

**Center for Financial Inclusion at Accion Names
Africa Board Fellowship Program Director**

John Lwande, Former Managing Director of Tanzania's Akiba Commercial Bank, to lead ABF

Boston, MA, May 18, 2015— The Center for Financial Inclusion at Accion today announced the appointment of John Lwande as the director of its new Africa Board Fellowship program.

Lwande, a Kenyan national, brings more than 25 years of experience in microfinance and financial inclusion to the position, including long-term contracts for commercial banks and specialized MFIs in Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Malawi and Congo DRC.

Since 2008 he has served as managing director of Accion partner Akiba Commercial Bank Plc, in Tanzania. While at Akiba he also served as chairman of the board for Umojaswitch, an ATM shared-switch network for member banks. Prior to Akiba, Lwande served as regional credit director for FINCA in Africa, and as secretary to many FINCA Africa boards, among other posts.

The Africa Board Fellowship program, in partnership with The MasterCard Foundation, is targeted at corporate board members and CEOs and is designed to promote peer-to-peer learning on governance and risk-management practices at financial institutions that serve low-income clients in sub-Saharan Africa.

Strong governance is widely recognized as critical to the growth and sustainability of microfinance institutions across sub-Saharan Africa. The inaugural class of Africa Board fellows will commence on June 2nd, in Cape Town. More information on the program is available [here](#).

About the Center for Financial Inclusion at Accion

The Center for Financial Inclusion at Accion (CFI) is an action-oriented think tank working toward full global financial inclusion. Constructing a financial inclusion sector that reaches everyone with quality services will require the combined efforts of many actors. CFI contributes to full inclusion by collaborating with sector participants to tackle challenges beyond the scope of any one actor, using tools that include research, convening, capacity building, and communications. To learn more about CFI, visit www.centerforfinancialinclusion.org

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