecting the financial infrastructure, and calling on institutions to enhance digital protection and prevention strategies.



In Conclusion



The 41st edition of the AMEDA Annual Forum constituted an optimal platform for the interchange of perspectives and insights among industry principals and participants, thereby fostering enhanced cooperation and integration between capital markets across Africa and the Middle East.

As extant challenges evolve and nascent opportunities materialize, the Forum continues to serve as a barometer of prospective trends within the central securities depository and clearinghouse sector, reflecting the organization's steadfast commitment to adapting to global transformations and fortifying the financial business milieu within the region.

AMEDA anticipates the perpetuation of this collaborative endeavor in the future and reaffirms its unwavering dedication to the development of a robust financial market infrastructure that contributes substantively to the advancement of economic growth and the attainment of sustainability throughout the region.



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