

# Forward AXIS

Nairobi 2026: AXIS and the new age of African infrastructure



Blog Post

## Forward AXIS 1 — Nairobi and the infrastructure shift

The Africa Forward summit, organized in Nairobi on May 11 and 12, 2026, by France and Kenya, likely marks a profound shift in how Africa begins to think about its sovereignty. For a long time, Euro-African relations were based on the paradigm of aid, development, and assistance. In Nairobi, this paradigm is changing.

The key words become:

- Infrastructure
- Platforms
- Connectivity
- Payments
- Data
- Artificial intelligence
- Sovereignty

This trip is crucial. Because behind the announced €23 billion in investments lies a new reality: Africa is gradually entering the age of strategic architectures.

The approach has changed, and so have the investments. PROPARCO, a subsidiary of the French Development Agency (AFD) dedicated to financing the private sector, is emerging in Nairobi as one of the central instruments of the new French economic doctrine in Africa.

Agriculture, energy, transport, mining, digital technology, and finance: its investments no longer target only traditional development projects but also infrastructure capable of sustainably organizing flows, value chains, and African economic sovereignty.

This infrastructure also aims to support the emergence of skilled jobs, African startups, and new entrepreneurial capabilities driven by a massively connected continental youth.

## Forward AXIS 2 — Sovereignty becomes circulation

In Nairobi, power is no longer conceived solely in terms of borders, armies, or natural resources. It now depends on the ability to organize flows:

- Financial flows
- Data flows
- Logistics flows
- Energy flows
- Transactional flows

When Emmanuel Macron states that “when we talk about infrastructure, we are really talking about sovereignty,” he is likely describing this central shift. Sovereignty is becoming infrastructural.

Kenya plays a major symbolic role here. With M-Pesa, the country has demonstrated that a payment system can transform an entire state's economy without relying on traditional banking structures. Payment then ceases to be a mere technical tool. It becomes a system of power.

### 📍 Forward AXIS 3 — The Invisible Infrastructure

For a long time, African public policies focused primarily on visible infrastructure:

- ⚡ Roads
- ⚡ Dams
- ⚡ Ports
- ⚡ Railways
- ⚡ Public facilities

In Nairobi, another category of infrastructure is emerging, invisible infrastructure:

- ⚡ Payment systems
- ⚡ Cloud
- ⚡ Cybersecurity
- ⚡ Platforms
- ⚡ Artificial intelligence
- ⚡ Digital certification
- ⚡ Data centers

These architectures are gradually becoming as strategic as ports or energy networks. Power now depends on the ability to govern the systems that organize the circulation, certification, and supervision of flows. Sovereignty is therefore no longer solely territorial; it becomes operational.

### 📍 Forward AXIS 4 — AXIS as a sovereign architecture

It is precisely within this intellectual environment that AXIS becomes particularly legible. Until now, the program could be seen as a Congolese initiative for administrative and digital modernization. But Nairobi provides a much broader framework that allows for a different interpretation:

- ⚡ Payments
- ⚡ Traceability
- ⚡ Certification
- ⚡ Digital identity
- ⚡ Transactional oversight
- ⚡ Sovereign platforms

Behind these architectures, new African professions are also emerging, linked to data, cybersecurity, compliance, blockchain, financial platforms, and artificial intelligence. Digital infrastructures are thus becoming spaces for professional development, innovation, and economic integration for a new generation of Africans, particularly young entrepreneurs and women in the digital sector.

All these dimensions now appear as the interdependent layers of a single emerging African architecture. Building blocks like:

- ⚡ MACC Pay
- ⚡ WorldKYC
- ⚡ FraudTrack
- ⚡ Trust Signal

They then cease to appear as isolated technical tools. MACC Pay directly impacts transaction flow and digital financial sovereignty. WorldKYC concerns economic identity, digital trust, and certification. FraudTrack introduces intelligent flow monitoring capabilities and transactional anomaly detection. Trust Signal protects transactions on the blockchain. In other words, AXIS is less about traditional digital administration and more about building a sovereign infrastructure for governing flows.

### ⚡ Forward AXIS 5 — Resources become programmable

The transformation visible in Nairobi also concerns strategic African resources.:

- ⚡ Cobalt
- ⚡ Copper
- ⚡ Lithium
- ⚡ Rare earth elements
- ⚡ Gold
- ⚡ Carbon

All these assets are now becoming central to global energy and digital transitions. But another transformation is occurring simultaneously, as resources are gradually becoming digital:

- ⚡ Mining
- ⚡ Agriculture
- ⚡ Forestry
- ⚡ Supply chains

All of these can now be integrated into traceability, certification, and programmable value circulation systems. The question then changes profoundly. It is no longer simply a matter of: who owns the resources? But rather: who governs the systems that organize their value? From this perspective, AXIS could gradually become a tokenization infrastructure:

- ⚡ Mineral resources
- ⚡ Forestry assets
- ⚡ Carbon credits
- ⚡ Agricultural supply chains
- ⚡ Logistics flows

The Congo Basin takes on a new geopolitical importance here. The forest ceases to be merely an ecological asset. It becomes a global climate infrastructure.

### ⚡ Forward AXIS 6 — Africa of sovereign systems

The most significant change revealed by Nairobi is probably the return of the state. For several decades, African public policies have often been fragmented:

- ⚡ Isolated projects
- ⚡ Dispersed platforms
- ⚡ External technical dependence
- ⚡ Sectoral mechanisms

In Nairobi, a much more systemic logic is re-emerging. States are gradually seeking to become network architects once again:

- ⚡ Energy networks
- ⚡ Transactional networks
- ⚡ Data networks
- ⚡ Logistics networks
- ⚡ Digital networks

Sovereignty then becomes an orchestrating capacity. And this is probably what gives AXIS its profound coherence today. The program doesn't simply seek to digitize administrative procedures. It attempts to build a public capacity for governing flows.

But these systems also concern the capacity of African states to create environments capable of integrating millions of young people each year into the continent's new digital, energy, and transactional economies. However, projects do not create a system. And Nairobi speaks precisely of systems:

- ⚡ Energy systems
- ⚡ Payment systems
- ⚡ Climate systems
- ⚡ Data systems
- ⚡ Transactional systems

Gradually, an Africa emerged:

- ⚡ Platforms
- ⚡ Flows
- ⚡ Invisible architectures
- ⚡ Programmable sovereignties

The Africa Forward summit did not produce an officially codified doctrine. But it did bring about something even more important: a new African geopolitical vision. In this new geography of power, power will increasingly depend on the capacity to govern:

- ⚡ Data
- ⚡ Payments
- ⚡ Platforms
- ⚡ Tokenized resources
- ⚡ Sovereign digital infrastructures

And that is probably where the real challenge of Nairobi lies: the shift from an Africa of resources to an Africa of systems.