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**Kigali,Rwanda**  
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## **CONCEPT NOTE**

### **Microfinance Technology Summit 2023**

**28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Kigali, Rwanda**

#### **Introduction**

Every economic sector is being digitized by technical solutions to perform well its operations, The Microfinance technology summit is a conference and exhibition dedicated to promote microfinance Sector through different stakeholders and investors as well as discussing the latest technology trends and how Africa's microfinance institutions should embrace technologies in the new times to better serve clients and customers.

Lack of access to financial services is one of the largest constraints to private sector of development in Africa. Addressing this shortfall requires creating new Microfinance institutions and building innovative operation activities from the scratch.



Microfinance sector plays a big role in sub Saharan Africa economies through how it eases access to finance in the unbanked region in Africa. As almost Africans have access to mobile and internet; mobile banking, internet banking and other remote solutions will help microfinance institutions clients to access their services in the easiest way.

Through AFI Global special report, Microfinance providers are taking progressive steps to embrace digital finance, often starting with the digitization of existing products, services and operations, either by using mobile devices, partnering with a digital financial service provider or developing a proprietary agency network. Although this triggers benefits for both clients (convenience, security, faster transactions and creation of a digital footprint) and microfinance providers (increased operational efficiency, diversification of customer base with value-added products, rural outreach at a lower cost), digital finance comes with certain challenges and risks, and can sometimes represent a threat if not leveraged appropriately.

**SNG Events** in partnership with the **Association of Microfinance Institutions in Rwanda (AMIR)** announce the inaugural **Microfinance Technology Summit** on 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in Kigali, Rwanda. The event aims to create and strengthen bond between Microfinance institutions and technology companies who own great tech solutions to enhance customer experience.



## Why organize this event?

- **For Microfinance Institutions:** to learn how to digitize operations to better serve clients in the easiest and efficient way.
- **For regulators:** Evaluate new technology solutions and take actions on how to supervise the microfinance sector adequately.
- **For technology Providers:** Demonstrating their technology solutions designed for microfinance and hearing all challenges addressed by MFI sector to develop a good solution which respond to the needs of their prospects.

## Why Digitize the Sector?

- For Microfinance Institutions to remain competitive in the market
- As there is access of internet and mobile phones in rural area. Digitization will help Microfinance Institutions provide their services remotely in rural areas.
- Easy to collect data from clients
- Cost reduction of operations
- Credit risk management and decision making

## Policy Makers

Policy makers for the microfinance sector need to work closely with all stakeholders in the industry including technology companies to ensure they are well controlled and regulated. Fintechs are easing operations in all sectors of economy but they bring their own risk if not supervised. Policy makers should also help to promote Microfinance institutions services and analyse solutions that are useful for the sector. We expect Policy makers to come up with market insights and develop new policies considering the new era. The event will provide a platform to policy makers in the Microfinance sector to re-evaluate on policies.



## Objectives of the Summit

Objectives are to review the status of digitization progress of microfinance sector and define how far to go in the next decade, initiate synergies and relationships between technology and Microfinance sector.

- Exchange ideas about what has been accomplished in digitizing microfinance sector in the last few years.
- Identify areas of growth in the sector and discuss how they can be filled
- Strengthen existing relationships or foster new ones between participants
- Discuss new revolutionary ideas that change the core banking solutions

## Audience:

We expect more than 500 delegates from Microfinance institutions, Regulators, Policy makers, technology providers and different stakeholders for to Microfinance sector to attend the summit.

**Dates of the event:** 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Venue:** Kigali, Rwanda at Kigali Convention Centre

**The event website is:** <https://microfinancetechsummit.com/>

**Theme:** *Facilitating technology and Microfinance sector collaborations!*

## Event Sessions and activities:

There will be solo presentations and technical panel discussions about sharing experiences, challenges and progress of the digitization process. There will also be exhibition for technology providers and other services providers prospecting Microfinance sector.

Keynote speeches will be provided by High profiles from regulators, associations of Microfinance Institutions and other high professionals providing remarks and expertise.

**1 on 1 meeting:** There will be time for 1 on 1 meeting to discuss business partnerships and collaborations, relationship development among participants.

Participants will have time to ask questions to presenters and panellists.



### **Critical solutions to be exhibited at the summit:**

- Core Banking Solutions
- Agency Banking Solutions
- Mobile banking solutions
- WhatsApp Banking
- Credit risk Management solutions
- Digital lending solutions
- Credit scoring
- Field Application Systems
- Biometric solutions
- Payment systems
- Data & Analytics solutions
- Open Banking Solutions
- Loan Management solutions
- Etc



## **Conclusion**

We are turning to normal from the Covid-19 Pandemic and remote solutions were very important in the period where people were not allowed to meet in person. Regarding on points stated in this concept note, it is surely important to organize a technology focused event which intends to contribute on the digitization process of the microfinance sector. We cordially invite your organization, association, institution or company to participate in the Microfinance Technology Summit 2023. Leverage on this experience to learn more on how you can improve the sector operations by participating in this Summit.

## **About organizers**

### **Association of Microfinance Institutions in Rwanda (AMIR)**

AMIR is the only umbrella body for microfinance institutions in Rwanda that seeks to build a flourishing microfinance sector in Rwanda through different areas of Advocacy and Information sharing, Research and Development, Responsible and inclusive Finance, Performance Monitoring and Capacity Building.

<https://www.amir.org.rw/>

### **SNG Events Ltd**

SNG Events is specialized in organizing conferences, seminars, trade shows, Summits, and exhibitions for all industries. Headquartered in Kigali, Rwanda, SNG Events' mission is to become one of the leading event management companies in Africa. We help companies in the region reach their goals.

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