



NiDEC 2026 Program

Theme: Invest Nigeria; Thrive Abroad.

11 – 15 August 2026

Toronto · Mississauga · Brampton, Ontario, Canada

Nigeria Diaspora Economic Conference (NiDEC)

Program at a Glance

11–15 August 2026 · Toronto, Mississauga & Brampton, Ontario

Day	Date	Focus	Venue
Day 0	Tue 11 Aug	Welcome Reception	Welcome Reception (By Invitation Only)
Day 1	Wed 12 Aug	Opening Ceremony; Canada–Africa FinTech Summit (CAFS)	Arcadian Court, 8th Floor, 401 Bay St, Toronto
Day 2	Thu 13 Aug	Capital Market Forum; Leadership & Governance Canada	Arcadian Court, 8th Floor, 401 Bay St, Toronto
Day 3	Fri 14 Aug	Creative Economy; Trade & Market Access; Gala Nite	Apollo Convention Centre, Mississauga
Gala Nite	Fri 14 Aug (evening)	Conference Gala & Awards Nite	Apollo Convention Centre, Mississauga
Day 4	Sat 15 Aug	Flavours of Nigeria Festival	Gage Park, Brampton

Day 0 — Tue 11 Aug

Welcome Reception

Theme: Connecting Global Nigerians: Building Strategic Partnerships for Investment and Economic Transformation

Venue: Welcome Reception (By Invitation Only)

Format: Physical

MC: Uche Okugo

Highlights: A by-invitation welcome dinner.

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
Welcome Reception (By Invitation Only)		
5:30–6:00pm	Arrival of Special Guests, Speakers & Dignitaries	
6:00–8:30pm	Official Welcome Reception & Networking Dinner	

Day 1 — Wed 12 Aug

Opening Ceremony; Canada–Africa FinTech Summit (CAFS)

Theme: Canada–Africa FinTech Summit (CAFS): Capital Markets, Trade & Investment Gateways

Venue: Arcadian Court, 8th Floor, 401 Bay St, Toronto

Format: Hybrid — single track

MC: Triple A / Uche Okugo

Highlights: Formal Opening Ceremony, Governor's Special Forum, Keynote Address by Prof. Ndubuisi Ekekwe, and Fireside Chat with Temi Popoola, GMD/CEO, NGX.

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
8:00–9:00am	Registration, Networking & Innovation Exhibition	
9:00–9:05am	National Anthems	Canada, Nigeria.
9:05–9:10am	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Segun Aina, OFR — Chair, Central Organizing & Governance Committee, NiDEC 2026.
9:10–9:30am	Plenary Session 1 — Investment Opportunities in FinTech & Digital Finance	Mod: Sunil Sharma. Panel: Dr. Stanley Jacobs (Fintech NGR), Dr. Steve Araba.
9:30–9:50am	Plenary Session 2 — Building Sustainable Innovation Ecosystems: Scaling African FinTech in Canada and Canadian FinTech in Africa	Mod: Vannessa Dzime. Panel: Babu Nair (Financial Technology Frontier), Yannick Ebibie (SING SA).
9:50–10:00am	Sponsors Remark	
10:00–10:20am	Keynote Address 1 — Unlocking Diaspora Wealth Through Nigeria's Capital Markets: Building a Globally Competitive Investment Gateway	Prof. Ndubuisi Ekekwe — Founder, Contisx Securities Exchange PLC.
10:20–10:30am	Bio/Tea Break	
10:30–11:15am	Formal Opening Ceremony	Opening Remarks Hon. (Dr.) Abike Dabiri-Erewa, OON — Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) Welcome Remarks H.E. Ambassador Abba Zanna-Kawu — Acting High Commissioner of Nigeria to Canada (Nigeria High Commission) Mary Aina — Board Director, Canada–Africa FinTech Summit (CAFS) Sam Adewale — Leadership & Governance Canada Inc. Mr. Shehu Yahaya Shantali, CEO, Central Securities Clearing System (CSCS) in Nigeria — For Nigeria Capital Markets Forum Temi Popoola — GMD/CEO, Nigeria Exchange Group (NGX) Goodwill Messages & Recognitions Representative — Global Affairs Canada (GAC) The Honourable Marc Miller — Minister of Canadian Identity, Culture and Multiculturalism (Canada) Representatives — Key Sponsors & Strategic Partners Ms. Sharon Dimanche — Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Nigeria Dr. Zacch Adedeji, FCA — Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, MFR — Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment (Nigeria)

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
		Amb. Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu — Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs (Nigeria) Hon. Chinedu Tochukwu Okere — Chairman, House Committee on Diaspora Affairs, House of Representatives Senator Aniekan Bassey — Chairman, Senate Committee on Diaspora Affairs & NGOs, National Assembly Declaration of Event Open Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR — Chief of Staff to the President (Representing H.E. Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria)
11:15am–1:00pm	State Governors' Special Forum — Sub-National Leadership as a Catalyst for Investment, Industrialization and Sustainable Economic Growth	Special Remarks — Anambra: H.E. Prof. Chukwuma Charles Soludo, CFR Borno: H.E. Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum Kaduna: H.E. Senator Uba Sani Imo: H.E. Senator Hope Uzodimma Zamfara: H.E. Dauda Lawal Plateau: H.E. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang.
1:00–2:00pm	Network Lunch	
2:00–2:10pm	Invited Remarks 1 — Nigeria's Digital Economy Strategy: Driving Innovation, AI and Cross-Border Digital Investment	Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA).
2:10–2:20pm	Invited Remarks 2 — Canada's Public Finance, Digital Government & Investment Governance	Hon. Shafqat Ali, President of the Treasury Board of Canada.
2:20–2:40pm	Plenary Session 4 — Beyond Remittances: Building Scalable Financial Corridors Between Canada and Africa	Mod: Unyime Abasi Odong. Panel: Uchi Nick Uchibeke (Chimoney), Franca Ciambella (Lawyer, Advisor, Mediator & Entrepreneur), Babu Nair (Financial Technology Frontier), Osas Obano (African Impact Initiative).
2:40–3:00pm	Plenary Session 5 — Capital, Inclusion and Growth: Funding Africa's Next Generation of FinTech Unicorns	Mod: Kingsley Madu (Founder, Expedier). Panel: Nkechi Nwafor-Robinson, Baba Fafowora (BDC), Onyeka Akumah (Treepz Toronto), Yannick Ebibie (SING SA).
3:00–3:30pm	FinTech Showcase & Presentations	Mod: Vannessa Dzime. Featured: Uchi Nick Uchibeke (Chimoney), Kingsley Madu (Expedier), Sodruddeen Mustapha (Raenest).
3:30–4:00pm	Fireside Chat with Temi Popoola, GMD/CEO, Nigeria Exchange Group (NGX)	Moderator: Tolani Abere — Investment Professional (formerly PIMCO, Barclays Capital and Morgan Stanley).

Day 2 — Thu 13 Aug

Capital Market Forum; Leadership & Governance Canada

Theme: Capital Markets, Aviation Infrastructure and Trade & Investment Leadership

Venue: Arcadian Court, 8th Floor, 401 Bay St, Toronto

Format: Hybrid — single track

MC: Triple A

Highlights: Dr. Ali Garba's keynote, Invited Remarks by Aisha Rimi, CEO NIPC, and a Fireside Chat with Minister Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo.

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
8:00–8:55am	Networking & Innovation Exhibition	
8:55–9:00am	Opening Address & Recap of Day 1	Dr. Segun Aina — Chair, Central Organizing & Governance Committee, NiDEC 2026.
9:00–9:10am	Welcome Remarks	Representative of Leadership & Governance Canada Representative of Capital Markets Forum.
9:10–9:20am	Sponsors' Remarks	
9:20–9:35am	Keynote Address — Mobilizing Diaspora Capital for Nigeria's Economic Transformation: Global Wealth, Strategic Investment and Sustainable Development	Dr. Ali Garba — Former First Vice President & Portfolio Management Director, Morgan Stanley.
9:35–9:55am	Plenary Session 1 — Positioning Nigeria as Africa's Financial Gateway: Capital Markets, Innovation and Cross-Border Investment	Mod: Dr. Segun Aina. Panel: Temi Popoola, Group CEO, NGX, and Chairman, CSCS Board; Naizam Kanji, Exec VP, Strategic Regulation, Ontario Securities Commission; Babangida Yahaya, Head, Depository Services, CSCS PLC.
9:55–10:00am	Bio Break	
10:00–10:20am	Plenary Session 2 — The Nigerian Capital Market: Performance, Innovation & Investment Opportunities for the Global Nigerian	Moderator: Dr. Nnaemeka Okereke, Head, Corporate Strategy, CSCS PLC. Panelists: Bayo Opatade, CFO, NGX Group; Akinwonuola Atitebi, Ag. CFO, CSCS PLC; Shehu Shantali, CEO, CSCS PLC; Uchi Nick Uchibeke, Founder, Chimoney.
10:20–10:40am	Invited Remarks: How can I safely and conveniently build wealth in Nigeria through the Capital Market while living abroad?	Babangida Yahaya — Head, Depository Services, CSCS PLC, Nigeria.
10:40–11:00am	Plenary Session 3 — Investing Home: How Nigeria's Capital Market is Creating Wealth for the Diaspora	Moderator: Prof. Ako Ufodike — Former Deputy Minister of Trade, Alberta & Associate Professor, York University. Panelists: Kayode Falowo, Chairman, Greenwich Merchant Bank; Dr. Nnaemeka Okereke, Head, Corporate Strategy, CSCS PLC; Prof. Ndubuisi Ekekwe, Founder, Contisx Securities Exchange PLC.
11:00–11:10am	Sponsors Remarks	
11:10–11:25am	Invited Remarks — Natural Resources & Industrialisation: Unlocking Nigeria's Raw Materials Value Chains for Industrialization, Manufacturing and Global Competitiveness	Speaker: Prof. Nnanyelugo Martin Ike-Muonso, Director General/CEO, Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC).
11:25–11:45am	Plenary Session 4 — Infrastructure & Real Estate Development	Mod: Hon. (Dr.) Abdulrahman Terab. Panel: Arc. Sam Oboh, Engr. Leke David Odumade (El-One Homes and Structures), Adeniyi Tinubu (Sands Consultancy), Bala Abdullahi Kwatu (Urban Shelter), Ibidapo Odojukan (Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria).
11:45–11:50am	Bio Break	

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
11:50am–12:10pm	Plenary Session 5 — Energy, Mining, Industrial Development & Natural Resources	Mod: Dr. Jide Martins Adewinle. Panel: Dr. Peter Ozemoya, Nani Pradeep, Paul Jegede, Benoit Fortin, Paul Stevers, Stephen McNeil.
12:10–12:30pm	Plenary Session 6 — Healthcare & Human Capital: Mobilizing Nigeria's Global Talent for Health System Transformation	Mod: Prof. Izu Nwachukwu. Panel: Dr. Joachim Isiuwe, Federal Ministry of Health (Nigeria), Henry Lukenge (Nexim), Prof. Adam Abba-Aji, MD, FRCPC, University of Alberta, Edmonton.
12:30–1:30pm	Network Lunch	
1:30–1:45pm	Keynote Address — Diaspora Capital as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development	Prof. Kenneth Amaeshi — Chair, Business & Sustainable Development, and Director of Sustainable Business Initiatives at the University of Edinburgh Business School, UK.
1:45–2:00pm	Invited Remarks	The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario Represented by Hon. Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship & Multiculturalism, Ontario, Canada.
2:00–2:20pm	Plenary Session 7 — Education & Human Capital Development	Special presentation — The Borno State Education and Skill Development Strategy: Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, Executive Governor of Borno State. Mod: Harold Schroeder. Panel: Prof. Kenneth Amaeshi, Prof. Izu Nwachukwu, Dr. Sanni Obasa, Commissioner of Education, Borno State.
2:20–2:40pm	Plenary Session 8 — Agriculture & Food Security: From Farm to Global Markets — Unlocking Agribusiness Value Chains for Diaspora Investment	Plenary address: Caribbean Minister of Agriculture. Mod: Dr. Godfrey Ajayi Sunday, Group Managing Director, GConsulting International Services Ltd. Panel: Sumi Shan, Paul Stevers, Dr. Moji Davids, Oluwadara Adekunle.
2:40–2:55pm	Invited Remarks — Invest Nigeria, Thrive Abroad: Unlocking Nigeria's Investment Potential Through Strategic Partnerships, Policy Reforms and Diaspora Capital	Aisha Rimi — Executive Secretary and CEO, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC).
2:55–3:10pm	Sponsors' Remarks	
3:10–3:45pm	Fireside Chat with Hon. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, Minister of Interior	Interviewer: Prof. Ako Ufodike — Former Deputy Minister of Trade, Alberta & Associate Professor, York University.
3:45–4:00pm	Closing Remarks	Khadijah.
Special Side Event — 6:00pm, Brampton City Hall		
6:00pm	NiDCOM Town Hall with Nigerians in Diaspora	An Open Forum on Policy, Investment, and Strategic Engagement with State Governors, the Federal Government Delegation, and Nigerians in Canada.

Day 3 — Fri 14 Aug

Creative Economy; Trade & Market Access; Gala Nite

Theme: Creative Economy, Trade & Market Access, Blue Economy and Immigration Policy

Venue: Apollo Convention Centre, Mississauga

Format: Hybrid

MC: Triple A

Highlights: *Creative Economy, Trade Barriers & Market Access, Special Presentations from the States and Invited Remarks from CBSA on Canada Immigration Policy.*

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
8:00–8:55am	Networking & Innovation Exhibition	
8:55am	Recap of Day 2	Kola Esomajumi.
9:00–9:10am	Opening Remarks	Hon. Dr. Terab Abdulrahman — Head, TTII, NiDCOM.
9:10–9:20am	Sponsors Remark	
9:20–9:50am	Plenary Address & Session 1 — Creative Economy, Arts, Culture, Tourism & Media	Speaker: Alh. Adedayo Thomas, Executive Director/CEO, National Film and Video Censors Board (NFVCB). Moderator: Patricia Bebia. Panel: Bayo Omisore, Omoni Oboli, Osahon Akpata, Julie Roy, Dr. John O. Asein.
9:50–10:20am	Special Youth & Community Development Session	Theme: Civic Engagement - Optimizing Integration and Economic Empowerment Across the Nigeria-Canadian Community Moderator: Nurudeen Elegbede. Panelists: Fred Solomon, Clare Ezekobe, Kenny Bazuaye, Bayo Adedotun.
10:20–10:50am	Special Presentation from the Government of Borno State	
10:50–11:00am	Tea/Bio Break	
11:00–11:10am	Invited Remarks — CBSA on Canada Immigration Policy	Speakers: Sajjad Bhatti — Regional Director, CBSA; Angela Beard, Program Assistant Director, CBSA.
11:10–11:20am	Invited Remarks — Kemi Nanna Nandap, Comptroller General of Immigration, Nigeria	
11:20–11:40am	Special Presentation from the Government of Kaduna State	
11:40am–12:00pm	Special Presentation from the Government of Plateau State	
12:00–12:10pm	Invited Remarks: Diaspora Engagement, Policy Updates, and the Opportunities of Connecting Nigeria's Growth Story to its Global Diaspora	Lanre Issa Onilu — DG, National Orientation Agency, Nigeria (NOA).
12:10–12:30pm	Special Presentation on Investment in Zamfara State	By Zamfara State Government, Nigeria.
12:30–1:15pm	Invited Remarks & Plenary Session — Trade Barriers, Market Access & Blue Economy	Invited Remarks: Trade Barriers and Market Access Addressing Regulatory Challenges Affecting Africa–Canada Trade and Export Competitiveness Speaker — Comptroller General Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, Nigeria Customs Service Interventionist — Dr. Jumoke Oduwale, Hon. Minister of Trade Invited Remarks: Unlocking Nigeria's Blue Economy: Smart Ports, Trade Logistics and Export Competitiveness for

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
		Global Investment Speaker 1 — Dr. Akutah Pius Ukeyima, CEO, Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) Building Canada–Nigeria Investment Corridors — Advancing Sustainable Trade, Innovation and Diaspora-Led Economic Partnerships Speaker 2: Tania Louis, President, Canada Caribbean Africa Business Network Plenary Session Moderator: Uche Okugo Panelists: Nonye Ayeni, NEPC Charles Odi, SMEDAN Mr. Ashraf Hossain — Canada Trade Facilitation Office (TFO) "Exporting to Canada" The Economic Team of City of Brampton Erica Henry-Jackman, Manager, Investment Attraction & International Relations, City of Brampton Denise McClure, Director, Economic Development Office, City of Brampton Mr. Lanre Ajayi — Representative of Importers
1:15–1:30pm	Closing Remarks	Dr. Segun Aina — Chair, COGC, NiDEC 2026.
Evening — Conference Gala & Awards Nite, 6:30–10:00pm		
6:30–10:00pm	Conference Gala & Awards Nite — full breakdown on its own tab	See the dedicated "Gala Nite" tab (or its card on the Overview page) for the complete run of the evening — ideal to share with anyone attending only the gala.

Gala Nite — Fri 14 Aug (evening)

Conference Gala & Awards Nite

Theme: Celebrating Global Nigerian Excellence and Diaspora Investment Leadership

Venue: Apollo Convention Centre, Mississauga

Format: Physical — 6:30–10:00pm

MC: Uche Okugo

Highlights: Keynote Address from Governor Dauda Lawal, Conference Dinner, NiDEC 2026 Awards, Live Musical and Cultural Performances.

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
6:30pm	Cocktail Reception	Networking and cocktail. Music: Olusewa.
—	Welcome Remarks	Hon. (Dr.) Abike Dabiri-Erewa, OON — Chairman, NiDCOM.
—	Special Remarks	Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar — Special Adviser on General Duties to the Vice President, H.E. Kashim Shettima.
—	Invited Remarks	H.E. Maureen Tamuno, PhD — Group MD, Abuja Investment Company Ltd (AICL) H.E. Senator Ita Enang — Nigerian Ambassador to Germany
—	Keynote Dinner Address	H.E. Gov. Dauda Lawal — Governor of Zamfara State.
—	Diaspora Investment Success Stories	Presentations highlighting successful investments by members of the Nigerian diaspora.
—	Conference Communiqué	Dr Godfrey Ajayi Sunday — summary of three-day deliberations, key policy recommendations, investment priorities, strategic partnership opportunities, sector action plans, post-conference roadmap.
—	Sponsor Remark	
—	NiDEC 2026 Awards	Presented by Prof. Izu Nwachukwu . Categories: Outstanding Diaspora Investor · Excellence in Innovation · Strategic Investment Partner · Outstanding Development Partner · Diaspora Entrepreneurship Award · Public Sector Excellence Award · Community Development Award · Young Innovator Award · Lifetime Achievement Award.
—	Cultural Performances	Itsekiri Cultural Performance · Nigerian Traditional Dance Troupes · Contemporary Cultural Showcase · Musical Entertainment.
—	Gala Dinner	
10:00pm	Vote of Thanks	Hon. (Dr.) Abdulrahman Terab — Director, TTII, NiDCOM, Abuja.

Day 4 — Sat 15 Aug

Flavours of Nigeria Festival

Theme: Celebrating Nigeria's Cultural Heritage, Investment Opportunities and Global Diaspora Connections

Venue: Gage Park, Brampton

Format: Physical

Highlights: Royal Durbar Parade, Turbaning Ceremony, Goodwill Messages, and live cultural performances all day.

Time	Session	Speakers / Details
8:00–10:00am	Tents, Stage, etc. Set-up	Planning team/equipment vendors.
10:00am–12:00pm	Arrival of Vendors	Vendors Coordinator.
12:00–1:00pm	Music and Arrival of Guests	DJ.
1:00–1:15pm	Welcoming Guests, National Anthem of Nigeria & Canada, Land Acknowledgement	MC & Chuks.
1:15pm	PAMA Opens for Viewing	MC.
1:15–1:45pm	Vendors Introduction	MC.
1:45–2:00pm	DJ/MC Engages	DJ.
2:00–2:20pm	Goodwill Messages	By Special Guests Hon. Abike Dabiri MP Rechie Valdez Amb. Zana MP Amandeep Sodhi MP Shafqat Ali MPP Graham Others.
2:20–3:10pm	A Delegation Moves to the PAMA Exhibition	Led by TBC.
3:10–3:15pm	DJ/MC Engages	DJ.
3:15–3:35pm	Cultural Performance	Afrika Peach.
3:35–4:05pm	Culture Couch	Discussion.
4:05–4:15pm	Performance	Semilore.
4:15–4:30pm	Royal Procession; Arrival of Emir and Others	MC.
4:30–5:00pm	Turbaning Ceremony	Of the following persons — MPP Graham Mayor Patrick Brown DJ plays Hausa tunes.
5:00–5:15pm	Goodwill Messages	Gov. Dauda Lawal Senator Ita Enang MC.
5:15–5:35pm	Cultural Performance	Afrika Peach.
5:35–6:05pm	Battle of the Cities Games	MC.
6:05–6:20pm	Cutting Festival Cake / Photography	MC.
6:20–6:25pm	Vote of Thanks	Mr. Akin.
6:25–7:25pm	Afrobeat Battle: GenZ v Millennials	MC.
7:25–8:00pm	Tear Down and Wrap Up	All.