



Banking Beyond Borders

Driving Innovation Through Fintech Partnerships

A Strategic White Paper from the UBA Ghana Fintech Conference 2026



JUNE 2026

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Introduction and Background	2
Evolution of Ghana's Digital Financial Ecosystem	2
Role of UBA Ghana in Fintech Business	3
Bernard Gyebi - MD & CEO - UBA Ghana Ltd.	4
Linda Naa Dzama Quaynor - Board Member	5
Key Industry Priorities Identified by UBA	6
Keynote Address - Dr. Gbadebo Adenrele	7
Africa's Fintech Opportunity	7
The Evolution of Africa's Fintech Landscape	7
Lessons from Africa and Global Markets	8
Regulation and Financing as Key Enablers	8
Outlook for Ghana's Fintech Industry	9
The Future of Banking Beyond Borders	9
Significance of Partnerships	9
Closing Message	9
Panel Discussion: Banking Beyond borders	10
Key Insights from the Panel Session	10
Key Takeaway	10
Fintech, AI and Cyber Security trends, The regulators perspective	11
Regional and Global Comparisons	11
Legal and Regulatory Framework	12
Current State of Regulation	12
Future Trends in Digital Finance	12
Conclusion	12



Executive Summary



Africa's financial services industry is undergoing a profound transformation driven by digital innovation, evolving customer expectations, regulatory reforms, and the rapid growth of financial technology (fintech) companies. Against this backdrop, UBA Ghana hosted its inaugural Fintech Conference under the theme **"Banking Beyond Borders: Driving Innovation Through Fintech Partnerships."**

The conference brought together regulators, financial institutions, fintech operators, technology innovators, investors, and policymakers to examine the future of digital finance in Ghana and across Africa. Discussions highlighted the growing importance of collaboration between banks and fintech companies, the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the need for robust cybersecurity and regulatory frameworks.

The event underscored a central theme: the future of banking will be built through partnerships rather than competition. Financial institutions that successfully integrate innovation, technology, and ecosystem collaboration will be best positioned to drive financial inclusion, economic growth, and sustainable development across Africa.



Introduction and Background

The financial services sector globally is experiencing unprecedented disruption. Traditional banking models are being reshaped by digital platforms, mobile technologies, data analytics, open banking frameworks, and changing consumer preferences.

In Africa, fintech has emerged as one of the continent's fastest-growing sectors. Mobile money, digital payments, embedded finance, digital lending, and agency banking have transformed how individuals and businesses access financial services.

Recognizing these developments, UBA Ghana convened its maiden Fintech Conference to create a platform for strategic dialogue on how financial institutions, fintech companies, regulators, and development partners can collectively shape Africa's financial future.

The conference focused on practical pathways for creating a borderless financial ecosystem capable of supporting intra-African trade, financial inclusion, and digital economic growth.

Evolution of Ghana's Digital Financial Ecosystem

Over the past decade, Ghana has established itself as one of Africa's leading fintech markets.

Key developments include:

- Rapid adoption of mobile money services.
- Growth in digital payments infrastructure.
- Expansion of fintech startups across payments, lending, savings, insurance, and wealth management.
- Increased regulatory support from the Bank of Ghana.
- Growing investor confidence in Ghana's technology sector.

The conference highlighted that Ghana currently hosts more than 200 active fintech companies and continues to attract significant venture capital investment into the technology ecosystem.

Mobile money has become the primary driver of digital financial inclusion, providing millions of previously unbanked citizens with access to formal financial services. Beyond payments, fintech firms are increasingly delivering value-added services such as credit, insurance, savings, and investment products through digital channels.

These developments have positioned Ghana as an important innovation hub within West Africa's digital economy.





Role of UBA Ghana in Fintech Business

As Africa's Global Bank, UBA has strategically positioned itself as an enabler of fintech innovation rather than a competitor.

UBA's fintech strategy is built around four core pillars:

● Banking-as-a-Service and Open APIs

UBA provides secure digital infrastructure that allows fintech companies to integrate banking services directly into their platforms, accelerating innovation and market expansion.

● Artificial Intelligence and Digital Banking

The bank continues to invest in AI-powered customer engagement solutions, including its digital banking assistant, Leo, to improve service delivery and customer experience.

● Cross-Border Payments

Through initiatives such as PAPSS and UBA Connect, the bank is facilitating seamless cross-border transactions across Africa.

● Financial Inclusion

UBA's extensive branch and agency banking network enables it to extend digital financial services to underserved communities while bridging the gap between digital and physical banking channels.

This ecosystem-based approach reflects UBA's belief that sustainable innovation requires collaboration among banks, fintechs, regulators, and technology providers.



Bernard Gyebi

Managing Director & CEO UBA Ghana Ltd.

Bernard Gyebi, emphasized that the future of banking will be shaped by partnerships, innovation, and ecosystem development.

He noted that Africa stands at a critical point in its economic evolution, with the continent's fintech sector projected to exceed US\$65 billion by 2030.

Mr. Gyebi identified several strategic priorities for the industry:

- ◆ Artificial Intelligence and the future of banking.
- ◆ Cross-border payments and trade finance.
- ◆ Cybersecurity and digital trust.
- ◆ Embedded finance.
- ◆ Financial inclusion.
- ◆ Ecosystem collaboration.

His remarks reinforced UBA's commitment to fostering partnerships that enhance customer experience, accelerate digital adoption, and unlock economic opportunities across Africa.

Bernard noted the event marks the beginning of an annual platform designed to foster dialogue, innovation, and collaboration within Africa's financial ecosystem.



Linda Naa Dzama Quaynor

Board Member

Mrs. Linda Naa Dzama Quaynor, set the tone for the conference by emphasizing the transformative role of partnerships in the modern financial ecosystem.

Her comments focused on the importance of collaboration as a catalyst for innovation and growth. She highlighted the need for stakeholders to move beyond traditional institutional boundaries and work collectively to address emerging customer needs and market opportunities.

She stressed that innovation thrives when diverse actors, including banks, fintechs, regulators, investors, and technology providers, work together to build scalable, inclusive, and secure financial solutions.

Linda highlighted UBA's commitment to its "Banking Beyond Borders" vision and reflected on the evolution of the relationship between traditional banks and fintech companies.

She noted that while the relationship was once characterized by competition, the financial services landscape has evolved significantly and collaboration has replaced competition, creating a more integrated financial ecosystem. According to her, the future is no longer "banks versus fintechs" but "banks with fintechs," working together alongside regulators to drive innovation and expand financial access.

She emphasized that combining the scale, trust, and regulatory expertise of banks with the agility, innovation, speed, and localized solutions offered by fintechs presents a significant opportunity to transform Africa's financial landscape. Such partnerships can help build a cross-border financial system that serves all Africans, regardless of location or economic status.



Speaking on Ghana's fintech ecosystem, she described the country as a strong fintech market that has progressed from grassroots adoption to institutional maturity. She commended the Bank of Ghana for its proactive role in supporting and shaping the fintech industry through a collaborative regulatory approach.

She further noted that fintech continues to attract a significant share of technology venture capital inflows into Ghana, reflecting the sector's growth potential and increasing investor confidence.

Comparing developments across the continent, she highlighted:

- Nigeria's leadership in venture capital inflows and payment infrastructure.
- Kenya's global recognition as a benchmark for mobile money adoption.
- South Africa's advanced banking API ecosystem.
- Egypt's rapid growth in digital payments.

Ms. Quaynor underscored the importance of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), describing it as one of Africa's most significant economic opportunities. She noted that achieving the full benefits of AfCFTA will require robust financial infrastructure capable of facilitating seamless cross-border payments and trade.

She highlighted UBA's unique position to support this vision through its presence in 20 African countries and global operations in New York, London, Paris, and Dubai, serving over 45 million customers.

According to her, UBA's role is to provide the secure infrastructure and scale required to accelerate fintech innovation and economic growth. She noted that the Bank has established dedicated fintech and telecommunications partnership teams, opened its digital infrastructure through robust APIs, and provides regulatory sponsorship support to fintech partners.

Key Industry Priorities Identified by UBA



Development of a unified regulatory framework across Africa.



Investment in next generation digital infrastructure.



Strengthening collaborative cybersecurity and cyber defense mechanisms.



Accelerating financial inclusion across underserved communities.

Keynote Address

Dr. Gbadebo Adenrele

Managing Director,
Investment Banking, United Capital Plc

Dr. Gbadebo Adenrele delivered a keynote presentation on the theme "Banking Beyond Borders: Driving Innovation Through Fintech Partnerships," highlighting the transformative role of collaboration in shaping the future of financial services across Africa.

He emphasized that Africa's financial future will not be built by banks, fintechs, regulators, or investors working independently, but through collaborative ecosystems that combine capital, technology, infrastructure, and innovation to deliver seamless financial experiences across borders.



I Africa's Fintech Opportunity

Dr. Adenrele noted that Africa's young and rapidly growing population presents a significant opportunity for fintech-driven growth. With more than half of the continent's population under the age of 25 and increasing digital adoption, demand for innovative financial solutions is expected to accelerate significantly in the coming years.

He highlighted the growing collaboration between traditional financial institutions and fintech companies, noting that such partnerships are enhancing value creation, expanding access to financial services, and improving customer experiences at lower costs.

I The Evolution of Africa's Fintech Landscape

The keynote explored the rapid growth of Africa's fintech ecosystem, particularly in areas such as digital payments, digital banking, lending, wealth management, blockchain, and embedded finance.

Dr. Adenrele identified financial inclusion as one of fintech's greatest achievements, citing the increasing adoption of mobile money across Sub-Saharan Africa and its role in bringing millions of previously underserved individuals into the formal financial system.

I Keynote Address Cont.

He further noted that the growth of fintech across the continent has been driven by four key factors:

- Increased mobile phone adoption and connectivity.
- A strong financial inclusion agenda.
- Changing customer expectations for faster and more convenient financial services.
- Greater access to investment capital.

I Lessons from Africa and Global Markets

Drawing insights from Nigeria, Kenya, and global fintech markets, Dr. Adenrele highlighted the significant growth in digital payments, venture capital investments, and fintech innovation across the industry.

He referenced Nigeria's expanding digital payments ecosystem and Kenya's success in leveraging mobile money to drive financial inclusion, describing both markets as important examples of how technology can accelerate economic participation.

From a global perspective, he noted that fintech continues to attract substantial investment, with payments, artificial intelligence, and digital assets emerging as some of the fastest-growing segments of the industry.



I Regulation and Financing as Key Enablers

A major theme of the presentation was the importance of regulation as an enabler of innovation.

Dr. Adenrele commended regulatory initiatives across Africa, including regulatory sandboxes, open banking frameworks, and cross-border collaboration efforts, which have helped create an environment where innovation can flourish while maintaining consumer protection and financial stability.

He also highlighted emerging global regulatory trends, including:

- Expansion of open banking into open finance.
- Increased focus on cybersecurity and operational resilience.
- Growth of embedded finance.
- Enhanced regulation of digital assets and cryptocurrencies.
- The increasing role of Artificial Intelligence in financial services.

On financing, he stressed the importance of access to capital throughout the fintech lifecycle, ranging from founder funding and angel investment to venture capital, private equity, bank financing, and capital market funding.

| Keynote Address Cont.

| Outlook for Ghana's Fintech Industry

Speaking on Ghana, Dr. Adenrele expressed optimism about the country's fintech future, citing strong mobile money adoption, a youthful population, supportive regulation, increasing digital infrastructure investments, and growing collaboration between financial institutions and fintech companies.

He noted that improvements in payment infrastructure, connectivity, digital identification systems, and data infrastructure will continue to strengthen Ghana's position as a leading fintech hub in the region.

| The Future of Banking Beyond Borders

Looking ahead, Dr. Adenrele stated that the future of banking will be defined by interconnected ecosystems rather than individual institutions.

He identified technology, financial inclusion, embedded finance, innovative solutions, and autonomous finance as key forces that will shape the next decade of financial services. According to him, institutions that embrace partnerships, invest in digital infrastructure, and adopt a customer-centric approach will be best positioned to lead Africa's next phase of financial innovation.

| Significance of Partnerships

The keynote concluded with a strong call for deeper collaboration across the financial services ecosystem. Dr. Adenrele highlighted the importance of partnerships between banks, fintechs, technology companies, corporates, and regulators in unlocking new growth opportunities and expanding financial access.

He emphasized that successful partnerships are built on complementary strengths, shared objectives, and a commitment to delivering greater value to customers.

| Closing Message

Dr. Adenrele concluded by reiterating that collaboration remains the foundation for advancing digital finance across Africa.

He encouraged stakeholders to continue working together to build stronger financial ecosystems, drive innovation, and unlock sustainable economic growth across the continent.



Panel Discussion: Banking Beyond borders

Driving innovation through fintech partnerships



Key Insights from the Panel Session

The panel discussion brought together leading voices from the banking and fintech ecosystem, to explore the evolving relationship between innovation, trust, regulation, and collaboration in Africa's digital financial landscape.

Several important themes emerged:

Collaboration Over Competition

Banks and fintech companies possess complementary strengths that can drive innovation and improve customer outcomes.

Payments as the Foundation

Efficient, low-cost payment infrastructure remains essential for digital commerce and financial inclusion.

Open Banking

Open APIs and shared digital infrastructure are creating new opportunities for innovation.

Customer-Centric Innovation

Future growth will depend on solving real customer problems rather than deploying technology for its own sake.

AI and Data Analytics

Artificial intelligence is increasingly influencing credit assessment, customer engagement, fraud detection, and operational efficiency.

Trust and Security

Cybersecurity remains fundamental to maintaining confidence in digital financial services.

Key Takeaway

The overarching message from the panel was that the future of African financial services will be defined by collaboration rather than competition. Innovation, trust, compliance, and partnerships must evolve together if the industry is to unlock the full potential of digital finance, drive financial inclusion, and support economic growth across Africa.

Fintech, AI and Cyber Security trends, The regulators perspective

Elhanan Owuraku Asare

Head of Fintech and Innovation, BOG

Elhanan Owuraku Asare, Head of Fintech and Innovation at the Bank of Ghana, noted that the fintech industry does not evolve in isolation but operates within a broader technology ecosystem, with the market remaining highly competitive on a global scale.

He reaffirmed the Bank of Ghana's commitment to supporting the growth of the fintech sector, emphasizing that the regulator's role is to enable innovation rather than hinder it.



He explained that while promoting innovation, equal priority is placed on consumer protection and data security. In this regard, he highlighted ongoing efforts by the Bank of Ghana to develop sector-specific regulatory approaches aimed at embedding consumer protection and financial system integrity into fintech solutions from inception. He further observed that institutions such as UBA have already demonstrated alignment with this direction through initiatives such as their newly launched virtual accounts.

Asare also noted that cybersecurity is being elevated to a board-level responsibility across the financial ecosystem.

He stressed the need for collective action among all stakeholders to address cyber threats, emphasizing that trust remains a critical currency within the financial services industry.

| Regional and Global Comparisons

The conference highlighted how Africa's fintech landscape compares with leading global markets.

Nigeria

Leads Africa in venture capital funding and payments innovation.

Kenya

Remains the global benchmark for mobile money adoption.

Ghana

Has established itself as a leading West African fintech hub characterized by regulatory innovation, strong mobile money adoption, and growing investor confidence.

South Africa

Leads in open banking, wealth technology, and financial innovation.

Egypt

Has emerged as a rapidly growing digital payments market.

Globally, trends observed in Africa mirror developments in Asia, Europe, and North America, where embedded finance, AI, open banking, and digital ecosystems are increasingly shaping financial services.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

Regulation remains a critical enabler of fintech growth.

Ghana has made significant progress through:

- Payment Systems and Services Act.
- Regulatory Sandbox initiatives.
- Digital identification systems.
- Data protection regulations.
- Financial consumer protection frameworks.

The Bank of Ghana continues to play a proactive role in balancing innovation with financial stability and consumer protection.

Current State of Regulation

Current regulatory priorities include:

- Digital payments oversight.
- Cybersecurity governance.
- Anti-Money Laundering (AML) compliance.
- Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements.
- Consumer protection.
- Digital asset monitoring

Regulators are increasingly adopting collaborative approaches that encourage innovation while maintaining systemic stability.

Future Trends in Digital Finance

Several trends are expected to shape the future of financial services:

Artificial Intelligence

AI will increasingly drive personalization, automation, fraud detection, and risk management.

Embedded Finance

Financial services will become integrated into non-financial platforms and customer journeys.

Cross-Border Digital Payments

Interoperable payment systems will support regional trade and economic integration.

Open Banking

Greater data sharing and API-driven innovation will expand financial ecosystems.

Digital Identity

National identity systems will continue to support onboarding, compliance, and inclusion efforts.

Financial Inclusion Technologies

USSD-based solutions, agent banking, and alternative credit scoring will remain important tools for reaching underserved populations.

Conclusion

The UBA Ghana Fintech Conference 2026 demonstrated that the future of financial services in Africa will be driven by collaboration, innovation, and shared value creation.

The discussions highlighted the significant progress already achieved within Ghana's fintech ecosystem while also identifying the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. As digital transformation accelerates and AfCFTA creates new possibilities for cross-border commerce, banks, fintechs, regulators, and technology providers must work together to build resilient, inclusive, and secure financial systems.

UBA Ghana's leadership in convening this dialogue reinforces its role as a catalyst for innovation and a key contributor to Africa's digital financial future.

UBA X FINTECH CONFERENCE 2026

A red outline map of the African continent is positioned to the right of the text, partially overlapping the 'CONFERENCE' and '2026' elements.

Powered by

