

Blockchain for Good: The Untold Story Leading from the UN to AXIS

Twenty years of reflection on financing African
development



Blog Post

Blockchain for Good: an unexpected recognition

On June 4th and 8th, 2026, Hervé Lacorne, CEO of Winstant Ltd and co-founder of WinstantGold, participated in the Blockchain for Good conference in Paris. For many, the story seems simple: a technology company, a blockchain solution, an African innovation, and international recognition.

Yet, the reality is far more surprising. WinstantGold wasn't born from blockchain technology. It was born from a question, a question posed nearly twenty years ago: How can African development be sustainably financed without relying exclusively on external resources?

To understand why WinstantGold is of interest to Blockchain for Good today, we must go back well before digital assets, well before tokenization, and even well before the advent of blockchain technology.

It all started with the Millennium Development Goals

In the early 2000s, the United Nations launched the Millennium Development Goals. The ambition was immense: reduce poverty, improve access to education, strengthen health systems, and accelerate local development. Within this international dynamic, the Sport for Development and Peace movement gradually emerged. Led successively by Kofi Annan, Ban Ki-moon, and then Adolf Ogi, it championed a new idea: sport is not just an activity. It can become a tool for development. A sports field can also be a school, a place of learning, a space for social cohesion, and a driving force for local communities.

Burundi as a laboratory

From 2006 onwards, several initiatives were developed along these lines, including the World Sports Alliance. Burundi became one of the first testing grounds. The results were encouraging. The local population embraced the approach. The authorities supported the projects. International partners followed with interest.

But a major difficulty quickly emerged. Organizing activities is one thing. Building sustainable infrastructure is quite another. And it is precisely at this point that the real question arises.

The invisible wall of funding

Who will finance the infrastructure? The sports centers? The schools? The health centers? The community facilities? For several years, public-private partnerships have been sought. Discussions have taken place. Projects have moved forward.

But when it comes to scaling up, the limitations quickly become apparent. International financing mechanisms remain complex. The constraints inherited from Bretton Woods remain powerful. A growing impression emerges: some forms of development seem to be encouraged, while others appear much more difficult to finance.

⚡ The African paradox

As the missions progressed, one observation became clear. The countries in question often possessed immense natural resources: gold, diamonds, copper, cobalt, forests, farmland, and energy. Yet, these same countries continued to seek the financial resources necessary for their development from abroad.

The paradox became evident. How could such rich territories lack the means to finance their own transformation? This question gradually became the focus of the analysis..

⚡ Bangui 2012: the first spark

The year 2012 marked a turning point. In Bangui, a presidential audience was delayed. The wait dragged on. Conversations began. Among the participants was Élie Doté, former Prime Minister of the Central African Republic and a development economist.

For several hours, the discussions focused on fifty years of African development policies: the successes, the limitations, the dependencies, the missed opportunities. Then an idea emerged. Perhaps the fundamental problem wasn't a lack of resources. Perhaps the real problem lay in how those resources were valued.

⚡ The fundamental question

A question then arises. Simple. Radical. How can Africa be financed by its own resources? From that moment on, everything changes. Natural resources gradually cease to be considered mere raw materials destined for export. They become potential assets. Levers for development. Instruments of sovereignty. Funding vehicles. Criticism gives way to construction.

⚡ The birth of PPVs

From this reflection emerged the first Presidential Development Programs (PPVs). Their ambition was clear: to transform natural resources into engines of development, to finance infrastructure, to create local value, and to strengthen grassroots communities.

The concept then evolved and expanded, gradually becoming the PPV2RN: Presidential Program for the Sustainable Development of Natural Resources. The notion of economic sovereignty became central, governance took on increasing importance, and the thinking matured. But a new challenge arose.

⚡ How to govern value?

How can resources be certified? How can their traceability be guaranteed? How can their value be secured? How can the necessary trust be built at the national and international levels? The answer will not come from the economy alone. It will also come from digital technology.

⚡ The second spark

In the mid-2010s, discussions about blockchain and digital assets began to develop. For many, these technologies were then associated with cryptocurrencies. But another

possibility emerged. What if these tools could be used to document, certify, and govern real assets? What if blockchain could become a trusted infrastructure? For the first time, the work undertaken in Bangui intersected with these new digital technologies.

The birth of WinstantGold

In 2017, it was in this context that Winstant created WinstantGold. Contrary to what some might imagine, the project is not designed as a cryptocurrency. It is conceived as a valuation tool, a laboratory, and a trusted infrastructure.

Its objective is simple: to enable real resources to become governable, traceable, and valuable assets serving development. Technology is no longer an end in itself; it becomes a means to an end.

From AXIS to Blockchain for Good

Today, this reflection finds concrete application in the Democratic Republic of Congo. WinstantGold has become the first pilot project of the national AXIS program developed by the DRC Social Fund in partnership with Phoenix, under the high patronage of President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo. For the first time, concepts developed in Bangui are being tested on a large-scale national scale. It is precisely this development that is now attracting the attention of Blockchain for Good.

The real lesson

Ultimately, the story of WinstantGold isn't primarily a blockchain story. It's a development story. A story of sovereignty. A story of natural resources. A story of financing. Blockchain arrived at the end of the journey. As a tool. As an infrastructure. As an accelerator.

But the question itself has remained the same for nearly twenty years: How can we ensure that African wealth primarily serves the development of African people?

This is the question that today connects the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals, PPVs, PPV2RN, WinstantGold, AXIS, and now Blockchain for Good into a single narrative.