

**MILKEN
INSTITUTE**

**MIDDLE EAST AND
AFRICA SUMMIT
2025**

PROGRESS WITH PURPOSE:
Advancing Meaningful Partnerships

HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 4-5, 2025

OVERVIEW

The seventh Milken Institute Middle East and Africa Summit convened industry leaders, investors, government officials, and philanthropists over the course of two days. Under the theme *Progress with Purpose: Advancing Meaningful Partnerships*, preeminent thought and industry leaders explored ideas and innovations to confront challenges for a more resilient and prosperous global community.

As countries around the world navigate a period of increased complexity, the Middle East and Africa offer vibrant examples of growth, creativity, and investment opportunities. Participants were able to engage with a variety of pressing topics and establish meaningful partnerships.





SPEAKERS

Speakers discussed a range of subjects, including artificial intelligence (AI) and technological innovation, finance, capital markets, geopolitical challenges, and more. The Summit featured 206 speakers coming from 31 countries. We had a range of diverse voices, with 33 percent female speakers and 45 percent who were new to a Milken Institute event.

Attendees heard from senior executives and thought leaders, including His Excellency Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, managing director and Group CEO, Mubadala Investment Company; Antonoaldo Neves, CEO, Etihad Airways; Camila Cabello, singer and songwriter; Shiv Srinivasan, chief investment officer, public markets, Abu Dhabi Investment Council, and many other voices.



GLOBAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

Over 20 government and diplomatic leaders from around the globe participated in the 2025 Milken Institute Middle East and Africa Summit, offering high-level insights into the region's evolving economic architecture, strategic partnerships, and innovation ecosystems. Discussions spanned AI and digital governance, cross-border investment, regional cooperation, economic and national security, and pathways for sustainable economic transformation.

Key voices included His Excellency Omar Sultan Al Olama, minister of state for artificial intelligence, digital economy, and remote work applications, United Arab Emirates; Matthew Whitaker, US ambassador to NATO; His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Faisal Al Saud, chairman of the board, King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies; His Excellency Jasem Al Budaiwi, secretary-general, Gulf Cooperation Council; and Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed AlMheiri, managing director, 2PointZero and chair, Office of International Affairs, UAE Presidential Cabinet.



INTERNATIONAL

Milken Institute International convened 11 public sessions and 9 private sessions as part of the formal program, as well as a number of private receptions, dinners, and gatherings taking place on the periphery. The Summit featured the Institute's pillars and experts—from Health, Finance, and Philanthropy—to cover regional areas of focus that spoke to the event's theme of *Progress with Purpose: Advancing Meaningful Partnerships*.

Speakers covered a range of relevant regional and global topics that attendees gained valuable insights from across sessions, including investment in Africa's sovereign wealth fund, AI and economic development, Africa's influence in the global media economy, Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, sports investment, and more. Notable speakers included Her Excellency Deemah AlYahya, secretary-general, Digital Cooperation Organization; His Excellency Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, managing director and Group CEO, Mubadala Investment Company; Kimbal Musk, founder and CEO, Nova Sky Stories; Shiv Srinivasan, chief investment officer, public markets, Abu Dhabi Investment Council; Gstaad Guy, founder, Poubel; Samaila Zubairu, CEO, Africa Finance Corporation; James Mwangi, CEO, Equity Bank; Alain Ebobissé, CEO, Africa50; and Aminu Umar-Sadiq, managing director and CEO, Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority.

This year's Summit featured the formal launch of the Milken Institute Africa Leadership Council. The Council brings together a dedicated community of global and African corporate, investment, and philanthropic executives who work collaboratively to identify the continent's most urgent and compelling investment opportunities. By shaping the Milken Institute's strategic priorities, the Council ensures that we channel our unique network of investors and partners for optimal collective impact in advancing African prosperity, unlocking investment at scale, and mobilizing capital for the innovators building Africa's economic future.



HEALTH

Milken Institute Health convened health leaders with two public sessions, “A Conversation with Department of Health Abu Dhabi Chairman His Excellency Mansoor Ibrahim Al Mansoori” and “Precision for Better Health Outcomes—Advancing Precision Oncology: Prevention, Early Detection, and Treatment.” One private session, “Innovations and Financing Women’s Health: From Prevention to Integrated Care,” discussed women’s health initiatives.

Notable speakers included His Excellency Mansoor Ibrahim Al Mansoori, chairman, Department of Health, Abu Dhabi; Alan Tisch, CEO and founder, Atria Health and Research Institute; Georges Pascal Haber, CEO, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi; Nicole Sirotn, CEO, Institute for Healthier Living Abu Dhabi, and former department chair, Preventive Medicine, Medical Subspecialties Institute; and Summia Zaher, CEO, women and children’s care cluster, M42.



FINANCE

Milken Institute Finance convened prominent finance innovators and leaders through three dynamic public sessions and one private session. Attendees were able to engage with a variety of pertinent insights on topics such as AI adoption, FinTech trends, critical mineral investments, and tokenization.

Notable speakers and moderators included Eleni Giokos, anchor and correspondent, CNN; Alex Israel, CEO, Metropolis; Saad Toma, general manager, Middle East and Africa, IBM; Her Excellency Deemah AlYahya, secretary-general, Digital Cooperation Organization; Rob Heyvaert, founder and managing partner, Motive Partners; Travis McGhee, global head, predictions, Crypto.com; Mateo Goldman, senior vice president, investments, US International Development Finance Corporation; Marie-Chantal Kaninda, president, Glencore DRC, and chairperson, Kamoto Copper Company; Oskar Lewnowski, founder and group CEO, Orion Resource Partners; Ayo Sopitan, CEO, Metalex Commodities Inc.; Bob Wilt, CEO, Maaden; Ambareen Musa, CEO, GCC, Revolut; Rayhaneh Sharif-Askary, head, product and research, Grayscale; Trevor Traina, chief business officer, Tools for Humanity; and Don Wilson, founder and CEO, DRW Holdings.



PHILANTHROPY

Milken Institute Strategic Philanthropy brought together thought leaders and innovators in two sessions. Notable speakers included Michael Milken, chairman and founder, Milken Institute; Precious Moloi-Motsepe, CEO and co-founder, Motsepe Foundation, and CEO, Africa Fashion International; Kweilin Ellingrud, McKinsey Global Institute director and senior partner, McKinsey; John Kamara, chair, AI Center of Excellence Africa; Najla Al-Jeaid, deputy secretary general, Alwaleed Philanthropies; Guy Diedrich, senior vice president and global innovation officer, Cisco; Sonia Ben Jaafar, CEO, Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation; Thomas Kaplan, chairman, The Electrum Group, LLC; and Alexandre Mars, founder and CEO, Mission M.

The live-pitch event, “Innovation in Artificial Intelligence and Manufacturing | Milken-Motsepe Prize Pitches,” featured an expert panel of judges and 10 semifinalist companies that pitched their AI-powered innovations in manufacturing, with a focus on Africa. The session marked a major milestone for the prize, as five out of ten semifinalists were named finalists and awarded \$30,000 to advance their manufacturing solutions, advancing to the final phase of the prize. The inspiring “Philanthropic Changemakers: Redefining Leadership and Legacy Across Borders” convened global leaders from the Middle East and beyond to explore how a new era of giving is redefining leadership, legacy, and impact across regions. Private session conversations explored themes from innovation and cross-sector partnerships to where these philanthropic leaders are finding reason for optimism.

Five finalists in the Milken-Motsepe Prize in AI and Manufacturing received \$30,000 each to accelerate the development of their AI-enabled manufacturing innovations. They now advance to the final phase of the prize, where they will compete for the coveted \$1 million Grand Prize. The winners will be announced and celebrated at the 2026 Milken Institute Global Conference.



AUDIENCE

The Middle East and Africa Summit brought together more than 1,200 participants across two days of dynamic dialogue and forward-looking insights, uniting global leaders, philanthropists, government officials, C-suite executives, and other changemakers to examine the region's most urgent challenges and emerging opportunities within a global context. The convening reflected a truly international audience, with attendees representing 66 countries, led by strong participation from the United Arab Emirates, the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore.

The Milken Institute prioritizes accessibility to the event by streaming public sessions via our website (milkeninstitute.org) and Vimeo, attracting more than 18,000 views. The top five countries for viewing were the UAE, US, UK, Brazil, and South Africa.



MOST VIEWED SESSIONS

- Global Overview: Innovation, Partnerships, and Growth
- Michael Milken in Conversation with His Excellency Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak
- The Story Economy: Hits, Talents, and the Forces That Shape Culture
- A Conversation with US Ambassador to the Republic of Türkiye Tom Barrack
- Navigating the Crosscurrents: Global Macro and Investment Outlook
- The Power of Youth Culture in Shaping Brands
- Visionaries of Tomorrow: A Conversation with Nova Sky Stories Founder and CEO Kimbal Musk
- A Conversation with UAE's Minister of State for AI, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications HE Omar Sultan Al Olama
- Macro Pulse 2026: Inflation, Rates, and a Multipolar Investment Cycle
- Innovation in Artificial Intelligence and Manufacturing | Milken-Motsepe Prize Pitches

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

The Milken Institute Middle East and Africa Summit sparked strong digital engagement, generating just over 1,000 social media mentions from 730 unique authors. Conversations surrounding the Summit resonated widely, driving more than 6,700 interactions across platforms and reflecting the event's broad reach and active online dialogue.

Notable mentions came from Mubadala Investment Company; Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed AlMheiri, managing director, 2pointZero; Jessica Sibley, CEO, TIME; Gstaad Guy, founder, Poubel; and the Shell Foundation.





NEWS MEDIA

Media interest in the 2025 Middle East and Africa Summit was robust, with a total of 66 media registrants—50 attending in person and 16 joining virtually—representing 33 news outlets from across the global media landscape. Coverage of sessions and speakers at the Summit translated into more than 35 original print, online, and broadcast stories, with that reporting amplified through over 70 additional pickups in other publications. News and insights from the Summit reached wide and influential audiences through both mainstream and trade outlets, including CNBC, Bloomberg, The Circuit, The National, Reuters, and many more.

66

MEDIA
REGISTRANTS

33

NEWS
OUTLETS

35

ORIGINAL
ARTICLES

NOTABLE ATTENDING ORGANIZATIONS

Fortune and Global 500 Attending Organizations

Allianz	Cisco Systems	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group	Shell
Amgen	Deutsche Bank	KKR	Northern Trust	Siemens
Bank of America	Glencore	Liberty Mutual Insurance Group	Prudential Financial	Sirius XM Holdings
Barclays	Goldman Sachs Group	MassMutual	Principal Financial	Standard Chartered
Bayer	IBM	Medtronic	Reliance	State Street
BNP Paribas	Jefferies Financial Group	Morgan Stanley	Salesforce	TIAA
Brookfield				Walmart

Notable Organizations and Nonprofits

Abraham House	British Academy of Film and Television Arts	Government of the UAE	M&G	Sotheby's
Abu Dhabi Investment Authority	Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi	Gulf Cooperation Council	Ministry of Investment for Saudi Arabia	United Nations Global Impact
Africa Finance Corporation	Diriyah Company	International Holding Company	Motsepe Foundation	US Department of State
Altérra	Etihad Airways	International Monetary Fund	Olayan Group	The White House
			Public Investment Fund	

Join us at our upcoming events as we work together to build meaningful lives:

FUTURE OF FINANCE

Washington, DC | March 3-4, 2026

GLOBAL INVESTORS' SYMPOSIUM

Hong Kong | March 23, 2026

GLOBAL CONFERENCE

Los Angeles | May 3-6, 2026

ASIA SUMMIT

Singapore | October 7-9, 2026

GLOBAL INVESTORS' SYMPOSIUM

Mexico City | October 28, 2026

FUTURE OF HEALTH SUMMIT

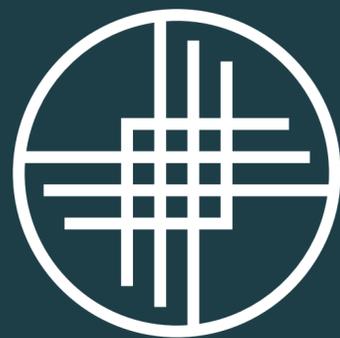
Washington, DC | November 2026

MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA SUMMIT

Abu Dhabi | December 2026

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