



For media inquiries or to schedule interviews, please contact:

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PROGRAM AGENDA

Skyward Africa Space Salon

Africa in Orbit: Space Power, Security & Diaspora Talent

Washington, DC | March 26, 2026

Hosted by Skyward Africa – An Asha Strategies Initiative

Registration:

<https://bit.ly/SpaceSalon26>

The **Skyward Africa Space Salon** brings together policymakers, researchers, industry leaders, and diaspora innovators shaping Africa's role in the global space ecosystem. The speakers represent expertise across space policy, international cooperation, security, and emerging technology.

5:30 PM – Arrival & Networking Reception

Guests arrive for check-in and an opening networking reception with policymakers, industry leaders, and diaspora professionals.

- Registration and guest check-in
- Curated networking
- Sponsor recognition and media moments

6:00 PM – Welcome & Opening Remarks

Opening remarks will frame the strategic moment in **U.S.–Africa space engagement** and the role of diaspora talent in strengthening global space collaboration.

Speaker

Nneka S. Achapu

CEO, Asha Strategies LLC

Founder, Skyward Africa

Key themes include:

- Africa's emerging role in the global space economy
- Why diaspora talent represents structural capital for space collaboration
- Setting the objectives for the evening's discussion

6:10 PM – Panel Discussion | Diaspora Talent: Deploying Capital, Knowledge & Opportunity

Moderator

Natasha Moleele

Panelists

Amber McIntyre

Meshack Kinyua Ndiritu

Rama Afullo

This discussion explores how diaspora professionals are helping shape Africa's growing participation in the global space ecosystem.

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Topics include:

- Africa–U.S. collaboration in the space economy
 - Technical and commercial entry points for partnership
 - Education and training pipelines for future talent
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6:40 PM – Fireside Chat | The U.S. Perspective: Strategic Competition & Commercial Diplomacy**Speakers**

Matt Petit

Maureen Farrell

In conversation with:

Nneka S. Achapu

This conversation explores how the United States can strengthen collaboration with African partners across the space sector.

Discussion topics include:

- U.S. positioning in Africa’s emerging space ecosystem
- Commercial diplomacy and global space partnerships
- Public-private alignment in space cooperation
- Opportunities for innovation, investment, and joint ventures

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Strategic Networking & Introductions

The evening concludes with intentional networking designed to foster collaboration between policymakers, industry leaders, investors, and diaspora innovators.

- Speaker engagement and informal discussion
- Partnership exploration and introductions
- Opportunities for future collaboration across the U.S.–Africa space sector

Skyward Africa convenes leaders across policy, industry, and the diaspora to advance Africa’s role in the global space economy.