



Unleashing Social Innovation for the Social Transformation of the DRC

29 - 30 NOVEMBER 2022

FLEUVE CONGO HOTEL, KINSHASA,
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS



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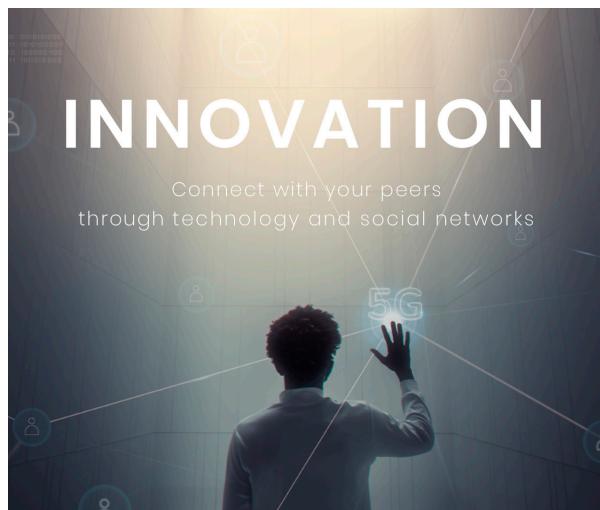
Context and Justification

Under the global post COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing Russia-Ukraine war era, local and innovative solutions to service delivery in contexts where traditional actors or the market have failed are needed more than ever (Agapitova et al., 2020). Unemployment anxieties, psychological trauma disturbances, health problems and undesirable economic shocks have hit the poor, vulnerable, and those in the informal economy the hardest, particularly in Africa. Populations struggle to meet their most basic needs for food, water, energy, or health care following job loss and sickness. Businesses face lower demand for their products and services, which creates high cash flow concerns. When available, governments' policies and measures are not easily accessible in rural areas or to unregistered workers and firms. These challenges increasingly deteriorate the hard living environment in weak communities and fragile African countries such as Congo-Kinshasa (DRC). A review of international experiences by the World Bank (2016) demonstrates that an increasing number of governments across the world successfully include Social Entreprises (SEs) in their policy agendas to address institutional and market failures in service delivery to the poor and to promote sustainable and equitable growth. SEs are private non-profit, for-profit or hybrid organizations that use business methods to advance their social mission in a financially sustainable way. SEs focus on maximizing the public good as opposed to maximizing short-term profits for their shareholders and private owners. Due to their strong presence and understanding of local communities, SEs are often able to reach the underserved through innovative solutions. In addition to economic growth and wealth generation, social entrepreneurs can also create considerable social benefits, especially when they push the frontier of developing markets and start delivering critical goods and services to poor and marginalized populations.

Although Africa is a relative latecomer to social business (entrepreneurship), the expansion of SEs across the continent has been impressive in the last decade. The 2016 survey of a sample of 234 successful social entrepreneurs in East and Southern Africa demonstrated considerable sectoral growth since 2006. South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, and Nigeria for instance have become hubs for SEs that are active across all service delivery areas and many are reaching impressive scale.

Assessments of SE ecosystems have showed that SEs improved access to education, clean water, and energy for millions of Africans, including in the most fragile areas (Navarrete and Agapitova 2017). However, the continent social business dynamics needs to be sustainably reinforced and many other countries need to adopt and implement the model. In some African countries, the private sector's emergence in providing goods and services is constrained by the difficult country's contexts. In others, though many opportunities exist for service provision through concessions, public-private partnerships (PPP), and other private sector initiatives, market-based solutions are rare and relatively small in scale. Elsewhere, projects that aim to develop basic service delivery units, such as roads, schools and clinics, are not based on sustainable business models powered by local entrepreneurs.

With the rapid increase of population in Africa and the existing and emerging complex social problems namely brought by the COVID-17 pandemic and ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, making Africa one of the world most vulnerable places, there is an urgent need for a broader panafrican thinking and collaboration in considering the issue, which aids and inspires far greater commitment for social innovation. The DRC Social Innovation Summit (DRC-SIS) is envisioned to contribute to strengthen this important and strategic discussion on social innovation in DRC by inspiring and implementing innovative and sustainable solutions for climate change adaptation and resilience, particularly in Africa.



Summit Rationale

According to UNICEF, the African population will reach 2.4 billion by 2050, with the vast majority under the age of 35. To feed and employ this population, catalytic innovations in health, education, agriculture, transportation, water management, energy, sanitation, and housing will be required. Sustainable improvements in service delivery in Africa will not happen without the participation and capacity building of local actors. The retrenchment of the State, decentralization (devolution), and liberalization of some service sectors have the potential to bring development closer to people and open the door for the private sector (World Bank, 2018).

While the African continent and Congo-Kinshasa have emerging social innovators and entrepreneurs, they face challenges in scaling and replicating their initiatives, sustaining them in the face of insufficient funding and intellectual property frameworks, fostering cross-sector partnerships, and measuring impact. In the face of complex social challenges, there is an urgent need to advance social innovation as a transformational engine. It is also critical to consider cross-sector collaboration in order to

achieve social transformation. Simultaneously, it is critical to consider the transformative power of social innovation and its importance to our society. There are numerous players in the social entrepreneurship ecosystem who contribute to the diversity of social enterprise support. A single actor cannot successfully resolve the complexities of social problems. The effective growth of social enterprise in Africa necessitates collaboration and synergy among ecosystem players. It is critical to connect various actors in social entrepreneurship, maintain conversation among them, and learn from one another.

Therefore, DRC-SIS is an event that brings together the various players from across Congo-Kinshasa, Africa and internationally in order for them to be more effective in their support they provide for the growth of the ecosystem. We must learn from social innovations that have proven to be successful in Congo and other African countries, and that can be replicated elsewhere. Hence is it important to connect social entrepreneurs to learn from successful social innovations and create partnerships for replicating the models.

About the DRC Social Innovation Summit



For the first time in the Democratic Republic of Congo's history, the DRC Social Innovation Summit (DRC-SIS) has partnered with AgroMwinda Leadership Academy (ALA) and the Tangaza University College - Institute for Social Transformation (Catholic University of Eastern Africa, CUEA, Nairobi-Kenya) to launch the Social Innovation Summit.

Both the DRC Social Innovation Summit (DRC-SIS), AgroMwinda Leadership Academy (ALA) and Tangaza University College- Institute for Social Transformation (TUC-IST) were part of the African Social Business Conference organized in Nairobi (Kenya) and the DRC Investment Summit that took place in Kinshasa in June 2022 and saw these events as great opportunities to bring a larger critical mass of community members and leaders to this podium to meet and discuss with top global, regional and local social innovators and

policymakers from various industries. 500 social innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, researchers and policymakers across Africa and around the world will converge at Fleuve Congo Hotel in Kinshasa from 29 - 30 November 2022 alongside other delegates to showcase research findings, policy outcomes and their innovative ideas and initiatives while providing a social innovation edge to the summit.



Why Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo?



According to Frantz Fanon, one of the most prominent panafricanists, "Africa has the shape of a revolver whose trigger is in Congo". This description of the Congo is enough to understand non only the importance of this country in the heart of Africa, but also its potential for envisaging domestic and innovative solutions to service delivery in the continent: second largest and fourth most populated African country, 50% of African forest, 80.000.000 of arable lands, 37% of the potential of African energy, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world reserve of coltan, 50% of cobalt, 30% of diamonds and 10% of copper. Although the DRC is a relative latecomer to social business, the sector is growing and receiving increased recognition from customers, donors, and the government. Equally important has been the remarkable re-emergence of grassroots SEs as an integral part of a Congolese bottom-up phenomenon, and the rapid rise of new information and communication technology (ICT) in certain areas of service delivery (Agapitova et al., 2020). By choosing Kinshasa as the host city of this panafrican conference on social innovation, we would like to celebrate the Congo's geostrategic position in Africa and reinforce the social innovation dynamics in view to unlocking the panafrican sustainable development dream.

Summit Objectives

GOAL

Showcase innovative systems, change social innovation, learning from social innovators and fostering collaboration for Social Transformative of the African Continent.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The summit pursues the following objectives

-  **01**
To show the emerging social innovations that are contributing to social transformation in the DRC and Africa
-  **02**
To Share knowledge and practices on opportunities and challenges of sustainable social innovation
-  **03**
To inspire the youth and emerging entrepreneurs to embrace social innovation as career paths
-  **04**
To create a network to strengthen and grow social innovation in the DRC and across Africa.



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**DRC SUMMIT
FLEUVE CONGO HOTEL**

Summit

Thematic Areas



Some of the focus areas these inspiring leaders will showcase under include, but are not limited to:

- A Poverty Free Society Through Social Business;
- Transformative Social Business Models & Traditional Business Mindsets;
- Global Social Business Regulations, East and Central Africa Regional Integration Policies & Local Realities;
- Re-thinking Investments for Great Impacts;
- Digitalization, Networking & Access to Market for Social Innovators;
- Private Sector & SDGs: research, technology Transfer and Local Ownership;
- Transformative Education for Sustainable Planet;
- Economic Women and Youth participation in Rural and Urban Areas;
- Transformative Grassroots social innovation
- Third sector social innovation.

Summit Methodology

The summit blends the experience of social innovators and business practitioners as well as evidences from researchers on social innovation. Hence the summit is organized as space for sharing knowledge and insights, building key competencies, celebrating impacts, building social innovation movement, marketing brands and products, networking and fundraising. Public Presentations (PP) and Panels Sessions (PS) will be organized, along with Personalized Key Investor-Donor-Entrepreneurs Meetings (PKIDEM), and Impact and Brand Marketing Stands (IBMS).



Summit Outcomes

01

The summit will showcase the powerful stories that are changing the continent, models of sustainable employment, production and consumption, health and justice systems that can be replicated. The conference will seek practical solutions to social challenges that the continent is confronted with in the post-COVID 19 and Russia- Ukraine war era. The summit seeks to create and support social innovation initiatives that will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals in the DRC and Africa.

02

The summit will come up with concrete initiatives to create a support system that will bridge the knowledge and skills gaps in youth and emerging entrepreneurs in view to contribute to the growth of social enterprises in Africa. The summit is expected to create a network of social innovation researchers and practitioners to advance evidence-based research and best practices on social entrepreneurship in Africa.

03

Finally, to respond to the need for capacity building for the social innovators will create a network ecosystem player in training who can support continuous capacity development for social innovators.

Summit Strategic Partners



The DRC Social Innovation Summit (DRC-SIS) is a partnership initiative established to catalyse interests, join efforts and facilitate research, capacity building, networking and investment in the social innovation sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the African continent. For further details about the DRDC-SIS please do visit www.drcsis.com or email: communication@drcsis.com



AgroMwinda Leadership Academy is a Programme of AgroMwinda which is a tech and social innovation company that supports small householder farmers and micro enterprises with innovative solutions making agribusiness profitable and access to information and financial services easier for local small ventures in the Democratic Republic of Congo. AgroMwinda is based in Kinshasa and for more information about the firm, please visit www.agromwinda.com or email: ceoagromwinda@agromwinda.com



The Institute for Social Transformation Tangaza University College (IST-TUC) is a constituent organization of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) based in Nairobi, Kenya. Tangaza University College through its Institute for Social Transformation is set to become a centre of excellence and innovation for transformative ministerial learning and praxis for social transformation through its MBA Program in Global Business and Sustainability- Social Entrepreneurship and PhD in Social Transformation. For more information about the IST-TUC, please do visit <https://ist.tangaza.ac.ke/> or email: istdirector@tangaza.ac.ke



PADMPME is a World Bank Funded Program under the DRC Ministry of Entrepreneurship aimed at promoting economic growth through support to micro, small and medium enterprises. PADMPME is the first implementation activity of the National Strategy for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises adopted in 2016. For more information about the PADMPME please do visit www.padmpme.cd or email: padmpme@padmpme.cd



The Integrated Program for Agricultural Growth in the Great Lakes Region (PICAGL) is a regional project involving the DRC and Burundi. Funded by the World Bank through the Ministry of Agriculture, for the DRC, the PICAGL promotes inclusive economic opportunities for private individuals and communities as well as investment in infrastructure and the agricultural sector through the establishment of mechanisms for access to equipments and digital loans in the Provinces of South Kivu and Tanganyika. For more information on PCAGL DRC, please send an email to picagl@gmail.com

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

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Speaking Opportunity:

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Media and Partnerships Opportiny:

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