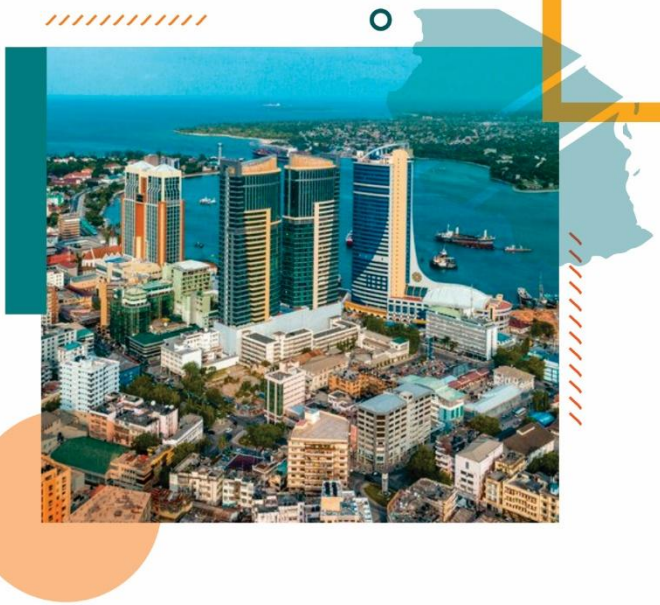
BEN-Africa
The Business Ethics Network of Africa

Absa BEN-Africa
25th Annual Conference
"Contrasting perspectives on business ethics: Afrocentricity and beyond"

absa

5 - 6 NOVEMBER 2026

Academic and venue host
University of Dar es Salaam



REGISTER NOW

www.benafrica.org

25th Annual Absa BEN-Africa Conference

SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS (August 2026)

The conference is an international platform for stakeholders from the private sector, public sector, non-profit organisations, and academia to come together and reflect on, discuss, and respond to the opportunities and challenges related to conducting inclusive and principled business in Africa. BEN-Africa's stated mission is to strengthen the commitment and competence of Africans to do business with moral integrity.

As we convene for our 25th annual conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, we invite you to join us for the two-day event to explore "Contrasting perspectives on business ethics: Afrocentricity and beyond", featuring keynote speakers, panel discussions and track presentations.

ABOUT THE THEME

At the end of 2025, BEN-Africa's official journal – the African Journal of Business Ethics – announced a call for a new special issue. In doing so, it focused on a discussion around critical perspectives on business ethics, encouraging the submission of manuscripts where arguments would go against the mainstream understandings and philosophies of business ethics.

For the 2026 conference, BEN-Africa continues this thematic thread. Thus our 2026 conference, aptly titled 'Contrasting perspectives on business ethics: Afrocentricity and beyond', seeks to encourage dialogue around perspectives critical of the term business ethics, as we understand it as a mainstream term. This would include, inter alia, Marxist, Black Marxist, environmentalist, feminist and intersectionality viewpoints. But it also seeks to encourage perspectives that fall within the ambit of the 'mainstream' of business ethics, those that acknowledge the corporation as a social institution with social and environmental responsibilities. Furthermore, the conference will, as expected, focus on Africa's role in contributing to contrasting understandings of business ethics.

Afrocentricity will thus guide these perspectives, emphasizing the importance of African history, culture and perspectives in contributing to the field. It will provide an open avenue to challenge Western Eurocentric views but not negating the impact that recent geopolitical shifts and developments have had on Africa, African ethics and business (hence, the 'beyond').

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The conference language is English, however, papers in other languages spoken on the continent are welcome, and we will endeavour to provide a suitable forum for such papers to be presented at the conference.

SUBMISSIONS

Scholars and other experts from around the world are invited to submit industry and academic papers and posters that address the theme of "***Contrasting perspectives on business ethics: Afrocentricity and beyond***", (please see below for suggested sub-themes). However, any papers dealing with business or organisational ethics in Africa will be considered.

The conference will take a hybrid format – both virtual and face-to-face presentations will be conducted.

Submission of academic papers may be in **abstract format** for presentation at the conference only, or as a **full paper**. Only full papers will be considered for publication in the Conference Proceedings. Full paper authors may be selected and invited to submit their papers for publication in the African Journal of Business Ethics (English)– subject to the journal's publishing protocols.

a. Posters

- Posters should be submitted in JPEG format with an abstract in Word of 500-1000 words. Posters accepted for the conference must be provided in physical format and be transported, at the author's cost, to the conference. All Posters should be A0 in size. Authors are encouraged to be creative. Authors are expected to present (explain) their posters at the conference in person or virtually.
- Submissions should be submitted via email to **info@benafrica.org.** Timelines are the same as abstract submissions.
- The best conference poster will be awarded the Arum Lily prize. Posters may be selected for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings.

b. Abstracts

- The abstract of the papers will be reviewed for relevance and rigour. The word count for abstracts should be between 500-1000 words. Accepted abstracts will allow for a paper presentation of a paper during the conference track sessions but will NOT allow for full paper publication. *Should you wish to submit a full paper, please see section c. below.*
- Abstract submissions should be submitted via email to **info@benafrica.org**. Submissions should be in Word format and contain a version with author/s' details and a second version without author/s' details suitable for double blind peer review.

c. Full Papers

- Full paper submissions (5000-8000 words) for possible inclusion in the Conference Proceedings or the African Journal of Business Ethics (English) will be reviewed by at least three reviewers following a double-blind peer review process.
- Full paper authors may be selected and invited to submit their papers for publication in the African Journal of Business Ethics (English) or Ethique et Societé (French) subject to the respective journal's review and publishing protocols.

- By submitting a full paper, you agree to blind peer review three other full paper submissions and being on the Conference Editorial Board. Papers should be anonymised prior to submission.

Conference Proceedings ISBN Title: Absa BEN-Africa's 24th Annual Conference: Conference Proceedings 2025 ISBN: 978-1-0492-6544-5(e-book)

Please follow the author guidelines for the African Journal of Business Ethics for both Conference Proceedings and for African Journal of Business Ethics submissions:

https://ajobe.journals.ac.za/index.php/pub/about/submissions#authorGuidelines

South African authors: Please note that while the Conference Proceedings are published in accordance with the South African DHET requirements for subsidy purposes, BEN-Africa and the Conference organisers do NOT provide any undertaking or guarantee that the Conference Proceedings will qualify for DHET subsidy purposes.

Full paper submission should be submitted via email to **info@benafrica.org.** Submissions should be in Word format and contain a version with author/s' details and a second version without author/s' details suitable for double blind peer review.

TIMELINE

- **UPDATED: August 18, 2026:** Deadline for abstract submissions (500-1,000 words) and for full papers for potential publication in the Conference Proceedings and the African Journal of Business Ethics (English) or Ethique et Societé (French)*.
- **September 7, 2026:** Confirmation of acceptance to present at the Conference.
- **October 5, 2026:** Submission of final papers after review.
- **November 5-6, 2026:** Conference. Online pre-registration required for all delegates.
- **May 31, 2027:** Planned publication of Conference proceedings.

For papers selected for the African Journal of Business Ethics (English) or Ethique et Societé (French) (these are selected and invited to submit to the journal at the Editor-in chief's discretion):

- September to December 2026: Authors will be invited to submit their papers in the journal's submission portal. Papers will undergo a further review process to determine acceptance for the journal. Unsuccessful articles will be published in the Conference Proceedings.
- January 31, 2027: Completion of external review, and feedback to authors.
- 2027: Publication of papers.

* Please note that abstract submissions are adequate if you intend to be presenting at the conference. If, however, you are interested in publishing your paper in the Conference Proceedings or the African Journal of Business Ethics, the above deadlines must please be adhered to.

ALOE AWARD

We are also pleased to announce the Aloe award for the best conference paper. The winner will be announced at the conference. To be eligible for this award, your FULL paper must be submitted by **3 August 2026**. BEN-Africa reserves the right not to make the award should an insufficient number of full papers be received by the deadline.

Registration and registration fees

Presenters are required to register and pay for the conference, as below, and to make their own way to the conference. Ben-Africa is unable to fund conference participation and attendance.

SUB-THEMES

The conference theme is “Contrasting perspectives on business ethics: Afrocentricity and beyond”. Any paper that addresses this theme, or the wider theme of business ethics in Africa, will be considered.

The following broad sub-themes each constitute part of the overarching theme of the conference:

1. The mainstream: Corporate social responsibility, the environment and business-as-usual in Africa
2. The critical: Conflict theory perspectives and business ethics in Africa
3. The role of African history, culture and perspectives in shaping broader understandings of business ethics
4. Beyond Africa: Geopolitical shifts and conflicts, and their impact on business and ethics in Africa
5. Western-centric versus Afrocentric perspectives: A reconciliation of knowledge or a separate branch of development?

BROADER THEMES

- Developments in business ethics teaching and practice
- Defining the business ethics agenda for Africa: Contextual challenges and opportunities
- Managing ethics in African companies and organisations
- Poverty and sustainability: defining the challenges and the way forward

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW - TENTATIVE

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME – SUMMARY

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2026

07:30 Registration opens
08:30 Welcome remarks
08:35 Official welcome
08:45 Keynote address
09:30 **Panel 1 –** The Price of Progress: Ethics, Extraction, and the Illusion of Sustainable Capitalism
10:15 Refreshments
10:30 **Panel 2 –** Power Never Surrenders Easily: Conflict, Capital and the Struggle for Ethical Business in Africa
11:25 **Panel 3 –** Recovering Forgotten Wisdoms: African Histories, Cultural Memory and the Reimagining of Business Ethics
12:15 Networking lunch
13:15 **Debate –** Who Owns Morality? Power, Resistance and the Politics of Business Ethics in Africa
14:00 **Panel 4 – Day 1 Reflections (Moderators from Panel 1, 2 and 3 as panelists, moderated by Day Chair)**
14:45 Parallel Track Sessions
15:30 Refreshments
17:55 Parallel Track Sessions conclude
18:30 Evening reception.

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026

08:30 Presentation of the Baobab/Quiver Award
08:45 Acceptance declaration of the Baobab/Quiver Award
09:15 **Panel 5 –** Beyond Africa: Geopolitical shifts and conflicts, and their impact on business and ethics in Africa
10:00 Refreshments
10:30 **Panel 6 –** Western-centric versus Afrocentric perspectives: A reconciliation of knowledge or a separate branch of development?
11:15 **Debate –** Contrasting perspectives on business ethics: Afrocentricity and beyond
11:45 **Panel 7 – Day 2 Reflections (Moderators of Panel 5, 6 and debate facilitator as panelists, moderated by Day Chair)**
12:30 **Closing Remarks – Sponsor Representatives**
12:40 Announcement of Aloe Award for Best Conference paper.
12:55 Closure and announcement of Absa BEN-Africa 2027 conference theme and country.
13:10 Vote of thanks - Dr Bryan Robinson
13:15 Conference closing

THANK YOU!

We are excited to welcome you to the Absa BEN-Africa Conference in Dar es Salaam!

www.benafrica.org