



# RENDEZ-VOUS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ECOWAS BANK FOR INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

NOVEMBER 2025

## EBID Board of Directors approves USD 308.631 million to advance clean energy, industrial capacity, social development, and private sector growth in West Africa



The Board of Directors of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), during its 93rd Ordinary Session convened at the Bank's headquarters in Lomé, approved a total of USD 308.631 million to catalyse strategic investments in clean energy, industrial development, and sustainable growth across West Africa. The session was presided over by Dr. George Agyekum Donkor, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Dr. Donkor underscored that the newly approved financing will advance strategic public and private sector initiatives aligned with EBID's mandate to promote sustainable development throughout the ECOWAS region by strengthening regional integration and fostering economic diversification.

The approved facilities will fund the following projects:

- A USD 40 million line of credit for Vista Bank Guinea to bolster trade-related activities, including import-export operations and commercial value chains. This initiative is projected to assist approximately 105 enterprises, generating and sustaining several thousand direct and indirect jobs while making a substantial contribution to inclusive growth and the reduction of unemployment.
- A 50 MW Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant in Taraba State, Nigeria (USD 98.18 million), which will augment the supply of reliable, clean electricity to spur inclusive economic development, alleviate energy poverty, and improve environmental sustainability. Anticipated benefits include direct electricity

access for roughly 390,000 individuals, enhanced power reliability for at least 200 public institutions, the creation of 400 direct jobs during construction, and approximately 50 permanent operational roles. An estimated 1,200-1,500 indirect jobs are expected to emerge across supply chains, maintenance services, and small businesses.

... cont. on page 5



Dr George Agyekum Donkor  
President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of EBID  
the Board of Directors



Overview of participants at the 93rd Meeting of  
the Board of Directors

## Editorial

As the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) navigates a global landscape marked by both challenge and opportunity, the Bank remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering sustainable development and inclusive growth across our vibrant region. This edition provides a comprehensive overview of our recent strategic initiatives and significant achievements, underscoring our unwavering dedication to the socio-economic advancement of West Africa.

This quarter, EBID is proud to announce its Board of Directors' approval of a substantial investment of US\$308.631 million to catalyse progress in critical sectors such as clean energy, industrial capacity building, social development, and private sector growth. This newsletter highlights exciting articles on the proactive engagement of EBID President, Dr. George Agyekum Donkor on the international stage, where he championed the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence and innovation at the Rebranding Africa Forum 2025. His energetic advocacy for scalable climate finance for Africa's growth at AFIS 2025 and the presentation of innovative financing models to boost Africa's creative economy further illustrate the Bank's leadership in building a prosperous future for the continent.

EBID's commitment to empowering regional businesses and fostering human capital development is evident in the extension of a USD 10 million facility to Vista Bank Sierra Leone and a USD 40 million credit line to Vista Gui, both aimed at bolstering SME and SMI activities in key sectors. Additionally, EBID has granted a EUR 50 million credit line to boost human capital development in Togo, recognising the paramount importance of education and skills in driving national progress.

Finally, this newsletter reviews the latest news from EBID, including the eagerly awaited announcement of the 4th edition of the President's Roundtable on the theme "From the Farm to the Port: Financing the Value Chains of West Africa's Cash Crops". This prestigious programme continues to serve as an essential platform for dialogue, collaboration, and the development of innovative solutions to address the most pressing development challenges facing West Africa.

Discover the rich content of this Informative and Inspiring newsletter as we work collectively to build a more resilient, prosperous, and inclusive West Africa.

# EBID President Champions AI and Innovation to Accelerate Inclusive Growth at the 2025 Rebranding Africa Forum



platforms facilitate early disease detection and personalised treatment, to improve patient outcomes.

He underscored that Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) must embrace AI as a strategic lever to scale investments, strengthen risk management, and ensure measurable development impact. By integrating AI into project appraisal, portfolio monitoring, and impact evaluation, DFIs can allocate capital more effectively and catalyse innovation-driven growth across Africa.

Under Dr Donkor's leadership, EBID has invested in a number of technology-driven projects, including ICT parks and digital skills training programmes across ECOWAS Member States. EBID's project pipeline includes support for regional data centres, fintech solutions for MSMEs, and technology-enabled logistics platforms, all of which underscore the Bank's commitment to innovation.

"We are dedicated to building resilient, sovereign, and inclusive digital foundations," Dr. Donkor stated, "so that West African innovators and enterprises can scale solutions, create quality jobs, and compete globally."

The President of EBID invited partners to engage with the Bank during RAF 2025 to co-create financing vehicles and technical assistance facilities that deliver measurable and tangible outcomes. He stressed that harnessing AI would not only unlock Africa's economic potential but also secure its digital sovereignty and global competitiveness.

The President and Chairman of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), Dr. George Agyekum Donkor, spotlighted the strategic importance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Africa's development at the 2025 Rebranding Africa Forum in Brussels, Belgium. Speaking during the "Hard Talk" session on October 10, 2025, Dr. Donkor outlined how AI can drive productivity, competitiveness, and digital sovereignty, setting out a practical roadmap that prioritises enabling infrastructure, talent, responsible

governance, and interoperable digital systems.

Dr. Donkor emphasised that AI represents a transformative tool for Africa's growth story with a multisectoral impact. He cited examples of AI at work in agriculture, where AI boosts yields by providing farmers with key data on weather and pest detection and in healthcare, where AI diagnostic

## The President of EBID Advocates for the need to scale up Climate Financing for Africa's Growth and Transformation at AFIS 2025



funds alone, with over 90% held in government securities and instruments, of which West Africa holds USD40 billion.

Dr Donkor posited that what remains is project appeal (i.e. healthy investment returns) and the will to do it. He called on African governments and institutions to take active steps towards de-risking climate projects and promulgating enabling regulatory regimes and mechanisms to facilitate the mobilisation of climate-sensitive financing, thereby fostering sustainable growth and development.

He further indicated that DFIs possess the unique advantage of catalysing such green resources to support governments to achieve their green investment objectives. As an example, he highlighted that EBID was the first DFI to issue a Green, Social and Sustainable (GSS) bond on the WAEMU Market in July 2024 to support GSS-themed projects.

The African Finance and Industry Summit (AFIS) is a leading annual platform that brings together financial institutions, private sector leaders, policymakers, and development partners to advance dialogue and action for Africa's industrial and financial transformation.

The President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), Dr George Agyekum Donkor, has advocated for the strategic importance of innovative climate financing instruments for Africa's sustainable growth and transformation at the 2025 Africa Financial Summit (AFIS) in Casablanca, Morocco.

Speaking on the topic, "Climate and Bond Markets: How to Build Africa's Sustainable Finance Arsenal," Dr Donkor intimated that the continent has enough resources to finance its climate-smart investments. He opined that the continent holds in excess of USD160 billion in pension

# The President of EBID Unveils Innovative Financing Models to Power Africa's Creative Economy



The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) has been recognised as the Company of the Year 2025 at the 8th edition of the Business Ghana Awards on October 23, 2025, in Accra. The President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of EBID, Dr George Agyekum Donkor, who was a Guest of Honour for the prestigious event, delivered a keynote speech highlighting the transformative power of Africa's creative and cultural industries while calling for bold and innovative financing to unlock their full potential.

Dr Donkor underscored the growing contribution of the creative and cultural sectors to GDP both at the national and global levels, despite challenges with capital, technical capacity, value chains, market access, and regulation.

The President of EBID presented a set of practical financing solutions aimed at reducing investment risks and aligning returns with performance, including cultural bonds, royalty or revenue-backed financing and diaspora-linked private equity. He urged

the financial sector to place creativity on an equal footing with other productive industries to ensure that African artists and innovators have access to sustainable financing to fuel the continent's next wave of inclusive growth.

Dr Donkor also used the opportunity to reaffirm EBID's commitment to supporting bankable projects in the creative and cultural sectors as part of its efforts to support regional economic growth, create jobs and build wealth to improve livelihoods across the ECOWAS sub-region.

**Thanks to EBID, sun and water are being used for agricultural development in Côte d'Ivoire**

Transforming ECOWAS Communities

Ebidofficial | BIDC\_EBID | BIDC\_EBID | BIDC-EBID

**EBID brings safe drinking water for 19 villages in Benin**

Transforming ECOWAS Communities

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**Strengthening Regional Link: EBID Supports Kanawolo-Korhogo Road Modernisation**

Transforming ECOWAS Communities

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**EBID Invests in Tomorrow's Giants: The Amorçage SME Project in Côte d'Ivoire**

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## Signing Ceremonies

# EBID Extends USD 10 Million Facility to Vista Bank Sierra Leone to Promote SME Activities in Key Sectors

The President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), Dr George Agyekum Donkor, has signed a USD 10 million facility loan agreement with Vista Bank Sierra Leone on Monday October 27, 2025.

Under this facility, Vista Bank Sierra Leone intends to expand its lending to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and corporate clients, and to support women and young entrepreneurs in the country.

Speaking at the signing, Dr Donkor underscored the central role that SMEs play in driving regional resilience and competitiveness. He emphasised that supporting a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, particularly in productive sectors such as agriculture and agribusiness, is critical to enhancing food security, building local industries, and advancing regional value addition. “By channelling long-term, affordable financing to the real economy, EBID and Vista Bank Sierra Leone are equipping businesses with the resources they need to scale up



operations, expand into regional markets, and improve livelihoods”, Dr Donkor concluded.

Mr Pa Ousman Njie, Managing Director for Vista Bank Sierra Leone, reaffirmed the Bank’s readiness to efficiently deploy the facility to maximise development impact. He stated that with prudent credit allocation, robust risk management, and a focus on high-potential sectors, Vista Bank Sierra Leone aims to empower local value creation, broaden financial inclusion, and stimulate impactful economic

activity.

This new engagement reinforces EBID’s wider regional footprint as the Bank continues to deliver financing that accelerates socio-economic transformation in the ECOWAS sub-region. With a growing portfolio across both public and private sectors, EBID remains focused on forging strategic partnerships to finance development-focused initiatives in line with its mandate of fostering the emergence of a more prosperous West Africa.

# EBID Approves USD 40 Million Credit Line to Vista Gui to support SMEs and SMIs



The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) has approved a USD 40 million line of credit to Vista Gui to expand financing for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and strengthen trade activities. This facility forms part of EBID’s broader initiatives to catalyse private sector-led growth across the ECOWAS region through targeted support to National Financial Institutions (NFIs). The agreement was formalised during a signing ceremony

held on Monday, October 27, 2025.

Speaking during the ceremony, Dr. George Agyekum Donkor, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of EBID, reaffirmed the Bank’s commitment to inclusive and sustainable development through private sector empowerment. He noted that investing in the private sector is an important tool to combat the challenge of youth unemployment faced by the sub-region.

“This facility underscores EBID’s resolve to expand access to finance for SMEs and SMIs, which are the backbone of our economies, employing the majority of the workforce while adding to the regional value chain,” Dr Donkor said.

Vista Gui welcomed the partnership, highlighting its catalytic effect on the institution’s growth trajectory and service to the real economy in Guinea. The bank reiterated its commitment to deploy the funds efficiently and transparently, ensuring measurable outcomes in SME expansion, job creation, and trade facilitation. Mr. Kpakpovi Koffi Goeh-Akue, Managing Director of Vista Gui SA, expressed gratitude to EBID for its steadfast support and reaffirmed the bank’s commitment to high-impact deployment of the facility.

With this new credit line, EBID further strengthens its role as a trusted development partner to West Africa’s financial sector, delivering innovative, market-responsive solutions that address binding constraints to private sector growth.

# Signing Ceremonies

## EBID Grants a EUR 50 Million Credit Line to boost Human Capital Development in Togo

The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) has extended a EUR 50 million line of credit to Planet One Education Togo to support technical and vocational education in the Togolese Republic. The facility, formalised at a signing ceremony held on Wednesday, 22 October 2025, underscores EBID's commitment to investing in human capital to catalyse sustainable growth across the ECOWAS sub-region.

This strategic financing will go towards the design, construction, and outfitting of six vocational and technical training centres in the Tandjouaré, Danyi Akpéyéme, Kougnohou, Guérin-Kouka, Agoé-Nyivé and Tsévié municipalities. The centres will feature classrooms, laboratories and workshops offering a total capacity of 3,481 seats per year, as well as dedicated student residences, all aimed at providing a well-rounded educational experience.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr George Agyekum Donkor, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of EBID, reaffirmed the importance of education as a vital pillar for the region's long-term prosperity and a priority sector for investment. "This facility aligns with EBID's strategic vision to equip Togolese youth with industry-relevant skills in preparation for the future," he noted, emphasising that the quality of a nation's



education system directly shapes its industrial competitiveness and is key for economic performance.

Mr Deepak Balaji, Managing Director of Planet One, expressed gratitude to EBID and reiterated the company's dedication to the efficient deployment of funds. "This partnership with EBID marks a significant milestone in our mission to advance vocational training in Togo. We are committed to using these resources effectively so that Togolese enterprises benefit from a more skilled workforce, driving productivity and competitiveness," he stated.

This new financing further consolidates EBID's role as a key partner in Togo's economic development, bringing the Bank's total commitments in the country to approximately USD 362 million to date.

... from front page 1

## EBID Board of Directors approves USD 308.631 million to advance clean energy, industrial capacity, social development, and private sector growth in West Africa

- A Modern Rice Processing Complex and 10,000-Hectare Irrigated Rice Production Unit in Taraba State, Nigeria (USD 79.219 million). Designed to elevate production capacity and processing efficiency, this undertaking will strengthen food self-sufficiency, invigorate the agricultural sector, and underpin the State's broader economic advancement.
- A Taraba State Industrial Park (USD 91.232 million), an initiative conceived to accelerate local industrialisation and economic diversification through the establishment of a modern, integrated industrial ecosystem.

(SDGs), directly advancing SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and SDG 13: Climate Action. Through these new commitments, EBID continues to deepen its developmental footprint across the ECOWAS region.



These approvals are closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

# EBID backs Atlantic Cooperation and Africa's emergence at the 2025 Crans Montana Forum



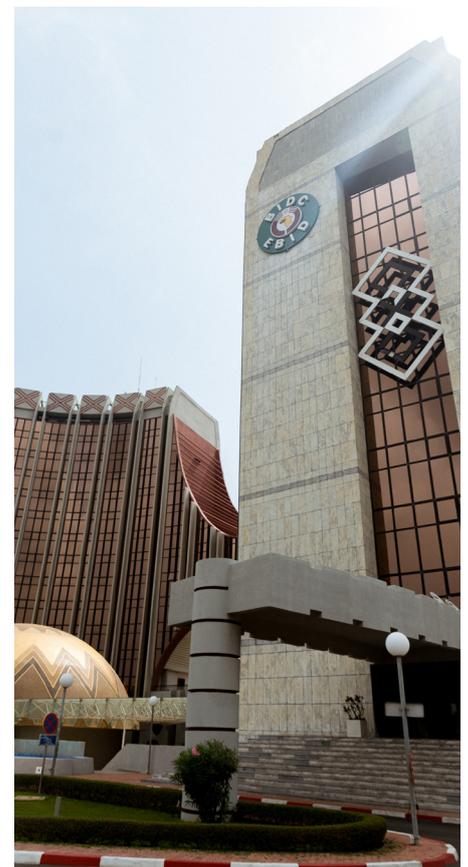
The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) participated prominently in the 2025 Crans Montana Forum held from October 1 to 4 in Rabat, Morocco, advancing its mandate to drive regional integration and inclusive development within ECOWAS. Mr. MacDonald Saye Goanue, Coordinator of the Vice Presidency Operations and Director for Research and Strategic Planning, represented the Bank at the programme.

The Forum, held under the theme “Atlantic Connectivities – Shaping a New Space of Peace and Prosperity, Boosting Africa Coastal Cooperation and World Integration, Bridging the Two Shores of the Ocean and the Mediterranean,” served as a critical platform for government leaders, policymakers, investors, and business executives to translate ambition into action. Deliberations focused on practical pathways to strengthen regional cooperation, mobilise sustainable financing, and reinforce peace and resilience across the Atlantic corridors.

Over the past decade, EBID has committed more than USD 5 billion to finance pivotal

projects in infrastructure, energy, agriculture, industry, and services which are sectors essential for unlocking connectivity and shared prosperity. At the Forum, EBID advanced dialogue on innovative financing instruments, risk-mitigation mechanisms, and scalable public-private partnerships capable of accelerating high-impact investments. The Bank further engaged investors and partners to explore opportunities that strengthen value chains, expand trade and logistics, and deliver measurable, sustainable outcomes for communities across the region.

EBID reaffirms its role in convening high-level partners to accelerate investment, deepen collaboration, and advance policy harmonisation for sustainable growth and stability across Africa.



# EBID News



EBID delegation at the 2025 World Bank Group and IMF Annual Meetings in Washington DC, USA



EBID delegation meets Fitch Ratings at Washington DC, USA.



EBID delegation with Standard Chartered Bank team in London, UK.



EBID delegation with Deutsche Bank team in London, UK.



The President of EBID meets with the Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission to reinforce strategic partnership.



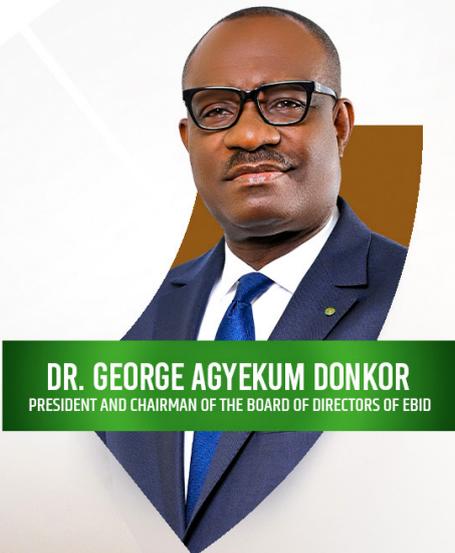
EBID President meets with the New President of AfDB after his swearing-in ceremony in Abidjan



# The **PRESIDENT'S** **ROUNDTABLE**



## FROM THE FARM TO THE PORT: FINANCING THE VALUE CHAINS OF WEST AFRICA'S CASH CROPS



**DR. GEORGE AGYEKUM DONKOR**  
PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EBID

MONDAY  
**24**

NOV.  
2025

**11:00AM**  
**GMT**

