

In the Boardroom: On the Boards' Agenda in 2022

March 4, 2022 | via ConveneAGM

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Priming the African boards in 2022 requires insightful discussions on the escalating corporate issues and governance trends towards future-proof boardrooms. Our panel of experts discussed the rising corporate matters and preparation of boards to address these concerns – from digitisation and ESG to maintaining resiliency and competence in 2022 and beyond.



- Good governance requires boards to have integrity and objectivity to protect stakeholders, promote accountability, and improve efficiency.
- ESG must also be at the top of the mind of African boards, especially the issues on the environment, DEI, and stakeholder accountability.
- We need to also focus on digitisation, its value, and the digital tools that can increase efficiencies, address structural barriers, and improve the governance.
- Strong leadership at the board level will help in navigating the VUCA environment in 2022.

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On the Future of African Boards in 2022



Japheth Katto

The boards and stakeholders must understand the organisation's purpose. Drawing the boards' strategy must involve alignment with the purpose, consultation with the stakeholders, and the ability to be dynamic to consider future risks.



Daniel Birungi

What separates a great board from a good board is the ability to identify "predictable surprises" and prepare for them. Directors need to carry out pre-mortems and avoid positivity bias to anticipate and future-proof boards and companies.

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On the Future of African Boards in 2022



Fred Muhumuza

In 2022 and moving forward, the governing bodies have to blend three things: purpose, plan, and strategy. Go beyond the conventional agenda of strategising for the market needs. Broaden the purpose, plan, and strategy to include the key stakeholders.



Jacqueline Pimer

Af CFTA is not just a government-driven agenda but this must be driven also by the private sector. Boards must consider industrialisation, value addition, and policy implementation in order to benefit from the continental free trade.

On ESG and Board Diversity



Lynda Biribonwa

If you want to compete globally, prioritise not only financial growth but also demonstrating ESG responsibility. SMEs are called to create ESG strategies to cascade their purpose. SMEs must not wait for the legislation to be set before starting on managing ESG issues.



Hajjat Sebyala

Empowering board diversity means creating space for women to occupy. Boards must analyze the issues on gender balancing and put strategies on furthering the capacities of women on boards.

On the Digitisation of Boardrooms



Japheth Katto

Boards must be able to understand and appreciate the value of data to the organisation. How to do this? Equip the board with data-savvy members. Diversify the skill set by bringing in younger people and getting insights from them.



Daniel Birungi

You can't speak about digital without taking in the age factor. Adopting young people on boards means hitting two birds with one stone – empowering age diversity and opening the boards for newer approaches, especially in risk management.



Loyford Mwiti

Adding value to boards requires solutions that will enable members to seamlessly collaborate and make informed decisions. E-board meeting software allows simplifying agenda preparation for administrators and dynamic engagement of directors.



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