

PAN-AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERS CAUCUS (PAWLC)



PAWLC

PAN-AFRICAN WOMEN
LEADERS CAUCUS

LEAD. COLLABORATE. INFLUENCE. TRANSFORM AFRICA.

THE FOUNDING CONVENING OF THE PAN- AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERS CAUCUS (PAWLC)

***Theme: Building Africa's Founding Leadership Architecture :
Convening Influential Women Leaders to Shape the Future of
Continental Leadership***

Date: 11 November 2026 | Time: 10am EAT

**Venue: Julius Nyerere Convention Centre
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

An Invitation-Only Leadership Reception

Background

The Pan-African Women Leaders Caucus (PAWLC) is an emerging continental strategic coordination platform established to strengthen the collective influence of African women leaders across governance, diplomacy, business, academia, civil society and other strategic sectors.

Conceived under the convening leadership of Leading Women of Africa (LWA), PAWLC seeks to foster strategic collaboration among Africa's most influential women leaders to contribute meaningfully towards good governance, policy dialogue, economic transformation, peacebuilding, continental integration and sustainable development.

The Caucus is being established as a non-partisan, pan-African platform that transcends institutional, political and geographical boundaries, creating a trusted space where distinguished women leaders can collectively shape Africa's future through dialogue, collaboration and strategic action.

The Founding Convening marks a historic milestone in the institutional development of PAWLC. Rather than serving as a ceremonial launch, it is designed to establish the first continental leadership architecture that will guide the Caucus through its formative phase.

Hosted in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, **during the AFRICON Leadership, Investment & Entrepreneurship Summit & Awards 2026**, the Convening recognises the significance of launching this continental initiative in a country led by **H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**, one of Africa's few female Heads of State, whose leadership continues to inspire women across the continent.

Purpose

To convene a distinguished group of influential African women leaders who will collectively establish the institutional foundation of the Pan-African Women Leaders Caucus through the constitution of a Founding Members Committee and the adoption of the Dar es Salaam Founding Declaration.

Objectives

The Founding Convening seeks to:

- Officially introduce the vision, mission and strategic purpose of PAWLC.
- Bring together distinguished women leaders representing Africa's five regions and the African Diaspora.
- Establish the inaugural Founding Members Committee to guide the institutional development of PAWLC.
- Foster strategic relationships among women leaders committed to Africa's transformation.
- Build consensus around the governance roadmap for PAWLC.
- Secure commitment from founding leaders to support the next phase of institutional establishment.

Participants

Participation will be strictly by invitation.

The gathering will bring together distinguished participants from around the continent including:

- Current and Former Ministers
- Members of Parliament
- Ambassadors and Diplomats
- Senior Government Officials
- CEOs and Business Executives
- Academic Leaders
- Women leading continental and regional institutions
- Representatives of the African Diaspora

Virtual participation will be facilitated for distinguished leaders who are unable to attend physically, ensuring balanced continental representation

Reception Programme

- Arrival and Networking Reception
- Guests welcomed and introduced.
- Official Opening
- Welcome remarks.
- Introduction of the vision behind PAWLC.
- Keynote Address
- Strategic reflections on women's leadership and Africa's future.
- Presentation Introducing the Pan-African Women Leaders Caucus

Presentation covering:

- Vision
- Mission
- Strategic Pillars
- Governance Framework
- Institutional Roadmap
- Next Phase of Development

Constitution of the Founding Members Committee

A central outcome of the Founding Convening will be the constitution of the PAWLC Founding Members Committee.

The Committee will serve as a temporary continental leadership body responsible for guiding the institutional establishment of PAWLC during its formative phase until the convening of its first Constitutional Assembly.

Composition

The Committee shall comprise no more than fifteen (15) distinguished women leaders, representing:

- North Africa
- West Africa
- Central Africa
- East Africa
- Southern Africa
- African Diaspora

The composition shall seek to ensure:

- Regional balance
- Sectoral diversity
- Leadership excellence
- Continental credibility
- Strategic influence

Where regional representatives are unable to attend physically, participation and acceptance of nomination may be facilitated virtually.

Nomination and Endorsement Process

The constitution of the Founding Members Committee shall be conducted during the Reception through a transparent and consultative process.

The process will include:

Presentation of Committee Mandate

An overview of the purpose, responsibilities and expected contribution of the Founding Members Committee.

Regional Nominations

Participants will be invited to nominate distinguished women leaders representing Africa's five regions and the African Diaspora.

Nominees may be present physically or participate virtually.

Acceptance of Nomination

Each nominee will be invited to formally accept the nomination and commitment to serve during the formative phase of PAWLC.

Endorsement

The assembled participants will endorse the proposed Founding Members Committee through consensus.

The endorsed Committee will thereafter become the official leadership body responsible for guiding PAWLC through its establishment phase.

Founding Members Declaration

The Founding Convening will culminate in the adoption of: *The Dar es Salaam Founding Declaration of the Pan-African Women Leaders Caucus*

The Declaration will affirm the collective commitment of the Founding Members Committee to:

- Guide the institutional establishment of PAWLC.
- Promote ethical, visionary and transformational leadership.
- Strengthen women's influence in governance, diplomacy, business and strategic sectors.
- Foster collaboration among African women leaders.
- Advance continental integration and sustainable development.
- Uphold the principles of inclusion, accountability and Pan-African solidarity.
- Mobilise strategic partnerships and resources to support the growth of PAWLC.

Immediately following its adoption, members of the Founding Members Committee will participate in a formal **Signing Ceremony**, becoming the first official signatories of the Dar es Salaam Founding Declaration.

Mandate of the Founding Members Committee

The Committee shall provide strategic leadership during PAWLC's formative phase and will be mandated to:

- Guide the institutional development of PAWLC.
- Review and refine the governance framework and Constitution.
- Expand and validate Founding Membership across Africa and the Diaspora.
- Mobilise strategic partnerships and institutional support.
- Facilitate the establishment of regional focal points.
- Prepare for the First Constitutional Assembly.
- Recommend the permanent governance structure for adoption by members.

The Committee shall serve until the establishment of the permanent governance structures of PAWLC.

Expected Outcomes

By the conclusion of the Founding Convening:

- The vision and strategic direction of PAWLC will have been formally introduced.
- The inaugural Founding Members Committee, comprising up to fifteen distinguished leaders, will have been constituted.
- The Dar es Salaam Founding Declaration will have been formally adopted and signed.
- Strategic commitment will have been secured from influential women leaders across Africa and the Diaspora.
- Institutional partnerships supporting the next phase of PAWLC will have been strengthened.
- A clear roadmap towards the First Constitutional Assembly will have been endorsed.
- PAWLC will have established a credible and representative continental leadership architecture to guide its future growth.

Why Tanzania?

The United Republic of Tanzania provides a fitting and symbolic setting for the Founding Convening of PAWLC.

Under the leadership of **H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**, Tanzania has become a powerful symbol of women's leadership at the highest level of governance in Africa. Launching the institutional journey of PAWLC in Tanzania reflects a shared aspiration to strengthen women's influence in shaping Africa's future and reinforces the continent's commitment to inclusive, visionary and transformational leadership.

Conclusion

The Founding Convening represents more than the introduction of a new continental platform; it marks the beginning of an enduring institutional journey. By constituting a representative Founding Members Committee and adopting the Dar es Salaam Founding Declaration, distinguished women leaders from across Africa and the Diaspora will lay the foundations for a credible, inclusive and future-oriented institution dedicated to advancing women's strategic leadership and collective influence.

The legacy of the evening will not be measured solely by the launch of PAWLC, but by the establishment of a committed founding leadership entrusted with shaping its governance, expanding its continental reach, and guiding its evolution into a respected Pan-African institution serving present and future generations.

Contact

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