



**GED**  
**Summit**  
**Report**

Prepared by:  
**Dr. Hilda Fankah-Arthur (Ph.D.)**  
 President/Founder  
*The Global Economics Diversification Council* [www.gedcouncil.ca](http://www.gedcouncil.ca)

The GED Summit is where innovation meets inclusion. Together, we diversify economies, empower communities, & transform our shared future.

## Preface

*The Global Economic Diversification Summit 2025 positioned economic diversification as a survival strategy for building resilient and inclusive economies, especially for vulnerable states reliant on narrow exports. Key themes included women's economic empowerment, innovation, AI and digital transformation, sustainable development, inclusive trade, and human capital development. The summit emphasized unlocking potential by dismantling systemic barriers, investing in education, and fostering adaptable systems that empower all citizens, particularly women and youth, to become drivers of growth and resilience.*

*Despite these ambitions, the summit addressed major roadblocks such as fragmented government policies, domestic trade barriers, risk-averse cultures, and lack of disaggregated data. Trade disputes, weak commercialization of innovation, and gendered social expectations further complicate progress. To overcome these challenges, the summit called for multi-stakeholder collaboration, long-term strategic planning, inclusive leadership, and educational reform. Embracing failure as a catalyst for innovation, investing in supportive ecosystems for entrepreneurs, and data-driven decision-making were highlighted as critical steps toward creating future-ready, diversified economies.*

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# Introduction

The Global Economic Diversification Summit 2025 served as a critical platform to share ideas, learn from one another, and forge new partnerships for inclusive and sustainable development. The Global Economic Diversification Council, the convener of this summit, was established with the overarching purpose of **shaping economic futures that are resilient, inclusive, and adaptive.**

The Council aims to be a strategic engine that drives the convergence of global leaders, mobilizes investments, accelerates innovation, and opens new pathways to sustainable and inclusive prosperity. This annual global forum brings together policymakers, investors, entrepreneurs, and innovators to co-create economic blueprints for resilience.

In a period marked by global disruption, including conflict, climate shocks, and economic fragmentation, economic diversification is not merely good policy but a necessity. The global economy is currently facing unprecedented volatility, rising geopolitical tensions, shifting supply chains, inflationary pressures, technological disruptions, and mounting climate-related risks. For countries that have historically relied on single resource sectors or rigid industrial models, the risk of inaction is significant. The summit recognized that concentrated economies are vulnerable, inaccessible opportunities erode social cohesion, and stifled innovation constrains future growth.

***The discussions aimed to highlight how economic diversification is a survival strategy for building resilience against shocks, fostering inclusive growth, and transitioning towards economies that are more just, sustainable, and adaptable.***

The summit's discussions consistently acknowledged the profound impacts of global economic trends on micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), international trade, and social inclusion. Many, especially small states and vulnerable economies, face common challenges such as over-dependence on a narrow range of exports, exposure to external shocks, and underinvestment in critical capabilities for long-term growth, like infrastructure, skills, technology, and innovation. Trade is central to this agenda, with internal trade often being cheaper due to shared systems and trust. However, significant structural and non-tariff barriers continue to impede market access for countries and enterprises often excluded from global value chains, particularly for developing nations. The dichotomized influence of AI and digital technologies presents both disruptive challenges, such as job displacement and skill gaps, and immense opportunities for economic transformation and inclusive growth across all demographics.



# Executive Summary



**Amidst economic uncertainties, trade conflicts, climate shocks, economic fragmentation, and growing inequality, the summit emphasized that economic diversification is no longer just sound policy—it is an essential survival strategy.**

*The Global Economic Diversification Summit 2025 underscored that economic diversification is a strategic imperative for survival and sustained prosperity in an era of unprecedented global volatility. Key insights from the summit emphasized that resilience is built through broad economic foundations, moving away from over-reliance on single sectors and markets. Major themes and outcomes highlighted the critical role of:*

- **Women's economic empowerment**, recognized as a proven accelerator of economic growth and community resilience, necessitating the dismantling of systemic barriers and active support for women as leaders and innovators.
- **Digital transformation and AI**, identified as powerful catalysts for economic change, requiring strategic investments in digital infrastructure, skills development, and ethical regulatory frameworks to ensure inclusive benefits and mitigate job displacement.
- **Fostering innovation and collaboration**, seen as essential for unlocking growth, overcoming bureaucratic hurdles, and commercializing research, with a strong call for multi-stakeholder partnerships and a shift towards a risk-tolerant, learning-from-failure culture.
- **Overcoming trade barriers and enhancing market access**, particularly for MSMEs, through improved awareness of preferential agreements, capacity building, and advocating for reforms in international trade and investment regimes to ensure fairness and predictability.
- **Education and skills mobility**, stressed as foundational for preparing the workforce for evolving demands, promoting lifelong learning, and integrating practical, market-aligned curricula to address skill gaps.
- **Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, necessitating a holistic approach to resource allocation, informed by disaggregated data and driven by genuine community involvement and ownership.

# Executive Summary



**Major Recommendations** synthesized from the summit's discussions include:

- Implementing **long-term, coherent national strategies** for diversification, aligning efforts across government ministries and engaging all stakeholders.
- Prioritizing **investment in critical infrastructure and human capital**, particularly in digital and green sectors, to build foundational capabilities for future growth.
- **Dismantling systemic barriers** to women's full economic participation through targeted policies, access to finance, and mentorship.
- Developing **proactive and ethical AI regulations** and fostering widespread digital literacy to harness technological advancements inclusively.
- **Reforming trade policies** to simplify market access for MSMEs, address non-tariff barriers, and ensure international agreements are equitable and effectively enforced.
- Cultivating a **culture that embraces innovation and learns from failure**, supported by collaborative ecosystems between government, industry, and academia.

**High-level next steps** involve translating these insights into actionable strategies, mobilizing public and private funding, and fostering relentless collaboration across all sectors to build resilient, inclusive, and adaptive economic systems globally. The commitment to economic diversification is a shared legacy to be constructed through bold strategies, data-informed decisions, and continuous engagement.



# The **GED Council**

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The Global Economic Diversification Council is positioned as a strategic engine for global economic transformation, driven by a commitment to resilience, inclusivity, and adaptability. We extend a strategic call to action to **governments, development banks, businesses, academia, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** to join us in this vital mission. In an increasingly uncertain world, collective effort and diverse perspectives are paramount to unlocking new pathways to sustainable prosperity.

## **GED Pillars**

The Global Economic Diversification (GED) Council advances a strategic framework built on six interconnected pillars. Each pillar is designed to address systemic barriers to economic resilience and promote inclusive, sustainable development across regions.

### ■ **Global Economic Diversification (GED) Summit**

*The GED Summit is an annual global forum where policymakers, investors, entrepreneurs, and innovators convene to co-create economic blueprints for resilience. Each year's summit report captures key insights into economic trends, cross-regional innovations, and emerging investment opportunities.*

### ■ **Coalition for Economic Diversification Investments (CEDI)**

*CEDI is a global alliance of investment leaders and development financiers committed to identifying strategic investment pipelines in emerging and under-capitalized sectors. The coalition facilitates capital deployment in industries that promote diversification, reduce systemic concentration risks, and strengthen long-term economic resilience.*

## ■ Sustainable Development and Green Economies

*This pillar supports the integration of green transition strategies into national and regional economic planning. It promotes the development of low-carbon industries, circular economies, climate-resilient infrastructure, and nature-based solutions. It also strengthens public-private frameworks to embed sustainability in both policy and capital investment decisions.*

## ■ GED Training and Workshops

*The Council delivers targeted training programs that build capacity across governments, the private sector, and civil society. These programs equip leaders and institutions to design, finance, and manage diversified economies using evidence-based and inclusive approaches.*

## ■ Inclusive Global Trade and Market Access

*This pillar works to eliminate structural trade barriers and expand global market access for underrepresented countries and enterprises. It supports trade policy reform, inclusive trade financing, and the development of digital trade infrastructure that enables broader participation in global value chains.*

## ■ Digital and Knowledge Economies

*Focusing on the intersection of technology, innovation, and data, this pillar promotes the growth of digital ecosystems, intellectual property-driven industries, and knowledge-based services. It also supports the development of national data strategies, digital entrepreneurship, and workforce skilling for the future economy.*



# GED COUNCIL Partnership

## Invitation to Partner with The GED Council

The GED Council welcomes partnership opportunities with organizations and individuals committed to advancing inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic growth. By partnering with the GED Council, stakeholders can actively participate in mobilizing investments, accelerating innovation, and co-creating economic blueprints for a more resilient and inclusive future. Your engagement will directly contribute to building economies that are more just, sustainable, and adaptable for generations to come.

**Partnership models** with the GED Council are designed to foster mutual benefits and drive tangible impact:

- **Knowledge & Insight Partnerships:** The GED Council welcomes **year-round partnerships with individuals and organizations to contribute insights, data, and expertise across our six pillars**. These collaborations strengthen our reports, inform global dialogues, and connect partners with a growing network of thought leaders shaping inclusive economic growth.
- **Program-Specific Investment:** Partners can directly support targeted programs such as **innovation labs, toolkits, training, or workshops under specific GED pillars**. These investments ensure practical, on-the-ground outcomes that build local capacity and drive sustainable economic transformation.
- **Formal Collaboration Agreements:** Through **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)**, the GED Council forms long-term partnerships with governments and institutions. These agreements support joint initiatives, policy alignment, and strategic implementation—such as **our model partnership with Nigeria’s Ministry of Youth and Sports**.

At the 2025 GED Summit, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the GED Council and the Government of Nigeria Youth Ministry to promote economic diversification and support future events.





## **PRESIDENT/FOUNDER**

# **Remarks**

*Visionary statement from  
**Dr. Hilda Fankah-Arthur,**  
President of the Global Economic  
Diversification Council.*

Good morning, Your Excellencies, honored guests, thought leaders, and friends. As the founder of the Global Economic Diversification Council, it is my profound pleasure to welcome you to this pivotal summit. Our journey began with a clear conviction: that economic growth is not merely a strategy, but a vital tool in the ongoing work of decolonization. It is how we reclaim agency, restore equity, and reshape systems that have long excluded or exploited diverse populations.

In this era of unprecedented volatility, where global uncertainties and economic headwinds are undeniable, we must look inward and backward to truly understand the roots of inequality and fragility in our current systems. History teaches us that exclusion breeds instability, and narrow economic models ultimately fail the many. This understanding grounds our mission: to shape economic futures that are resilient, inclusive, and adaptive.

The Global Economic Diversification Council serves as a strategic engine, mobilizing investments, accelerating innovation, and opening new pathways to sustainable, inclusive prosperity through our six foundational pillars. This summit, our annual global forum, is a testament to our unwavering commitment to building platforms for transformation.

This year, we made a deliberate choice to proceed despite global uncertainties, embodying the very principle we promote - resiliency. We firmly believe that economic diversification is not a luxury, but a necessity – a survival strategy to build resilience against shocks and create inclusive growth. Our conversations over these days have been dedicated to unlocking opportunities across critical sectors, strengthening strategic investments, and expanding the capacity of local and global economies to adapt.

A strategic imperative at the heart of this summit has been women's economic empowerment. We are dedicated to spotlighting and dismantling systemic barriers that limit women's full participation, positioning them as leaders, innovators, and wealth creators in every sector. Empowering women is not just a matter of equity; it is a proven accelerator of economic growth, community resilience, and generational progress. We simply cannot afford to leave half of the world's talent on the sidelines.



## **PRESIDENT/FOUNDER**

# **Remarks**

At the core of this summit is a deep belief in the power of learning. In a world defined by uncertainty, knowledge is the currency of the future and our most renewable resource. It is how we confront historical inequities, bridge generational gaps, and connect local realities with global opportunities. We strive for learning-driven economies, where access to knowledge is democratized, and innovation is guided by human dignity, not just profit.

As we stand at the crossroads of economic evolution, I implore you to reflect on key questions: How do we reduce dependency on vulnerable sectors? How do we scale innovation for inclusive growth? How do we relocate capital to fuel climate adaptation, infrastructure, and productivity? These are not abstract questions; they are the front lines of global economic survival and advancement. The stable, diversified, and competitive future we need will not come through passive observation. It must be constructed through bold strategies, data-informed decisions, and relentless collaboration across sectors.

As Master Oogway from Kung Fu Panda reminds us, 'Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That is why it is called the present'. We cannot change the past, nor fully predict the future, but we can act today with clarity, agility, and foresight.

Let this summit serve not only as a conversation but as a turning point where insight becomes action, and economic resilience becomes our shared legacy. Thank you for being here and for believing in the power of economic transformation. When we educate women, we don't just change their future; we revolutionize economies, redefine leadership, and reshape the frontiers of innovation. The next great economic era will be built not by a few, but by many, including the countless empowered women who dare to lead.

Welcome once again to the Global Economic Diversification Summit!"

**Hilda Fankah-Arthur, PhD.**  
*President/Founder,  
GED Council*

# How to Use This Report

This report synthesizes the discussions, expert contributions, and actionable recommendations generated during the Global Economic Diversification Summit 2025. It is designed to be a living document, a **blueprint for action and transformation**, rather than a static record.

## ■ Guidance for its use:

### ■ Policymakers:

Utilize the recommended policy frameworks and strategic approaches to design, finance, and manage diversified economies at local, national, and international levels. Pay particular attention to integrating disaggregated data for informed decision-making and aligning efforts across ministries and government tiers. The emphasis on long-term planning, proactive regulation, and addressing internal trade barriers should guide legislative and executive agendas.

### ■ Educators & Academia:

Leverage the insights on skills mobility, digital literacy, and the future of work to adapt curricula, fostering critical thinking, entrepreneurial skills, and lifelong learning. Consider developing new teaching methodologies and integrating real-world challenges, industry partnerships, and AI-driven skill development programs. The call for non-profit, high-quality universities and investment in R&D is a key takeaway.

### ■ Researchers:

This report identifies key gaps in data collection and areas requiring further evidence-based solutions, particularly in understanding societal impacts of economic changes and the effectiveness of inclusive policies. The themes and recommendations can serve as a foundation for targeted studies and analyses.

### ■ Private Sector Actors:

Explore the opportunities presented by shifting global trade patterns, the green economy, and digital transformation. The recommendations provide guidance on how to invest in sustainability, engage in community development, and prioritize diversity and inclusion in hiring and leadership. The emphasis on ethical AI and cybersecurity should inform business practices.

### ■ Development Partners & NGOs:

This report highlights critical areas for intervention, particularly in supporting MSMEs, women- and youth-led enterprises, and vulnerable communities in accessing finance, technology, and markets. The need for sustainable engagement, community ownership, and tailored aid that addresses local needs (e.g., capital over training) is crucial for effective development.



# GED Summit - Themes & Outcomes

## 1: Economic Diversification and Global Resilience

■ **Context & Key Issues** - The summit recognized that the global economy is at an inflection point, with old models straining under the weight of global disruptions such as conflict, climate shocks, and economic fragmentation, which are exacerbating inequality. Many nations, particularly small states and vulnerable economies, suffer from over-dependence on a narrow range of exports, making them acutely exposed to external shocks. A significant challenge is underinvestment in capabilities vital for long-term growth, including infrastructure, skills, technology, and innovation. For Canada, a major challenge has been an over-reliance on the U.S. market, leading to a lack of innovation and investment in productivity gains. This has created a situation where geopolitical shifts, like new U.S. trade policies, can have devastating impacts on employment and economic stability, forcing an urgent need to diversify trade policies and markets. Economic vulnerability is often driven by the absence of long-term planning and a reactive approach to crises, rather than proactive strategic foresight. Concentrated economies are inherently vulnerable, and without diversification, opportunities become inaccessible, eroding social cohesion and stifling future potential.

### ■ **Recommendations:**

- **Prioritize National Strategic Planning with a Long-Term Horizon:** Governments should develop and implement multi-decade economic growth strategies, transcending short-term political cycles, to systematically diversify its economies. This requires aligning national plans with provincial/regional capabilities and resources, focusing on key performance indicators (KPIs) like GDP per capita growth, improved living standards, and productivity gains across the country.



# GED Summit - Themes & Outcomes

- **Aggressively Diversify International Trade Markets:** Countries heavily reliant on single trading partners, like Canada on the U.S., must urgently seek and actively support new market access opportunities in diverse regions such as Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Europe. This involves proactive government programs to support companies, especially MSMEs, in exporting to different countries and exploring new trade routes.
- **Dismantle Internal Trade Barriers and Strengthen Domestic Markets:** Governments must urgently remove inter-provincial or internal trade barriers that stifle domestic economic activity and competitiveness. Fostering robust internal markets for locally produced goods and services can build greater self-sustainability and resilience against external contingencies.
- **Strategically Invest in High-Impact, Future-Oriented Sectors:** Allocate resources to develop and incentivize growth in key industries that offer long-term potential and resilience, such as green energy, agri-business, the digital economy, quantum computing, and semiconductors. This includes investing in Research & Development, infrastructure (e.g., data centers, cloud systems), and tailored workforce development for these sectors.

- **Call to Action:**

Leaders and policymakers must recognize that economic diversification is a survival strategy, not an option, in today's volatile global climate. It demands bold leadership, strategic long-term planning, and the courage to transform existing systems. Prioritize diversifying markets and internal economic strengthening to build resilience and chart a path to sustainable prosperity for all.



# GED Summit - Themes & Outcomes

## 2: Women's Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Entrepreneurship

■ **Context & Key Issues** - The summit highlighted women's economic empowerment as a central and strategic imperative, emphasizing that **no economy can reach its full potential if half of its population is locked out of opportunity**. Despite global recognition of its importance and proven economic benefits, systemic barriers persist, hindering women's full participation. These barriers include limited access to finance and investment for women-led enterprises, bureaucratic hurdles, and inadequate technical resources for digital engagement. Culturally and societally, women often face stereotypical labels, pressure to prioritize family over career, and a pervasive patriarchal system built historically by men for men, which is reflected in workplace structures and policies. Additionally, there's a need for proper recognition of essential unpaid work performed by women in homes and communities. The challenge extends beyond mere inclusion; it is about transforming systems to work for women from the ground up, ensuring they are not just beneficiaries but leaders and architects of economic growth.

■ **Recommendations:**

- **Systemically Transform Policies for Gender Equity:** Implement comprehensive policies that actively disrupts the overreliance on patriarchal structures and foster truly equitable economic environments. This includes reviewing and reforming existing laws and policies to ensure they align with women's lived experiences and do not inadvertently perpetuate inequalities (e.g., aligning daycare hours with work schedules).



# GED Summit - Themes & Outcomes

- **Enhance Financial and Technical Support for Women-Led Businesses:** Significantly improve women's access to finance through micro-grants, credit guarantees, and tailored financial products that consider their unique challenges in securing collateral. Simultaneously, provide robust technical assistance, marketing support, and digital skills training to help women entrepreneurs leverage online platforms and scale their businesses sustainably.
- **Champion Women in Leadership and STEM:** Actively promote and incentivize women's representation in leadership roles across all sectors, including government and male-dominated industries, moving beyond mere quotas to genuine empowerment. Increase access to and scholarships for STEM education for young women and girls, fostering a culture that encourages their entry into and leadership within these critical fields.
- **Cultivate a Supportive and Resilience-Oriented Entrepreneurial Ecosystem:** Establish more acceleration and incubation centers, mentorship programs, and networking opportunities specifically designed for women entrepreneurs. Crucially, educate new entrepreneurs, particularly younger ones, about the "dark side" of entrepreneurship, including the reality of failures and struggles, while fostering resilience and a long-term mindset.

- **Call to Action:**

Governments, private sector, and civil society must jointly commit to dismantling systemic barriers and actively championing women's full economic participation. This is a strategic imperative for accelerating economic growth, enhancing community resilience, and driving generational progress. Invest in women not as beneficiaries, but as the architects of a more just, sustainable, and adaptive global economy.



# GED Summit - Themes & Outcomes

## 3: Digital Transformation, AI, and Future of Work

**Context & Key Issues** - The digital economy is rapidly transforming every aspect of life and work, moving towards an "agentic AI phase" that will bring both significant challenges and opportunities. Automation and AI are projected to disrupt a substantial portion of global worker skills and job categories within the next decade, potentially leading to widespread job losses in some fields while creating new ones in others, primarily in IT and technology. A critical challenge is the existing **skill gap**; with many companies lacking the workforce trained in necessary digital and AI skills. Additionally, the pace of AI development is outpacing regulation, raising concerns about data protection, ethical AI, and societal implications, including potential clashes between AI and human ethical frameworks. Access to digital infrastructure, such as reliable internet and computing systems, remains a significant barrier, particularly for rural communities and developing countries, exacerbating the digital divide.

### Recommendations:

- **Invest in Comprehensive Skills Development and Lifelong Learning:** Governments and educational institutions must prioritize reskilling and upskilling initiatives to equip the workforce with necessary digital and AI skills, focusing on software engineering, data science, and analytical capabilities. Emphasize continuous education models, micro-credentials, and flexible learning options to ensure adaptability throughout careers.
- **Strategically Focus on Key Digital Sectors for Development:** Incentivize growth in high-impact digital and technology sectors, such as quantum computing, semiconductors, and digital trade infrastructure. This includes supporting pilot projects, R&D, and attracting investments to build national capabilities in these areas.



# GED Summit - Themes & Outcomes

- **Develop Proactive and Ethical AI Regulations:** Governments should accelerate the development of comprehensive AI acts and generative AI regulations that address data protection, ethical principles (e.g., OECD guidelines), and potential societal impacts of AI. These regulations should be driven by innovation and co-created with diverse stakeholders, including tech companies, academics, and end-users, to ensure responsible development and mitigate risks.
- **Bridge the Digital Divide with Enhanced Infrastructure and Access:** Implement policies and investments to significantly increase access to reliable internet, cloud systems, and data centers, especially in rural and underserved communities. This foundational infrastructure is crucial for enabling widespread participation in the digital economy and ensuring equitable opportunities for all.

- **Call to Action:**

Embrace digital transformation and artificial intelligence as powerful forces for economic diversification and inclusive growth. Prioritize investments in digital skills, strategic technologies, and robust infrastructure while developing proactive, ethical regulations. Foster a culture of continuous learning and collaboration to ensure that the benefits of the AI revolution are broadly shared, making economies resilient and future-ready for all citizens.



# GED Summit - Themes & Outcomes

## 4: Fostering Innovation and Collaborative Ecosystems

■ **Context & Key Issues** - Innovation is a critical catalyst for economic growth, yet many countries, including Canada, have been **lagging due to a risk-averse culture** and an over-reliance on established markets. Despite having top-tier research and intellectual property (IP), there's a significant gap in **commercialization and retaining headquarters domestically**, leading to a "brain drain" and loss of R&D functions to foreign entities. The process of bringing innovative ideas to market is further stifled by a labyrinth of regulatory challenges and a lack of aligned policy structures across different levels of government. Effective collaboration across diverse stakeholders (government, private sector, academia, civil society) remains a hurdle, with ministries often working in silos and personal interests sometimes superseding collective goals.

■ **Recommendations:**

- **Cultivate a Culture that Embraces and Celebrates Failure as Innovation:** Shift the societal and organizational mindset from risk aversion to one that views failure as an opportunity for learning and accelerating development. Publicize and share lessons from "failed" projects to inform different paths and speed up the cycle of innovation.
- **Institutionalize Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration for Co-Creation:** Establish formal platforms and initiatives that bring together end-users, academics, tech companies, policymakers, regulators, and commercialization entities from the very early stages of identifying problems and developing solutions. This ensures solutions are relevant, ethical, and supported by a comprehensive ecosystem.



# GED Summit - Themes & Outcomes

- **Streamline Regulatory Frameworks for Competitiveness and Speed:** Innovate policy structures to reduce bureaucratic hurdles and accelerate project development, particularly in high-impact sectors like energy, mining, and infrastructure. Regulations should be designed to drive innovation rather than react to it, ensuring efficiency in permitting and market entry.
- **Invest Strategically in Domestic Commercialization and IP Retention:** Develop and fund programs that support the commercialization of homegrown intellectual property and incentivize companies to retain their headquarters and R&D operations within the country. This includes providing more domestic capital to compete with foreign acquisitions and foster local spin-offs.
- **Implement Targeted Sectoral Development with Long-Term Vision:** Governments should identify 3-4 key industries (e.g., quantum computing, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing) and commit to long-term, comprehensive support for their development. This focused approach, as seen in countries like South Korea and Taiwan, can lead to world leadership in specific areas.

- **Call to Action:**

Unleashing innovation requires a fundamental mindset shift and relentless collaboration across all sectors. Leaders must courageously break down silos, streamline regulatory processes, and make strategic, long-term investments in commercialization and key industries. By embracing failure as a learning opportunity and fostering truly collaborative ecosystems, we can transform challenges into opportunities for unprecedented growth and global leadership.



# Our Endorsers & Contributors

The Global Economic Diversification Summit 2025 benefited immensely from the insights and support of a diverse range of high-level stakeholders, global entities, and expert contributors. Their collective insights and commitment were instrumental in fostering a rich dialogue and advancing the agenda of economic diversification and inclusive growth.

## The Commonwealth

Secretary General's Office

*A family of 56 nations, home to 2.7 billion people, united by shared values of peace, democracy, opportunity, and equality, actively working on economic diversification, women's empowerment, and leveraging the Commonwealth*



## Ministry of Youth Dev't -Nigeria

*Demonstrated significant commitment to economic diversification, youth empowerment, and poverty reduction, including through social registers, skills acquisition programs, and partnerships.*



*A technology company focused on hyper-automation and no-code platforms, recognized for supporting women and youth in the workforce.*

Chief Executive Office  
**SimplyCast**



*A non-partisan, independent think tank focused on Canada's economic growth, addressing challenges like productivity, regulatory frameworks, and market diversification.*



## Public Policy Forum

Canada

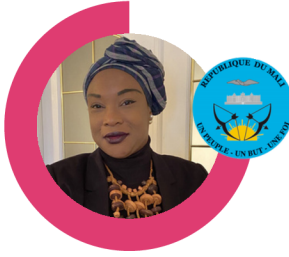
[www.gedcouncil.ca](http://www.gedcouncil.ca)



# KEYNOTE CONTRIBUTORS & SELECT SPEAKERS:



**H.E. Prof. Hassan Diab**  
FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF LEBANON  
Republic of Lebanon



**H.E. Fatima Braouele Meite**  
FORMER MALI AMBASSADOR TO CANADA  
Republic of Mali



**AKI TEMISEVA**  
PRESIDENT / CEO  
United Nations Association of Canada



**Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey**  
SECRETARY GENERAL  
Commonwealth Secretariat



**Opeyemi Abebe**  
HEAD OF THE TRADE COMPETITIVENESS SECTION  
Commonwealth Secretariat



**Dr. Rébar Jaff**  
FORMER SEC. OF THE DISARMAMENT ADVISORY BOARD  
United Nations Secretary General



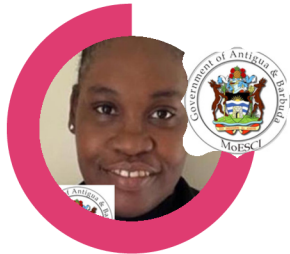
**Dr. Renata Thiébaud**  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
Green Proposition Consulting



**Dr. Khwezi Mbolekwa**  
SPECIAL ADVISOR - CANADA  
GED Council



**Micah Anshan**  
SR. DIRECTOR, PARTNERSHIPS  
Futurpreneur Canada



**Dr. Janelle Sharee O'Mard**  
BUSINESS DEV'T CONSULTANT  
Ministry of Education, Antigua & Barbuda



**Dr. Wolfgang Alschner**  
CHAIR IN BUSINESS AND TRADE LAW  
University of Ottawa



**Bethanie Nonami**  
CEO & FOUNDER  
Marley Nonami LLC.



**Dr. Shindale Seale**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Sade Coaching and Consulting



**Olubunmi Olusanya**  
PERMANENT SECRETARY  
Ministry of Youth Development, Nigeria



**Dr. Christabel Derby Esq.**  
LAWYER & RENOWNED YOUTH ADVOCATE  
Ghana High Commission, UK



**Dr. May Siksik**  
CEO & FOUNDER  
Innovation Network Canada



**Angie Seth**  
TV ANCHOR & PRESIDENT OF RTDNA  
Canada Broadcasting Corporation



**Marwan Gwamba**  
SNR. PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO MINISTER  
Ministry of Youth Development, Nigeria



**Dr. Maryna Korchagina**  
ASSIST. DEPUTY MINISTER, POPULATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
Government of BC



**Dr. Effah Antwi**  
RESEARCH SCIENTIST  
National Resources Canada

**Thank You!**



## Our Contact:



+1 613-699-0966  
+1 780-707-5501



[info@gedcouncil.ca](mailto:info@gedcouncil.ca)



[www.gedcouncil.ca](http://www.gedcouncil.ca)



343 Preston Street, 11th  
Floor, Ottawa, ON K1S 1N4  
Canada

## ● Acknowledgments

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## Glossary

- **Economic Diversification:** This is defined as more than just good policy; it is a necessity in times of global disruption, conflict, climate shocks, and economic fragmentation, aiming to widen equality. It involves building resilience, expanding opportunity, and ensuring all countries can chart their own path to prosperity, moving away from over-dependence on a narrow range of exports and exposure to external shocks. The GED Council was established to shape economic futures that are resilient, inclusive, and adaptive, driving the convergence of global leaders, mobilizing investments, accelerating innovation, and opening new pathways to sustainable, inclusive prosperity. Economic diversification is described as a survival strategy for countries that have long relied on single resource sectors or rigid industrial models, creating inclusive growth and transitioning towards economies that are more just, sustainable, and adaptable.
- **Value-Added Trade:** While not directly defined as "value-added trade," the concept is discussed in terms of transforming raw materials into more valuable products. For example, in Mali, vocational training on the value chain of agriculture is crucial to process locally produced food, rather than exporting raw cattle or sheep. Similarly, for products like pomegranates or tomatoes, instead of just selling them raw, they can be turned into higher-value byproducts like pomegranate vinegar or tomato paste. This transformation increases the product's value and economic return.
- **Inclusive growth** refers to economic progress that benefits all segments of society, regardless of background or social standing. It involves transforming systems to work equitably for everyone, including closing the gender digital divide, recognizing unpaid care work, and ensuring women are not only beneficiaries but also leaders and architects of economic transformation. Inclusive growth aims to bridge equality gaps, economic gaps, and the socioeconomic gaps that prevent opportunities. It also prioritizes support for marginalized groups, including women-led businesses, Black entrepreneurs, family enterprises, and people with disabilities, through expanded access to funding, markets, and networks. For **Black African communities**, inclusive growth means addressing systemic barriers such as racial exclusion, limited capital access, and underrepresentation in decision-making spaces. It requires intentional strategies that empower Black African entrepreneurs, professionals, and youth to participate meaningfully in economic development. Recognizing and investing in these communities is essential to advancing shared prosperity, resilience, and long-term, equitable growth.



## Glossary

- **Blended Finance:** Blended finance is a strategic approach to financing that combines **public, philanthropic, and private capital** to unlock investment in sectors or regions where commercial investment alone would be insufficient or too risky. It is designed to **de-risk** investment opportunities—particularly in emerging markets or underserved sectors—by using **concessional finance** (e.g., grants, guarantees, or first-loss capital from public or philanthropic sources) to attract larger volumes of **commercial capital**.
- While the provided sources do not offer a formal definition, they do reference related mechanisms such as public-private partnerships (PPPs), government-backed lending, and discussions from seminars on innovative financing for sustainability. These all reflect the core principle of blended finance: **mobilizing diverse capital sources to fill financing gaps and drive resilient economic transformation**. There is also a mention of an "innovative financing for sustainability" seminar, indicating discussions around new funding mechanisms.

- **Summary of Toolkits and Frameworks**

The GED Summit highlighted several models, tools, policy frameworks, and action plans to foster economic diversification and inclusive growth:

- **Global Economic Diversification (GED) Council Pillars:**
  - **Global Economic Diversification Summit:** An annual global forum for co-creating economic blueprints for resilience, producing reports on economic trends.
  - **Coalition for Economic Diversification Investment City:** A global coalition of leaders and financiers identifying strategic investment pipelines in emerging industries to increase resilience and reduce concentration risk.
  - **Sustainable Development and Green Economies:** Integrates green transition strategies, promoting low-carbon industries, circular economies, climate-adaptive infrastructure, and nature-based solutions, ensuring sustainability in policy and capital decisions.
  - **GED Training and Workshops:** Designed programs to develop capacity across government, private sector, and civil society in designing, financing, and managing diversified economies.
  - **Inclusive Global Trade and Market Access:** Addresses structural trade barriers, expands market access for excluded countries and enterprises, advocates for trade policy reforms, digital trade infrastructure, and inclusive trade financing.
  - **Digital and Knowledge Economies:** Fosters digital ecosystems, IP-based industries, and knowledge services, supporting national data strategies and digital skilling initiatives.