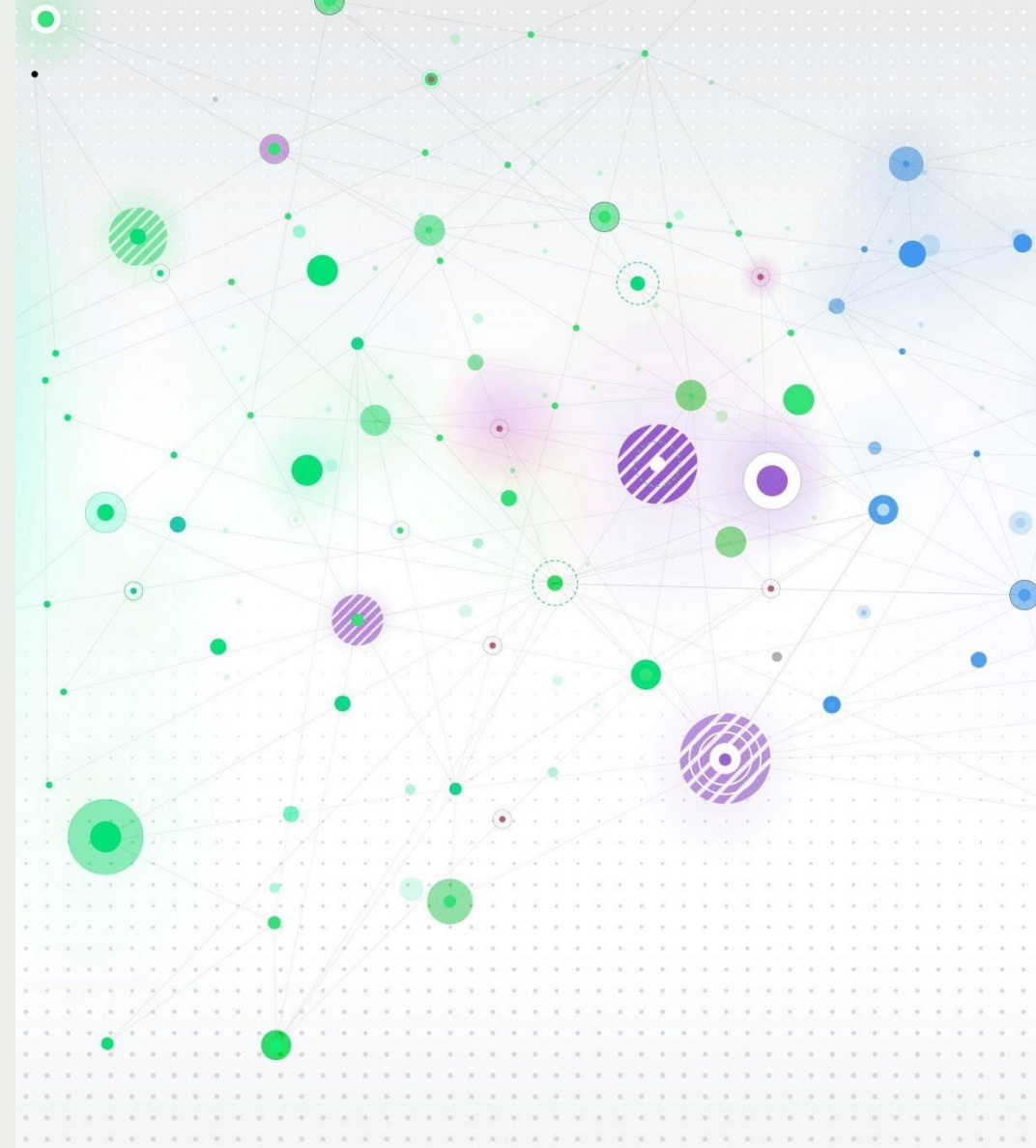# Deploying Science + Technology for Africa's Transformation

Speaker: Awamary Lowe-Khan, Founder + President

Agenda

- Introduction
- The Current State of Africa and Opportunities for Growth
- The Role of The African Diaspora in Africa's Transformation
- Key Technological Innovations for Africa's Transformation
- Strategies for Leveraging Science + Technology in Africa
- Conclusion

Introduction

AWAMARY LOWE-KHAN

Founder: **Innovate Gambia**

- Over 20+ years' experience as an Executive in the Non-profit, Community Development, + Entrepreneurial Ecosystem
- Founder of the first Creative Space for Women only in West Africa; The Woman Boss
- Experience in managing Social Impact Fund for Entrepreneurs
- Global sought-after speaker and thought leader- spoke at US Congress, White House, NC State Legislature, Harvard University, Gambia Government and various conferences, summits and roundtables
- Founder of Black Entrepreneurship Week + first Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center in collaboration with a University in North Carolina, USA
- Named 35 Women to Move Africa Forward by NBC Washington
- Featured work in Forbes Africa, Business Chief, and other publications, globally
- Named 100 Women to Change West Africa by AFRIMAC
- Named Leader in Diversity by Triangle Business Journal
- Nominated for Woman of the Year in economic development by Spectacular Magazine
- Philanthropist

POINTCLICK COMPANY PROFILE

Since 2007, PointClick Technologies has been providing enterprise-level Cloud, Hosting & IT infrastructure solutions and managed IT services to our business clients, including a comprehensive security suite, disaster recovery and managed storage and backup solutions.

Headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina in the United States, PointClick has built a reputation for providing high-touch Managed IT and Cloud Services to major brands in the US and Global Companies in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

We take pride in our consultative approach to business technology challenges –matching our clients' business requirements with the appropriate technical solutions and providing custom solutions that deliver desired business outcomes.

PointClick's team is dedicated to helping businesses with cloud strategies and security needs through our three guiding principles of Knowledge, Experience, and Focus, providing key services in:

Microsoft Partner
Gold Cloud Platform

aws partner network

| Public Private, and Hybrid Cloud Solutions | Managed Cloud and IT Services | IT Security and Compliance expertise | Digital Transformation and Innovative Services |

POINTCLICK EXPANDS ITS SERVICES AND OPERATIONS TO AFRICA

opened it's first office location in The Gambia. We promote and help businesses modernize their Information Technology Infrastructure through Public & Private Cloud Transformation. Our goal is to support the growing cloud and digital transformation initiatives in The Gambia and other countries in the region, fuel economic development that will create jobs and empower the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

Presentation Focus: Leveraging Modern Developments in Tech for Africa's Transformation

01
Harnessing technology for economic growth and development

02
Empowering human capital through education and digital literacy

03
Fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in science and technology

04
Building partnerships between Africa and the global diaspora

05
Aligning with the African Union Agenda 2063 for a competitive and prosperous continent

The Current State of Africa and Opportunities for Growth

Africa's Rich Natural & Human Resources

Population: Over 1.4 billion people, making up 16.72% of the world's population

Abundant natural resources: Minerals, energy, and 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land

Diverse cultures and languages: Rich heritage and potential for cultural exchange

Growing youth population: A driving force for innovation and change

Untapped potential: Opportunity to leapfrog development stages using technology

Challenges Faced by Africa in Development

1. **Infrastructure**: Inadequate transportation, energy, and communication systems

2. **Education**: Limited access to quality education and skills development

3. **Health**: High burden of infectious diseases and inadequate healthcare facilities

4. **Governance**: Political instability, corruption, and weak institutions

5. **Poverty and inequality**: High rates of poverty and economic disparities

6. **Unemployment**: Limited job opportunities and a growing youth population

Invest in Human Capital

- Invest in Human Capital: Creating meaningful employment opportunities for Africa's youth is already a major development policy issue with Africa's young population bulge and the surge of young Africans expected to enter the job market over the next two decades. Research points to emerging technologies in the Artificial Intelligence and Fourth Industrial Revolution that can accelerate economic transformation of developing countries.

Invest in Infrastructure

- Africa, the next big growth market, is home to the youngest population in the world. We have increasingly high access to mobile phones. However, connectivity and high costs of the internet are a factor for low usage.

- Invest in infrastructure: Electricity and high costs of data (internet) for connectivity, and nurture inclusive economic growth and development so that African countries are not just consumers; but producers of technology, research, and technological knowledge.

Establish Regulatory Framework

- Technology alone is not enough; governments must establish regulatory frameworks that are reliable while fostering innovation. We need to keep services and devices affordable. We need to build a pool of digital skilled professionals, especially in emerging sectors such as cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

Bridge the Gender Gap

- Only 1 in 5 women in African countries have access to the Internet. We need the international community to close the digital gender gap by being intentional about inclusive frameworks to engage women in science and tech.

- 60% of the LDC's (least developed countries) are in Africa, with a young population and women. Science and technology will play an essential role in transforming our economies.

1. **Improved connectivity**: Expanding access to information and global networks

2. **Digital literacy**: Empowering individuals with skills for the digital age

3. **Innovation hubs**: Fostering entrepreneurship and technological advancement

4. **Sustainable infrastructure**: Leveraging renewable energy and smart city solutions

5. **Agriculture, healthcare, and transportation**: Harnessing technology for improved efficiency and accessibility.

6. **Global competitiveness**: Positioning Africa as a leader in trade and innovation

Potential of Science & Technology to Drive Transformation

The Role of the African Diaspora in Africa's Transformation

The African Diaspora: 6th Region of the African Continent

Recognition by the African Union (AU) for their potential in development

Strengthening connections between Africa and the global diaspora

Encouraging trade, foreign direct investment, and knowledge transfer

Fostering collaboration for sustainable development and innovation

Engaging in programs and initiatives to enhance participation in the AU

Supporting the African Union Agenda 2063 for a united and prosperous Africa

Importance of Collaboration between Diaspora and African Continent

1. **Knowledge transfer**: Sharing skills, expertise, and innovative ideas

2. **Investment**: Promoting foreign direct investment and entrepreneurship

3. **Networking**: Establishing connections and partnerships for mutual growth

4. **Cultural exchange**: Celebrating Africa's diverse heritage and fostering unity

5. **Policy development**: Influencing policies for minorities, tech, women, and small businesses

6. **Sustainable development**: Collaborating on projects and initiatives for a prosperous and resilient Africa

Importance of Deploying Science & Technology

1. Agricultural productivity: Agriculture is the backbone of many African economies. Science and technology can help improve agricultural productivity by introducing modern farming techniques, to help increase food production and reduce hunger.

2. Health care: Science and technology can help improve healthcare in Africa, such as telemedicine to provide medical care to people in remote areas. Medical research can help develop new treatments for diseases that are prevalent in Africa, such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis.

3. Education: Science and technology can improve education in Africa by providing students with access to online learning resources, such as digital textbooks and educational videos.

4. Energy: Access to electricity is a major challenge in many parts of Africa. Science and technology can help provide clean and affordable energy solutions, such as solar panels. This can help reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and improve access to energy for businesses and households.

5. Industrialization: Science and technology can help drive industrialization in Africa. Advanced manufacturing techniques can be used to produce high-quality goods that can be sold domestically and internationally. This can help create jobs and reduce dependence on imports.

Key Technological Innovations for Africa's Transformation

AI & GPT AI Systems: Transforming Africa

ADVANCING EDUCATION: UTILIZING AI TO PERSONALIZE LEARNING AND IMPROVE HUMAN CAPITAL

DRIVING INNOVATION: ACCELERATING RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INDUSTRY DISRUPTIONS

STREAMLINING PROCESSES: ENHANCING EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY ACROSS SECTORS

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: PROVIDING ACCESS TO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES AND RESOURCES

EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP: UNLEASHING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STARTUPS AND BUSINESSES

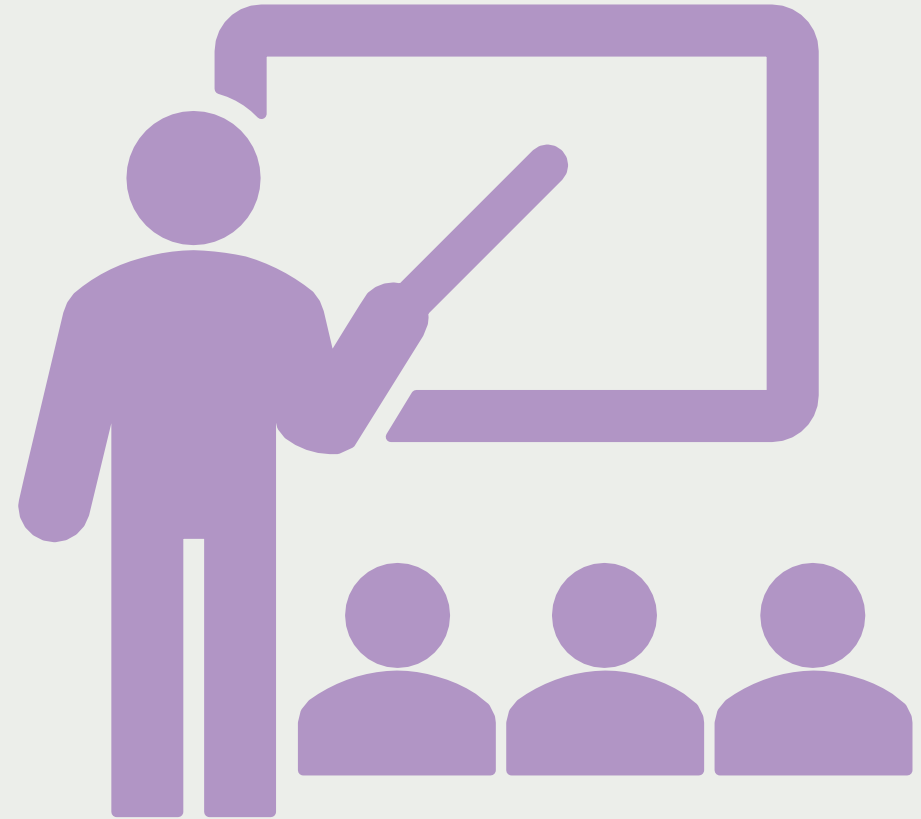# Web 3 & Decentralized Technologies: Shaping Africa's Future

1. **Enhanced connectivity**: Promoting decentralized and secure access to information

2. **Fostering economic growth**: Creating new opportunities and markets through blockchain and decentralized finance

3. **Financial inclusion**: Expanding access to financial services for unbanked populations

4. **Empowering users**: Encouraging data ownership and privacy protection

5. **Building trust**: Transparent and secure systems for improved governance and business transactions

Enhancing Digital Literacy & IT Education

1. **PointClick's investment**: Supporting local IT education and training for a skilled workforce

2. **Scholarships & subsidies**: Empowering individuals to pursue careers in science and technology

3. **Bridging the digital divide**: Ensuring equal access to technology and resources

4. **Capacity building**: Preparing Africa's youth for the digital age and future job market

5. **Fostering innovation**: Encouraging the next generation of tech-savvy entrepreneurs and problem-solvers

1. **Tech and innovation hubs**: Establishing spaces for collaboration, learning, and creativity

2. **Events & hackathons**: Hosting competitions and workshops to ignite innovative thinking

3. **Networking opportunities**: Connecting entrepreneurs, investors, and experts for mutual growth

4. **Skill development**: Supporting training and mentorship programs for aspiring entrepreneurs

5. **Nurturing startups**: Providing resources, funding, and guidance to help businesses thrive and scale

Fostering Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Building Partnerships: Africa & Global Diaspora

1. **Collaborative projects**: Engaging in joint initiatives for sustainable development

2. **Knowledge transfer**: Sharing expertise, skills, and innovative ideas across borders

3. **Trade & investment**: Encouraging foreign direct investment and entrepreneurship

4. **Cultural exchange**: Celebrating and promoting Africa's diverse heritage

5. **Aligning with AU Agenda 2063**: Supporting a united, prosperous, and globally competitive Africa

Potential of Science & Technology to Transform Africa

Connectivity & access: Expanding internet coverage and bridging the digital divide

Education & skills: Enhancing digital literacy and IT education for a skilled workforce

Innovation & entrepreneurship: Fostering a culture of creativity and problem-solving

Sustainable development: Leveraging tech for green energy, agriculture, healthcare, and transportation

Global competitiveness: Positioning Africa as a leader in trade, innovation, and technology adoption

Importance of Collaboration: Africa & Global Diaspora

Knowledge sharing: Exchanging skills, expertise, and innovative ideas across borders

Investment & trade: Boosting foreign direct investment, entrepreneurship, and economic growth

Networking: Building connections for mutual growth and development

Policy influence: Shaping policies for tech, women, minorities, and small businesses

Sustainable development: Working together to achieve a prosperous, resilient, and united Africa

Call to Action: Leverage Modern Tech for a Competitive Africa

1

Embrace digital transformation: Adopt cutting-edge technologies to stay ahead

2

Invest in education & skills: Equip the workforce with essential digital capabilities

3

Foster innovation & entrepreneurship: Support startups and nurture creative solutions

4

Strengthen partnerships: Collaborate with the global diaspora and international stakeholders

5

Implement sustainable practices: Utilize tech for green energy, infrastructure, and development

6

Unite for a common goal: Work together to make Africa a global force in trade and innovation

THANK YOU

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