



# Independent Chair Candidate Brief



# FSD Africa

## About FSD Africa

FSD Africa is a specialist development agency working to strengthen African financial markets and unlock the capital required to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth across the continent.

Established in 2012 and funded primarily by the UK Government through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), FSD Africa works across more than 30 African countries to develop deeper, more resilient financial systems capable of mobilising domestic and international capital at scale.

The organisation operates at the intersection of financial markets development, institutional capital mobilisation, climate finance, policy reform, and private sector engagement. Through strategic partnerships with governments, regulators, financial institutions, development finance institutions, investors, and market actors, FSD Africa supports initiatives that strengthen capital markets, unlock institutional investment, and improve access to long-term finance across Africa.

FSD Africa also oversees FSD Africa Investments (FSDAi), its investment platform focused on deploying catalytic capital to strengthen African financial markets and investment ecosystems.

**\$1.7bn**

Mobilised and catalysed across African financial markets between 2021–2025

**30+**

African markets engaged through programmes, investments, and partnerships

**1m+**

People with improved access to basic services through supported interventions



### FSD Africa's Evolution

Over the past decade, FSD Africa has established itself as one of the continent's most influential financial sector development platforms, playing a catalytic role in strengthening African financial markets, shaping policy reform, and unlocking investment ecosystems across the continent.

Through its partnerships with regulators, governments, financial institutions, investors, and development partners, the organisation has contributed to the mobilisation and catalysation of approximately \$1.7 billion between 2021 and 2025 alone, supporting stronger and more resilient financial systems across Africa. During this period, FSD Africa also supported the development or refinement of 69 regulations, policies, investment guidelines, and market frameworks, while helping expand access to finance and basic services for over one million people.

Increasingly, the organisation's work sits at the intersection of:

- Local capital mobilisation
- Institutional investment ecosystems
- Private capital participation
- Climate and transition finance
- Financial market infrastructure
- Long-term institutional sustainability

This evolution is also reflected in the growing strategic importance of FSD Africa Investments (FSDAi), the organisation's investment platform focused on deploying catalytic capital to strengthen African financial markets and investment ecosystems.

At the same time, FSD Africa is transitioning toward a more diversified multi-donor future, increasing the complexity and strategic importance of governance oversight. The organisation is increasingly required to operate across a sophisticated stakeholder environment spanning bilateral donors, development finance institutions, institutional investors, regulators, foundations, and private capital actors.

The incoming Chair will therefore play a materially broader role than traditional governance leadership alone. This is an opportunity to help shape the future trajectory of one of Africa's most strategically important financial systems institutions at a defining moment in its evolution.



## Governance Structure

FSD Africa operates within a shareholder-led governance framework and is ultimately accountable to the UK Government through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). The Chair must balance independence of judgment with clear accountability, operating effectively within a governance structure that requires close engagement with FCDO while preserving the Board's responsibility for strategic oversight, institutional stewardship, and effective governance. The Chair will:

- Balance strong shareholder and donor accountability with the organisation's increasingly market-facing and investment-oriented role;
- Provide effective governance oversight across both FSD Africa and FSDAi while preserving clarity of mandate, decision-making, and institutional accountability;
- Help guide the organisation through its next phase of strategic evolution and long-term sustainability while maintaining institutional discipline, credibility, and independence.

## Board Composition

FSD Africa is governed by a highly experienced Board comprising leaders from across financial services, development finance, investment, governance, climate finance, and broader African institutional ecosystems. Collectively, the Board brings deep expertise across capital markets, private investment, financial sector development, governance leadership, and pan-African institutional strategy. The Board currently comprises the following members:



**Dr. Frannie Leautier**  
Outgoing Board Chair



**Kanini Mutooni**  
Non-Executive Director



**Tokunboh Ishmael**  
Non-Executive Director



**David Kanja**  
Non-Executive Director



**Greta Bull**  
Non-Executive Director



**Cheikh Oumar Seydi**  
Non-Executive Director



**Rolake Akinkugbe-Filani**  
Non-Executive Director



**Ramatoulaye Adama Diallo**  
Non-Executive Director



**Rob Rudy**  
Ex-officio representing FCDO



**Mark Napier**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Anne-Marie Chidzero**  
Chief Investment Officer

### The Opportunity

This is a rare opportunity to chair one of Africa's most strategically important financial systems institutions at a pivotal point in its evolution.

The role requires significantly more than traditional governance leadership. The successful candidate will help steward an organisation operating at the intersection of development finance, private capital mobilisation, financial markets development, and institutional reform across the continent.

FSD Africa's core funding is secured through 2029. The incoming Chair will play an important role in guiding the organisation toward long-term sustainability and strategic positioning for the next decade, as the institution evolves toward a broader, multi-donor, and increasingly market-facing future.

The ideal candidate is likely to combine:

- Deep African financial markets' credibility
- Strong governance and Board leadership experience;
- Institutional investment or private capital exposure;
- Stakeholder fluency across donor, regulatory, investment, and commercial ecosystems;
- Exceptional listening capability, judgment, and diplomatic leadership style.

The Board is particularly interested in leaders who bring strong pan-African investment and capital markets exposure alongside the ability to navigate complex multi-stakeholder environments with maturity and strategic perspective.

### Core Experience

The successful candidate is likely to bring significant Board or Chair-level leadership experience gained within complex institutional, investment, financial services, or pan-African operating environments.

Candidates should demonstrate meaningful exposure to African financial markets and capital mobilisation ecosystems, including institutional investment, banking, sovereign capital, private equity, pension funds, insurance, infrastructure finance, or broader private capital platforms. Strong commercial sophistication and the ability to engage credibly on investment oversight, capital allocation, and financial market development will be important.

The role also requires experience operating across sophisticated multi-stakeholder environments involving institutional investors, regulators, development finance institutions, bilateral donors, foundations, governments, and private sector actors. The successful candidate should demonstrate the judgment and diplomatic capability required to navigate competing stakeholder priorities while preserving institutional independence and strategic coherence.

Preference will be given to candidates who have helped steward organisations through periods of transition, governance evolution, strategic repositioning, or institutional growth, particularly within African or emerging market contexts.

### What the Chair Will Bring

The successful candidate is expected to bring:

- Strong governance judgment and institutional maturity;
- Commercial sophistication and investment fluency;
- Strategic synthesis capability;
- Diplomatic but independent leadership;
- Ability to balance oversight with constructive challenge;
- Strong stakeholder management capability across diverse ecosystems;
- Continental credibility and relationship depth.

Candidates will be assessed not only on technical and governance capability, but also on leadership style, interpersonal sophistication, and their ability to operate effectively within a highly diverse multi-stakeholder environment. Particular emphasis will be placed on:

- Exceptional listening capability and the ability to synthesise differing perspectives;
- Emotional intelligence and interpersonal maturity;
- Calmness and sound judgment under complexity and ambiguity;
- Ability to build alignment across diverse stakeholders and viewpoints;
- Diplomatic but independent leadership style;
- Constructive challenge and strong Boardroom presence;
- Ability to foster trust, cohesion, and effective Board dynamics.

### Board Meetings and Time Commitment

The Board formally convenes four times annually through a combination of virtual and in-person meetings, with in-person meetings typically aligned with key stakeholder and strategic engagements. The current Board calendar includes meetings in London and Cape Town, alongside virtual sessions.

In addition to Board meetings, the Chair is expected to engage regularly with Committee Chairs, the CEO, Board members, and key stakeholders across the organisation's donor, investment, and partner ecosystem. The role also includes participation in selected stakeholder engagements, Board development sessions, and governance-related activities throughout the year.

FSD Africa operates through an active committee structure comprising the following:

- Investment Committee;
- Finance, Audit and Risk Committee;
- Development Committee; and
- Nomination & Remuneration Committee.

Given the organisation's evolving strategic and stakeholder environment, the Chair role requires meaningful engagement beyond formal meeting attendance, including ongoing support on governance stewardship, stakeholder management, and institutional positioning.

## Why Join FSD Africa's Board?

FSD Africa represents a unique opportunity to contribute to the future of African financial systems and capital markets on a continental scale.

The organisation occupies a highly distinctive position within the African financial ecosystem, combining development impact, institutional influence, investment relevance, and strategic market-shaping capability.

As Chair, you would help guide an institution working at the centre of some of the continent's most important long-term priorities:

- Mobilising African capital at scale;
- Strengthening financial systems;
- Supporting sustainable economic growth;
- Expanding private capital participation;
- Building more resilient and inclusive investment ecosystems.

Beyond governance oversight, this is an opportunity to help shape the strategic future of an institution that continues to play an increasingly important role across African capital markets and development ecosystems.

## How to Express Interest

Interested candidates should submit:

- A current CV or Board profile; and
- An expression of interest outlining their alignment with the mandate.

Emails should be addressed to:

Lanre Fisher  
Managing Partner  
[apply@theboardroomafrica.com](mailto:apply@theboardroomafrica.com)

The application deadline is 19 June 2026.



[theboardroomafrica.com](http://theboardroomafrica.com)