



ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ECONOMISTS (ANCE)

THEME:

**RE-IMAGINING KENYA'S ECONOMIC
FUTURE BEYOND VISION 2030**

Unlocking Productivity, Industrialization, Innovation
and Opportunities for the Next Generation



**5TH–9TH
OCTOBER
2026**



Tembo International Convention Centre

Situated within the Pridelnn Flamingo
Beach Resort & Spa, Mombasa, Kenya

Professional Development Recognition:
20 CPD Points

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**Economists
Society of
Kenya**

1. INTRODUCTION

Post Vision 2030 - A Defining Moment for Kenya's Economic Transformation

The Economists Society of Kenya (ESK) is the Kenya’s premier professional body for economists, established to promote excellence in economic research, policy analysis, professional standards, and evidence-based public discourse. The Society provides an independent platform for advancing economic thought and informing national development. ESK draws its diverse membership from government, academia, development partners, financial institutions, private sector, research organizations and civil society.

One of the Society's flagship initiatives is the Annual National Conference of Economists (ANCE), which has become Kenya's leading platform for convening economists and policy practitioners to deliberate on emerging economic issues of national and regional importance. Over the years, ANCE has contributed significantly to strengthening national dialogue on sectoral policy priorities and providing diagnostic for contemporary economic challenges. The conference has established itself as a respected forum where academic rigor meets practical policymaking, creating space for constructive engagement among decision-makers, practitioners, researchers, and development partners.

As the end of Kenya Vision 2030 approaches, ANCE 2026 represents a particularly important milestone. Unlike previous conferences, ANCE 2026 seeks to facilitate a broader national conversation about Kenya's long-term development trajectory beyond the current planning framework. It provides an opportunity not only to assess progress achieved over the last two decades but also to define the strategic choices, institutional reforms, investment priorities, and policy innovations required to accelerate inclusive and sustainable economic transformation over the coming decades.

Recognizing the increasingly interconnected nature of economic development, ANCE 2026 will adopt a multidisciplinary and solution-oriented approach that integrates macroeconomic policy, industrial development, technological innovation, enterprise growth, human capital development, environmental sustainability, governance, and institutional effectiveness into a coherent framework for national transformation.

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2. WHY ANCE 2026 MATTERS NOW

Post Vision 2030 - A Defining Moment for Kenya's Economic Transformation

Kenya stands at a pivotal inflection point. The approaching conclusion of Vision 2030 marks more than the end of a national planning framework, it signals the beginning of a new era that requires fresh thinking about how the country generates growth, creates prosperity, and positions itself within an increasingly competitive global economy. The economic context in which Kenya will pursue its next phase of development is fundamentally different from that which informed Vision 2030.

The global economy is experiencing profound structural shifts driven by technological advancement, demographic change, climate transition, geopolitical uncertainty, and the reconfiguration of international production and trade systems. Artificial intelligence, digital platforms, renewable energy technologies, data-driven economies, and knowledge-intensive industries are reshaping productivity and competitiveness across the world. Domestically, Kenya has made considerable progress in infrastructure expansion, improving digital connectivity, increasing financial inclusion, strengthening regional integration, and developing entrepreneurial ecosystems. Nevertheless, these achievements have not consistently translated into broad-based productivity growth, sufficient industrial expansion, quality employment creation, or sustained improvements in household incomes. Persistent structural bottlenecks, including high costs of doing business, limited value addition, skill- mismatch, constrained fiscal space, and

vulnerability to climate-related shocks, continue to impede inclusive economic transformation. The country's youthful and rapidly growing population further heightens the urgency of economic reform. Kenya's demographic dividend will only be realized if the economy generates productive jobs, nurtures innovation, supports enterprise development, and equips young people with the capabilities required to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven world.

ANCE 2026 therefore comes at an exceptionally important moment. It provides a national platform for economists and development leaders to examine the strategic policy choices that will shape Kenya's post-Vision 2030, while fostering consensus around reforms capable of unlocking long-term productivity, competitiveness, resilience, and inclusive prosperity. Rather than asking how Kenya can simply sustain economic growth, ANCE 2026 asks a more fundamental question: "How can Kenya transform its economy to become significantly more productive, globally competitive, technologically advanced, environmentally sustainable, and socially inclusive over the next generation?". Answering this question will require new ideas, stronger institutions, innovative partnerships, evidence-based policymaking, and bold leadership.

ANCE 2026 seeks to catalyze that national conversation.



3. CONFERENCE VISION & OBJECTIVES

What The Convening Seeks to Achieve

The Vision:



To strengthen ANCE as Africa's premier platform for evidence-based economic dialogue, shaping transformative policies, fostering strategic partnerships, and advancing innovative solutions that drive sustainable, inclusive, and globally competitive economic development.

Overall Objective:



To provide a high-level national platform for evidence-based dialogue that informs Kenya's post-Vision 2030 development agenda by generating practical policy recommendations, strengthening partnerships, and promoting innovative solutions for sustainable, inclusive, and competitive economic transformation.

Specific Objective:

The conference seeks to:

- i. Assess Kenya's economic progress, achievements, and lessons emerging from Kenya Vision 2030.
- ii. Identify structural reforms, institutional changes, and investment priorities required to enhance national productivity and competitiveness.
- iii. Examine strategies for accelerating industrialization, value addition, enterprise development, and regional economic integration.
- iv. Explore the transformative role of innovation, digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and research in driving inclusive economic growth.
- v. Promote dialogue on human capital development, future skills, labour market transformation, and opportunities for youth and women.
- vi. Strengthen collaboration among government, academia, private sector, development partners, financial institutions, and professional bodies in advancing Kenya's next development agenda.
- vii. Generate evidence-based policy recommendations to inform national planning, legislative reforms, public investment, and institutional development beyond Vision 2030.
- viii. Position the Economists Society of Kenya as the country's leading platform for economic thought leadership , policy dialogue, and professional engagement.



4. THE ANCE 2026 THEME

A unifying proposition for Kenya's economic future

**"Reimagining Kenya's Economic Future Beyond Vision 2030:
Unlocking Productivity, Industrialization, Innovation and Opportunities for the Next Generation"**

The theme recognizes that the next chapter of Kenya's development requires more than incremental policy adjustments. It calls for a comprehensive rethinking of the country's economic model, institutions, and development priorities in response to changing domestic realities and emerging global opportunities. It reflects four strategic imperatives that will define Kenya's long-term competitiveness namely:

- Enhancing productivity as the primary driver of sustained economic growth and rising living standards.
- Accelerating industrialization through value addition, enterprise development, manufacturing expansion, and stronger domestic and regional value chains.
- Harnessing innovation and digital transformation to improve efficiency, competitiveness, public service delivery, and economic resilience.
- Creating opportunities for the next generation through quality education, future-ready skills, productive employment, entrepreneurship, and inclusive participation in economic transformation.



5. THE THEMATIC AREAS

An integrated framework for technical sessions, policy dialogues and conference outputs



Enhancing Productivity and National Competitiveness

Productivity remains the single most important determinant of long-term economic growth, competitiveness, and rising living standards. Kenya's future prosperity will depend on improving efficiency across agriculture, manufacturing, services, public institutions, and the broader business environment.

This thematic pillar will examine strategies for enhancing; productivity across key economic sectors, public sector efficiency and service delivery, Reducing the cost of doing business, infrastructure quality and logistics performance, export competitiveness, regional and global market integration, regulatory quality and Leveraging data, technology, and innovation to enhance productivity.

Policy result: Higher productivity; stronger exports; improved enterprise performance; resilient and sustainable growth.



Accelerating Industrialization, Value Addition and MSME-Led Economic Transformation

Industrialization remains central to creating productive employment, increasing exports, strengthening domestic value chains, and expanding economic resilience.

This thematic pillar will explore policies required to: accelerate manufacturing growth, promote agro-industrialization, strengthen domestic value chains, expand MSME competitiveness, increase value addition, enhance industrial financing, promote industrial clusters and special economic zones, and strengthen regional value chains through AfCFTA.

Special attention will be given to how Kenya can reposition itself within evolving global production systems while supporting locally owned enterprises to compete regionally and internationally.

Policy result: Expanded industrial capacity; competitive local firms; stronger value chains; more productive employment.



Harnessing Innovation, Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence for Economic Development

Innovation is increasingly becoming the primary source of national competitiveness. Digital technologies, artificial intelligence, fintech, advanced analytics, automation, and research ecosystems are transforming how economies produce, trade, govern, and create jobs. This thematic pillar will explore; responsible AI adoption, digital public infrastructure, innovation ecosystems, research commercialization, fintech and digital financial inclusion, cybersecurity, data governance, digital entrepreneurship, technology adoption across productive sectors, and Future digital labour markets.

The discussions will focus on ensuring that technological advancement promotes inclusion while improving productivity and creating new economic opportunities.

Policy result: Increased innovation capacity; Responsible AI governance, Expanded digital economy; Stronger research-industry collaboration & Technology-enabled productivity.



Investing in People and Expanding Economic Opportunity

People remain Kenya's greatest economic asset. Sustainable transformation requires investment in human capital, entrepreneurship, leadership, skills development, and inclusive participation.

This thematic pillar will address; Education reform, skills development, Future of work, Labour market transformation, youth employment, women's economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, social mobility, inclusive growth, and demographic transition.

Particular emphasis will be placed on preparing Kenya's workforce for emerging industries while ensuring that economic growth generates opportunities across all regions and population groups.

Policy result: Future-ready workforce, increased labour productivity, expanded entrepreneurship, improved employment outcomes, and inclusive economic participation.



Cross Cutting Themes

Recognizing the interconnected nature of development, ANCE 2026 will mainstream several crosscutting themes across all technical sessions and policy dialogues. These include.

- **Climate Change and Green Economy:** Exploring how climate-smart investments, renewable energy, circular economy, sustainable agriculture, carbon markets, and green finance can strengthen economic resilience while supporting low-carbon development.
- **Regional Integration and Global Competitiveness.** Examining opportunities arising from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), regional value chains, export competitiveness, logistics modernization, and international investment
- **Financing Economic Transformation.** Assessing innovative financing mechanisms including public-private partnerships, blended finance, inclusive finance, development finance, green finance, impact investing, infrastructure finance, and domestic resource mobilization.
- **Governance, Institutions and Public Sector Effectiveness.** Exploring reforms that improve institutional coordination, regulatory quality, accountability, public expenditure efficiency, service delivery, and evidence-informed policymaking.
- **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion.** Ensuring that economic transformation benefits women, youth, persons with disabilities, marginalized communities, and underserved regions through inclusive policy design and equitable access to opportunities.

6. PROPOSED CONFERENCE STREAMS

Translating the thematic framework into a coherent programme

To translate the strategic pillars into focused discussions, ANCE 2026 will feature thematic conference streams that combine academic evidence, policy dialogue, private sector perspectives, and implementation experiences

Conference Stream	Indicative Focus
Stream 1: Kenya's Economic Outlook Beyond Vision 2030	Long-term development planning; Macroeconomic outlook; Fiscal sustainability; Public debt management; Structural transformation; and Future growth pathways
Stream 2: Productivity, cooperative movement, Trade and Enterprise Competitiveness.	Productivity measurement; Business environment reforms; cooperative sector & MSMEs transformation, Trade facilitation; Logistics; Infrastructure; Export competitiveness and Investment climate
Stream 3: Industrialization, Manufacturing and Value Chains	Industrial policy; Manufacturing competitiveness; Agro-processing; Local content; Industrial parks, Regional value chains
Stream 4: Innovation, Digital Economy and Artificial Intelligence	Digital transformation; AI governance; Innovation ecosystems; Fintech; Digital finance; Research commercialization and Data economy
Stream 5: Agriculture, Food Systems and Rural Transformation	Agricultural productivity; Climate-smart agriculture; Agri-finance; Food security; Agribusiness; Rural industrialization and Agricultural value chains
Stream 6: Human Capital, Labour Markets and Future Skills	Education reform; Skills development; Future of work; Youth employment; Labour market information; Entrepreneurship
Stream 7: Green Growth, Climate Finance and Economic Resilience	Climate adaptation; Renewable energy; Green industrialization; Carbon markets Nature-based solutions; Climate finance
Stream 8: Institutions, Governance and Public Sector Transformation	Public sector reforms; Regulatory quality; Institutional effectiveness; Public financial management; Decentralization; Policy implementation

7. CONFERENCE DESIGN & ANTICIPATED PARTICIPANTS

Execution framework

7.1: THE CONFERENCE DESIGN

To maximize knowledge exchange and policy influence, ANCE 2026 will adopt an interactive conference format combining:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High-Level Opening Ceremony - Presidential / Cabinet Policy Address - International Keynote Lectures - Ministerial Policy Dialogues - Executive Roundtables | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plenary Sessions - Technical Paper Presentations - Panel Discussions - County Economic Forums - Private Sector CEO Dialogue |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development Partner Roundtable - Young Economists Forum - Innovation and Technology Showcase - Research Poster Sessions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy Laboratories - Book Launches - Exhibition and Knowledge Marketplace - Closing Policy Dialogue |

Each session will conclude with clear policy recommendations that feed into the conference communiqué and post-conference implementation agenda.

7.2: THE ANTICIPATED DELEGATES

ANCE 2026 anticipates to convene over 1,000 delegates drawn from Kenya, the East African Community, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC and the wider African continent. This reflects diverse perspectives while fostering partnerships capable of translating policy dialogue into practical action.

Participants will include: National and County Governments, legislature, The National Treasury & economic planning, regulatory agencies, Universities and Research Institutions, Development Partners, International Financial Institutions, Private Sector Leaders, Industry Associations, Financial Institutions, MSMEs and Entrepreneurs associations, Cooperatives, Agricultural Organizations, Professional Associations, Civil Society Organizations, Youth Organizations, Women Leaders, Students and Young Economists, Media, International Experts, Diplomats and Development Agencies.

8. EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

From Dialogue to Action

8.1 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

ANCE 2026 is designed to deliver tangible knowledge products and actionable policy recommendations that extend beyond the conference itself. Rather than being measured solely by attendance, the conference success will be reflected in the quality of ideas generated, partnerships established, policy influence achieved, and follow-up actions implemented. The conference is expected to produce the following key outputs:

ANCE 2026 Conference Communiqué

A high-level communiqué summarizing the conference deliberations, key policy messages, stakeholder commitments, and priority recommendations for Kenya's post-Vision 2030 development agenda.

Policy Brief Series

A collection of evidence-based policy briefs derived from keynote addresses, technical papers, panel discussions, and conference deliberations. These briefs will provide practical recommendations for policymakers, investors, development practitioners, and researchers

Conference Proceedings (ANCE 2026 Report)

A professionally edited publication documenting keynote speeches, technical papers, conference presentations, panel discussions, and thematic recommendations. A reference resource for future policy dialogue and academic research.

Future of Kenya Economy Report

A flagship publication synthesizing the conference's insights into a forward-looking assessment of Kenya's economic transformation priorities beyond Vision 2030.

Partnership Commitments

The conference will facilitate strategic partnerships among government agencies, development partners, financial institutions, Cooperative movement, academia, research organizations, private sector actors, and professional bodies to support implementation of conference recommendations.

Young Economists Declaration

A declaration developed by young economists highlighting their perspectives on Kenya's future development priorities, innovation, entrepreneurship, employment, governance, and sustainable growth.

8.2 Expected Outcomes

- ANCE 2026 will contribute to:
- a) Policy Outcomes: Improved evidence-based policymaking; Stronger national dialogue on post-Vision 2030 priorities; Increased adoption of economic research in public policy and Better coordination across public institutions.
 - b) Institutional Outcomes; Stronger collaboration between academia and policymakers; Enhanced engagement between public and private sector; Increased participation of young professionals in economic policy making processes; and Expanded partnerships between development partners and national institutions.
 - c) Economic Outcomes; Better understanding of productivity constraints; Stronger industrial policy dialogue; Improved innovation ecosystems; Enhanced investment climate; Greater focus on enterprise competitiveness; and Improved regional economic integration.
 - d) Professional Outcomes: Increased visibility of economists in national development; Expanded professional networking; Stronger research collaboration; Greater recognition of ESK as Kenya's premier economic thought leadership institution.

9. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Connecting ANCE 2026 to national, continental and global development frameworks

ANCE 2026 aligns closely with Kenya's national priorities, continental aspirations, and global development frameworks.

Framework	Strategic Relevance
i. Kenya Vision 2030	Reflects on achievements while informing the country's next long-term development framework.
ii. Fourth Medium-Term Plan: Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) for inclusive growth	Supports productivity, enterprise development, value chains, job creation, contributes evidence and policy recommendations relevant to implementation and future planning.
iii. East African Community Integration Agenda / East African Community vision 2050	Strengthens regional trade, investment, labour mobility, and economic cooperation.
iv. African Union Agenda 2063	Advances industrialization, innovation, regional integration, youth development, and sustainable prosperity.
v. African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)	Promotes regional competitiveness, export growth, value chains, and market integration.
vi. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Supports decent work, industry, innovation, reduced inequalities, climate action, and partnerships for development.

This strategic alignment reinforces ANCE 2026 as a platform that connects national priorities with continental and global development ambitions while strengthening Kenya's role in shaping Africa's economic future.

10. PARTNERSHIP AND SPONSORSHIP PROPOSITION

- ANCE 2026 offers strategic partners a unique opportunity to contribute to one of Kenya's most influential economic policy platforms. Partners will benefit from:
- i. **Thought Leadership:** Positioning as champions of evidence-based economic transformation and national development.
 - ii. **Policy Engagement:** Direct interaction with senior government officials, policymakers, regulators, economists, development partners, and industry leaders.
 - iii. **Brand Visibility:** Prominent visibility across conference branding, publications, digital platforms, media engagement, exhibitions, and networking events.
 - iv. **Knowledge Partnerships:** Opportunities to co-host technical sessions, sponsor thematic dialogues, launch flagship reports, and contribute to policy discussions.
 - v. **Corporate Citizenship:** Demonstrating commitment to sustainable development, innovation, inclusive growth, youth empowerment, and responsible investment.
 - vi. **Networking Opportunities:** Interaction with decision-makers, investors, researchers & academicians, development agencies, financial institutions, entrepreneurs, and regional stakeholders.





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