The legacy of the global financial crisis has been truly long-lasting; its aftershocks are continuing to shake economies and monetary policies worldwide. In Africa, despite a slowdown in some of the continent’s largest economies, the World Bank forecasts growth rates to rise to an average of five percent by 2017 off the back of strong domestic and external demand. This projected growth is opening up a plethora of new opportunities for the investment community both in more traditional asset classes as well as in a range of alternatives. Whilst reaping the benefits of economic prosperity in the ever continuing search for yield, investors must also be wary of the rapidly evolving geopolitical risks across the continent and their impact on the markets. To make the most of emerging opportunities, a holistic and informed approach is required.

This spring, The Investment Agenda will assemble leading investors, asset managers and industry experts to examine the prevailing economic and political environment throughout Africa and to determine its impact on investment strategy through 2016. This exclusive summit will lay the foundation for informed investment decision making, highlighting the triumphs of key innovators who have evolved their tactics to achieve success in a testing backdrop.

To understand how a holistic view of the world can benefit your investments, attend The Investment Agenda 2015.

Programme

08.30 REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

09.00 CHAIR’S OPENING REMARKS
Jonathan Rosenthal, Africa Editor, The Economist

09.10 WELCOME KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Daniel Mminele, Deputy Governor, South African Reserve Bank

09.30 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: OPERATING IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT
Roy Havemann, Chief Director for Financial Markets and Stability, National Treasury of South Africa

10.00 PRESENTATION: THE BIG PICTURE—GLOBAL GROWTH PROSPECTS FOR 2016
Little consensus exists around the sustainability of the global economic recovery. With the eurozone dipping into deflation in 2015 and Japan in recession, many key markets around the world are still working hard to beat a path towards economic prosperity. The African growth story, alongside America’s, is a bright spot in the global economy, with the World Bank predicting African real GDP growth to hit five percent by 2017. This session will explore the expectations for the global macroeconomic environment in which investors operate and the growth prospects for South Africa, greater Africa and beyond.
10.30 INTERVIEW: NAVIGATING THE MARKETS AMIDST RISING GEOPOLITICAL RISKS
From the rise of Islamic State and Boko Haram to plummeting oil prices and the effects of Ebola, the big stories driving investor sentiment are constantly evolving. In an ever-changing geopolitical environment, it can be difficult to sift through the white noise and discern which events will have a real and lasting impact on investments and which will pass with little economic disturbance. This interview will highlight the key geopolitical trends throughout Africa which investors must take into account when constructing their investment portfolios through 2016 and will examine their potential impacts on the markets.

Kevin Lings, Chief Economist, STANLIB

11.00 NETWORKING BREAK

11.30 PANEL DISCUSSION: IMPACT INVESTING FOR PAN-AFRICAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
Can institutional investors make a real impact on African development through socially responsible investment? This discussion will explore the potential for the investment community to combine the search for yield though alternative means with the promotion of social good. It will explore the growing opportunities to invest in energy and transportation resulting from the enormous infrastructure deficit as well as the role investors can play in creating new employment across the continent and in expanding African capital markets to drive economic growth. Leading financial professionals will question the role social investments do and should play in their portfolios and how best to maximise them in order to increase returns.

Adrian Bertrand, Head of Africa, Networks and Global Outreach, Principles for Responsible Investment
Corli Le Roux, Head of Sustainability, Johannesburg Stock Exchange
Konrad Reuss, Managing Director and Regional Manager, Sub-Saharan Africa, Standard & Poor’s

12.10 PANEL DISCUSSION: STRATEGIC ASSET ALLOCATION—CREATING AND MANAGING A ROBUST ASSET MIX
In light of the economic and political realities shaping the present investment agenda, investors must take a strategic relook at the makeup of their portfolios. This session will explore the prospects for the key asset classes preferred by Africa’s institutional investor community and how they can be combined to create the ideal asset mix. What percentage should traditional investment in equities and fixed income comprise in the optimal portfolio? As the search for attractive alternatives grows in popularity, which areas will deliver the best returns in the present environment? How can you mitigate the practical issues impeding investors from taking the leap from the listed into the unlisted market?

Maarten Ackerman, Advisory Partner and Investment Strategist, Citadel Wealth Management
Michael Adsetts, Head of Specialised Investments, Momentum Outcome Based Solutions
Maya Bhandari, Investment Strategist, Multi-Asset Allocation, Columbia Threadneedle Investments
Ed Francis, Head of Investment EMEA, Towers Watson

12.50 CHAIR’S CLOSING REMARKS AND NETWORKING LUNCH
Jonathan Rosenthal, Africa Editor, The Economist