



AKUAPEM TECH SUMMIT

2026

POLICY
FRAMEWORK
DOCUMENT

THEME

"Empowering Okuapeman
through Technology
Innovation to Bridge the
Digital Divide for
Sustainable Regional
Development."



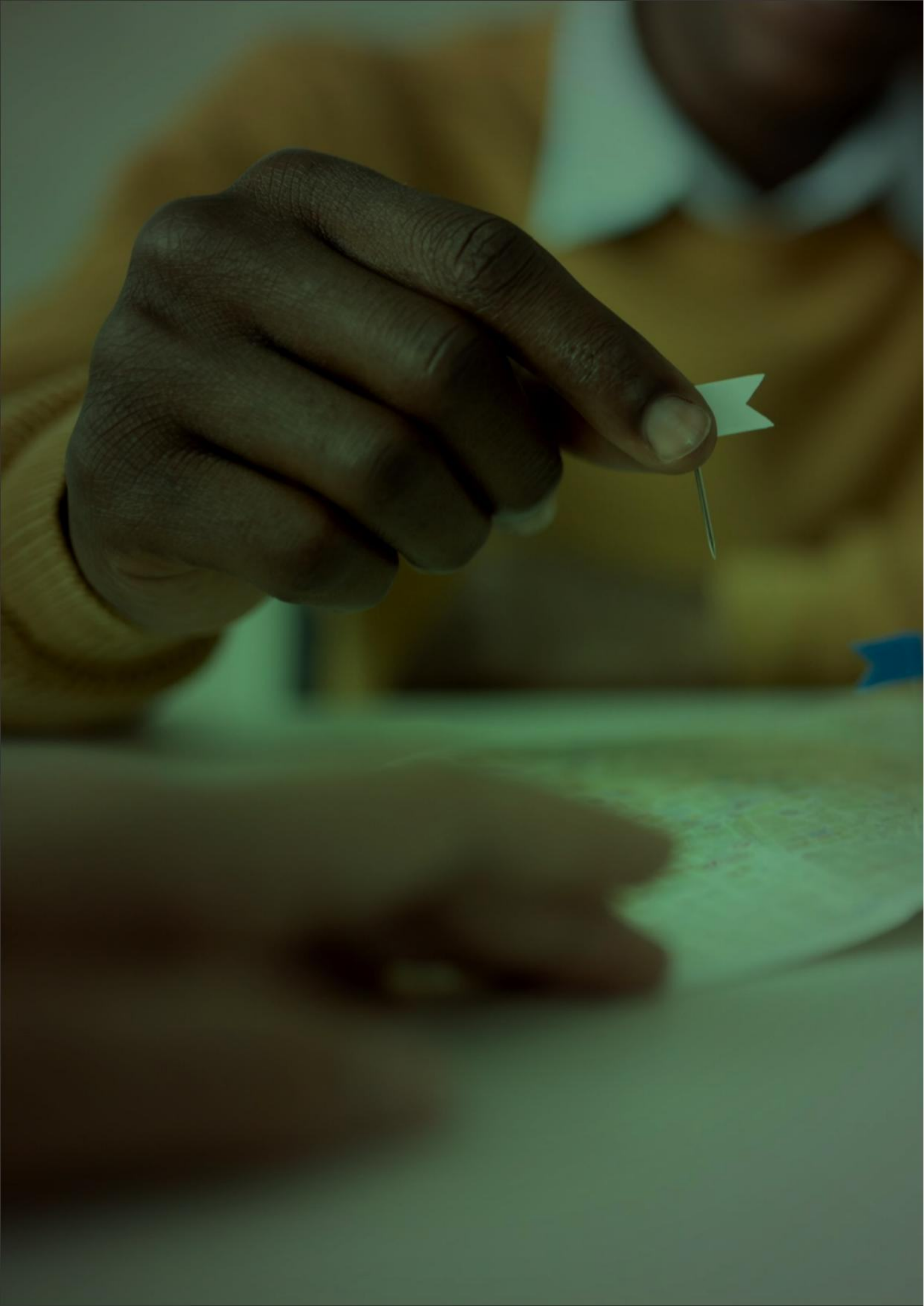
AKUAPEM
TECHNOLOGY
SECRETARIAT



STRATEGIC POLICY
FRAMEWORK FOR DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION,
INNOVATION, AND SUSTAINABLE
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

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POSITIONING STATEMENT



The **Akuapem Tech Summit 2026** is positioned as a high-impact regional innovation and digital transformation platform designed to attract strategic collaboration among global technology firms, financial institutions, development finance organizations, academic institutions, diplomatic missions, philanthropic foundations, and policy stakeholders committed to inclusive digital growth in Africa.

The Summit presents a unique opportunity for partners to contribute meaningfully to one of Ghana's most culturally significant and intellectually historic regions while advancing shared objectives in digital inclusion, youth empowerment, gender equity, entrepreneurship, innovation, education, sustainable development, and economic transformation.

The initiative is deliberately structured to align with:

01 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

02 African Union Agenda 2063

03 Ghana's Digital Transformation Agenda

04 Global Innovation Ecosystem Models

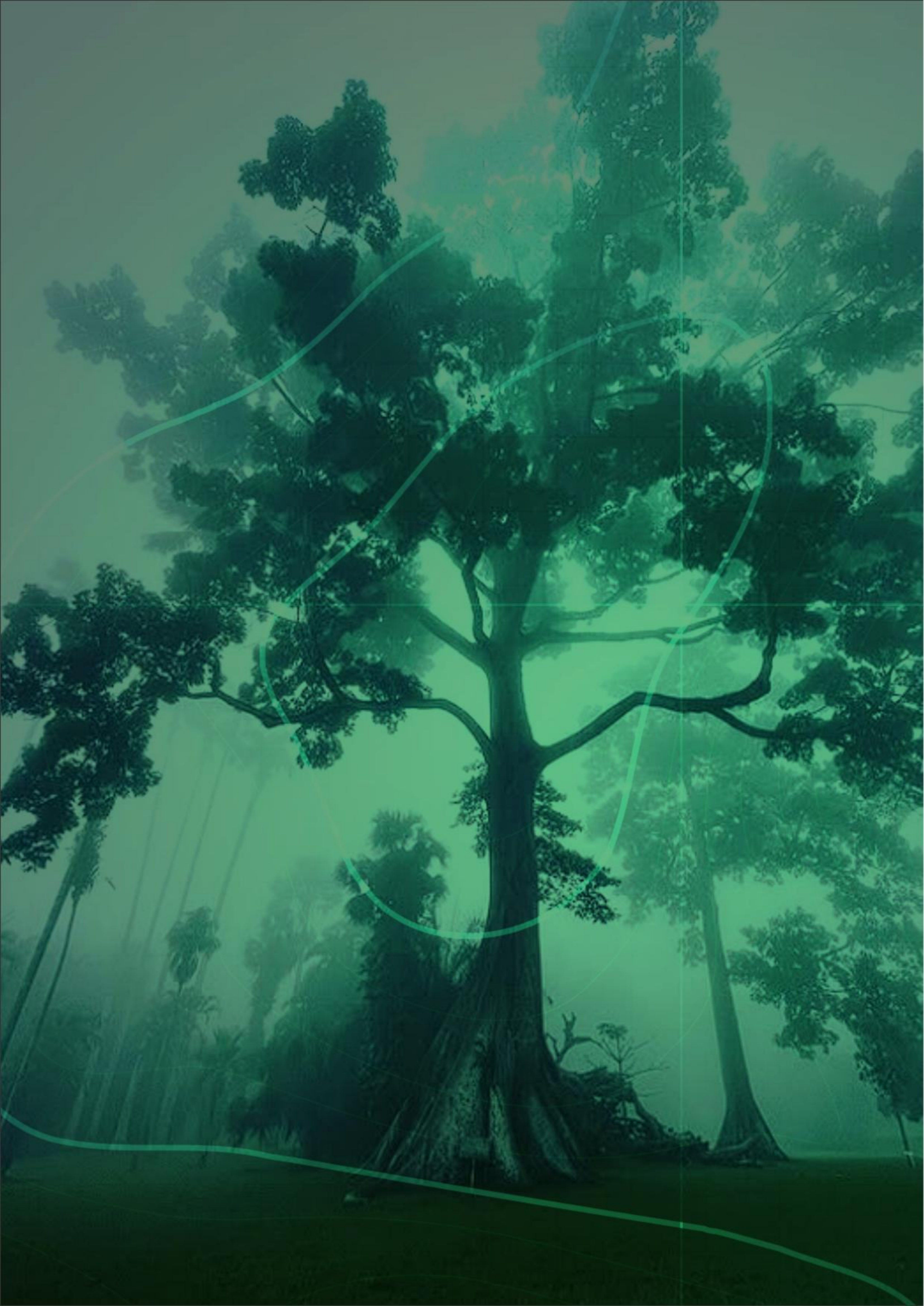
05 ESG and Corporate Social Responsibility Priorities

06 Youth Employment and Digital Economy Strategies

By combining Okuapeman's strong educational heritage; human capital potential; vast diaspora network; agriculturally based economy and strategic geographic location with technology-driven development, the Summit seeks to establish a scalable regional innovation ecosystem capable of attracting investment, fostering enterprise growth, and creating long-term socio-economic opportunities.

The Summit therefore welcomes strategic partnerships with multinational corporations, telecommunications companies, banks, development agencies, academic institutions, technology firms, embassies, foundations, and innovation ecosystems seeking measurable developmental impact and sustainable collaboration in Ghana and Africa.





HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF OKUAPEMAN

Okuapeman, located in Ghana's Eastern Region, is one of the country's most historically significant traditional areas, renowned for its rich cultural heritage, educational legacy, disciplined human capital, and strategic role in national development.

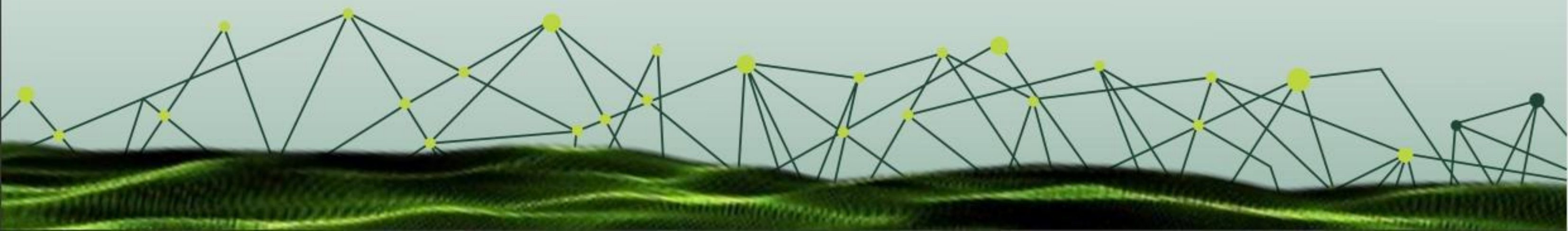
The historical background of the Akuapem state provides a strong foundation for Ghana's current digital transformation, innovation, and sustainable regional development. Through the 1733 Abotakyi Accord, Okuapeman, or the statutory Akuapem traditional area, is popularly known for stable traditional governance, peacebuilding, trade, and cross-cultural integration on the Akuapem Ridge.

The history of Akuapem is usually summarised in three main periods: the first falls between the mid-fourteenth and the mid-seventeenth century, when the Akuapem Ridge was predominantly settled by the Guan, who led an independent, priestly-based governance without a formal military organisation.

The second period began when the powerful Akwamu kingdom ruled the ridge from the mid-seventeenth century to the early 1730s. The third period began with the formation of the Akuapem State in the early 1730s under the leadership of the Akyem warlords, which remains in place to this day.

Okuapeman gained international prominence during the last quarter of the 18th century with the arrival of the first Danish colonial settlement in the Eastern interior of the Gold Coast, known as Friederichsnopel or 'Frederik's City', at Amenapaso on the fringe of Akropong, where the first experimentation with Legitimate Commerce commenced in 1789.

This was followed by about 20 Danish plantations established in the foothills of the Akuapem Mountains and along the Volta River estuary, producing cotton, coffee, indigo, and other crops for the European market. The discoveries of Paul Erdman Isert (1755-1789), who pioneered the settlement of the colony, were published in more than six European languages, becoming more refreshing to his readers and audience as he assured them of essentials for survival in Akuapem, where good soil, a healthy climate, and freshwater were available to suit the European mandate of colony establishment. His work was well-received and provided enthralling educational information within intellectual circles and among explorers. Akuapem became more attractive during this period, especially to those sponsoring expeditions to the interior of West Africa from late 1780 to 1850, and to those who commenced missionary activities in the area.



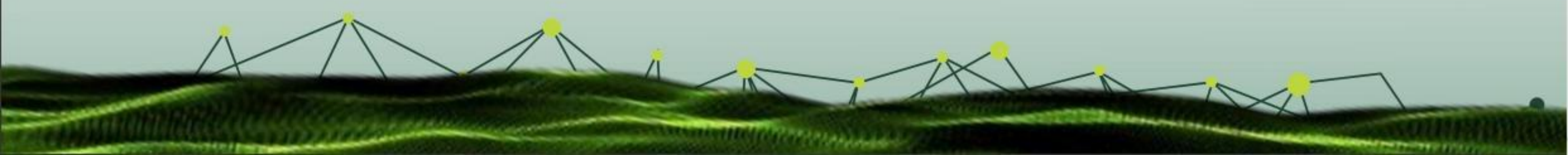
The Akuapem–Danish alliance laid a strong foundation and paved the way for the Basel missionary enterprise to thrive. Akuapem became the first Christian community in the eastern interior of the Gold Coast with the earliest centres for formal education, literacy, and missionary activities in the country.

The Basel missionaries established schools, vocational centres, and Christian institutions in towns such as Akropong, Aburi, Larteh, and Adukrom by the mid-19th century. These developments transformed the area into a leading intellectual and educational hub in the Gold Coast. The reduction of the Twi language into writing began in Akuapem, followed by others, such as the development of the Twi dictionary, the translation of the Bible into Twi, and the establishment of primary, middle, teacher–catechists training, theological institutions, and vocational training. These laid the foundation for human capital development and knowledge dissemination.

These values remain relevant to today's digital economy and innovation–driven development agenda. Okuapeman forms part of the Eastern Region of this country, which recorded an estimated population of about 2.9 million people in the 2021 Population and Housing Census. The record indicates a significant proportion of the population is youthful, with persons aged 15–35 constituting a major demographic group. Hence, youth unemployment in the region remains a challenge, particularly among young people who drop out of education, employment, or training. This creates an urgent need for investments in entrepreneurship, ICT training, and technology–enabled job creation.

Currently, Internet penetration and mobile connectivity in the country are increasing, creating opportunities for digital entrepreneurship, e–governance, smart agriculture, tourism, and online education in Okuapeman. Combined with its rich Akuapem cultural heritage, eco–tourism potential, and strong traditional institutions, the area is well–positioned to support sustainable regional growth

Under the Strategic Policy Framework for Digital Transformation, Innovation, and Sustainable Regional Development, Okuapeman can emerge as a model for inclusive digital development by integrating indigenous knowledge, youth empowerment, and modern technology to drive economic resilience and sustainable socio–economic transformation.





EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OUTLOOK

01

SHORT-TERM EMPLOYMENT IMPACT (1–2 YEARS)

The Summit is projected to create immediate employment and economic opportunities through:

- Direct temporary and event-based jobs for over 500 young people in logistics, media, event management, ICT support, hospitality, and communications
- Digital skills training opportunities for over 2,000 youth
- Startup acceleration support for at least 10 emerging businesses
- Increased demand for local services including transportation, accommodation, catering, tourism, and creative industries

02

MEDIUM-TERM EMPLOYMENT IMPACT (3–5 YEARS)

Through continuous training and innovation programmes, the Summit aims to:

- Facilitate the creation of over 3,000 technology-enabled jobs
- Support the emergence of startups and SMEs within software development, digital marketing, Fintech, Agri-tech, and E-commerce sectors
- Increase youth participation in remote work and global digital employment opportunities
- Attract public and private investments into digital infrastructure and innovation ecosystems across Okuapeman

LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION (5–10 YEARS)

03

The long-term vision of the Summit is to transform Okuapeman into a sustainable regional innovation ecosystem capable of:

- Positioning Okuapeman as Ghana's leading regional technology and innovation corridor.
- Establishing a permanent innovation and startup ecosystem supporting thousands of direct and indirect jobs.
- Reducing youth unemployment significantly through technology entrepreneurship and digital industrialization.
- Becoming a center for digital outsourcing, technology incubation, research, and innovation-driven investment.
- Creating a globally competitive talent pipeline from Okuapeman into Africa's digital economy.

The Summit ultimately seeks to build a technology-driven economic model capable of stimulating sustainable wealth creation, innovation, and inclusive development across the Akuapem Traditional Area.

The Akuapem Tech Summit 2026 is therefore conceived as a strategic response to bridge the digital divide, unlock innovation-driven opportunities, and position Okuapeman as a leading smart regional innovation ecosystem (Ghana's Silicon Ridge) in Ghana and Africa.

INTRODUCTION

The Akuapem Tech Summit 2026 is a flagship regional digital transformation initiative established to position Okuapeman as a leading innovation and technology ecosystem in Ghana and West Africa while preserving its rich cultural identity and heritage.

Inspired by the visionary leadership of His Majesty, Oseade yo Nana Kwasi Akuffo III, Okuapehene, the Summit seeks to create a transformative platform for innovation, digital inclusion, youth empowerment, and sustainable regional development.

The Summit serves as a strategic intervention to address the widening digital divide affecting many communities across Okuapeman by promoting equitable access to technology, innovation, digital literacy, entrepreneurship opportunities, and stakeholder collaboration.

This Policy Framework establishes the guiding principles, governance structures, strategic priorities, implementation mechanisms, partnership models, ethical standards, and sustainability agenda for the annual Akuapem Tech Summit and all related initiatives.





SUMMIT OPERATIONAL DETAILS

·Official Launch Date: **1st October 2026**

·Venue: Peduase Valley Resort, Peduase, Eastern Region, Ghana

·Frequency: Annual Summit

·Expected Inaugural Attendance: Approximately 500 participants (in-person), with expanded virtual participation through digital platforms.

These operational details reinforce the Summit's positioning as a high-level convening platform for government, industry, academia, development partners, investors, and the global diaspora focused on advancing Okuapeman's digital transformation agenda.

INSTITUTIONAL OWNERSHIP AND MANDATE:

The Akuapem Tech Summit is officially owned and governed by the Akuapem Technology Secretariat, operating under the auspices and cultural authority of the Akuapem Traditional Council.

This structure ensures that the Summit is firmly rooted in traditional leadership while maintaining a professionally managed, globally aligned innovation and development agenda.

The Secretariat serves as the executing and administrative body responsible for planning, coordination, partnership management, and implementation of all Summit-related programmes, in alignment with the strategic oversight of the Traditional Council and the Governing Council framework.



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VISION STATEMENT

To establish Okuapeman as a globally recognised smart regional innovation ecosystem driven by technology, entrepreneurship, cultural heritage preservation, and inclusive sustainable development.



MISSION STATEMENT

To mobilise technology, innovation, partnerships, and human capital development to bridge the digital divide, empower youth and women, stimulate entrepreneurship, and promote sustainable socio-economic transformation across Okuapeman.

To mobilise technology, innovation, partnerships, and human capital development to bridge the digital divide, empower youth and women, stimulate entrepreneurship, and promote sustainable socio-economic transformation across Okuapeman.



CORE VALUES

The Akuapem Tech Summit shall be guided by the following core values:

01

INNOVATION

Promoting creative thinking, emerging technologies, and locally driven digital solutions.

02

INCLUSION

Ensuring equal participation and opportunities for women, youth, persons with disabilities, and underserved communities.

03

INTEGRITY

Maintaining transparency, accountability, professionalism, and ethical conduct in all activities and partnerships.

04

COLLABORATION

Building strategic partnerships among government, academia, traditional leadership, private sector institutions, development agencies, and civil society.

05

SUSTAINABILITY

Creating long-term systems and structures that support continuous digital empowerment and economic growth.

06

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Integrating technology with the preservation and promotion of Akuapem culture, language, heritage, and identity.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Akuapem Tech Summit shall pursue the following strategic objectives:

- Equip over 10,000 young people with practical digital skills in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cybersecurity, Software Development, Data Science, Digital Marketing, and related fields over five-year period.
- Promote entrepreneurship and innovation by supporting startups and youth-led enterprises through mentorship, incubation, pitching opportunities, and investor engagement
- Advance women participation in technology and STEM-related fields through dedicated Women in Tech programmes and mentorship opportunities.
- Promote the development and adoption of AgriTech and EdTech solutions tailored to the developmental needs of Okuapeman.
- Facilitate policy dialogue and multi-stakeholder collaboration towards the realisation of a Smart Okuapeman agenda.
- Encourage investment in digital infrastructure, connectivity, and innovation ecosystems within the Akuapem Traditional Area.
- Promote the use of technology for cultural preservation, tourism development, education, and local governance.

POLICY PILLARS

THE SILICON VALLEY MODEL AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Akuapem Tech Summit draws strategic inspiration from the globally recognized Silicon Valley innovation model, which transformed a regional ecosystem into one of the world's leading centres for technology, entrepreneurship, venture capital, research, and digital innovation.

Silicon Valley's success was built on key pillars, including:

- Strong collaboration between academia, industry, investors, and government
- A culture of innovation and entrepreneurship
- Continuous investment in human capital and digital skills
- Startup incubation and mentorship system.
- Access to funding and venture capital.
- Technology-driven problem solving.
- Global networking and research collaboration.

The Akuapem Tech Summit seeks to adapt these principles within the socio-cultural and developmental context of Okuapeman.

Okuapeman possesses several characteristics that align naturally with the Silicon Valley ecosystem model:

- A strong educational and intellectual heritage.
- High levels of human capital and diaspora.
- Strategic proximity to Accra and major economic centers

- Growing youth population and entrepreneurial potential
- Strong traditional leadership and community cohesion
- Increasing demand for technology-enabled economic opportunities

Through the Summit and the proposed Akuapem Innovation Hub, (Ghana's Silicon Ridge) the initiative seeks to establish a localized innovation ecosystem that promotes:

- Startup creation and incubation
- Technology research and development
- Investor and diaspora engagement
- Public-private-academic collaboration
- Innovation commercialization
- Digital entrepreneurship
- Talent development and mentorship

The Silicon Valley model further demonstrates that sustainable regional transformation can be achieved when innovation ecosystems are intentionally nurtured over time through strategic partnerships, infrastructure investment, knowledge transfer, and leadership commitment.

The Akuapem Tech Summit therefore envisions Okuapeman evolving into a leading regional innovation corridor and a model smart traditional area in Africa.



BENCHMARKING GLOBAL INNOVATIONS ECOSYSTEMS

The strategic design of the Akuapem Tech Summit is informed by globally recognised innovation ecosystem benchmarks, demonstrating that sustained regional transformation is achievable through intentional investment in technology, education, and entrepreneurship.

Silicon Valley Success Model (United States): Silicon Valley remains the world's most advanced innovation ecosystem, characterised by high startup density, venture capital concentration, university–industry collaboration, and continuous talent development. Key performance indicators include thousands of active startups, billions in annual venture capital investment, and globally scalable technology firms emerging from a single regional cluster.

Kigali Innovation City Model (Rwanda): Kigali has positioned itself as a leading African innovation hub through strong government policy support, ICT infrastructure development, and investment in smart city technologies, demonstrating how coordinated national strategy can accelerate digital transformation in emerging economies.

ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT CASE FOR OKUAPEMAN

Okuapeman presents a compelling and strategic investment case for technology, infrastructure, education, agriculture, tourism, and innovation-driven development.

Strategic Proximity to Accra: Its close proximity to Ghana's capital city provides direct access to national infrastructure, government institutions, international markets, and corporate headquarters, making it an ideal satellite innovation and residential technology hub.

Tourism and Cultural Economy Potential: The Akuapem Ridge is a recognised cultural and ecological destination with significant potential for eco-tourism, cultural tourism, hospitality development, and heritage-based economic activities.

Human Capital Advantage: The region benefits from a historically strong educational foundation and a growing youthful population with increasing interest in digital skills, entrepreneurship, and innovation-driven careers.

Diaspora Influence and Investment Potential: The Akuapem diaspora represents a significant source of knowledge transfer, remittances, mentorship, and investment capital that can be mobilised for innovation ecosystem development.

Strong Educational and Intellectual Culture: Okuapeman's legacy as one of Ghana's earliest centres of formal education provides a strong pipeline of skilled human capital suitable for technology, research, and professional industries.

Land and Expansion Potential: The availability of land and development space within the Akuapem Traditional Area presents opportunities for innovation parks, data centres, training institutes, and startup incubation hubs.

Startup and Innovation Growth Opportunities: The convergence of youth talent, digital training initiatives, and institutional support positions Okuapeman as an emerging environment for scalable startups in fintech, agritech, edtech, healthtech, and creative industries.

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY



WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

The Summit shall advocate for:

- Expanded broadband connectivity across Okuapeman.
- Improved rural internet access.
- Public digital infrastructure investments.
- Community ICT centres and innovation labs.
- Enhanced access to affordable digital devices and tools.

The Summit shall promote:

- Minimum 40% female participation.
- Women-focused mentorship programmes.
- STEM scholarships for girls.
- Female leadership in technology and innovation.
- Gender-inclusive digital policies

EDUCATION AND DIGITAL LITERACY

The Summit shall support:

- Digital literacy programmes in schools and communities.
- STEM education initiatives
- Teacher training in digital education
- Coding and robotics programmes
- Youth-focused digital certification opportunities.

AGRITECH AND EDTECH DEVELOPMENT

The Summit shall encourage:

- Smart farming and digital agriculture solutions
- Agricultural data systems
- E-learning platforms and educational technologies
- Digital tools for teachers and students
- Innovation in food systems and agricultural value chains

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Summit shall facilitate:

- Startup incubation and acceleration programmes.
- Innovation competitions and hackathons
- Access to investors and venture capital
- Entrepreneurial mentorships
- Youth enterprise development initiatives





HERITAGE AND CULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

The Summit shall support:

- Digital archiving of Akuapem history and traditions
- Technology-enabled tourism promotion
- Indigenous language digitization
- Cultural storytelling and media innovation
- Preservation of cultural identity through digital tools

E-GOVERNANCE AND SMART COMMUNITIES

The Summit shall advocate for:

- Technology-enabled governance systems
- Digital public service delivery
- Civic technology innovation
- Smart regional planning
- Community participation through digital platforms

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Summit shall be overseen by a Governing Council composed of distinguished national and international figures from:

- Traditional leadership
- Government institutions
- Academia
- Technology industry
- Development organizations
- Private sector institutions
- Civil society

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL



AKUAPEM TECHNOLOGY SECRETARIAT





AKUAPEM TECHNOLOGY SECRETARIAT

The Akuapem Technology Secretariat shall serve as the operational body responsible for:

- Summit planning and execution
- Programme implementation
- Stakeholder coordination
- Sponsorship management
- Communications and public engagement
- Monitoring and evaluation

SUB-COMMITEE

The following operational committees may be constituted:

- Sponsorship and Partnerships Committee
- Programme and Content Committee
- Communications and Media Committee
- Protocol and Logistics Committee
- Finance and Administration Committee
- Innovation and Startup Committee
- Women in Tech Committee
- Research and Policy Committee

PARTNERSHIP AND SPONSORSHIP POLICY

The Akuapem Tech Summit shall maintain strategic partnerships with:

- Corporate institutions
- Technology firms
- Development organizations
- Diplomatic missions
- Universities and research institutions
- Government agencies
- Diaspora organizations
- Media institutions

SPONSORSHIP CATEGORIES

The Summit shall operate the following sponsorship tiers:

- Platinum Sponsor
- Gold Sponsor
- Silver Sponsor
- Bronze Sponsor
- Community/In-Kind Sponsor

ETHICAL SPONSORSHIP STANDARDS

The Summit shall not accept sponsorship from:

- Tobacco companies
- Gambling entities
- Adult entertainment companies
- Politically partisan organizations
- Institutions with documented violations of human rights, labour laws, or environmental standards

All sponsors shall undergo due diligence review prior to approval.





IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The implementation of the Summit shall occur through:

- Annual Summit Activities
- Keynote sessions
- Technical workshops
- Policy dialogues
- Startup exhibitions
- Hackathons
- Investment forums
- Networking engagements

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

- Digital literacy campaigns
- School engagement programmes
- Rural ICT outreach initiatives
- Women and youth empowerment activities

INNOVATION HUB DEVELOPMENT

The Summit shall pursue the establishment of a permanent Akuapem Innovation Hub (Ghana's Silicon Ridge) to support:

- Startup incubation
- Co-working spaces
- Technology research
- Skills training
- Mentorship and innovation support

FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

Funding sources may include:

- Corporate sponsorships
- Development grants
- Government support
- Ticketing and registration fees
- Diaspora contributions
- In-kind support

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

- Dedicated Summit bank account
- Transparent accounting systems
- Official receipts for all payments
- Periodic financial reporting
- Independent audit processes

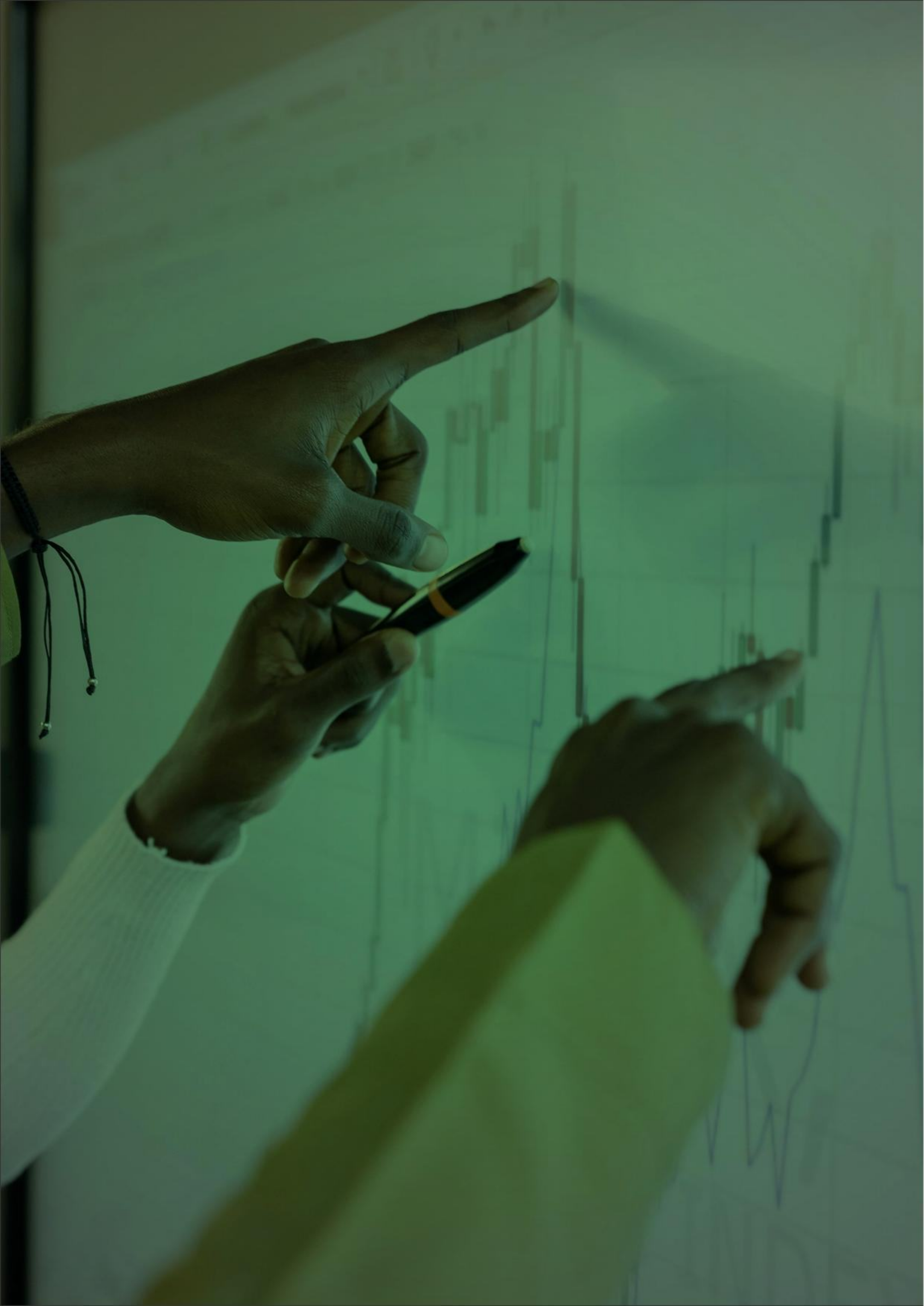
MONITORING, EVALUATION AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Summit shall establish measurable indicators to assess:

- Number of youths trained
- Female participation levels
- Startup support outcomes
- Partnership growth
- Media reach and engagement
- Community impact
- Investment attraction outcomes

Annual impact reports shall be produced and shared with stakeholders and partners.





RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Potential risks include:

- Funding shortfalls
- Low stakeholder participation
- Operational delays
- Reputational risks
- Technological disruptions
- External emergencies or force majeure events

Mitigation strategies shall include:

- Diversified funding approaches
- Stakeholder engagement plans
- Contingency budgeting
- Sponsorship due diligence
- Crisis communication protocols

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

The Akuapem Tech Summit is designed as a long-term transformational initiative rather than a one-time event.

The Summit shall therefore pursue:

- Continuous digital training programmes
- Long-term strategic partnerships
- Permanent innovation infrastructure
- Startup incubation systems
- Youth mentorship networks
- Annual policy and innovation forums

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The Summit shall maintain a strong public engagement strategy through:

- Traditional and digital media campaigns
- Summit website and social media platforms
- Public relations and stakeholder engagement
- Diaspora communication channels
- Community outreach initiatives

All communications shall reflect professionalism, inclusiveness, innovation, and respect for Akuapem culture and values.



CONCLUSION

The Akuapem Tech Summit 2026 represents a bold and transformative vision to bridge the digital divide and position Okuapeman as a leading centre for innovation, entrepreneurship, digital inclusion, and sustainable development.

Through collaboration among traditional leadership, government institutions, the private sector, academia, development organisations, and the global diaspora, the Summit seeks to create lasting opportunities for future generations while preserving the rich cultural identity and heritage of the Akuapem people.

The Summit therefore calls upon governments, development finance institutions, global technology companies, financial institutions, universities, diplomatic missions, philanthropic foundations, innovation ecosystems, and private sector leaders to join this shared mission of building a prosperous, digitally empowered, and globally competitive Smart Okuapeman.

The Akuapem Tech Summit offers partners a credible and strategic platform to:

- Advance digital inclusion and youth empowerment objectives
- Promote innovation-led economic transformation
- Strengthen CSR impact initiatives
- Expand stakeholder engagement within Ghana and Africa
- Support women participation in STEM and digital leadership
- Invest in scalable innovation ecosystems and future talent development
- Promote sustainable regional development through technology

By partnering with the Summit, institutions position themselves not only as sponsors, but as co-architects of a long-term African digital transformation success story rooted in culture, innovation, leadership, and sustainable development.



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