



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

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I. OPENING REMARKS

1. EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I bring you warm greetings from the great people of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

2. It is a great honour to join you today as the **Keynote Speaker and Distinguished Guest of Honour** at this **Fourth Edition of the FII Priority Summit** here in Miami.

3. Allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the **FII Institute, His Excellency Yasir Al-Rumayyan, Richard Attias,** and the distinguished leaders supporting this important global platform.

4. Through this Initiative, you have created a space where investors, innovators, and policymakers come together — not only to discuss the future of the global economy, but to help shape it.

5. That is precisely what this Summit represents.

- 6.** All gatherings are not simply forums for conversation.
- 7.** They are places where partnerships are formed, where strategies are refined, and where capital begins to move toward the opportunities of tomorrow.
- 8.** And today, that movement is accelerating.

II. A WORLD IN FLUX: GEOPOLITICS AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

- 9.** We meet at a moment when the global economy is navigating an increasingly complex and shifting landscape.

- 10.** Conflicts in parts of the Middle East, the ongoing war in Ukraine, and instability in regions such as Sudan remind us that geopolitics continues to shape economic realities in profound ways.

- 11.** These developments are influencing how nations think about energy security, food systems, technology supply chains, and long-term economic resilience.
- 12.** For decades, globalisation was driven primarily by efficiency — the search for lower costs and faster production networks.
- 13.** Today, that calculus is changing. Resilience matters. Diversification matters. Strategic alignment matters.
- 14.** Across global markets, capital is being repositioned in response to these shifts.

- 15.** Which is why the theme of this summit — **“Capital in Motion”** — captures this moment so well.
- 16.** Capital today is moving across borders, across sectors, and across technologies in search of stability, innovation, and long-term growth.
- 17.** And so, the central question before investors and policymakers alike is simple: **Where will capital move next?**

III. AFRICA'S STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

18. One of the most powerful forces shaping that answer is demographic change.

19. Many parts of the world are experiencing ageing populations and shrinking workforces.

20. Africa presents a very different reality. By the middle of this century, **one in four people on Earth will be African.**

- 21.** This **demographic transformation** — when matched with the right investments, skills development, and economic policies — represents one of the most significant growth opportunities of the twenty-first century.
- 22.** But demographics alone do not determine destiny. **Investment does.**
- 23.** Today, Africa sits at the intersection of several structural transitions reshaping the global economy.

24. One of the most important lies at the **convergence of artificial intelligence, the global energy transition, and the advanced technologies that will power the next generation of economic growth.**

25. These systems require vast digital infrastructure, reliable clean energy, and secure supplies of critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, bauxite, and rare earth elements.

26. Many of these resources are found in Africa.

27. At the same time, the development and deployment of these technologies will depend on a dynamic and adaptable workforce.

28. Africa's young and increasingly digitally connected population, therefore, represents not only a demographic shift but a strategic advantage.

29. A strategic advantage in a world where **innovation, energy systems, and human capital are becoming deeply interconnected.**

30. For global investors, this convergence places Africa at the centre of several of the most important economic transformations of our time.

IV. WHERE CAPITAL CAN DEPLOY AT SCALE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

31. For investors seeking where capital can deploy at scale, several opportunities are becoming increasingly clear.

32. First, **energy infrastructure** that supports both industrial growth and the global clean-energy transition.

33. Second, **digital connectivity and data infrastructure** that power emerging technology ecosystems.

- 34.** Third, **modern agriculture and food systems** capable of feeding growing populations.
- 35.** Fourth, **logistics and transport networks** that connect regional markets and enable trade.
- 36.** And finally, **the responsible development of critical minerals** essential to global manufacturing and energy technologies.
- 37.** These are **not theoretical opportunities**. They are real investment platforms where long-term capital, technology, and partnership can unlock significant economic value.

38. Increasingly, these platforms are being structured through partnerships that **combine sovereign participation, development finance institutions, and private capital.**

39. When public policy, catalytic capital, and private investment work together, the result is scalable opportunities capable of attracting long-term institutional investors.

V. WEST AFRICA: A STRATEGIC REGIONAL MARKET

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

40. Within Africa, **West Africa is emerging as one of the most strategic economic regions of the coming decades.**

41. Our region sits along major Atlantic maritime trade routes connecting the Americas, Europe, and Africa.

- 42.** It possesses significant agricultural potential, growing urban markets, and important mineral resources.
- 43.** At the same time, regional integration through **ECOWAS** and the **African Continental Free Trade Area** is helping create larger and more connected markets where businesses and investors can operate at scale.
- 44.** For investors seeking diversification and long-term growth, West Africa is increasingly becoming a region of strategic importance.

VI. SIERRA LEONE'S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

45. Allow me to illustrate this opportunity through the experience of Sierra Leone.

46. When my administration took office, we placed **Human Capital Development** at the centre of our **National Development Strategy**.

47. Because sustainable economic progress always begins with people.

48. We have therefore prioritised **education, healthcare, skills development, and expanded opportunities for our young population.**

49. At the same time, we are expanding employment pathways through our **Youth Employment Scheme**, one of Sierra Leone's **Big Five Game Changers.**

50. Working with **the private sector**, we are creating opportunities for young people across agriculture, infrastructure, entrepreneurship, and skills-based industries.

51. We are also investing in **digital transformation**, expanding broadband connectivity and strengthening digital public services so that young Sierra Leoneans can participate fully in the global digital economy.

52. Another pillar of our **Development Agenda** is the **empowerment of women**.

53. Through the **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act of 2022**, Sierra Leone strengthened legal frameworks to increase

women's participation in leadership, employment, and access to finance.

54. Agriculture also remains central to our economic transformation.

55. Through our **Feed Salone initiative**, we are modernising agriculture through technology, mechanisation, and stronger value chains — strengthening food security while opening new opportunities for investment across the agricultural economy.

56. At the same time, Sierra Leone is responsibly **developing its mineral resources,** strengthening infrastructure, and expanding value addition in sectors such as **bauxite, iron ore, rutile (titanium dioxide) and critical minerals.**

57. We are also strengthening our **energy sector** to support long-term economic growth.

58. Our **offshore basin** remains one of the **promising under-explored petroleum frontiers** along the West African transform margin.

59. As global demand for secure and diversified energy supplies evolves, Sierra Leone is working to responsibly develop **its oil and gas potential** in ways that support **domestic power generation, industrial development, and regional energy security.**

60. For **long-term investors**, policy certainty matters as much as opportunity.

61. Sierra Leone is therefore strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving the ease of doing business, and working closely with

Development Finance Institutions to ensure that investment platforms are transparent, predictable, and globally competitive.

62. Our objective is simple: **to create an environment where responsible capital can deploy with confidence and grow with our economy.**

63. Because capital ultimately moves where institutions are strengthening, where policies are predictable, and where governments are committed to long-term transformation.

VII. THE INVESTMENT MOMENT FOR AFRICA

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

64. Periods of global change often create the most significant investment opportunities.

65. As capital reallocates in response to geopolitical shifts, technological disruption, and demographic transformation, new economic frontiers inevitably emerge.

66. Africa is increasingly one of those frontiers.

67. For long-term institutional investors, the most attractive markets are those where **structural growth, natural resources, and human capital converge.**

68. Africa represents one of the few regions in the world where **all three are aligning simultaneously.**

69. As global capital searches for stable, long-duration opportunities in **energy, infrastructure, food systems, and digital connectivity,** Africa is emerging not simply as

a frontier market, but as a **strategic investment destination.**

70. The institutions and investors who partner with Africa today will help shape the industries, supply chains, and growth platforms that define the global economy of tomorrow.

71. Markets are rarely built by observers. They are **built by early partners** who recognise structural opportunity and help shape it.

72. Across West Africa and in Sierra Leone, the foundations for the next phase of growth are already being laid.

73. Those who engage early will not only participate in that growth — they will help define it.

VIII. CLOSING: A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

74. We are not seeking capital that simply moves through our economies.

75. We are seeking partners who will **build with us** industries, infrastructure, and opportunities that create lasting prosperity.

76. The opportunities are real. The potential is enormous. And the moment is now.

77. So, my message to the global investors gathered here today is simple: **Look at Africa with fresh eyes.**

78. See it not as a collection of risks, but as a continent of opportunity.

79. Build partnerships that endure.

80. Because when capital moves **with societies rather than simply through them**, it creates lasting value — for investors, for communities, and for the global economy.

81. And as capital continues to move across the world in search of the future, let me leave you with this thought: **Africa is not waiting for the future. Africa is building it.** And we invite you to build it with us.

82. Thank you very much.

