

# African AI and Blockchain Policy Forum

Held in partnership with the OECD  
Blockchain Policy Forum

## Agenda

15-16 November 2023

Le Meridien, Pointe aux Piments, Mauritius

## ■ About the RCE

The [Regional Centre of Excellence](#) (“RCE”) was inaugurated on 15 March 2019. The launching of the RCE in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (“OECD”) is a première in the region and will enhance the reputation of Mauritius at international level. This initiative is a result of the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) that was signed by the Government of Mauritius and the OECD in September 2018. This MOU laid down the foundations for collaboration between OECD and Mauritius to strengthen and support effective regulation, sound corporate governance and good conduct in the Southern and Eastern African regions.

## ■ About the OECD

The OECD is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. The goal of the OECD is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity, and well-being for all. The OECD draws on 60 years of experience and insights to better prepare the world of tomorrow. Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, the OECD works on establishing evidence-based international standards and finding solutions to a range of social, economic, and environmental challenges. From improving economic performance and creating jobs to fostering strong education and fighting international tax evasion, the OECD provides a unique forum and knowledge hub for data and analysis, exchange of experiences, best-practice sharing, and advice on public policies and international standard-setting.

## ■ About the African AI and Blockchain Policy Forum

Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) and blockchain technology have attracted particular attention among African policymakers in recent years for their potential to contribute to economic development, drive regional connectivity, and support of multilateral initiatives like the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union’s Africa 2063 agenda. The rapid advancement and adoption of these emerging technologies have been met with new policy approaches and governmental frameworks to guide responsible innovation. Crucially, because the uses and impacts of both AI and blockchain are inherently cross-border, international standards are playing an important role in informing domestic policy and driving consistency across countries.

The African AI and Blockchain Policy Forum connects policymakers from across the continent with the latest international analysis and key policy developments to support domestic and regional responses that guide responsible innovation within these two technologies while mitigating key risks. The Forum’s first day will focus on general technology-level governance, aimed at officials from across governmental and regulatory bodies. The Forum’s second day will focus on financial market issues specifically, most relevant for economy and finance ministries, central banks, and financial regulatory, taxation and law enforcement agencies.

## ■ Forum Venue/ Physical participation

Le Meridien, Pointe aux Piments, Mauritius ([Mauritius Beach Hotel - Pointe Aux Piments | Le Méridien Ile Maurice \(marriott.com\)](#))

## ■ Physical & Virtual Participation

<https://events.hubilo.com/African-AI-Blockchain-policy-forum/register>

## ■ Contact

More information on the Forum can be obtained on the RCE website [www.rcemauritius.org](http://www.rcemauritius.org) /FSC website [www.fscmauritius.org](http://www.fscmauritius.org). For any queries, you may contact us on 403 7000 (Ext 7367)/404 5652 or drop us an email on [rce@fscmauritius.org](mailto:rce@fscmauritius.org).

## Venue: Le Meridien, Pointe aux Piments, Mauritius

### DAY 1 – Technology governance and responsible innovation

Wednesday, 15 November 2023: 10:30-15:15 hrs (Mauritius time)

---

10:00 Registration and Networking break (Physical participants)

10:20 Kindly login (Virtual Participants)

---

#### 10:30 Opening ceremony

Master of ceremony, **Mrs Kheertee Ramsohok**, Head, Regional Centre of Excellence

Welcome Address by **Mr Dhanesswurnath Thakoor**, Chief Executive, Financial Services Commission, Mauritius

Address by **Mr Yoshiki Takeuchi**, Deputy Secretary General, OECD (TBC)

Address by **Mr Harvesh Seegolam**, Governor, Bank of Mauritius & Chairperson of RCE Governing Board

Address by the **Hon. Mahen Kumar Seeruttun**, Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance (TBC)

Address by **Dr the Hon. Renganaden Padayachy**, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (TBC)

---

11:15 Lunch

---

12:15 Presentation from the OECD: Overview of current trends in AI governance

---

12:35 Panel discussion: Lessons from AI policy in Africa and beyond

---

13:35 Coffee break

---

13:50 Presentation from the OECD: The state of blockchain innovation and policy in Africa

The OECD will present its latest analysis into activities and developments in blockchain innovation in key African economies, highlighting sectoral priorities and opportunities to address policy gaps with reference to international approaches, including the OECD's Recommendation on Blockchain and Other Distributed Ledger Technologies.

---

---

**14:10**

**Panel discussion: From mirage to maturity – Can the promise of blockchain be kept?**

The development of blockchain technology from 2009 onwards sparked a wave of interest in potential applications across the economy, promising to digitalise, streamline and strengthen processes from supply chains and trade to public records and voting. Today, few of these solutions have reached mainstream use or commercial scale, including in Africa.

This session will discuss the lessons from over a decade of blockchain innovation, focussing on the suitability of the technology, structural barriers to innovation and adoption, and the role of governments in addressing these.

---

**15:15**

**Close of day one**

---

## Venue: Le Meridien, Pointe aux Piments, Mauritius

### DAY 2 – AI and blockchain in finance: Harnessing innovation, safeguarding market integrity and stability

Thursday, 16 November 2023: 10:30-15:45 hrs (Mauritius time)

---

10:00	Registration and Networking break (Physical participants)
10:20	Kindly login (Virtual Participants)

---

10:30	<b>Keynote address</b>  Address by <b>Mr Mardayah Kona Yerukunondu</b> , First Deputy Governor, Bank of Mauritius & Chairperson, Financial Services Commission, Mauritius & RCE Governing Board Member
-------	--

---

10:35	<b>Panel discussion: Generative AI in Finance</b>  Discussion on the impacts of generative AI models on financial products and market regulation.
-------	---

---

11:35	<b>Lunch</b>
-------	--------------

---

12:30	<b>Global and regional implementation of FATF VASP Recommendations</b>  Stocktaking of implementation in the African region of the Financial Action task Force's Recommendation on Virtual Asset Service Providers, highlighting gaps and priorities to achieve a wider coverage in Africa and globally.
-------	--

---

13:30	<b>Presentation from the Global Forum on Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes: the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework</b>  The Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (the "CARF") has been welcomed by the G20 as an international standard to ensure activities in crypto-asset markets will not erode recent gains in global tax transparency. The CARF provides for the automatic exchange of tax relevant information on transactions in crypto-assets. Now that the technical work with respect to the CARF has been completed, the G20 has called for the Global Forum on Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes to ensure the CARF achieves widespread implementation globally.  This session will provide participants with an overview of the requirements of the CARF and highlight relevant considerations for countries considering CARF implementation. Particular focus will be given to relevant considerations for countries in Africa that wish to implement the CARF. Time will also be provided for audience questions and discussion.
-------	--

---

14:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
-------	---------------------

---

14:45	<b>Crypto-assets and financial inclusion</b>  While crypto-assets have attracted interest in emerging and developing markets as a potential instrument to address under-banked populations and drive financial inclusion, adoption and use remains low. The
-------	---

---

---

OECD will present its latest research on crypto-asset use in key African economies and where policymakers can concentrate to harness technologies towards financial inclusion.

---

15:45

**Close of Day Two**