

CONGO IN A NEW ERA OF GLOBAL COMPETITION 2025



RETURN TO DC

POLITICS, POWER, POSITION



PROGRAM FLOW

FRIDAY, ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & NETWORKING

6 PM: CHECK-IN

Location: Feru Ethiopian
1128 H ST NE

**6:25 PM:
OPENING
REMARKS**

Jim Ngokwey, CDIS Co-founder

**6:30- 7 PM:
FIRESIDE CHAT**

Mvemba Dizolele,
Lecturer at John Hopkins
University & Laura Kupe,
CDIS Co-founder

**7- 8 PM:
NETWORKING**

Shop Small: Featured
Partner Zappenda

**8:15 PM:
CLOSING
REMARKS**

Lukogho Kasomo, CDIS
Co-Founder

**8:30 PM:
DINNER ENDS**

See you tomorrow!

PROGRAM FLOW

SATURDAY, THE SUMMIT

8:30-9:30 AM: REGISTRATION	Location: Cornerstone 800 Maine Ave SW
9:40-9:45 AM: OPENING REMARKS	Laura Kupe, CDIS Co-founder
9:45-10:30 AM: PANEL 1	Markets Reimagined: Private Sector Visions for Sustainable Growth
10:45-11:30 AM: PANEL 2	Traditional and Digital Approaches to Congo Advocacy
11:40-1:10 PM: LUNCH & NETWORKING	Lunch
1:15-1:30 PM: CLOSING REMARKS	Jim Ngokwey, CDIS Co-founder
2:00 PM: SUMMIT ENDS	See you in Kolwezi for Return to Congo!



ABOUT CDIS

VISION

Congolese Diaspora Impact Summit, CDIS, was founded in 2018 to facilitate networking within the Congolese Diaspora in America, amplify the voices of Congolese experts and support initiatives that enhance the socioeconomic capital of the DRC and its Diaspora.

MISSION

- Increase the social, economic and political capital of Congolese-Americans
- Amplify the voices of experts of Congolese descent
- Increase access to business & investment opportunities in the DRC and in America
- Improve the environment to drive brain gain and development

CDIS COFOUNDERS



The CDIS co-founders joined forces to build a platform to connect individuals of Congolese descent, and those who are interested in the DRC, to network and create relationships and initiatives that drive an impact in the DRC and its Diaspora, across the following categories: education, business, careers, healthcare and philanthropy.

CDIS was founded by Congolese-American millennials with extensive experience in international business, development, foreign policy, national security and government.

6

Years of impact & thought leadership

+1K

Attendees, virtual & in-person

+40K

Media impressions

THE MODERATORS



LAURA KUPE
Co-founder, CDIS

Laura Kupe is a multilingual attorney with over 10 years of national security and foreign policy experience across the Department of Defense, U.S. House of Representatives, Department of Homeland Security, and White House. Most recently, she served as Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, providing strategic counsel on homeland defense and presidential transition. Recognized as a next-generation leader by The Root and Munich Security Conference, she graduated from the University of Michigan and the University of Michigan Law School.



**KAFUTI
TALAHUMBU**
Associate Director of
Corporate Partnerships,
George Washington
University

Kafuti Talahumbu is the Associate Director of Corporate Partnerships at The George Washington University, managing collaborations across 10 schools and 81 institutes. Previously, he served as Channel Partner Manager at Verizon and led strategic initiatives at IBM, including Watson Education's Partner Ecosystem. His experience includes financial analysis at The Investment Company Institute, providing insights to the Federal Reserve and Treasury. a bachelor's degree in Economics and Public Policy from Saint Mary's College of Maryland and an MBA from GW's School of Business.

THE MODERATORS



**LUKOGHO
KASOMO**
Co-founder, CDIS

Lukogho Kasomo has extensive experience in domestic and international policy, as well as business development. She recently served as Business Development Manager at Mastercard and previously worked as Legislative Staffer for former U.S. Representative José E. Serrano. Her career includes business development roles in Nairobi and Accra, government relations at Raytheon Technologies, and work with the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. She holds an MBA from Howard University and a B.A. from San José State University.

NETWORKING DINNER

A CONVERSATION WITH MVEMBA PHEZO DIZOLELE ON CONGO IN A NEW ERA OF GLOBAL COMPETITION

Mvemba Phezo Dizolele is a lecturer in African Studies at John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) with over 20 years of experience in international affairs, foreign policy, and security.

He recently served as the Director and Senior Fellow of the Africa Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC. He is a former Peter J. Duignan Distinguished Visiting Fellow and a former National Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. Dizolele's analyses have been published in the Washington Post, Journal of Democracy, New York Times, Newsweek International, International Herald Tribune, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, and other outlets.

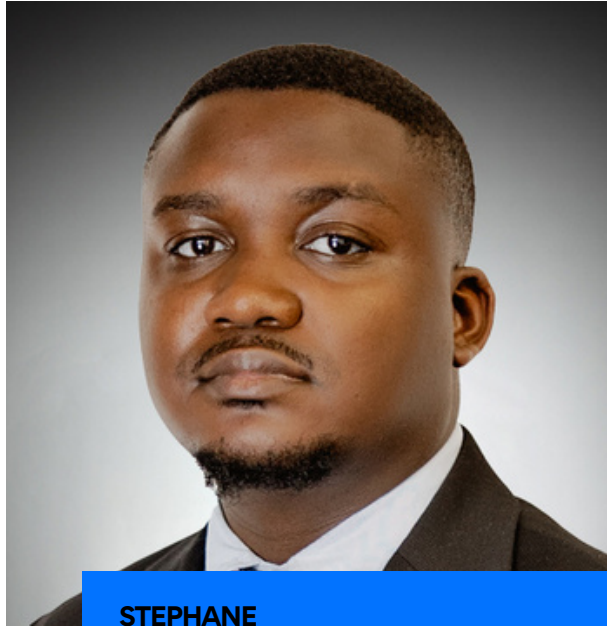


**MVEMBA
DIZOLELE**

Lecturer in African Studies,
Johns Hopkins SAIS

THE SPEAKERS

MARKETS REIMAGINED: PRIVATE SECTOR VISIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



**STEPHANE
BOSSIO, PE**

Vice President, Ridge Line
Elements

Born and raised in Kinshasa, DRC, Stephane Bossio Wa Bossio moved to the US at 15 as an F-1 student. He attended South Kent School, briefly enrolled at Wentworth Institute, and then earned a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Arkansas in 2018. Stephane currently serves as Vice President at Ridge Line Elements, where he helps the company build America's first copper-cobalt refinery to secure critical mineral supply chains for national security and the green energy transition.



**MANDA
BWEREVU**

CEO, Kuleta

Born in Kolwezi, DRC, and raised in South Africa and the US, Manda Bwerevu is an entrepreneur and policy advocate specializing in economic development, international development, and education policy. He holds graduate degrees from the University of Chicago Harris School and Harvard University. As CEO of Kuleta, he connects African women vendors with global consumers of non-perishable products. The social venture has trained 120+ women vendors in Kenya and earned recognition from the Obama Foundation, the Clinton Global Initiative, and the Harvard Alumni programs.

THE SPEAKERS

MARKETS REIMAGINED: PRIVATE SECTOR VISIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



**RICHARD
MBOKANI**

Founder, Bisika Mbokani
Law

Richard Mbokani earned his JD from the University of Ottawa, LLM in International Law from the University of Geneva, and a bachelor's in civil law from ULPGL in Goma, DRC. He founded Bisika Mbokani Law after teaching and practicing law across Africa and working as an International Associate in New York, with a focus on investments and securities. He founded the Canadian Association for Access Justice and serves on multiple nonprofit boards internationally.

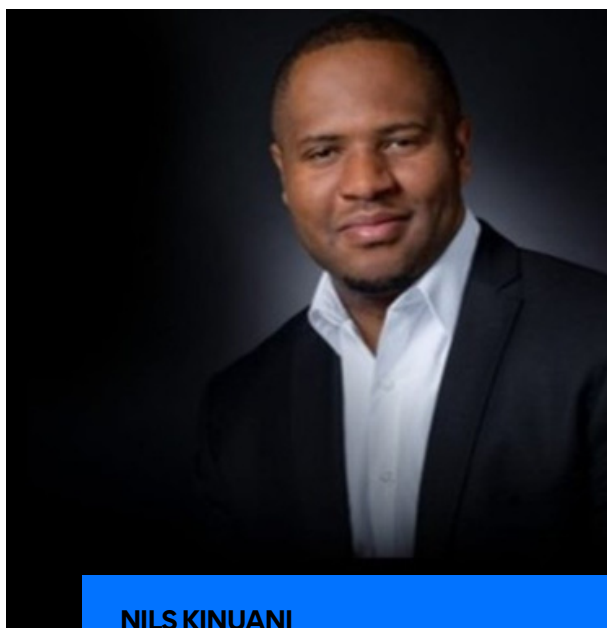
THE SPEAKERS

FROM GRASSROOTS TO THE INTERNET: TRADITIONAL AND DIGITAL APPROACHES TO CONGO ADVOCACY



MUYISA KASOMO
Content Creator

Muyisa Michelline Kasomo is a Congolese-American communications and marketing professional, content creator, activist, and storyteller whose work is bringing knowledge of the DRC to new audiences through social media. As a content creator—particularly on TikTok as @muyisamichelline—she has sparked conversations across the Congolese diaspora, earning invitations to speak on panels. She serves as a Senior Account Executive for an environmental company, and leverages her expertise in communications, media, and policy to help public institutions better serve their communities.



NILS KINUANI
Federal Policy Manager for
African Communities
Together (ACT) & Co-
Founder of Action for
Congo/DRC Diaspora Desk

Originally from Bandundu, Nils Kinuani is a Washington, DC-based human rights advocate and community leader. As Federal Policy Manager for African Communities Together, he develops immigration policy initiatives and provides legal services to African immigrants. He serves as Immigration Coordinator and Board Director for the Congolese Community of Washington Metropolitan, and volunteers as an ESL instructor at Saint Mark Catholic Church, bridging grassroots needs with federal policy solutions.

THE SPEAKERS

FROM GRASSROOTS TO THE INTERNET: TRADITIONAL AND DIGITAL APPROACHES TO CONGO ADVOCACY



BIBI NDALA

NYC Coordinator,
Friends of the Congo

Bibi Ndala is a public health leader bridging policy, advocacy, and grassroots impact across the U.S. and the DRC. She holds a Master of Public Health from New York University, specializing in global health systems and community interventions. As a Research Analyst for the City of New York, she develops data-driven initiatives shaping municipal health policy and outcomes. Bibi also serves as NYC Coordinator for Friends of the Congo, advancing advocacy and diaspora engagement. She founded ELAKA, a nonprofit dedicated to educating and empowering expecting mothers in the DRC, improving maternal and newborn health through culturally responsive programming.

SNEAK PREVIEW

RETURN TO CONGO 2026

The inaugural Return to Congo 2024 trip in Kinshasa was a successful, fulfilling, and impactful experience for the program’s participants. It highlighted the importance for members of the Congolese Diaspora—and others interested in the DRC—who wish to build businesses or philanthropic initiatives in Congo, to first spend time on the ground. Visiting, doing research, and exploring the landscape firsthand are key steps before launching enterprises in the country.

KOLWEZI & LUBUMBASHI

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that Return to Congo 2026 will expand into a multi-city journey, with stops in Lubumbashi and Kolwezi, the heart of Congo’s mining region. This edition will place a special focus on mining, providing participants with unique insights into one of the country’s most vital and dynamic sectors, while continuing to strengthen the bridge between the diaspora and Congo’s future.



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BRITTNI REVELL



CONGOLESE DIASPORA IMPACT STRATEGIES

Congolese Diaspora Impact Strategies offers expert advisory services to businesses, nonprofits, and foundations looking to enter Congolese and African markets and communities.

SERVICES

- **Strategic communications**
- **Policy Advisory & Analysis**
 - Media landscape analysis
 - Geopolitical risk analysis
- **Business Advisory**
 - Doing Business in Congo, Trade Missions
 - Import/Export of agricultural products
- **Critical Minerals**
 - Strategic Sourcing
 - Regulatory Compliance
 - Ethical Practices
 - Supply Chain Management

ORGANIZATIONS WE WORK WITH



Taptap Send



Startups

CDIS has operated as an incubation hub for Congolese and Diaspora-Founded businesses.

Private Sector

We partner with early-stage startups and businesses to help expand market reach and presence.



malaika

Civil Society/Non-profits

We collaborate with nonprofits to raise awareness and funding to address critical issues in the DRC and abroad.

FOLLOW US



CONGOLESE DIASPORA IMPACT SUMMIT

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CDIS 2025

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