



**PAN
AFRICAN**

Learning and Growth Network

29-30 APRIL

CLIMATE FINANCE MASTERCLASS

**PRE-CONFERENCE
WORKSHOP ONLY**

K900,000

1-2 MAY

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICERS CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE ONLY

K1,000,000

**SUNBIRD
LIVINGSTONIA BEACH HOTEL
SALIMA - MALAWI**

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP

K1,800,000

**29 APRIL
TO 2 MAY
2025**

**FROM
8:30
TILL 4PM**



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[CFOS]CHIEF FINANCE OFFICERS CONFERENCE 2025
1-2 MAY 2025 | SUNBIRD LIVINGSTONIA BEACH HOTEL - SALIMA
08:00AM-16:30PM

WHERE CFOS AND FINANCE EXECUTIVES UNITE TO LEARN, LEAD, AND EXCEL

We are excited to introduce the first CFO Conference in Malawi. Today's Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) are increasingly expected to take on new roles and challenges beyond managing their company's finances and strategies. CFOs have become pivotal in decision-making processes, offering critical financial insights to steer the strategic direction of their companies. As McKinsey recently highlighted, "CFOs have unprecedented opportunities to assume leadership roles-collaborating with C-suite colleagues, line managers, investors, and boards-to concentrate on performance and capabilities, not just the numbers."

The CFO is now the CEO's strategic ally in driving value creation. Concurrently, the CFO must also inspire and lead a high-performance financial team.

Join us at the Pan African Learning and Growth Network (PALGNET) CFO Conference 2025 on the 1st and 2nd May in Salima as we delve into "The Evolving Role of the Chief Financial Officers: Challenges and Opportunities," and learn how your organisation can confidently navigate these challenges and opportunities. The program also has a one [1] day pre-conference masterclass on Climate Finance scheduled to take place from the 29th to 30th of April. Please block off the whole week for learning, sharing and networking with fellow industry professionals and peers.

THIS TWO-DAY, HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE WILL DELVE INTO THE FOLLOWING METICULOUSLY RESEARCHED THEMES:

- The evolving and expanding responsibilities of CFOs and Finance Directors in a rapidly changing, complex, and volatile business environment.
- The CFO's contribution to driving corporate growth.
- Anticipating the unexpected – crafting more dependable budgets and forecasts amidst rapidly shifting scenarios and intense competition.
- Creating a nimble and adaptable finance department.
- Cultivating and managing a dynamic, high-performing finance team.
- Leading in human-centric organisations while exemplifying work-life balance.
- Enhancing decision-making in capital allocation and investment planning.
- The CFO's partnership with the CEO.
- Progressing to CEO and other advanced leadership positions.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- CFOs and Finance Directors
- Vice Presidents of Finance
- Heads of Finance and Accountants
- Finance Team Leaders and Finance Gms
- Finance Educators and Researchers

1 MAY PROPOSED PROGRAM

07:00-08:15 Registration, scene set and networking

08:15-08:30 Welcome and opening remarks

08:30-9:30 The Evolving Role of the CFO. The CFO's Crucial Role in Championing ESG and Transitioning to the Role of CEO or Other High-level Leadership Positions

9:30-10:30 The Socio-Economic and Political Environment: Implications for CFO Decision Making

10:30-11:00 Morning Networking Break

11:00-12:00 Digitisation and Technological Innovation in Finance and the Synergy of Finance and AI

12:00-13:00 The CFO as the CEO's Strategic Partner

13:00-14:00 Networking Lunch Break

14:00-15:00 Excellence in Financial Reporting

15:00-16:15 Breakout sessions

16:15-16:30 closing remarks and end of day

2 MAY PROPOSED PROGRAM

08:15-08:30 Welcome and opening remarks

08:30-09:30 Building and Leading a High-Performance Finance Team

09:30-10:30 Cash Flow and Liquidity: The Ongoing Headache

10:30-11:00 Morning Networking Break

11:00-12:00 Effective Communication of Financial Strategy

12:00-13:00 Balancing Resilience and Well-being in the Finance Sector

12:00-13:00 Networking Lunch Break

14:00-16:00 Panel Discussions - Panel Discussion Topics: (to pick one)
The CFO's role in unlocking Corporate Growth;
Predictive and Dynamic Scenario Planning or
Embracing Agile Methodologies in Finance

16:00 closing remarks and end of day on

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Gain access to sessions of the latest research specifically designed to help CFOs meet the demands of the future. Each session will have a particular area of focus that will help deliver what matters most to you and your organization.

CLIMATE FINANCE MASTERCLASS

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP | 29-30 APRIL 2024

08:30AM-16:00PM DAY 1 | 08:30AM-13.30PM DAY 2

OVERVIEW

The Climate Finance Masterclass will address climate change issues (acknowledged as a fact, or still a theory), climate action measures (adaptive and mitigative), climate finance (including objectives, targets, instruments, and the Climate Finance Readiness Index 2023). The Masterclass will also cover international standards for financial institutions in terms of reporting and financed carbon emissions disclosures (such as PCAF, IFRS, CIBAFI, etc.). Finally, the course will delve into the methodology for implementing climate financial products, equipping participants with practical knowledge and skills to navigate this evolving field.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE MASTERCLASS?

- C-Suite Executives
- Senior Executive
- Executive Directors and Deputies
- Managing Directors
- Heads of Finance
- Finance Managers
- General Managers (GM) and;
- other upper-level management roles within the organisation.

1.0. ESG & SUSTAINABILITY

ESG stands for Environmental, Social and Governance, the three most important non-financial factors for a company. It is a strategic and analysis approach that is very widely used by institutional investors and analysts to evaluate sustainability performance

1.1. DOUBLE MATERIALITY

Financial and External Impact

The criteria definition begins with a systematic assessment of materiality. This is an important concept in ESG investing, as it helps investors identify the ESG issues that are most relevant and impactful for a particular company or industry. Material ESG factors are those that have the potential to significantly affect a company's financial performance or reputation, either in the short or long term. This requires investment, data recording and collection on all kinds of factors, such as greenhouse gas emissions, working procedures, diversity of company boards, and engagement with communities, to evaluate the company's overall performance. By focusing on material ESG criteria, investors can gain a deeper understanding of a company's risks and opportunities related to sustainability and social responsibility and make more informed investment decisions that take these factors into account.

1.2 ETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF UNRESOLVED CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES WILL LEAD THE WORLD INTO A CHAOTIC ORDER OF;

- Food Insecurity due to Droughts Changes in Rainfall patterns and Rising Temperatures
- Collateral Damage of Country Assets Due to Rising Water Levels
- Pandemics due to changes in temperatures Rising above 1.50 C
- Loss in participation in the emerging Carbon Market Trading and Trade-Offs
- Cross border and Trade restrictions due to emerging ESG Criteria ISO regulations in both production, procurement, and logistics

1.3. WHERE IS THE LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY & FUNDING FOR SUSTAINABILITY?

1. Is the Leadership Aware?
2. Are organizations putting aside financing/funding for ESG Activities
3. Does the Operating Model and Structure speak to the future of ESG
4. Are the Financial Reporting Standards being aligned to IFRS 1 and IFRS 2?
5. Is the Enterprise Risk Management Matrix deployed in Organizations
6. Are organizations lining up Capacity Building programs on ESG, Sustainability & Climate Finance

2.0. UNDERSTANDING THE CLIMATE FINANCE PROMISE: RESPONSE TO CLIMATE ACTION ESG & SUSTAINABILITY

Where should leadership in control of the Finance/Funding Pool in an organization start from?

2.1. COPENHAGEN CLIMATE FINANCE PROMISE

One clear promise emerged from the confusion of the 2009 climate talks in Copenhagen. This was to provide short- and long-term 'climate finance' to help developing countries – especially the most vulnerable – adapt to climate impacts. The promise seemed simple enough: wealthier nations would pledge US\$10 billion a year from 2010-2012, ramping up to US\$100 billion a year starting in 2020. This was also touted to help developing countries avoid high-carbon development pathways by adopting lower-emitting power sources such as solar or natural gas. Subsequent COP meetings have discussed mechanisms and COP 29 emphasize raising the annual budget from \$100bn to \$1trillion. The economic landscape is shifting towards key economies in the yellow, blue and green activities. Are organizations and their financing/funding structures prepping to shift in the same direction?

2.2. WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF FUNDING?

The funding sources mooted are said to include both private and public. However, the inclusion of private funding sources could completely change the actual meaning of the figures. If US\$1 billion of public funding is shifting US\$9 billion of foreign direct investment from coal to renewable energy, is this called 'US\$10 billion of climate finance from public and private sources'?

2.3. MASTER CLASS OBJECTIVES

- Raising Awareness on the ESG Criteria, Climate Action requiring Climate Finance
- Understand the Notion of Double Materiality
- Commence creation of ESG & Sustainability leadership drive in Organizations at Financing Leadership Levels
- Advocate for Resource Allocation for ESG and sustainability activities within organizations
- Building Competencies in financing, mobilizing funding and reporting for Climate Finance Flows
- Reporting by Organizations CFOs in line with ISAAB, GRI and the Malawi Stock Exchange frameworks for listed companies
- Catalyzing behavioral change in the industries propelling activities in the Yellow, Blue and Green Economies
- Advocate for private sector finance/funding participation in Climate Finance. Funding pool or activities
- Design an Enterprise Risk Framework for both organization operations and operation structure to counter the effects of Climate Change and ESG

Apart from private investment, the volume of climate finance might be further stretched if financial flows from carbon trading, such as through the Clean Development Mechanism [CDM] of the Kyoto Protocol, are included. However, buying carbon credits from developing countries cannot be seen as triggering additional emission reductions overall, as those credits are used to comply with carbon targets that developed countries are setting themselves. Finally, the CDM was a key part of the deal in Kyoto,

2.0. OUTLINE

Introduction to ESG

- Definition and Importance of ESG
- Overview of ESG Frameworks and Standards (e.g., GRI, SASB, TCFD)
- ESG Data Collection and Analysis
- Best Practices for ESG Reporting and Communication
- The Role of ESG in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Environmental Strategies (Climate Change, Climate Action, Finance & Reporting)

- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- Climate Finance
- The Sustainability Economies (Natural Capital)
- Circular Economy Practices (Intro to GHG & Carbon Markets)

Interactive Workshops and Case Studies

- Group Discussions on ESG Implementation Scenarios
- Analyzing Real-World Case Studies of ESG Initiatives
- Practical Framework Exercises in ESG Reporting and Assessment

Governance Practices

- Ethical Leadership and Corporate Culture
- Transparency and Disclosure Practices
- Regulatory Compliance and Risk Management
- Role of the Board in ESG Oversight

Investor Perspectives on ESG

- Understanding Investor Demand for ESG Information
- The Rise of Sustainable Investing
- ESG Ratings and Rankings: What Investors Look For
- Emerging Regulations and Global Trends
- The Role of NGOs and Global Partnerships in ESG

Integration of ESG into Business Strategy

- Aligning ESG Goals with Business Objectives
- Best Practices for ESG Integration across Functions
- Case Studies of Successful ESG Implementation
- Challenges and Opportunities in Transitioning to Sustainable Practices

ESG Metrics and Reporting

- Identifying Relevant KPIs for ESG Performance
- Impact Measurement and Reporting Frameworks
- IFRS S1 and IFRS S2

Conclusion and Next Steps

- Summary of Key Learnings
- Resources for Further Education and Involvement in ESG
- Networking Opportunities and Community Building