



Call for Papers

9th UBA Annual Bankers Conference 2026

**Theme: The Role of Uganda's Financial Institutions in
Facilitating Tenfold GDP Growth**

1. Introduction

The Uganda Bankers' Association (UBA) is an umbrella body for financial institutions licensed and supervised by the Central Bank of Uganda. UBA was established in 1981 and is currently made up of 34 members, including twenty-two (22) Tier 1 commercial banks; three (3) development banks – the Uganda Development Bank, Afreximbank and the East African Development Bank; and nine (9) Tier 2 and 3 Supervised Financial Institutions. UBA aspires to facilitate the growth and development of a strong and respected financial services industry in the East Africa region by promoting a sound banking environment through research and innovation, advocacy, good governance, and best practices delivered through partnerships and collaboration.

2. Background and Context

The Government of Uganda's tenfold economic growth ATMS strategy aims to expand the country's GDP from the current **USD 50 billion** to **USD 500 billion** by 2040. Anchored on the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), it serves as a roadmap to achieve Uganda's Vision 2040 and, as such, is a crucial element in the government's planning and budgeting processes in the coming financial years. A key aspect of the strategy is enabling high-impact investments in Agro-Industrialisation, Tourism Development, Mineral-based Industrial Development (including Oil and Gas), and Advancements in Science, Technology, and Innovation, abbreviated as ATMS.

Financial institutions play a central role in fostering economic growth by mobilising savings, allocating capital efficiently, facilitating risk management, and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. Importantly, the banking sector has developed a response strategy to support the success of the government's ATMS strategy, with a specific goal of mobilising the much-needed funding and significantly expanding private-sector credit to drive the tenfold growth strategy under the ATMS pillars. To support the ATMS strategy effectively, the banking sector seeks to extend **UGX 490 trillion (approximately USD 134.2 billion)** in private sector credit over the planned period up to 2040, through:

- Driving financial inclusion to have much of the population access formal services through electronic channels and last-mile institutions like SMEs, e-Wallets, SACCOs and VSLAs.
- Mobilising deposits and securing **alternative sources of funding**, including through Uganda's capital markets, as well as Islamic finance, blended and sustainable finance, among others.
- Scaling up and **enabling expansion of tailored credit to the ATMS sectors and other enabling sectors**, including infrastructural development, transport, energy, real estate, trade, and service sectors like health and education.

- Significantly reaching and **increasing the number of credible borrowers**, including both individuals and non-individuals accessing credit from the banking system.
- And strengthening **and enhancing the robustness of the financial infrastructure**.

With these strategic interventions, eventually, Uganda's private sector as a percentage of GDP will increase from the current **12.4%** to **49.6%** by 2040. However, the banking sector alone cannot fund all the investment required, and this is where capital markets play a role and are designed to raise long-term capital for businesses and governments, to aid economic growth.

3. The Annual Bankers Conference 2026

The Annual Bankers Conference (ABC), a flagship UBA event now in its ninth edition in 2026, is a key industry stakeholder engagement event co-hosted with the Central Bank of Uganda, where the sector facilitates thought-leadership on topical matters that impact the economy with a banking and financial sector lens.

The conference will attract participation from policymakers, industry-related associations, financial institutions, development organisations, the private sector leaders, academia, civil society and many others, to discuss and frame effective and efficient ways the banking and financial sector can drive economic growth and development across the Country.

The one-day conference is scheduled to take place on **Thursday, 16th July 2026, at Mestil Hotel Kampala, Uganda.**

The main theme of the conference is "**The Role of Uganda's Financial Institutions in Facilitating the Tenfold GDP Growth.**"

The conference will focus on the following ATMS-related sub-themes:

- Patient Capital for Mining: Moving beyond the traditional commercial loans to long-term structured finance.
- Science, Technology and Innovation Financing: Driving Innovation-Led Growth.
- Financing Tourism Development: The untapped potential in the blue, green and brown economy.
- De-risking and financing agro-industrialization and export led development.

Call for Papers

UBA invites papers from scholars, policymakers, and practitioners on the sub-thematic areas listed above, and any other topic of relevance to the conference theme.

In particular, we encourage the submission of papers that examine these topics from a practical, interdisciplinary, international and/or comparative perspective. The papers should be well researched, rich and of high quality in content, practical in application and also relevant for policy development and deployment.

Selected papers will be published in our **Annual Bankers Conference magazine** and/or in our **subsequent Working Paper series**, and the authors will be recognised both at the **conference and by way of honorarium**.

Papers should be a maximum of 12 pages of typed material, including the introduction and motivation, methodology, key findings, policy proposals and or recommendations, and a brief biography of the writer(s). The draft papers should be emailed to ronaldochen@ugandabankers.org not later than **17th May 2026**.

4. Timelines

No.	Key Dates	Outputs
1	17 th May 2026	Deadline to submit the full draft papers
2	30 th May 2026	Technical Review/Section and notification of Authors
3	15 th June 2026	Deadline for submission of revised final papers