

Mrs. Kanayo Awani, Executive Vice President - Intra-African Trade Bank - AFREXIMBANK

Mrs. Kanayo Awani is the Executive Vice President, Intra-African Trade Bank in Afreximbank. She holds a Master of Public Administration Degree (International Trade and Finance) from Harvard University (Kennedy School of Government), Cambridge, United States of America. She also holds the Edward S. Mason Fellowship in Public Policy and Management from the same University. Mrs. Awani has extensive banking experience having worked for Citigroup in Nigeria for about 17 years in various functions, the last being Vice President and Head of Industrial and Commercial Corporates. She joined the African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank) to pursue development finance in 2009 as Director, Trade Finance and Branches. She was appointed Managing Director, Intra-African Trade Initiatives in 2016, and in 2022, elevated to Executive Vice President. She leads the Bank's efforts in implementing its Intra-African trade and Industrialisation Strategies in support of the AfCFTA.

She was named among the Top 100 most influential persons of African Descent by MIPAD (2020), as well as one of 100 Leading Nigerian women by Gender Perspective in Development, acknowledging her distinguished career and contributions to the development of society. She also received the AFIS "Woman Leader" award at the annual Africa Financial Industry Summit (AFIS) 2022 and was named among the Forbes Afrique's list of "The 50 most influential African Women" in the February-March 2023 edition. Very recently, she was proclaimed Africa Inspirational Personality of the Year by the Africa Women Impact Summit (AWIS), a testament to her unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and remarkable impact in promoting intra-African trade.

Mrs. Awani is a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Management (chartered). She is also the Chairperson of the Africa Chapter of FCI, a global factoring association.