



DRIVING AFRICA'S SINGLE MARKET

Nigeria's AfCFTA
Consolidated Implementation
Report
(2024 - 2025)



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRY, TRADE &
INVESTMENT



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
FINANCE

FOREWORD



This Consolidated Implementation Report is presented pursuant to Nigeria's obligations under Article 4 (g) of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement, which mandates State Parties to establish effective national coordination mechanisms for implementation. The period under review marks Nigeria's transition from foundational preparedness to demonstrable execution of AfCFTA commitments through Nigeria's dedicated National Implementation Platform known as the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office (hereinafter 'Coordination Office').

The Federal Government of Nigeria remains unequivocally committed to leveraging AfCFTA as a strategic instrument for economic diversification, industrialization, and inclusive growth, consistent with Articles 3 and 4 of the Agreement. This report reflects the collective efforts of public institutions, the private sector, sub-national governments, and development partners towards maximizing the AfCFTA Billion Market.

Mr. Olusegun Awolowo (late)

National Coordinator,
Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office

A portrait of Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, wearing a traditional Nigerian cap and glasses. The background is a green gradient.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office acknowledges the strategic leadership of His Excellency, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, whose timely approval of recalibration has provided critical momentum for AfCFTA implementation.

Also, we acknowledge the support of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) and the two supervising Ministries of Industry, Trade and Investment and Finance.

The Coordination Office pays special tribute to Mr. Olusegun Awolowo (of blessed memory), whose visionary leadership and steadfast commitment positioned Nigeria as an early mover under the AfCFTA. His legacy continues to guide Nigeria's continental engagement.

The Coordination Office further acknowledges the technical stewardship of Olusegun Olutayo, PhD, and the team, whose institutional leadership ensured continuity, coherence, and sustainability of Nigeria's AfCFTA implementation framework.

2024-2025 MILESTONES

GUIDED TRADE INITIATIVE (GTI) PHASE

- Peer learning study on GTI to Ghana & Rwanda
- Three (3) GTI Workshops (Lagos & Abuja)
- Nigeria joins Second Phase of the Initiative
- Flag off GTI with Ten (10) Companies
- 1st AfCFTA Shipment to Mombasa, Kenya



SUBNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- Visit by Kwara State Governor/Chairman, NGF
- Jigawa State - Working Visit
- Commissioner of Trade, Lagos State - Working Visit
- Visit by Executive Governor, Oyo State.



INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- International Engagement; Abuja Forum on China-Africa Summit by Gusau Institute & Zhejiang Normal University, China
- WCO Origin Interconnectivity Forum, Brussels, Belgium
- Science of Trade Conference, Washington DC, USA
- Nigeria-Indonesia Investment and Trade Forum, Jakarta, Indonesia 2025



STRATEGIC DOMESTIC ENGAGEMENT

- Designated Competent Authority (DCA) - Nigerian Customs Service Workshop
- Digital Trade Workshops (Lagos & Abuja)
- Science of Trade Conference, Lagos 2024
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) US Consulate Conference
- Hybrid Capacity Building for NAFDAC staff



CONTINENTAL ENGAGEMENT

- Biashara Afrika, Kigali, Rwanda 2024
- Canex Week, Algiers, Algeria, 2024
- Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF), Cairo, Egypt, 2024
- Annual All Africa Intellectual Property Summit, Kigali, Rwanda, 2024/Dakar, Senegal, 2025
- NIC Focal Persons (FP) engagement, Kinshasa, DRC 2024
- AfCFTA Digital Trade Forum, Lusaka, Zambia 2025
- 2nd NIC Focal Persons (FP) engagement, Accra, Ghana 2024
- Preparedness for achieving continental MRA

CAPACITY BUILDING

AfCFTA RULES OF ORIGIN

- Completion Training on Basic and Advanced Level, Abuja 2025
- National Workshop on AfCFTA Rules of Origin for private sector and economic operator in partnership with the EU-WCO Rules of Origin Programme for Africa and facilitated by the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS).



AfCFTA YOUTHS AND CREATIVES

Nigeria AfCFTA Youth Forum 2025



CROSS-BORDER PAYMENT INITIATIVES

- Pan-African Payment and Settlement System Roadshow, Lagos 2024
- Partnerships to create awareness of cross-border payment solutions under the AfCFTA
- Over seven (7) Nigerian banks are currently equipped for PAPSS



DIGITAL TRADE INNOVATIONS

AfCFTA HACKATHON

- Maiden edition of Nigeria AfCFTA Hackathon with over 800 innovators across Africa participated, Lagos 2025
- Strategic partnership engagement to unpack opportunities and potentials of the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol.



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Executive Summary

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) represents the most ambitious trade and development initiative ever undertaken on the African continent, providing a unified legal and economic framework for the integration of African markets. Anchored on Articles 3 and 4 of the AfCFTA Agreement, the initiative prioritizes market integration, industrial development, trade facilitation, and inclusive growth. For Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, effective AfCFTA implementation is both a strategic necessity and a continental responsibility.



The 2024–2025 reporting period marks a decisive transition in Nigeria's AfCFTA journey—from preparatory alignment to demonstrable implementation. This phase was defined among others by Nigeria's active participation in the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI), the successful execution of the country's first AfCFTA-compliant shipment, and the continued institutional strengthening of the Coordination Office, in line with African Union Assembly Decisions on National Implementation Structures.

AfCFTA implementation is inherently complex and incremental. During the reporting period, the Coordination Office operated within an environment characterized by fiscal constraints, evolving continental rules and the AfCFTA framework such as the adoption of two additional protocols and on-going negotiations by state parties, capacity gaps across institutions, and the need to align federal and sub-national actors within a single trade framework. Notwithstanding these challenges, the timely intervention recalibration approved by His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, provided catalytic support that enabled Nigeria's implementation architecture to gain traction, credibility, and operational momentum.

Despite constraints, Nigeria maintained consistency and strategic focus, reinforcing its leadership role on the continent through the operationalization of AfCFTA Protocols on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Digital Trade, Investment, Competition Policy, and Intellectual Property Rights. The country deepened its engagement in peer-learning initiatives, strengthened sub-national participation, advanced digital trade innovation, scaled capacity building on Rules of Origin, progressed cross-border payment readiness, and expanded partnerships with development partners and the private sector thereby strengthening trust in the AfCFTA ecosystem..

The report further acknowledges the visionary leadership and legacy of Mr. Olusegun Awolowo (of blessed memory), whose foresight and dedication positioned Nigeria as an early mover under the AfCFTA. It also recognizes the technical stewardship of Olusegun Olutayo, PhD, whose institutional leadership ensured continuity, policy coherence, and sustainability in Nigeria's AfCFTA implementation framework.



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All Africa needs for Africa
is in Africa.

- Olusegun Awolowo (of blessed memory)
National Coordinator,
Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office

“

Looking ahead, there is need
for speed and cohesion
among African countries.
The idea of AfCFTA must not
fail, and there is no room for
mediocrity in today's world.

- H.E. Kasim Shettima GCON
Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria
Davos, 2024

This Consolidated Implementation Report documents Nigeria's progress, key milestones, lessons learned, and emerging priorities between January 2024 and December 2025.

It concludes with forward-looking recommendations designed to guide the 2026-2027 AfCFTA Work Plan and consolidate Nigeria's role as a continental anchor economy under the Agreement.

Policy, Legal and Institutional Context

Nigeria's AfCFTA implementation is grounded in a robust legal and institutional framework derived from continental and national instruments. The AfCFTA Agreement, particularly Articles 3, 4, 5, and 23, establishes the objectives, scope, and institutional arrangements for implementation.

These provisions are operationalized through the Protocols on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Digital Trade, Investment, Settlement of Dispute Procedures, Competition Policy, Intellectual Property Rights and Women and Youth AfCFTA implementation, bridging the gap between federal ministries, agencies, sub-national governments, the private sector, and development partners. This institutional arrangement has proven critical in translating AfCFTA obligations into actionable national processes.





H.E. Senator Dr. George Akume
Secretary to the Government of the Federation,
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Overview of AfCFTA Implementation In Nigeria

Between 2024 and 2025, Nigeria's AfCFTA implementation advanced decisively, transitioning from preparatory awareness initiatives to structured execution. The country anchored its strategy on five key pillars: institutional readiness, trade facilitation, private sector participation, digitalization, and inclusivity. Institutional readiness focused on strengthening the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, enhancing inter-agency collaboration, and aligning national trade policies with AfCFTA protocols to ensure coherent decision-making and operational efficiency.

Trade facilitation gained prominence through the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI), which served as a practical platform for pilot cross-border transactions/trade. These engagements enabled customs authorities, regulatory agencies, and producers to test procedural compliance, validate rules of origin, and streamline documentation processes, providing actionable lessons for nationwide scaling.

Private sector participation was systematically enhanced via structured engagement with umbrella organizations such as NACCIMA, MAN, NECA, etc and sector-specific associations. These engagements aimed to sensitize businesses on AfCFTA protocols, identify export-ready products, and promote intra-African trade linkages.

Digitalization efforts focused on integrating AfCFTA processes into national trade information systems, facilitating data exchange, tracking of shipments, and improving regulatory transparency.

Inclusivity remained a cross-cutting priority, targeting SMEs, women, and youth entrepreneurs, ensuring equitable access to AfCFTA opportunities. Nigeria's implementation philosophy emphasized learning-by-doing, leveraging early participation to generate practical insights that informed policy refinement, capacity building, and procedural standardization.



Mr Wale Edun, OFR
Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister
of the Economy of Nigeria



Dr Jumoke Oduwole, MFR
Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment
of Nigeria

Overall, Nigeria's 2024-2025 AfCFTA activities reflected strategic resilience and operational pragmatism, laying a foundation for the country to consolidate its position as a continental anchor economy, capable of harnessing the full potential of intra-African trade under the AfCFTA framework.

Guided Trade Initiative (GTI)

The AfCFTA became operational and trading commenced on 1st January 2021 in anticipation of increasing intra-African trade, supporting growth and development on the continent, and building the Africa that we want. Since commencement however, no meaningful trade was recorded at the continental level due to numerous challenges, while negotiations on protocols and key areas continued. To encourage trading and realize the objectives of AfCFTA, the AfCFTA Secretariat recognised the need to commence trading under a fast track approach.

This led to the launching of the Guided Trade Initiative (GTi). The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) GTI is a solution-oriented approach that aims to facilitate trade between interested state parties by connecting businesses and products for export and import. It is a “solution-based approach” to test the legal framework of State Parties, Border to Border customs processes and procedures, and other export requirements.

In recognition of diverse levels of preparedness across the continent, a phased approach to GTI was adopted to enable countries participate as they comply with trading requirements. Seven countries participated in the first phase, while Nigeria participated in the second. This report details Nigeria's journey in trading under the AfCFTA. Before embarking on the GTI journey, Nigeria undertook a peer learning tour of two state



parties to understand the obstacles they faced and mitigate against them. GTI workshops were held to prepare critical stakeholders for participation, Nigeria joined the second phase, shipment was flagged off, and its first consignment departed and arrived at a destination state party under the AfCFTA. Nigeria's successful trading under the AfCFTA is attributable to strategic implementation approach adopted by the Coordination Office.

AfCFTA Implementation – Gazetting of the ECOWAS Provisional Schedule of Tariff Concession (PSoTC)

Nigeria's implementation of the AfCFTA market access pillar advanced significantly with the commencement of the gazetting process of the ECOWAS Provisional Schedule of Tariff Concessions (PSoTC) in December 2023. The Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office strategically initiated this process with technical support from ODI Global, ensuring alignment with AfCFTA tariff liberalization modalities and ECOWAS obligations

Structurally, the Coordination Office worked in close collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Finance, under the leadership of the Honourable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, who constitutionally holds the mandate over fiscal policy and tariff adjustment matters. This collaboration ensured that the PSoTC process was firmly anchored within Nigeria's fiscal framework, balancing AfCFTA commitments with national revenue, industrial, and macroeconomic considerations.

Several intensive technical sessions were convened to validate tariff lines, interpret ECOWAS commitments, and ensure consistency with Nigeria's customs and trade administration systems. A deliberate multi-stakeholder approach was adopted, engaging key statutory and private-sector institutions including the Nigeria Customs Service, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Raw Materials Research and Development Council, and other relevant trade and regulatory agencies. These engagements ensured transparency, technical accuracy, and private-sector confidence in the emerging tariff schedule.

With the policy backing of the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI), the process culminated in the formal gazetting of Nigeria's ECOWAS PSoTC. The gazetted schedule was subsequently submitted to the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana. This achievement enabled Nigeria to formally fulfil its market access obligations under the AfCFTA framework, signaling readiness for commercially meaningful preferential trade under the Agreement.



Peer Learning Study Visits – Ghana and Rwanda

Objectives:

- To benchmark Nigeria's GTI readiness against early implementers.
- To domesticate best practices in customs procedures, certification, and institutional coordination.

Supported by United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), Nigeria undertook structured peer-learning missions to Ghana and Rwanda, both recognized as early implementers of the GTI. The purpose of the study tours was to gain insights into the implementation of the GTI under the AfCFTA framework in Ghana and Rwanda, two out of the eight countries that joined the first phase, others included Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritius, Tanzania and Tunisia. Aligning with the objective of the GTI to test the legal frameworks, procedures and other trading requirements of State Parties. The purpose is to leverage the experience to ramp up readiness and prepare strategic businesses, exporters, and the private sector in Nigeria to participate effectively in the GTI when launched. The tours also provided practical exposure to customs clearance processes, origin certification workflows, and inter-agency coordination models that informed Nigeria's own operational adjustments.

Nigeria and UNDP delegations comprised key public and private sector representation, including the Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment (FMITI), Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), and a representative of the strategic development partner, UNDP, with the Coordination Office leading the delegations. Meetings were held with similar diverse mix of public and private sector stakeholders. The Ghana tour took place between 20th August, 2023 to 26th August, 2023 while the Rwanda Tour took place between October 1 - 7, 2023

Full official reports of the tours are contained in the Annexes.





Visit to Nigerian High Commission



UNDP Rwanda Country Office



Galaxy S21 Ultra 5G



Galaxy S21 Ultra 5G



Three GTI Workshops (Lagos and Abuja)

Objectives:

- To prepare Nigerian exporters and regulators for AfCFTA-compliant trade.
- To operationalize Rules of Origin and customs documentation requirements.

Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) Workshops: Strategic Capacity-Building for AfCFTA Implementation

In 2024, the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office successfully convened three Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) workshops in Lagos and Abuja, designed to enhance Nigeria's readiness to operationalize intra-African trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

These workshops marked a pivotal shift from awareness creation to practical execution, emphasizing operational capacity building for both exporters and regulatory agencies.

The overarching objectives of the GTI workshops were twofold: first, to prepare Nigerian exporters and regulators for AfCFTA-compliant trade, ensuring that all stakeholders understood the legal, procedural, and operational frameworks guiding continental trade; second, to operationalize the AfCFTA Rules of Origin (RoO) and customs documentation requirements, thereby facilitating seamless trade flows and reducing transaction costs. The workshops provided an interactive platform where theoretical frameworks were contextualized with practical guidance tailored to the Nigerian export ecosystem.

The Lagos sessions focused primarily on exporters from key industrial and manufacturing clusters, providing targeted guidance on the classification of products, documentation for customs clearance, and compliance with RoO requirements under AfCFTA Articles 3, 4, and 6. Experts from the AfCFTA Secretariat, the Nigeria Customs Service, and trade facilitation bodies led sessions that combined technical presentations, case studies, and hands-on exercises. Exporters were trained to accurately complete Certificates of Origin, prepare proper commercial invoices, and understand preferential tariff application under AfCFTA schedules. This technical immersion aimed to reduce non-compliance risks that could impede access to African markets.

The Abuja workshops, strategically positioned to engage regulators, policymakers, and trade support institutions, emphasized harmonizing regulatory understanding across government agencies. Participants included officials from the Nigeria Customs Service, NAFDAC, the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON), Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) and sectoral ministries, alongside representatives of trade promotion bodies such as NACCIMA, MAN, NASSI, NASME and NECA. Potential SMEs ready for trading were well represented. Sessions focused on aligning internal regulatory procedures with AfCFTA compliance requirements, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and streamlining export approvals. Interactive plenaries and breakout sessions allowed regulators to address procedural bottlenecks, clarify ambiguities in RoO implementation, and adopt best practices in trade facilitation, consistent with Articles 7 and 8 of the AfCFTA Protocol on Trade in Goods.

A defining feature of the GTI workshops was the deliberate integration of all value-chain stakeholders—exporters, customs officials, regulators, and trade support institutions—into a collaborative learning environment. This approach ensured that compliance obligations were understood not only in isolation but also in the context of cross-functional operational processes. Participants engaged in joint exercises simulating real-world export scenarios, fostering shared understanding of document verification, tariff classification, and certification procedures.

The workshops also highlighted the role of digital tools, including e-certificates and AfCFTA trade portals, in reducing administrative burdens and enhancing traceability of goods across borders.

Essentially, the Lagos and Abuja GTI workshops successfully operationalized AfCFTA trade procedures by equipping Nigerian exporters and regulators with the knowledge, tools, and collaborative networks necessary to ensure compliance. By bridging the gap between policy frameworks and operational realities, these workshops strengthened Nigeria's capacity to leverage the AfCFTA framework for industrial growth, trade expansion, and regional competitiveness, establishing a strong foundation for the country's ongoing participation in the Guided Trade Initiative.



Nigeria's Entry into the Second Phase of the GTI

Objectives:

- To deepen Nigeria's participation under Annex 4 on Trade Facilitation, of Trade in Goods protocol.
- To signal Nigeria's readiness for commercially meaningful AfCFTA trade.

Nigeria's admission into the second phase of the GTI underscored growing continental confidence in its readiness and institutional capacity.

Nigeria's Entry into the Second Phase of the Guided Trade Initiative: A Historic Milestone

In a landmark development, Nigeria has formally entered the second phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Guided Trade Initiative (GTI), marking a historic milestone for the country and signaling its unwavering commitment to continental trade integration. This achievement reflects Nigeria's strategic readiness to engage in commercially meaningful trade under the AfCFTA framework, particularly in alignment with Annex 4 of TiG on Trade Facilitation, and underscores growing continental confidence in the country's institutional capacity.

The second phase of the GTI represents a deepening of Nigeria's engagement in AfCFTA operationalization. Beyond the pilot trading arrangements that characterized the initial phase, this new stage emphasizes advanced trade facilitation, streamlined customs procedures, and rigorous adherence to Rules of Origin (RoO). By securing admission into this phase, Nigeria has demonstrated both its operational maturity and its ability to implement robust mechanisms that ensure trade transactions are compliant, transparent, and commercially viable.

This is a strong signal to African trading partners that Nigeria is prepared to move from awareness and preparatory stages to active and meaningful participation in intra-African trade.

A key objective of this phase is to strengthen Nigeria's implementation of Annex 4 of TiG on Trade Facilitation. This article, which anchors the AfCFTA's commitment to reducing trade barriers and simplifying cross-border procedures, is central to enabling faster, cheaper, and more predictable movement of goods across African borders. Nigeria's participation in the second phase of the GTI illustrates tangible progress in operationalizing trade facilitation measures, including the digitalization of customs procedures, adoption of single-window systems, and alignment of documentation requirements with continental standards. enhance Nigeria's trade

competitiveness but also signal to the continent that the country is ready to serve as a hub for regional value chains and export-oriented manufacturing.

The journey to this historic milestone has been anchored in deliberate institutional strengthening. The Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, working alongside the Nigeria Customs Service and other stakeholders, has driven rigorous capacity-building exercises, including workshops for regulators, customs officials, and exporters to ensure shared understanding of GTI protocols and compliance obligations. These engagements have cultivated a culture of collaboration across public and private sectors, aligning stakeholders around the goal of achieving commercially meaningful trade under AfCFTA. The entry into the second phase is therefore not merely a procedural advancement; it represents the culmination of deliberate and structured efforts to build Nigeria's institutional readiness and operational excellence.

From a strategic perspective, Nigeria's advancement in the GTI enhances its continental leadership profile. It sends a clear message to African trading partners and investors that the country is committed to the AfCFTA agenda, not just in principle but in practice. By demonstrating readiness for robust trade facilitation and rules-based engagement, Nigeria positions itself as a model for other African countries aspiring to deepen their GTI participation. The move also complements national economic diversification strategies, providing a pathway for SMEs and largescale enterprises to leverage continental markets, strengthen supply chains, and enhance export performance.

Moreover, Nigeria's participation in the second phase of the GTI contributes to the broader AfCFTA objectives of inclusive and sustainable continental trade. By operationalizing trade facilitation measures and ensuring compliance with RoO, Nigeria is enabling more businesses, particularly SMEs, to access the 1.3 billionstrong African market. This not only expands economic opportunities domestically but also reinforces Africa's collective capacity to realize the transformative potential of intra-continental trade.

Nigeria's entry into the second phase of the GTI is both historic and strategically significant. It reflects the country's readiness for commercially meaningful trade, reinforces continental confidence in its institutional capacity, and marks a decisive step toward deepening trade facilitation under Article 7 of AfCFTA. As Nigeria consolidates its gains, this milestone serves as a springboard for broader economic engagement, positioning the country as a leading driver of Africa's continental trade integration and prosperity.



H.E. Gboyega Oyetola
Hon Min Marine and Blue Economy



Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)



Nigeria's Inaugural Shipments Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) Ribbon Ceremony

Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office



Connecting Businesses to Africa

Creating One African Market

GIZ Programme Support to AfCFTA



ECOWAS

Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)



Flag-off of GTI with 10 Companies



Objectives:

- To provide real-sector validation of AfCFTA benefits.
- To support MSMEs' entry into continental markets.

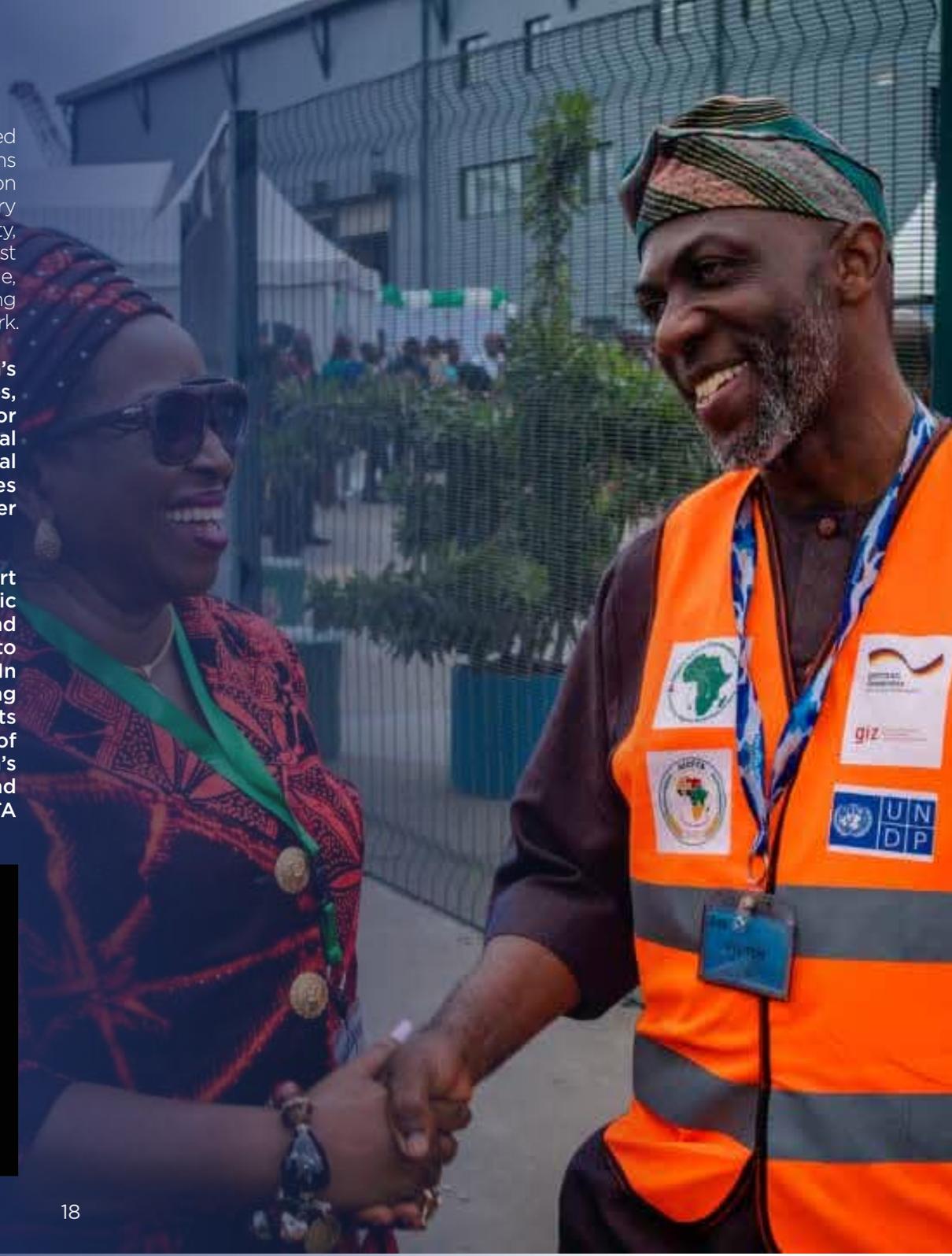
The flag-off of the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) with ten Nigerian companies represents a critical milestone in Nigeria's AfCFTA implementation, underscoring the transition from policy readiness to practical, rules-based continental trade. Far from being a ceremonial event, the GTI flag-off was the culmination of a rigorous, multilayered process involving regulatory validation, institutional coordination, and private sector preparedness, anchored on strict compliance with AfCFTA provisions.

The selection and onboarding of the ten companies required coordinated actions across multiple stakeholders, including trade regulators, customs authorities, standards and quality agencies, and export promotion institutions. Companies were subjected to verification of statutory documentation, rules of origin compliance, product standards conformity, and customs documentation readiness. This ensured that Nigeria's first cohort of GTI exporters would trade under AfCFTA on a credible, compliant, and commercially meaningful basis, thereby protecting Nigeria's reputation and reinforcing confidence in the AfCFTA framework.

The GTI flag-off also demonstrated the effectiveness of Nigeria's whole-of-government and whole-of-economy approach. Ministries, Departments and Agencies worked in concert with private sector associations to address procedural bottlenecks, clarify operational requirements, and align national processes with continental tradedisciplines. This collaborative model reduced learning curves and established a template for scaling up participation under subsequent phases of the GTI.

Critical to the success of this process was the sustained support from development partners. UNDP and GIZ provided strategic assistance in capacity building, stakeholder coordination, and implementation readiness, enabling institutions and businesses to translate AfCFTA commitments into executable actions. In addition, the support of the Overseas Developmentstrengthening Nigeria's compliance architecture, particularly in fulfilling its obligations relating to the gazettement of the Provisional Schedule of Tariff Concessions. This achievement signaled Nigeria's seriousness in honoring its market access commitments and provided legal certainty for traders operating under AfCFTA preferences.

Collectively, the GTI flag-off with ten companies stands as a proof of concept demonstrating Nigeria's institutional readiness, partner-backed credibility, and leadership in operationalizing AfCFTA for real trade outcomes.









First Nigeria AfCFTA Shipment to Mombasa, Kenya: 2025

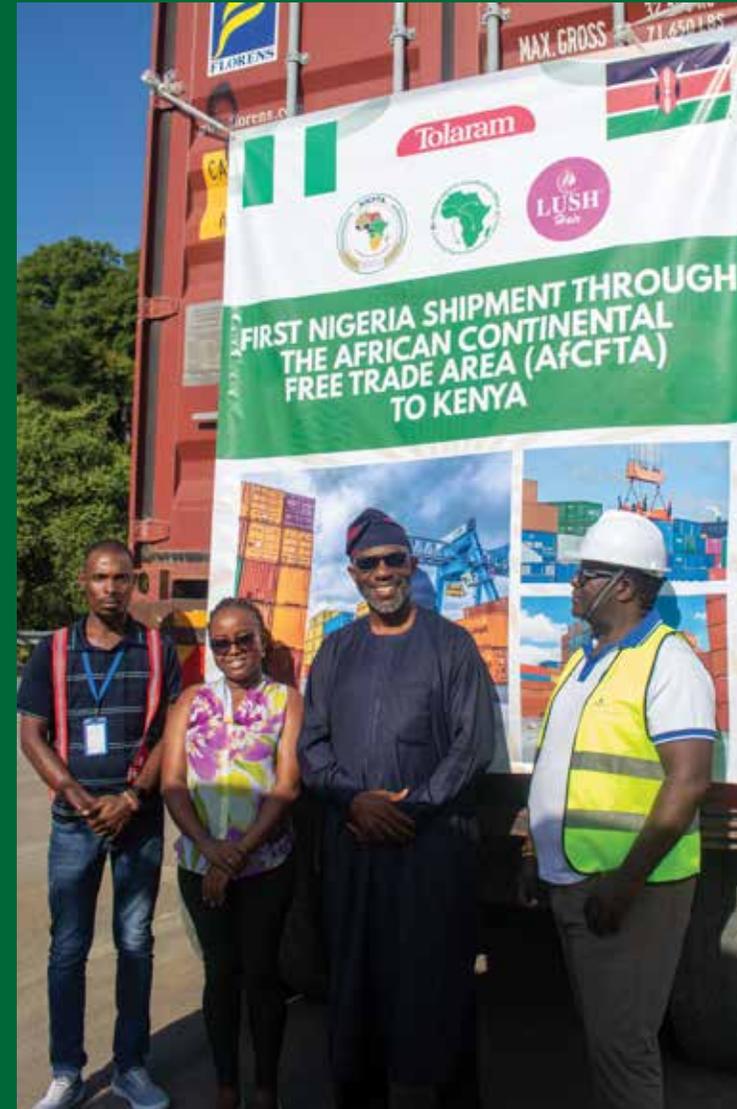
Objectives:

- To demonstrate proof of concept for AfCFTA trade.
- To strengthen Nigeria–East Africa trade corridors.

The successful execution of Nigeria's first AfCFTA shipment to Mombasa, Kenya, marks a historic milestone in the country's continental trade journey and underscores its readiness to leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area for sustainable economic growth. This inaugural shipment not only demonstrates Nigeria's commitment to translating policy into action but also signals the country's operational capability to undertake commercially meaningful trade under the AfCFTA framework. Beyond symbolism, this achievement provides a practical template for Nigerian exporters, showcasing compliance with AfCFTA provisions, particularly rules of origin, trade facilitation protocols, and documentation standards, thereby setting a precedent for future transactions.

Central to this success is the strategic leadership exhibited by the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, which has operationalized a multi-stakeholder model to harmonize efforts across government, regulatory agencies, and the private sector. By fostering collaboration among institutions such as the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI), Ministry of Finance, Nigerian Customs Service, Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), and the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), the Coordination Office ensured regulatory alignment and procedural readiness. Simultaneously, engagement with private sector representatives including the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), National Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME), and the Nigerian Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI) reinforced commercial readiness and compliance awareness.

The Coordination Office also led targeted interventions with specialized agencies such as the Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS), facilitating the clearance of agricultural exports while ensuring adherence to sanitary and phytosanitary standards. By instituting coordinated pre-shipment inspections, harmonizing documentation requirements, and providing technical guidance on AfCFTA procedures, the Office minimized operational risks and enhanced the predictability of cross-border trade.



This collaborative approach reflects Nigeria's strategic application of AfCFTA provisions, demonstrating how institutional synergy can convert policy frameworks into tangible trade outcomes. The Mombasa shipment illustrates the effectiveness of a coordinated governance model in operationalizing Africa's largest free trade area, serving both as a proof of concept for Nigerian businesses and as a confidence-building measure for continental partners. The leadership of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office in orchestrating this multi-stakeholder ecosystem ensures that Nigeria not only meets but also exceeds the extant AfCFTA standards, positioning the country as a leading exemplar in continental trade integration.



Strategic International Engagements: 2025

Nigeria actively participated in international technical forums, including the World Customs Organization (WCO) Origin Interconnectivity Forum in Brussels.

Objectives:

- **To align Nigeria AfCFTA Implementation with Continental Origin verification mechanisms.**
- **To support Annex 3, TiG on Customs Cooperation.**
- **To drive investment to specific sector to take advantage of AfCFTA**

In 2025, the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office strategically advanced Nigeria's continental and global trade agenda through targeted international engagements, notably at the WCO Origin Interconnectivity/AfCFTA Implementation Forum in Brussels, Belgium, and the Nigeria-Indonesia Investment and Trade Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia. These engagements reinforced Nigeria's commitment to effective AfCFTA implementation, capacity building, and international trade promotion.

The WCO Origin Interconnectivity/AfCFTA Implementation Forum in Brussels provided a critical platform for Nigeria to strengthen its technical and operational capacity regarding rules of origin, digital documentation, and customs interoperability. Participation in this forum enabled direct engagement with World Customs Organization (WCO) member states, AfCFTA Secretariat officials, and regional trade experts to deepen understanding of origin verification procedures and cross-border trade facilitation mechanisms. The forum facilitated knowledge exchange on global best practices for the integration of electronic certificates of origin, data harmonization, and interconnectivity among customs administrations, thereby equipping Nigerian regulators, exporters, and trade facilitation institutions with actionable insights to operationalize AfCFTA compliance. These engagements underscored Nigeria's proactive approach to reducing non-tariff barriers and enhancing regional supply chain efficiency, critical for the country's leadership role as Africa's largest economy.

Complementing this technical engagement, the Nigeria-Indonesia Investment and Trade Forum in Jakarta focused on strategic market development and the promotion of AfCFTA opportunities to international investors. Leveraging Indonesia's position as a key emerging market, the forum provided a platform to market Africa as a single trade and investment destination with a combined population of 1.3 billion, surpassing the total population of both Nigeria and Indonesia individually. The Coordination Office highlighted Nigeria's readiness to lead intra-African trade through the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI), showcasing

investment opportunities in manufacturing, agriculture, digital trade, and services. Bilateral discussions emphasized partnerships in value chain development, joint ventures, and cross-border trade facilitation, with a view to integrating Indonesian investors into Africa's rapidly expanding market.

Collectively, these engagements reflected a dual strategy of technical strengthening and market promotion. By bridging operational capacity building with proactive market positioning, Nigeria not only advanced its AfCFTA implementation agenda but also projected the continent's immense trade potential to global partners. These interventions cement Nigeria's status as a continental anchor economy and a credible partner in international trade negotiations, reinforcing its leadership in driving Africa's industrialization, investment inflows, and economic integration.





Continental Engagements

Nigeria's participation in **Biashara Afrika**, **CANEX Week**, the **Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF)**, **NIC Focal Point engagements**, and **Digital Trade Forums** strengthened peer learning and policy coherence.

Objectives:

- To position Nigeria as a continental implementation leader.
- To shape Africa-wide AfCFTA implementation norms.

Nigeria's strategic participation in key continental trade platforms—**Biashara Afrika**, **CANEX Week**, the **Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF)** in Cairo, **NICs** Focal Point engagements, and **Digital Trade Forums**—has significantly strengthened peer learning, policy coherence, and implementation readiness under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Through **Biashara Afrika**, Nigeria engaged with public and private sector stakeholders across Eastern and Southern Africa, facilitating structured peer learning on market access, trade facilitation reforms, and operationalization of AfCFTA instruments. The platform enabled comparative exchanges on national coordination mechanisms, private-sector readiness models, and practical solutions for addressing non-tariff barriers, thereby informing Nigeria's own implementation strategies.

Nigeria's participation in **CANEX** Week deepened policy and practitioner dialogue on the creative economy as a frontier for intra-African trade. Engagements reinforced alignment between cultural trade policies, services liberalization, and intellectual property protection under the AfCFTA Protocol on Trade in Services, while supporting peer learning on financing, export promotion, and digital distribution models for creative industries.

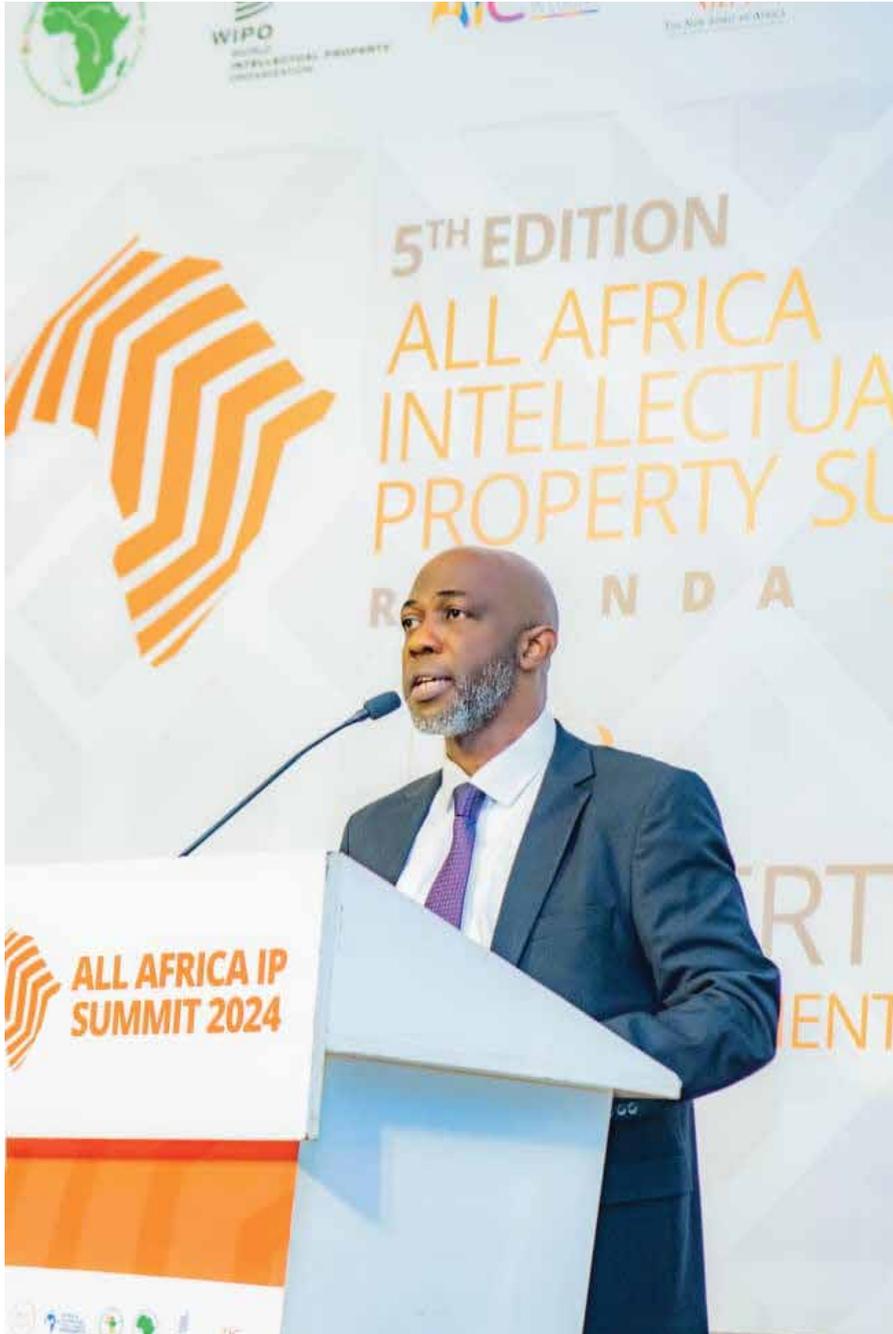
At the **Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF)** in Cairo, Nigeria advanced structured B2B, B2G, and G2G engagements, translating policy commitments into commercial outcomes. The Fair provided a platform for benchmarking national export readiness frameworks, trade finance solutions, and customs cooperation initiatives, strengthening coherence between Nigeria's national trade policies and continental market integration objectives.

NICs Focal Point engagements further enhanced intergovernmental coordination by facilitating technical exchanges among National Implementation Committees across State Parties. These engagements promoted convergence on AfCFTA implementation modalities, data reporting standards, and institutional coordination, reducing policy fragmentation.

Finally, Nigeria's participation in **Digital Trade Forums** strengthened coherence on emerging digital trade disciplines, including e-commerce, paperless trade, and cross-border data flows. Peer learning from these forums informed Nigeria's approach to aligning domestic digital trade policies with the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol, ensuring future-ready and inclusive trade implementation.

Collectively, these engagements reinforced Nigeria's leadership, learning, and policy alignment within the AfCFTA framework.





NICs Meetings



Sub-national Engagements

Engagements with Kwara, Jigawa, Lagos, and Oyo States advanced AfCFTA domestication at sub-national levels.

Objectives:

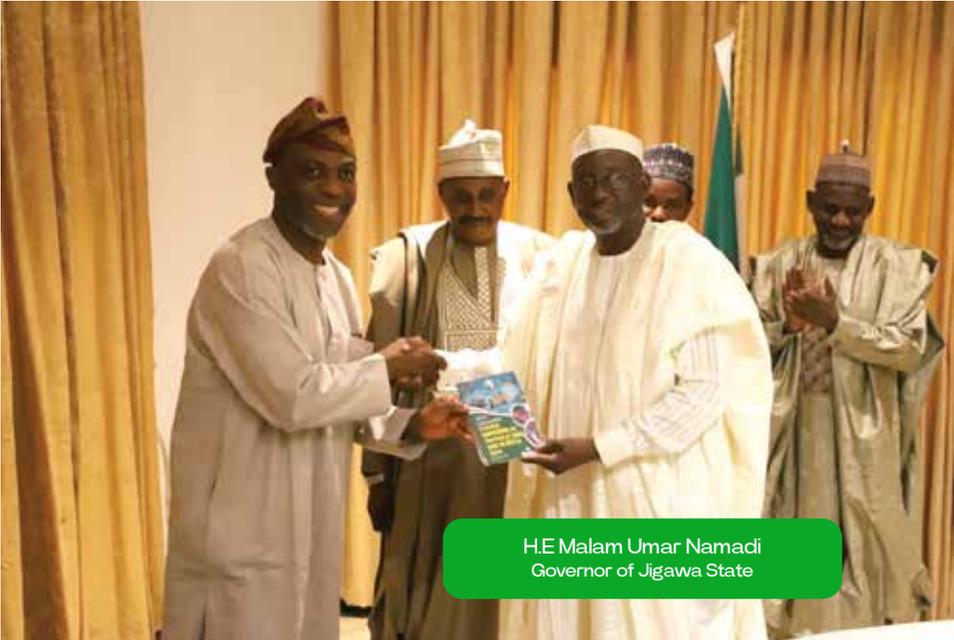
- To integrate AfCFTA into state development plans.
- To unlock localized production and export potential.

Sub-national engagement remains critical to translating the AfCFTA from policy to measurable economic outcomes. The Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office's working visit to Jigawa State underscored the importance of aligning national AfCFTA implementation with state-level production, trade facilitation, and private-sector readiness. Through practical engagements with public institutions and organized private enterprises, the visit strengthened awareness, clarified rules of origin, and identified value chains with immediate export potential.

Jigawa State's competitive agricultural and agro-processing products, supported by its strategic location and growing industrial base, demonstrate strong prospects for accessing continental markets. Such engagements deepen ownership, unlock sub-national competitiveness, and position states as active drivers of Nigeria's AfCFTA-led export growth.



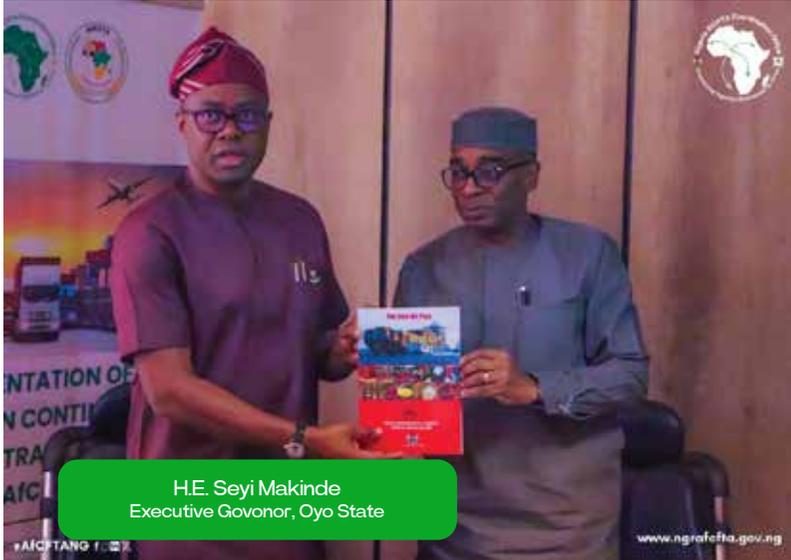
AfCFTA Implementation, Jigawa



H.E Malam Umar Namadi
Governor of Jigawa State



AfCFTA Implementation, Oyo



Strategic Domestic Engagements: 2025

Strategic engagements with the Nigeria Customs Service, NAFDAC, digital trade stakeholders, and AI-focused institutions strengthened regulatory readiness.

Objectives:

- **To align domestic regulations with AfCFTA disciplines.**
- **To improve inter-agency coordination.**

Strategic engagements with the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) as the Designated Competent Authority (DCA), the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), digital trade stakeholders, and emerging artificial intelligence (AI)-focused institutions have been central to strengthening Nigeria's regulatory readiness for effective AfCFTA implementation. These engagements were deliberately structured to align domestic regulatory frameworks with continental obligations while enhancing institutional coordination, predictability, and enforcement efficiency.

Engagements with the Nigeria Customs Service, in its role as the DCA, focused on operationalising AfCFTA trade facilitation instruments, particularly the administration of Rules of Origin, tariff concessions, and customs procedures under the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI). Technical sessions addressed advance rulings, verification mechanisms, risk management, and post-clearance audit systems, ensuring that customs processes are transparent, predictable, and compliant with AfCFTA Protocols on Trade in Goods and Trade Facilitation. These engagements also strengthened inter-agency collaboration at the border, improved data exchange, and enhanced the capacity of customs officers to manage increased intra-African trade flows efficiently.

Strategic consultations with NAFDAC were aimed at ensuring regulatory convergence in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, technical barriers to trade (TBT), and conformity assessment procedures. Discussions focused on mutual recognition arrangements, harmonisation of standards, and digitalisation of product registration and certification processes. By aligning NAFDAC's regulatory frameworks with AfCFTA requirements, Nigeria is better positioned to facilitate market access for Nigerian products while safeguarding public health, safety, and consumer protection across continental markets.

Engagements with digital trade stakeholders—including fintechs, logistics platforms, e-commerce operators, and data service providers—were designed to address regulatory gaps in cross-border digital trade. These dialogues advanced policy coherence on electronic payments, digital identities, cross-border data flows,

and consumer protection, in line with the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade. They also informed the development of interoperable digital systems to support customs automation, trade documentation, and real-time trade data analytics.

Finally, partnerships with AI-focused institutions and innovation hubs strengthened forward-looking regulatory preparedness. These engagements explored the application of AI in risk profiling, customs intelligence, regulatory compliance monitoring, and trade data analysis. By integrating AI-driven solutions into regulatory processes, Nigeria is laying the foundation for smarter enforcement, reduced compliance costs, and enhanced trade transparency.

Collectively, these strategic engagements have reinforced institutional readiness, improved regulatory coherence, and positioned Nigeria to effectively leverage AfCFTA opportunities in an increasingly digital and technology-driven trade environment.



Rules of Origin Training, 2025



Ms Faith Mathenge
Rules of Origin Specialist, World Custom Organisation



NAFDAC Training, 2025



Cross-border Payment Initiatives (2024/2025)

Objectives:

- To operationalize Article 4 (which focuses on liberalizing trade and facilitating investment) with reference to Payments and Transfers.
- To reduce foreign exchange and settlement bottlenecks.

In 2024, Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, played a strategic role in the Pan-African Payments and Settlement System (PAPSS) roadshow as part of continental efforts to operationalize the African Continental Free Trade Area's (AfCFTA) payment architecture. Nigeria's engagement was driven by the imperative to dismantle legacy cross-border payment barriers that have historically impeded intra-African trade due to high cost structures, extended settlement cycles, foreign exchange bottlenecks, and reliance on correspondent banking networks outside Africa.

The PAPSS initiative, championed by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) in collaboration with the African Union, AfCFTA Secretariat and member states, seeks to establish a real-time, secure, and interoperable payments platform that enables settlement in local currencies for intra-African trade transactions. Nigeria's participation in the 2024 roadshow underscored the country's commitment to enhancing financial infrastructure that supports trade facilitation, currency diversification, and enhanced liquidity across borders within the continent.

During the roadshow engagements — which included high-level dialogues with central banks, commercial banks, FinTech innovators, and regulatory stakeholders — Nigeria showcased domestic readiness, articulated policy commitments, and outlined implementation modalities for PAPSS adoption. Key interventions focused on aligning regulatory frameworks, addressing risk management protocols, and leveraging Nigeria's robust banking sector to anchor PAPSS deployment.

These dialogues also emphasized Nigeria's dual objectives: deepening the use of the Nigerian Naira in intra-African settlements and expanding financial inclusion by lowering barriers to cross-border payments for businesses, SMEs, and diaspora remittances.



PAPSS
Pan-African Payment
& Settlement System

PAPSS
Pan-African Payment
& Settlement System

PAPSS NIGERIA ROADSHOW

THEME:
Enabling Seamless Cross
Border Payments Among African
Regions

PAPSS
Pan-African Payment
& Settlement System

A central outcome of Nigeria’s 2024 roadshow involvement was the roadmap for integration of PAPSS as a product offering within Nigerian financial institutions.



Roadmap for Integrating PAPSS into Nigerian Financial Institutions

Technical Integration Framework

Guidelines for local banks to connect to PAPSS through API interfaces, compliance engines, and real-time gross settlement linkages with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), ensuring seamless cross-border transaction flows.

Risk and Compliance Protocols

Adoption of anti-money-laundering (AML), know-your-customer (KYC), and currency control measures aligned with both CBN regulations and PAPSS operational standards to mitigate systemic risk while fostering trust in cross-border transactions.

Capacity Building and Awareness

Strengthening institutional capacities through training, technical support, and collaborative pilots to accelerate adoption and scalability.

Product Development Mandates

Commercial banks were encouraged to embed PAPSS capabilities into their digital banking platforms, enabling corporate and retail clients to initiate and receive payments across AfCFTA member states with enhanced transparency and cost efficiency.

Nigeria's proactive engagement in the PAPSS roadshow reinforced its leadership in AfCFTA implementation, positioning local banks to leverage PAPSS as a competitive differentiator and foundational enabler of intra-African trade finance.



Amb. Nura Pimi
Pem Sec, FMITI



International Development Partners

Engagements with GIZ, UNDP, WIPO, the World Bank, ODI/FCDO, WCO, and the French Embassy strengthened technical depth and trade smart options.

The Coordination Office has strategically engaged international development partners to support effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), with particular focus on operationalising the Agreement's eight Protocols. These engagements have been anchored on technical cooperation, capacity building, policy alignment, and institutional strengthening, ensuring Nigeria's commitments translate into measurable trade outcomes.

Under the Protocol on Trade in Goods and Rules of Origin, the Coordination Office has worked closely with partners such as UNDP, GIZ, and the UK's ODI to support tariff schedule gazetting, customs readiness, and private sector compliance with origin requirements. These partnerships facilitated analytical support, technical validation processes, and learning-by-doing under the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI). Engagements aligned with the Protocol on Trade Facilitation, Customs Cooperation and Transit strengthened inter-agency coordination and improved understanding of AfCFTA-compliant procedures.

In relation to the Protocol on Trade in Services, international partners provided technical assistance for sectoral assessments, regulatory mapping, and preparation for Nigeria's services offers, supporting evidence-based policy formulation. Support for the Protocols on Investment, Competition Policy, and Intellectual Property Rights has focused on awareness, institutional diagnostics, and capacity building, positioning Nigeria to align domestic frameworks with continental disciplines as negotiations progress.

Furthermore, partnerships have supported emerging Protocols on Digital Trade and Women and Youth in Trade, including digital trade readiness workshops, cross-border payment system engagements, and inclusivity-focused initiatives. Collectively, these engagements reflect Coordination Office's coordinated, partner-driven approach to ensuring **Nigeria's AfCFTA implementation across all eight Protocols is technically sound, sequenced, and development-oriented.**



IPRs Partnership



World Bank Partnership



GIZ Partnership



UNDP Partnership



UNDP Partnership



ODI/FCDO Partnership

Technology Partners

Partnerships with Nigerian tech and financial institutions and trade associations supported implementation sustainability.

The Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office has strategically leveraged partnerships with technology partners to embed digitization, artificial intelligence, and emerging AfCFTA Digital Trade frameworks into its implementation approach. Conscious of the transformative role of technology, the Office has adopted forward-looking and proactive measures to simplify AfCFTA processes, enhance transparency, and improve access to information for businesses, regulators, and the wider public. These efforts are designed to ensure that AfCFTA implementation is inclusive, user-friendly, and accessible to all demographics, particularly SMEs, women, and youth-led enterprises. By promoting digital tools, data-driven decision-making, and automation of trade processes, the Coordination Office is reducing entry barriers to continental trade. Looking ahead, the Office is exploring strategic partnerships with financial institutions to strengthen digital payment linkages, trade finance solutions, and business support mechanisms that will further enable Nigerian enterprises to compete effectively under the AfCFTA.



AfCFTA Youths and Creatives

Objectives:

- To ensure inclusivity in line with Article 3(e) of the Protocol on Women and Youth in trade.
- To mainstream youth, women, and creative industries.

To entrench inclusivity as enshrined in the framework agreement and in line with continental aspirations, the Nigeria AfCFTA implementation agenda conceived two strategic initiatives;

Nigeria AfCFTA Youth Forum 2025 National AfCFTA Women Conference 2025

Nigeria AfCFTA Youth Forum 2025: In a strategic move in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of HE, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR to unpack the benefits of the AfCFTA and connect the Nigeria youth innovators to the opportunities in the continental market, the Coordination Office in partnership with the Afreximbank Abuja Trade Centre (AATC) planned and launched the Nigeria AfCFTA Youth Forum 2025 in advancing the AfCFTA implementation agenda in Nigeria as part of its focus objective. The AfCFTA framework presents unprecedented market access opportunities, job opportunities for the teeming youth population in Nigeria and in Africa which are demographically the horn of Africa, driver of innovation, industrialization and key to the economic integration agenda of Africa under the auspices of the AfCFTA. The Nigeria AfCFTA Youth Forum 2025 demonstrate Nigeria's Federal Government commitment under the leadership of the President to continental aspiration and staunch dedication to accelerating the implementation of the AfCFTA.

The maiden Nigeria Youth Forum 2025 themed “One African Market Opportunities: Onboarding the Next Generation Driven by Innovation” was scheduled to hold in December 2025 as a strategic framework designed to prepare the next generation of young entrepreneurs driven by innovation. However, the Forum which was already at near 100% complete preparation stage had to be postponed in deference and honour of the passing away of the Mr. Olusegun Awolowo (of blessed memory).



The event is scheduled to hold in 2026.

The Nigeria Youth Forum is designed to highlight seven (7) strategic priorities of the Youth Forum aligned with the continental objectives of the AfCFTA as follows:

- ▶ Promote Youth Innovation and Value Addition
- ▶ Enhance Youth Participation in Intra-African Trade
- ▶ Ensure Youth Inclusion in AfCFTA Implementation
- ▶ Build Youth Capacity for Trade Competitiveness
- ▶ Connect Youth to Trade and Investment Opportunities
- ▶ Integrate Youth into Regional and Continental Value Chains
- ▶ Advance Youth Trade Formalisation.



National AfCFTA Women Conference

National AfCFTA Women Conference: The AfCFTA protocol on women recognises women's contribution to economic growth in Africa and acknowledges that women face systematic, structural and financial challenges that hinder their meaningful participation in intra-African trade.

It seeks to create an enabling trade environment to support women in exploring the opportunities presented by the AfCFTA which aligns with the Nigeria's National Gender Policy 2021 - 2026. However, the potentials of the Protocol is realisable by massive sensitization to create awareness.

To raise awareness and ensure maximum participation of women in the continental initiative against the backdrop of the adoption of the AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade, Coordination Office in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare with the support of the Honourable Ministry planned a one (1) day sensitization phased within the context of the six (6) geopolitical zones. The first phase was planned to commence in Kebbi State with the reception of Kebbi State Government. The Coordination Office and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare is planning with the view to carrying out the sensitizations in 2026.

However, the Conference which was already at near 100% complete preparation stage had to be postponed in deference and honour of the passing away of the former President Muhammadu Buhari and later on because of the school kidnapping issue in Kebbi State. Therefore, **this is scheduled to hold in 2026.**

Private Sector Engagement

The private sector remained central to Nigeria's AfCFTA strategy, particularly MSMEs and export-ready firms.

Strategic Engagement with the Organized Private Sector of Nigeria on AfCFTA Implementation.

The effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in Nigeria necessitates a robust and sustained engagement with the Organized Private Sector of Nigeria (OPSN), including apex institutions such as the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA) and the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN). These strategic engagements aim to ensure that the private sector is fully informed, prepared, and positioned to capitalize on the opportunities presented under AfCFTA protocols while contributing to national trade competitiveness and industrialization objectives.

A core component of the engagement strategy by the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, has been the systematic dissemination of AfCFTA implementation updates as received from the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana. These correspondences, circulated to OPSN members through formal channels, have served to keep the private sector abreast of developments, including the ratification status of protocols, operationalization of the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI), rules of origin requirements, and tariff concession schedules. Such communications ensure that private sector actors are aligned with continental trade developments and can make informed decisions in planning for intra-African trade.

Beyond informational updates, the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office has adopted a proactive approach in mobilizing OPSN institutions to actively participate in implementation initiatives. Engagement with NACCIMA, for instance, has been structured around a comprehensive plan to unpack AfCFTA agreements and protocols for the benefit of its membership nationwide. This initiative aims to demystify complex provisions, highlight sector-specific opportunities, and provide guidance on compliance requirements to fully leverage preferential trade under AfCFTA.

The planned series of workshops, webinars, and technical briefings with NACCIMA are designed to cover key themes such as trade facilitation procedures, standards harmonization, rules of origin verification, and digital trade platforms. This structured approach ensures that micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as well as large firms, understand practical pathways for entering new African markets.

Parallel to NACCIMA engagement, strategic outreach is planned with other private sector umbrella associations and sector-specific trade bodies, including MAN, the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), and associations representing agro-processing, leather, textiles, and industrial manufacturing. These engagements are intended to identify export-ready firms, facilitate sector-specific capacity building, and foster partnerships that enhance cross-border trade readiness. By targeting associations with high trade potential, the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office seeks to create a ripple effect, whereby knowledge and capacity gained by one sectoral group are replicated across other private sector clusters.

Additionally, these engagements are designed to strengthen public-private collaboration in AfCFTA implementation. By institutionalizing regular interactions with OPSN stakeholders, the Coordination Office ensures that private sector feedback informs policy refinement, capacity-building interventions, and trade facilitation measures. This feedback loop is critical for identifying non-tariff barriers, aligning national trade regulations with AfCFTA protocols, and supporting the readiness of Nigerian firms to meet continental standards.

In practical terms, the engagement strategy is structured around four pillars:

- (i) consistent and timely dissemination of AfCFTA updates;
 - (ii) capacity building and technical unpacking of agreements;
 - (iii) identification and support of export-ready firms; and
 - (iv) structured public-private dialogue to refine national implementation strategies.
- The planned engagement with NACCIMA serves as a pilot model for nationwide replication, ensuring that other OPSN institutions and sectoral associations are progressively brought into the fold.



The strategic engagement with Nigeria's Organized Private Sector represents a critical enabler for AfCFTA implementation. Through consistent communication, technical unpacking of protocols, targeted capacity building, and structured collaboration, OPSN actors are positioned to exploit the full range of opportunities under AfCFTA. This approach not only strengthens the private sector's readiness for intra-African trade but also reinforces Nigeria's leadership in regional economic integration and continental industrialization objectives.

Review of Nigeria AfCFTA Implementation Document: 2025

Objectives:

- To update Nigeria's national AfCFTA roadmap.
- To align implementation with evolving protocols.

The Need for a Review of Nigeria's AfCFTA Implementation Document in Light of the Newly Adopted Protocols

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a living and evolving framework designed to respond to emerging trade realities, deepen market integration, and support inclusive economic transformation across the continent. Nigeria's AfCFTA Implementation Document, which provides the strategic and operational blueprint for domestic execution of the Agreement, was developed at a time when only the initial phase of protocols had been concluded. The subsequent adoption of five additional AfCFTA Protocols has significantly expanded the scope, depth, and obligations of the Agreement. In this context, a comprehensive review of Nigeria's Implementation Document has become both necessary and timely to ensure continued alignment with continental developments and national priorities.

The newly adopted protocols—covering areas such as Digital Trade, Investment, Competition Policy, Intellectual Property Rights, and Women and Youth in Trade—introduce new disciplines, regulatory commitments, and institutional responsibilities. These instruments go beyond traditional trade in goods and services, extending AfCFTA implementation into emerging, knowledge-based, and inclusive trade domains.

Without a deliberate update of the national implementation framework, Nigeria risks fragmented execution, regulatory misalignment, and underutilization of the transformative opportunities embedded in these protocols. A reviewed Implementation Document will therefore serve as a consolidated reference point for integrating these new obligations into Nigeria's trade, industrial, digital economy, and development policies.

The review process appropriately commenced with formal ministerial approval, underscoring high-level political ownership and policy coherence.

Ministerial endorsement provides the legal and administrative authority required to initiate revisions to a nationally recognized policy instrument and signals Nigeria's continued commitment to AfCFTA implementation at the highest level of government. This step is particularly critical given the cross-cutting nature of the new protocols, which implicate multiple ministries, departments, and agencies beyond the traditional trade ecosystem. The approval established a clear mandate for technical experts and stakeholders to engage constructively in the review process.





Following ministerial authorization, an expert desk review process was undertaken as a foundational technical step. This involved a systematic assessment of the existing Implementation Document against the provisions, objectives, and institutional requirements of the newly adopted protocols. Subject-matter experts examined gaps, overlaps, and inconsistencies, while identifying areas requiring new policy actions, legislative adjustments, capacity-building interventions, and institutional coordination mechanisms. The desk review ensured that the revised document would not merely be additive, but strategically integrated—embedding digital trade readiness, investment facilitation, competition safeguards, intellectual property protection, and inclusive trade measures into Nigeria’s AfCFTA execution architecture.

Recognizing that effective implementation depends on broad ownership, the process was further enriched through an expansive stakeholders’ workshop. This consultative platform brought together key public institutions, private sector representatives, regulators, sub-national actors, development partners, civil society, and academia. The workshop enabled practical validation of the expert findings, grounded the review in operational realities, and captured sector-specific insights on implementation challenges and opportunities. Importantly, it provided space for emerging stakeholders—particularly those

affected by the new protocols, such as digital entrepreneurs, innovators, women-led enterprises, and youth-owned businesses—to contribute meaningfully to the national AfCFTA agenda.

The stakeholders’ engagement also strengthened inter-agency coordination and policy coherence. By jointly interrogating the revised framework, institutions responsible for customs, standards, digital regulation, investment promotion, competition oversight, and intellectual property administration were able to clarify roles, responsibilities, and sequencing of actions. This collective validation process reduces the risk of duplication, enhances regulatory predictability, and promotes a whole-of-government approach to AfCFTA implementation.

Support from GIZ has been instrumental in facilitating this structured, inclusive, and technically robust review process. Through technical assistance, convening power, and methodological support, GIZ has helped ensure that the review aligns with international best practices while remaining responsive to Nigeria’s specific development context. The partnership reinforces Nigeria’s commitment to evidence-based policymaking and sustainable AfCFTA implementation.

Ultimately, the review and validation of Nigeria’s AfCFTA Implementation Document is not a procedural exercise, but a strategic imperative. By updating the framework to reflect the newly adopted protocols, Nigeria positions itself to proactively shape continental trade rules, strengthen domestic competitiveness, and unlock new growth pathways for businesses and citizens. The validated document will provide a forward-looking roadmap that enhances readiness, deepens inclusion, and ensures that Nigeria fully harnesses the expanded promise of the AfCFTA.





Cross-Cutting Challenges and Mitigation Measures

Challenges included funding constraints, capacity gaps, and procedural learning curves. Mitigation focused on phased implementation, partner support, and policy coordination.

The implementation of AfCFTA in Nigeria has faced several cross-cutting challenges that have necessitated strategic mitigation measures.

Funding constraints emerged as a significant limitation, affecting the timely execution of planned activities, including capacity-building workshops, sensitization campaigns, and the operationalization of the Guided Trade Initiative. Closely linked to this, capacity gaps within both public and private sector actors—particularly in understanding complex AfCFTA protocols, rules of origin, and digital trade mechanisms—have hindered optimal engagement. Additionally, the procedural learning curves associated with new systems and operational frameworks have slowed adoption and effective utilization of AfCFTA platforms, requiring iterative adjustments.

To mitigate these challenges, a phased implementation approach was adopted, prioritizing critical interventions to ensure measurable progress while allowing time for capacity strengthening and system familiarization. Strategic partner support, including technical and financial collaboration with international agencies, development partners, and private sector stakeholders, provided additional resources and expertise to bridge gaps. Furthermore, enhanced policy coordination across relevant ministries, agencies, and state-level institutions has ensured harmonized action, streamlined procedures, and alignment with national trade objectives.

Collectively, these mitigation measures have strengthened resilience, enhanced stakeholder engagement, and ensured sustainable progress toward effective AfCFTA implementation



Mr Olusegun Awolowo (late)
National Coordinator, AfCFTA, Nigeria
Coordination Office

H.E. Wamkele Keabetswe Mene
Secretary-general of
AfCFTA, Ghana

Olusegun Olutayo, PhD
Ag. National Coordinator, AfCFTA, Nigeria
Coordination Office

Strategic Leadership and Institutional Continuity

The report recognizes the leadership legacy of Mr. Olusegun Awolowo and affirms the importance of institutional continuity for sustained AfCFTA implementation.

The Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office acknowledges the remarkable leadership legacy of Mr. Olusegun Awolowo of blessed memory, whose vision, resilience, and commitment laid the foundation for the effective operationalization of the Office. At a critical juncture, when the Office faced severe financial constraints, Mr. Awolowo's strategic leadership ensured continuity and stability. Demonstrating exceptional personal commitment, he mobilized his own resources to sustain essential operations, guaranteeing that core activities remained uninterrupted.

Beyond personal intervention, his proactive engagement with national and international partners secured the necessary intervention funds, enabling the Office to clear outstanding obligations and commence the full-scale implementation of AfCFTA initiatives. This decisive action not only stabilized the institution but also reinforced confidence among stakeholders, demonstrating that strategic leadership can directly translate into operational effectiveness and institutional resilience.

The Coordination Office recognizes that institutional continuity is essential for sustained AfCFTA implementation. Building on Mr. Awolowo's legacy, systems, processes, and policies have been strengthened to ensure knowledge transfer, resource mobilization, and stakeholder engagement remain uninterrupted. By embedding these principles, the Office guarantees that strategic vision is preserved beyond individual leadership tenures, ensuring Nigeria's consistent and effective participation in AfCFTA, and reinforcing its commitment to continental trade integration and economic transformation.



Rt. Hon Femi Gbajabamila
Chief of Staff to the President,
Federal Republic of Nigeria



Mr Olayemi Cardoso
The Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria

Conclusion

Nigeria's AfCFTA implementation between 2024 and 2025 demonstrates resilience, leadership, and strategic consistency, firmly positioning the country as a continental anchor economy.

Nigeria's implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) between 2024 and 2025 exemplifies resilience, visionary leadership, and strategic consistency, firmly establishing the country as a continental anchor economy. Despite early operational and financial challenges, the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, under decisive leadership, successfully mobilized resources, strengthened institutional frameworks, and fostered robust partnerships across public and private sectors. This period demonstrated a proactive approach in translating policy commitments into actionable programs, including the nationwide Guided Trade Initiative (GTI), sub-national engagements, and strategic collaborations with the Organized Private Sector of Nigeria (OPSN), which collectively enhanced business readiness and regulatory compliance.

Through methodical capacity-building efforts, targeted stakeholder sensitization, and coordinated policy implementation, Nigeria not only facilitated preferential market access for domestic firms but also enhanced its competitiveness in key sectors, including manufacturing, digital trade, and value-added agriculture. The country's strategic engagements with regional partners, multilateral institutions, and specialized agencies ensured harmonization with AfCFTA protocols, strengthening its negotiating and operational posture within the continental trade architecture.

Crucially, Nigeria's implementation trajectory underscores a culture of institutional continuity, leveraging the legacy of committed leadership to safeguard strategic objectives while fostering innovation and adaptability in response to emerging trade dynamics. By demonstrating sustained commitment to AfCFTA's vision, Nigeria has reinforced its role as a continental leader, providing a model for other African economies while creating tangible opportunities for domestic enterprises and contributing to inclusive, sustainable economic growth across Africa.

Nigeria's AfCFTA journey thus affirms that strategic foresight, resilient leadership, and consistent implementation are indispensable to realizing the transformative potential of continental trade integration.



Recommendations for

2026



2027

AfCFTA Implementation
Work Plan

Scale AfCFTA participation to sector-specific value chains

Digitize AfCFTA processes end-to-end

Institutionalize sub-national AfCFTA desks nationwide

Establish a sustainable AfCFTA implementation fund

REFERENCES TO AFRICA LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

- ▶ AfCFTA Agreement (Articles 3, 4 (g), Annex 3, Annex 4-TiG, Article 23)
- ▶ Protocols on Trade in Goods, Services, Digital Trade, Investment, IPR
- ▶ AU Assembly Decisions on NICs

ANNEXES

Report On Nigeria's Inaugural Flag-off Of Shipment Under The Guided Trade Initiative (GTI)/AfCFTA Framework And Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Which Held July 16, 2024 At The Apm Terminal Apapa, Lagos State

Background

- 1** On Tuesday 16th July, 2024 Nigeria joined the second cohort of State Parties eligible to trade under the AfCFTA preferential trading arrangement with the symbolic flag off of export cargoes by the President H.E Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR), who was ably represented by Senator George Akume, the Secretary to the Government. This event signaled Nigeria's formal accession to the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI)
- 2** It would be recalled that Nigeria signed the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement on July 7th 2019 and on the 7th of October 2022 the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative, a trading framework designed to catalyze commercially meaningful trade under the AfCFTA, was formally launched by the Secretary General of the African Continental Free Trade Secretariat, H. E Wamkele Mene. The Initiative was designed to facilitate trade between interested State Parties, that have met the minimum requirements for trade, by connecting businesses and products for export/import. The initiative was launched with only a few participating AfCFTA member countries namely, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania and Tunisia. Algeria joining the cohort a few months later. In January 2024, South Africa launched the commencement of preferential trade under the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative.
- 3** The products identified for the initiative were batteries, tea, coffee, ceramic tiles, processed meat products, cornstarch, sugar pasta, dried fruits, sisal, glucose syrup amongst others. However, the scope of eligible products widened to include mushrooms, flowers, biopesticides, powdered milk, fish oils, frozen tuna, mineral and chemical fertilizers, essential oils, Fabric (materials) fruit jams and packaged moringa as additional states have indicated interest to join the trade initiative.
- 4** To date, 54 out of the 55 African Union member countries have indicated commitment to participate by signing the agreement. Less than 47 of these countries have ratified the agreement via the national legislative institutions and even fewer have been onboarded to commence trade under the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative. The ratification of the agreement and its subsequent domestication are critical requirements for implementing the agreement.
- 5** Nigeria on its part signed the agreement to participate in the Africa Continental Free Trade Area agreement on July 7th 2019, but was unable to join the initial cohort of state parties eligible to trade under the GTI at the time having not fulfilled all the requirements for eligibility. However, upon receiving his appointment by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in December 2022, every effort was made by the National AfCFTA Coordination Office, led by Mr. Olusegun Awolowo to ensure that Nigeria was prepared and eligible to join the second cohort of state parties to be admitted under the GTI.
- 6** Notwithstanding the delays in Nigeria's involvement in phase one of the GTI, trading commenced on the 1st of January 2021 with countries like Rwanda and Ghana taking the lead. The Coordination Office in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized and led a team of representatives from the Nigeria Customs Service on familiarization visits to Rwanda and Ghana in 2023 in order to benchmark best practices in preparation for Nigeria's participation in the second phase of the initiative.
- 7** A key element of the strategy adopted by the Coordinator Office was to undertake an audit of the operational capacity of the secretariat to drive the implementation of AfCFTA readiness initiatives in line with the decisions of the 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and government of the African Union and the objective to fast track the implementation of the

AfCFTA. This audit revealed the need to urgently strengthen the capacity of the secretariat to implement the trade readiness measures and interventions identified in the AfCFTA Strategy.

- 8 To this end a formal request was made to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E Muhammed Buhari to change the name and structure of the National Action Committee on the AfCFTA (NAC-AfCFTA) to the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordinating Office granting the Office full convening power to set the agenda, intervene and attain full coordination between Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government as well as between the public and private sector. In addition, a request was made to adequately resource the proposed Coordinating Office in a manner that will ensure inclusiveness in the realization of the benefits of joining the AfCFTA.
- 9 These requests were graciously approved by the administration of H.E Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) in April 2024.

Steps taken towards the GTI Launch in Nigeria

- 10 In furtherance of the stated aspiration to commence trade under the AfCFTA, the secretariat engaged stakeholders in a series of preparatory activities which included communication of the formal notification of intention to the Secretary General, African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat in Accra.
- 11 The Coordinating Office in response to receiving the requirements for eligibility to trade under the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative from the AfCFTA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana convened a programme of stakeholder enlightenment activities to familiarize the business community with the objective of the initiative. To this end, two stakeholder engagement meetings were held in Abuja (June 2023) and Lagos (Feb 2024) to onboard eligible exporters, educate participants and provide updates on Nigeria preparation for the commencement of trade under the GTI. The events which held in collaboration with the Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) and the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) respectively, comprised both plenary and panel sessions, drawing participation from The Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment (FMITI), Nigeria Agricultural Quality Service (NAQS), Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) National Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, Nigeria Shippers Council (NSC) amongst other MDAs and private enterprises. Subsequent engagements were held virtually to extend the reach, increasing the pool of interested export ready businesses.
- 12 Upon identification of interested export ready businesses, the Coordinating Office led a team comprising representatives of the Nigeria Customs Service – Nigeria’s Designated Competent Authority, the Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment (FMITI), Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) and the National Association of Chamber of Commerce, Industry Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) on an enterprise and Rules of Origin verification

exercise for the export pilot phase between June 2023 – July 2024. This verification process involved site and factory visits to identify exporters and products eligible for the issuance of AfCFTA Certificates of Origin. Companies visited included Le look House of Bags, Secure ID, Procter and Gamble, Flex Film, Craft Methods, GB Foods, Master Tea, Avilla Naturelle, Cardstel Solutions, Coleman Cables and Dangote Group comprising Dangote Fertilizers, Dangote Sugar Refinery and Dangote Cement. A key criterion for selection being compliance with applicable product specific rules of origin, gender inclusion and an equitable representation of export ready SMEs and larger corporates.

- 13 The Coordinating Office in collaboration with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) UK and the Foreign, Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) facilitated the process of stakeholder engagement, working with representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment amongst others towards domestication of the agreement. Ensuring that the necessary legislations are passed and officially gazetted to empower the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) implement Nigeria’s approved AfCFTA schedule of tariff concessions. The Honorable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy has assured that this process is well underway and will soon be concluded.
- 14 In June 2024, the Pan African Payment & Settlement System (PAPSS) in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) and the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office embarked on a national roadshow, engaging government regulators, commercial banks and traders to raise awareness within the business community of the utility of this important operational tool as an instant payment financial solution for cross border transactions.

Launch of the Guided Trade Initiative/AfCFTA Framework and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

- 15 Having fulfilled the key requirements for accession to the Guided Trade Initiative, the Coordinating Office commenced preparations in collaboration with GIZ and UNDP to organize an official launch event. The objective of the event was to officially issue approved AfCFTA Certificates of Origin to the first cohort of approved AfCFTA exporters and flag off the commencement of trade from Nigeria under the agreed rules of the preferential trading arrangement. The event would serve to showcase the preparedness of the relevant trade supporting institutions and Nigeria’s openness to trade with Africa.
- 16 To organize and coordinate the event a planning/implementation team was drawn from the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordinating Office, UNDP, GIZ, National Ports Authority, AP Moeller Terminals and the Nigeria Customs Command Apapa to facilitate the smooth execution of the Launch event, supported by an event planner engaged by the development partners.

- 17** In attendance at this milestone event were President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, represented by the Secretary to Government of the Federation, Senator George Akume, the Secretary General of the AfCFTA Secretariat, H.E. Wankele Mene, the Chairman of the Nigeria Governors Forum H.E. Abdulrahman Abdulrazak and the host Governor, H.E. Babajide Sanwo-Olu represented by the Honorable Commissioner of Trade. Speaking at the event were the Chairman of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, the Honorable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, H.E. (Dr.) Doris Anite and the Co Chairman Honorable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, H.E. Wale Edun. Also in attendance was the Honorable Minister Marine and Blue Economy, H.E. Adegboyega Oyetola, CON who is also a member of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office Steering Committee.
- 18** The event which was organized in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) drew participation from the public and private sector, attracting over 200 key stakeholders from within Nigeria's trade enabling ecosystem which included the Comptroller General of the Nigeria Customs Service, Mr. Bashir Adeniyi, represented by Deputy Comptroller General C.K. Niagwan, the leadership of the Nigeria Ports Authority, the President of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, President, Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), the ED/CEO, Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), MD/CEO, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, MD Nigeria Export Import Bank (NEXIM), ES/CEO, Nigerian Shippers Council, MD. Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, DG. Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS), representatives of the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), and other MDAs, the leadership of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), representatives of the Embassies in Nigeria, representatives from various print, tv and radio media, as well as senior representatives of supporting organizations like Resident Representative of the UNDP Nigeria, GIZ Nigeria, and ECOWAS who also showed their solidarity, reinforcing the global significance of this initiative with their presence.
- 19** In his opening remarks, the National Coordinator of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordinating Office, Mr Olusegun Awolowo, welcomed participants and invited guests to what was a momentous occasion signaling Nigeria Flag-off /Launch of Inaugural Shipment under the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative (GTI). In his address he used the occasion to extend his sincere appreciation to the His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) acknowledging the gracious approval to transform the National Action Committee on the AfCFTA (NAC-AfCFTA) to a Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office with authority to effectively deliver on the desired outcomes.
- 20** He noted that achieving success in our national positioning under the AfCFTA would provide a fillip to our aspirations for the industrialization and diversification of our economy, attracting the much-needed participation and investment capital to drive development on key goals under the Renewed Hope Agenda of this administration. Recognizing the key role played by the Organized Private Sector, He acknowledged that the partnership with NACCIMA and MAN ensured the readiness interventions and our national AfCFTA strategy adequately represented the aspirations of your membership.
- 21** He applauded the resilience, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit exhibited by the leadership of the ten companies issued Certificate of Origin, thanking them for placing your trust in the leadership of the coordinating office as their support has helped to open up a vista of opportunities for other Nigerian businesses to leverage under the AfCFTA. He affirmed the commitment of the Coordinating Office to building a robust framework that supports trade, fostering innovation, and driving economic prosperity across Nigeria and Africa at large.
- 22** In her remarks the Honorable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment Dr. Doris Uzoka-Anite recognized the potential the AfCFTA holds to catalyze business, entrepreneurship, and manufacturing. Thus, providing the necessary fillip to create jobs, foster innovation, and enhance Nigeria's competitiveness on the global stage. She congratulated the recipients of the first set of AfCFTA Certificates of Origin acknowledging their pioneering spirit and resilience as testament to the true strength of the Nigerian character.
- 23** The Honorable Minister congratulated the National Coordinator on the establishment of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office. Noting that the Office will serve as a central hub, coordinating efforts to maximize the benefits of AfCFTA, ensuring that we leverage every opportunity for the betterment of the nation.
- 24** Speaking as Co-Chairman of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, the Honorable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr. Wale Edun stated that the launch event is a clear signal to the world that Nigeria is ready to take its rightful place in the continental and global trade arena. He assured stakeholders that the process of gazetting is nearing completion and that Nigeria will officially gazette these measures, providing the necessary legal framework to facilitate the free flow of goods and services under AfCFTA.
- 25** The Comptroller General of Customs, Mr. Adewale Adeniyi Bashir (MFR) acknowledged the critical role of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) as the Designated Competent Authority (DCA) and assured stakeholders of the competence and capacity of his officers to is fully implement the AfCFTA Rule of Origin and facilitate seamless cross border trade.
- 26** In his address, the President H.E Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, noted that the AfCFTA is not just a trade agreement; but a bold vision for Africa's industrialization, equitable growth, and the prosperity of our people. Affirming Nigeria's commitment to African unity and economic development as well as the commitment of his administration to the agreement as in his view making AfCFTA work is not an option, but a compelling necessity. He added that overarching objective of the Renewed Hope Agenda being centered on exploring opportunities for our people under AfCFTA and other trade

platforms and would therefore ensure that every Nigerian enterprise, from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to large corporations, benefit from this agreement. He emphasized that government will continue to provide necessary support to facilitate the effective implementation of AfCFTA, at the domestic, sub-regional and continental levels.

- 27 The President pointed out that the strategy to be deployed by his administration will include creation of an enabling environment that supports businesses, encourages innovation, and fosters competitiveness. To this end, he noted, Nigeria will seek close collaboration with our continental partners in a manner that will ensure that the benefits of AfCFTA are equitably distributed and that no one is left behind. He acknowledged the pioneering spirit of the initial cohort of exporters who have demonstrated their belief in the potential of made-in-Nigeria products and the immense opportunities that AfCFTA presents. He noted that the promoters have made history by taking this bold step, and have set a precedent for others to follow. Their success is our success, and their journey is our journey.
- 28 Additional remarks were made by the Country representatives of the UNDP, GIZ, the President of the Nigeria Bar Association, the MD of Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN),
- 29 With the speeches made, the National Coordinator of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordinating Office, Mr. Olusegun Awolowo invited the Secretary to the Federal Government to issue the signed AfCFTA Certificates of Origin to the initial cohort of ten (10) exporters on behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Quite significantly, the first Certificate of Origin was issued to Le Look Nigeria Limited, a female exporter of handbags, others included Messrs. Dangote Cement, Secure ID Limited, Avilla Naturelle, Flour Mills, Craft Methods Limited, Ruchim Limited, Cardstel Solutions, Tolaram Nigeria and Hwani Industry Limited who will be shipping their products to markets in Kenya, Cameroon, Algeria, Uganda, and Egypt under the AfCFTA preferential trade arrangements within the next few weeks.
- 30 After presenting the Certificates of Origin to the successful exporters, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and the distinguished speakers were subsequently invited to take a brief tour of the product exhibition stand by the National Coordinator, Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office. The product exhibition held within the premises of AP Moeller (APM) Terminals to afford the participants an opportunity to see and sample the products of the ten selected exporters on display. These products included bags, ATM/SIM and smart cards, cement clinkers, assorted processed foods and beverages, body care and cosmetic items, wire and cables as well as a wide range of ceramic sanitary ware.
- 31 The national launch event culminated in a flag off/ribbon cutting by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria cementing the nations formal accession and participation in the second phase of the Guided Trade Initiative.

Following on the successful launch of trade under the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office will focus on delivering the following mission critical objectives:

- 32 The National Coordinating Office will seek to complete the process of domesticating the AfCFTA Protocols and Annexes into Nigeria extant laws to give force of law to its operation within the domestic territory. This would require finalizing the process leading to the official gazette of Nigeria's approved AfCFTA schedule of tariff offers.
- 33 In order to quickly scale exports, the Nigeria AfCFTA Office will act to expand the pool of eligible AfCFTA export ready and certified exporters to achieve a diversified minimum basket of made-in-Nigeria products. The strategy will seek to catalyze stakeholder interest through a series of scheduled exporter sensitization events across the 6 geopolitical zones prioritizing engagement with trade groups, commodity associations, with discovered potential in African Markets. (particularly AfCFTA State Parties participating in the Guided Trade Initiative).
- 34 Furthermore, the Coordination Office will in collaboration with relevant MDAs strengthen market development supporting businesses with critical trade intelligence that facilitate the flow of prioritized products to markets. The Office will in addition seek to coordinate efforts across the public and private sector to identify, schedule and organize result oriented trade missions/engagements to African markets and Africa focused platforms facilitating business connections and promoting the integration of Nigerian businesses into continental value chains.
- 35 In addition, the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office will seek to conclude all administrative processes necessary to establish a functional office and deploy the technical expertise to successfully execute the workplan.

STUDY TOUR OF THE AfCFTA NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OFFICE TO REVIEW THE GUIDED TRADE INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTATION APPROACHES AND EXPLORE MARKET OPPORTUNITIES.



REPORT OF THE GUIDED TRADE INITIATIVE MISSION TO GHANA EMBARKED UPON BY THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM:

- » Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment
- » Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)
- » Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN)
- » Nigeria Association of Chambers, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA)
- » Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office

DATE: 21 - 25 AUGUST, 2023



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01 INTRODUCTION

This study tour was designed to gather information on how the Guided Trade Initiative was being implemented in Ghana under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework. To evaluate the various trade instruments that will be used under the AfCFTA regime, the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) was launched in October 2022. Its goal is to make it possible for a group of State Parties who have satisfied the necessary conditions for substantive commercial trade to begin trading among themselves under the benefits of the AfCFTA Agreement.

Eight (8) State Parties representing the five regions of the continent participated in the first phase of this Guided Trade Initiative: Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Tunisia. Nigeria is aggressively planning to participate in the second phase, which is now under preparation. Therefore, it is essential to gain practical knowledge from other State Parties experience through peer-to-peer learning to use it to better prepare strategic companies, exporters, and the private sector in Nigeria for the GTI arrangement when it is implemented.



02 BACKGROUND



The Heads of State of the African Union's acceptance of the agreement creating the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in March 2018 was a major step in overcoming the ongoing difficulties and obstacles that have impeded Intra-african trade for years. The AfCFTA agreement had been ratified by 47 countries as of the end of August 2023, with 54 African nations having signed it.

Through a single market for products and services produced in Africa and made possible by the freedom of movement of people, the AfCFTA aims to promote the socioeconomic growth of the continent in a way that is inclusive and sustainable. The AfCFTA is anticipated to promote industrialization through economies of scale, specialization, and the growth of regional supply and value chains by abolishing tariffs on 90% of tariff lines and establishing rules of origin particular to products. The agreement is anticipated to allow more trade transactions while cutting costs through customs cooperation, standardization, and tracking of non-tariff barriers.

AfCFTA is anticipated to increase Intra-african service trade by unifying rules and regulations. It is anticipated that collaboration on investment, intellectual property rights, competition policy, and the digital economy will further the cause of rules-based commerce.

More importantly, the Secretariat acknowledged the necessity of starting trade under the AfCFTA regime even though negotiations and trade protocols adoption are still in progress. The Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) was consequently started as a result. By connecting companies and goods for export and import, the African Continental Free commerce Area's (AfCFTA) Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) seeks to facilitate trade between interested state parties. To evaluate the state parties' legal frameworks, border-to-border customs processes and procedures, and any other export restrictions, a "solution-based approach" is used.



ANNUAL REPORT

03



STUDY TOUR OBJECTIVES

In other to demonstrate Nigeria's commitment, and readiness to fulfil her commitments to the AfCFTA and to demonstrate her zeal to get involved in the second phase of the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI), the National Action Committee of the AfCFTA (Nigeria's AfCFTA Coordinating office) working in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a study tour to Accra, Ghana. To understudy the Ghanaian experience and lessons learnt via its participation in the implementation of the GTI and ramp up Nigeria's preparedness to join the initiative. The major study tour objectives include:

- To review the implementation approaches and market opportunities under the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) of AfCFTA.
- To gain valuable insights from strategic institutions responsible for trade facilitation, policy formulation and private sector involvement under the GTI.
- Familiarize with the GTI processes and identify the challenges and opportunities of the GTI implementation in Ghana.
- Develop recommendations for how the AfCFTA can be implemented more effectively.
- To consult and hold meetings with selected directorates at the AfCFTA Secretariat for necessary updates on AfCFTA implementation.

The tour to Ghana by the Nigerian Delegation was well represented by relevant Public and Private Sector Officials. The delegation was led by the Senior Trade Expert/ Lead, Trade Enablement NAC-AfCFTA - Mr Olusegun Olutayo, and other representatives from the Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment (FMITI), Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Nigerian Customs Service and the UNDP, represented by Dr. Saied Sulieman.



» 04 STUDY TOUR ACTIVITIES AND OBSERVATIONS

MISSION AGENDA AND MEETING OVERVIEW

DATE	TIME	AGENDA
20th August, 2023	-	Arrival in Accra
21st August, 2023	11:00am 1:00pm	Briefing meeting with the UNDP Ghana Country office. Meeting with the UNDP AfCFTA Regional/CO Teams in Ghana
22nd August, 2023	11:00am	Visit to Ghana AfCFTA Coordination Office
23rd August, 2023	9:00am 11:00am 1:00pm	Visit the AfCFTA secretariat, pay a courtesy visit to the Secretary-General Office, and meet with the strategic Department: Trade in Goods, Trade Remedies, GTI Committee, and Customs Administration Visit the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry/Business representative. Visit to the Nigeria Embassy in Ghana
24th August, 2023	1:00pm	Meeting with The National Development Planning Commission Ghana
25th August, 2023	9:00am 1:00pm	Visit to Ghana Revenue Authority/Meeting with eh officials (Customs Inspectors involve in AfCFTA) Review Meeting with the UNDP AfCFTA Officials in Ghana
26th August, 2023	-	Departure from Accra



05 

DAY 1:

MEETING WITH THE UNDP AfCFTA REGIONAL/CO TEAMS IN GHANA



The UNDP team informed the delegation that they had provided support for the AfCFTA implementation efforts of Ghana as a state party and also its drive to implement the Guided Trade Initiative. The targeted interventions of the UNDP in support of the Ghanaian GTI/AfCFTA program were in the following areas:

A - SENSITIZATION OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL TRADE SECTORS:

The UNDP working in collaboration with the Ghana AfCFTA NCO, and the Ghanaian Standards Organization had stepped up the sensitization efforts of the coordinating body. This sensitization efforts were targeted at both the formal and informal trade sectors of the Ghanaian economy with efforts and emphasis on standardization of intended export goods and targeted efforts aimed at attracting and aggregating MSMEs to leverage the opportunities provided by the AfCFTA and the Guided Trade Initiative.

B - BUSINESS SURVEYS AND ANALYSIS:

The UNDP supported the Ghana National Coordination Office in the implementation of the AfCFTA and the implementation of the Guided Trade Initiative. As part of the support provided, business surveys and analysis studies were carried out to profile businesses that are capable to begin export trade under the conditionality of the AfCFTA regime. This was done with the view to improve market access for Ghanaian MSMEs, seek for avenues to improve their competitiveness, facilitate bilateral trade negotiations, and develop targeted Support programs for this business to leverage the AfCFTA and the opportunities provided by the GTI.

C - EXPORT MARKETING STRATEGY TRAINING:

The United Nations Development Programme also provided capacity building in the area of export marketing strategy working very closely with the Ghana National AfCFTA Coordination Office for potential export ready MSMEs who had indicated their intent to participate in the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI). Robust programmes aimed at building competency and strategies for entering foreign markets, including analysis of industry and target markets, as well as an elaborate strategic action plan of exporting to African Countries under the AfCFTA regime were all covered. The strategic action plan included pricing strategies, distribution channels, branding, and product adaptation, ensuring alignment with the unique preferences and requirements of the preferred trading partners under the GTI for the overall objective of enhancing the competitive advantage and market penetration for Ghanaian MSMEs.

D - PROMOTION OF MARKET ACCESS:

Recognizing the fact that a lot of MSMEs were lacking relevant information on product entry requirements, and on processes and procedures to access the single African market the Ghana National AfCFTA Coordinating Office (NCO) in partnership with the United United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided support for capacity development programs with selected MSMEs on how to trade under the AfCFTA. The UNDP support programme also included business development services including access to finance, capacity for good corporate governance and awareness creation to prevent radicalization, as well as energy and resource efficiency support. Formalization of business and trade structures also formed part of the targeted approaches supported by the programme to improve productivity and promote market access for Ghanaian businesses.

E - COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COMMISSION:

The UNDP support for the implementation of the Ghanaian Guided Trade Initiative also involved a number of collaborative relationships with a few stakeholders institutions key amongst them is the Ghana National Development Planning Commission. This collaborative between the UNDP, Ghana National AfCFTA Coordinating Office (NCO) and the National Development Planning Commission was with a view to:

- a. Launching a business tracker to check the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on Ghanaian businesses and economy in 2020.
- b. Development of a Sub-National Mainstreaming plan for the implementation of the AfCFTA in Ghana. The plan is aim at developing implementation guidelines, list of priority goods and potential markets available under the AfCFTA targeted at the 261 local governments in the country.
- c. Development of an enhanced certification standard for Ghanaian manufacturing companies, design of their products, and ensure continuous improvement of their operations for effective participation on AfCFTA.

DAY 2:
**MEETING WITH THE GHANA AfCFTA
NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE**

The delegation paid a visit to the Ghana AfCFTA Coordination Office (NCO) and met with the Ghana National Coordinator of AfCFTA, Dr. Fareed K Authur and his team who gave details on the operational setup of the coordination office, the AfCFTA implementation strategy of the NCO and Ghana's AfCFTA GTI experiences in response to the interrogation by the study tour delegation on the strategies being adopted by Ghana for the success of GTI in Ghana. Major highlights of his brief are:

»» GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF THE GHANA AfCFTA COORDINATION OFFICE:

Dr Fareed began citing the background of the establishment of the AfCFTA in 2018 and how Ghana was selected in 2019 to be the Secretariat of the AfCFTA. He cited examples of how Ghana had signed on other trade agreements in the past such as the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) and African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) but did not take advantage of these trade agreements. To fully take advantage of the opportunities presented by the AfCFTA and to conform to the terms of the agreement a coordination office was established having a governance structure made up of an Inter-Ministerial Facilitation Committee (IMFC), a National Steering Committee and a Technical working group. The Inter-Ministerial Facilitation Committee (IMFC) according to him was the apex body that will guide Ghana's policy and strategic orientation in the country's participation in the AfCFTA. The committee was composed of:

- a. The Minister for Trade and Industry
- b. Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
- c. Minister of Finance
- d. Minister of National Security
- e. Minister of Justice and Attorney General
- f. A representative from the office of the president
- g. Ministers of key implementing Ministries

The National Steering Committee according to him is composed of selected experts and chairs of specialized Technical Working Groups. The committee provides technical guidance and oversight for the execution of the National Action Plan.

The Technical Working group charged with developing policy framework for necessary policy prescriptions and strategic objectives to champion the boost of trade facilitation in Africa. Seven technical working groups were set up along the lines of the seven components of the policy framework of the AfCFTA which include:

- Trade policy
- Trade facilitation
- Trade information
- Factor Market Integration
- Trade Infrastructure
- Enhancing production capacities
- Trade and development Finance

Dr Fareed stated that the Implementation efforts of the Ghana National Coordination Office was tailored along the lines of the aforementioned seven components. He stated that the NCO had:

- a. Been actively involved in the development of the Ghana trade information portal and harmonization of trade information.
- b. Lead the advocacy for the institutionalization of trade financing by actively engaging banks and other financial Institutions to create special purpose vehicles that could help promote trade focused on MSMEs.
- c. Led the advocacy for the development of inland ports and the retooling of some local airports to Cargo handling airports.
- d. Have led strategic programs to boost the productive capacity of Ghanaian MSMEs, such as the Strategic Anchor program and the One District One Factory Program working very closely with banks and financial institutions.

»» GUIDED TRADE INITIATIVE, EXPERIENCE AND CHALLENGES:

Dr Fareed shared the experience and challenges of the NCO had while coordinating the implementation of trade under the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI). Ghana was part of the first phase of the initiative trading with member state like Kenya and Cameroon and further plans to expand their trading relations under the AfCFTA to countries like Egypt and Tanzania. Some of the challenges, learning and experiences shared include the following:

- a. Goods exported by participating MSMEs were in most cases in primary form. There is a need to enhance production capacities of MSMEs to embrace further good processing practices so as to ensure the conversion of primary products to value-added processed products, while growing domestic export base.

- b. A prevailing disconnect between policy statements and actual trade implementation efforts. In most cases these seeming disconnects are between agencies of government (customs, licensing authorities, food, and drug agencies etc.) of trading countries. There is however a need for not only in country sensitization but also special bilateral agreements between trade intending member states under the AfCFTA to ensure smooth exchange.
- c. There may be need to carry out or organize business to business introduction programmes and trade shows (as with the case with Ghana and Kenya under the GTI) with a view to harmonize trade processes and procedures, showcase products etc.
- d. To leverage the opportunities presented by the Guided Trade Initiative, considerations could be made for the profiling of already existing large manufacturing and exporting organizations, leveraging their robust structure to try and refocus them on intra-african export trading.
- e. Harmonization of requirements, processes and procedures of customs, standards, food and drug organizations prior to the commencement of trading must be an important consideration.
- f. The opening of trade houses spear-headed by the Association of Ghana Industries is a pointer that the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) could consider.
- g. With a desire to continue to grow the productive capacities local MSMEs, the National Coordinating Office must design and advocate for programmes to develop capacities of sub-nationals to participate productively in the AfCFTA.
- h. As part of the NCO sensitization efforts, Dr. Fareed shared plans to establish AfCFTA border information centre to cater to informal businesses recognizing their importance to trade statistics and with a view to formalize their activities. Moreso, in addition to these plans he stated that work was also ongoing on establishing a model to link MSMEs who are not “trade ready” with established AfCFTA value chains (Aggregation of potential exporters).
- i. In response to a question on the issuance of certificates of origin, he stated that applications are submitted and vetted by the Ghana Chambers of Commerce and submitted to the Ghana Customs for issuance via an automated system called the Integrated Customs Management Systems. As the Customs had been Designated the Competent Authority for the AfCFTA in Ghana.



DAY 3:
**MEETING WITH THE CHIEF OF STAFF
AND TEAM OF THE AfCFTA CONTINENTAL
SECRETARIAT, GHANA CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE AND THE NIGERIAN EMBASSY**

The delegation paid a visit to the AfCFTA Continental Secretariat and met with the Secretariat Chief of Staff, Mr. Silver Ojakol and his team who welcomed the team and went ahead to talk about how the Secretariat team had grown from 2 to 150 members of staff since 2020 via recruitment from the African Union, support from partners, secondments from organizations, the Ghanaian Government, Volunteers, and consultants from the UNDP and GIZ.

He stated that the immediate tasks before the Secretariat was to complete work on the Phase 1 negotiations in areas such as the nature of relationship between the AfCFTA and Free Economic Zones, rules of origin, tariff and services offers of member states and was about to commence negotiations on the Phase 2 protocols particularly on Digital Trade and Youth and women in Trade of the AfCFTA agreement.

- A. He states that the Secretariat also just operationalized the Customs Corridor Approach adopted by the general assembly with a view to see how customs of member states were inter-operable.
- B. He spoke about the efforts of the Secretariat to improve the value of trade amongst member nations particularly in four sectors namely Automobile, Argo-Processing, Pharmaceutical sectors and Transport and logistics.
- C. He spoke of the partnerships being built with regional financial institutions such as AfeximBank, Eco Bank, African Development Bank, African Finance Corporation, Zenith bank, UBA, Equity Bank, ECOWAS Development Bank. Recognizing not much can be achieved working alone but with other international partners with shared values such China, US, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) providing support with infrastructural growth, investing 4 billion dollars in infrastructural development.
- D. He spoke about the work being done in partnership with the AfeximBank on the Pan African Payment and settlement System (PAPSS) on the direct exchange of African currencies.
- E. The work also being done on establishing an Adjustment fund to support the member states in the areas of structural adjustment, lending, and the private sector to be able to expand their production. The initial value of the fund is proposed to be one billion dollars, but the Secretariat intends to mobilize about Forty billion Dollars in 4- 10 years' time.
- F. The establishment of a regional value chain fund for the Automobile sector at the sum of One Billion dollars and five hundred million dollars for the Agro-processing sub sector.
- G. He stated that at the heart of business was the harmonization of standards that as far as the Secretariat is concerned, efforts are being made in this regard.

In response to a question for the Secretariat to play a greater role in communicating and steering of coordinating bodies of member states, the Chief of staff maintained that for now the powers of the secretariat was limited to a convening authority. Additionally, the Secretariat is collaborating with Zenith Bank to develop an intelligent AfCFTA portal that would include details on market access, rules of origin, standards, and would enable analysis of trade potential among member states.

Director, Trade in Goods and Competition - Dr Ali, briefed the Secretariat's efforts at supporting countries work intend to implement the GTI. He stated that:

- A. The secretariats were working with governments of member states according to their special unique situation with regards to the implementation of the GTI.
- B. In terms of the development of standards of goods traded particularly under the GTI, he stated that it was still a work in progress
- C. That the impact of the Secretariat would only be felt if only the big economies on the Continent get involved in the implementation of GTI.
- D. That currently the view of the secretariat is that the Guided trade initiative was just a mechanism to test the effectiveness and readiness of trade institutions for Intra-african trade.
- E. The GTI was an optional trade arrangement that member state currently can choose to trade under, that it is just a strategy to enable trade.
- F. The Secretariat are currently working on expanding the GTI beyond just trade in goods but to also include the trade in Services.

Mrs Beatrice Chiata, the Head of Division Trade in Services, investment, intellectual property rights and digital trade:

- A. Stated that the Heads of states decided that with regards to trade in services there will be liberalization of five key service areas - Business services, Communication services, Financial Services, Transport services and Tourism.
- B. She said the protocol in services entered into force as well as the agreement in May 2019 but that was the framework. For this to work, she said there was a need for the commitments entered into specific schedules for each country that is a state party of the AfCFTA.
- C. Then there was also the question of regulatory frameworks that makes up all the services liberalization effort of the Secretariat. That currently the protocol entered into force and that there are 22 schedules of specific commitments (the outline of the services market) that have been adopted by heads of state but that these commitments were dispersed around the continent mainly in southern Central and Eastern Africa.
- D. She further said that efforts are being made to include Western Africa particularly Nigeria which has stated that it will give a consolidated schedule to finalize its schedule and submit it so it can go through the approval process.
- E. She stated in terms of the GTI in services only countries that have adopted commitments for the trade in services can take advantage of it.

On a question of introduction of standards particularly to trading under the AfCFTA and the GTI, Mrs Punam stated that:

- 1. There are two subcommittees working on the standards with regards to trading under the AfCFTA. She stated that one of those committee is the committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS).
- 2. These two sub committees are mandated in looking at issue of standards. She assured that this issue of standards are being considered at the Secretariat.
- 3. That a lot of work had already been done by Pan African Quality Institutions (PAQI) that the secretariat is already working with PAQI on the issue on standards but that the true test would be the adoption of the work that is being done by state parties and harmonizing these set standards by all member states.

In response to a question to provide more information about the Adjustment Fund, Mr Emeka stated that currently Adjustment Fund is incorporated in Rwanda. It was not yet operational. But engagements would be carried out with state parties how to engage and access the fund. That the Adjustment fund is broken down into three categories namely:

- a. **The Base Fund:** This would be grants used to compensate state parties for losses of revenues accrued from tariff liberalization and the implementation of the AfCFTA.
- b. **The General Fund:** This would be cursory loans for infrastructural development and development of trade facilitation measures such as training of Customs, digital transmission of documents and seamless clearance of goods.
- c. **Credit Fund:** These would be business loans for public enterprises to help improve their competitiveness or for business concerns to borrow to help improve their productive capacities.



08 MEETING WITH GHANA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

The meeting with the Ghana Chambers of Commerce was convened to ascertain the level of satisfaction, experience, and challenges of the Ghanaian Private Sector with the implementation of the AfCFTA and the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI). The president of the Ghanaian Chambers of Commerce stated as follows:

- a. That three main institutions are involved in the trade sector in Ghana which includes the Ministry of Trade, Customs, and the Chambers of Commerce. That the Chambers of Commerce was the main point of application for the export business, but the Customs service has the final approval rights.
- b. Applications for export business and certificates of origin was done via an online based portal called the Integrated Customs Management Services (ICUMS) in collaboration with Ghanalinks.
- c. 43 certificates of origin had been issued to MSMEs that have indicated interest to trade under the AfCFTA in Ghana.
- d. That 3 companies who are members of the Ghana Chambers of commerce had exported under the AfCFTA rules to Cameroon. But these goods were rejected due to bureaucratic bottlenecks. This has served as a major disincentive for other members to continue. He stated how the Ghana Coordinating Office have stepped up and encourages them to do more in support of entrepreneurs particularly in bilateral trade relations.



09 MEETING WITH NIGERIAN EMBASSY IN GHANA

The team paid a courtesy visit to the Nigerian Embassy in Ghana and briefed the Ambassador about their mission to Ghana. In briefing the Ambassador, the leader of the delegation stated that, the team came to know the Ghanaian experience from the implementation of the Guided Trade Initiative. The ambassador hailed the delegation's initiative to lead the way in fast-tracking Nigeria's participation in the implementation of trade under the AfCFTA regime but cautioned that there's a lot of work still required to be done in particularly market access, trade infrastructure and the formalization of informal trade particularly along the borders. He particularly expressed his displeasure about the number of check points along the Nigerian-Seme border and the negative impact effect on trading activities he requested that the Nigerian Customs look into reducing the proliferation of these checkpoints. He admonished the delegation to be law abiding and remain true ambassadors of the Nigerian state while they remain in Ghana.



DAY 4:
MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
COMMISSION GHANA

The National Development Planning Commission Ghana (NDPC) is an institution of government charged with providing a national development policy framework, preparing, and ensuring effective implementation of approved national development plans and to coordinate economic and social activities country-wide in a manner that will ensure accelerated and sustainable development of the country to promote continuous improvement in the living standards of all Ghanaians. The need to visit the NDPC became apparent during briefing with the Ghana AfCFTA National Coordinating Office as it was stated that they had received some support from the commission, particularly in the areas of sub-national sensitization and mobilization for the AfCFTA. Dr. Kodjo E. Mensah-Abrampa, the Director General of the NDPC confirmed the support for the Ghana NCO stating that the commission had intervened to improve the production value chain particularly in the areas of Products Standards and manpower (in terms of knowledge and skills). Furthermore, he stated that the commission was engaging with the Ghana AfCFTA National Coordinating Office and was aiding in its coordinating and implementation efforts by:

- a. Providing export readiness training programs for Ghanaian businesses.
- b. Conducting research to identify areas of comparative advantages for Ghanaian businesses, and the prioritization of goods to trade and the development of value.
- c. Working closely with the AfCFTA Coordination Office to devise strategies to stop exportation of primary products which constitute 80% of Ghana exports.
- d. Enhancing local economic development of the value chain of production processes.
- e. Working on strategies to standardize Made-in-Ghana products to enhance competitiveness.
- f. Provision of deliberate funding for the development of raw materials in Ghana.
- g. Development of strategies for formalization of informal trade groups/ sectors. Having such formal registrations linked to the individual trader's identity and access to business incentives.





DAY 5:

MEETING WITH THE UNDP AfCFTA REGIONAL/CO TEAMS IN GHANA

The Ghana Customs Revenue Authority (GRA) is the Designated Competent Authority (DCA) for the AfCFTA and finalizes the issuance of Certificates of Origin to prospective exporters under the AfCFTA regime. In order to glean from the experience and the learning from executing the Guide Trade Initiative (GTI), the team met the Ghana Customs Administration. The team learnt that as the Designated Competent Authority the Customs Administration played the following roles:

1. Assist exporters to register on Integrated Customs Management Services (ICUMS). This is however important for statistical purposes.
 2. They administer the export process under the AfCFTA regime in line with Article 7 of the AfCFTA Act to determine the export qualification of manufactured goods.
 3. They process the issuance of Certificates of Origin to prospective exporters under the AfCFTA regime.
 4. They also play a role in the importation of goods under the AfCFTA as they verify if the goods qualify for tariff reductions etc.
 5. They ensure that both importers and exporters have all the necessary documentation to engage in trade under the AfCFTA.
 6. They provide a forum for the management of customs to customs relationships and the management of trade appeals.
 7. They facilitate trading by handling issues like pre-arrival verification and audit, post arrival checks and verification, etc.
4. **Harmonization of Standards:** Efforts to harmonize regulations and standards across member states are essential for reducing non-tariff barriers and promoting a level playing field for businesses across the continent.
 5. **Capacity building on AfCFTA elements:** investment in comprehensive training for customs officials and trade practitioners to enhance their understanding of AfCFTA principles and regulations. Capacity building ensures that all stakeholders have the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the complexities of AfCFTA trade procedures.
 6. **Well defined roles of every relevant stakeholder:** it was emphasized the importance of clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders involved in the GTI, ensuring a coordinated and accountable approach. Clarity in roles prevents confusion and fosters efficient collaboration among government agencies, trade associations, and private sector entities.
 7. **Automation of the AfCFTA process:** leveraging technology to automate customs procedures and facilitate electronic document submissions. This streamlined trade processes and reduced delays. Automation enhances trade efficiency, reduces bureaucracy, and ensures real-time tracking, contributing to the success of the GTI.
 8. **Integration of the border community /cross-border informal trading:** Integrating informal trade ensures that it contributes to economic growth while minimizing illicit trade and fostering regulatory compliance. Ghana recognized the significance of regulating and integrating informal cross-border trade into the formal economy, acknowledging its role in ramping up trade volumes and statistics as well as providing opportunities for aggregation and productive capacity development.
 9. **Engagement with the sub-national /Local authorities:** The engagement with sub-national and local authorities to align the AfCFTA and GTI objectives with regional development plans, not only enhances the productive capacities at the local level but also provides a basis for mobilizing the sub-national entrepreneurial groups to get involved in the implementation process of the AfCFTA and leveraging its inherent benefits.

12 KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Recognizing the Power of Coordination (Ghana AfCFTA Coordinating Office):** The presence of a dedicated Coordinating Office in Ghana for the AfCFTA ensured effective collaboration among various stakeholders. It allowed for the seamless alignment of efforts and resources and the and harmonization of all activities related to the GTI.
2. **GTI process /challenges - few but was addressed:** Ghana encountered some initial challenges in the GTI rollout, such as adapting to new customs processes. However, these challenges were identified and resolved through continuous monitoring and adjustments.
3. **Massive sensitization required:** Ghana prioritized awareness and education campaigns to inform businesses and communities about the GTI's/ AfCFTA's benefits and requirements. These efforts were essential for buy-in and compliance. Sensitization and education were critical components of GTI

10. **Collaboration:** Collaboration fosters economic diplomacy, enabling countries to negotiate and resolve trade issues effectively while expanding market access. The experience with the Ghanaian implementation efforts emphasized the importance of collaboration not only at the national level but also through bilateral agreements with partner countries, facilitating smoother trade relations.

13 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the insights gained from the study tour, we recommend the following strategies for successful implementation of the Guided Trade Initiative and success of the AfCFTA for member countries:

1. **Capacity Building /Sensitization:** Prioritize sensitization and capacity building for customs officials, trade practitioners, and logistics stakeholders to ensure smooth adoption and utilization of new processes and systems.
2. **Public-Private Collaboration:** Foster strong collaboration between government agencies, private sector entities, and trade associations to collectively address challenges and optimize trade facilitation efforts.
3. **Regular Review and Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish mechanisms for regular stakeholder feedback and performance evaluation to identify areas for improvement and address emerging issues promptly.
4. **Support SMEs:** Develop targeted support programs for SMEs, including access to finance, capacity-building, and market entry support, to encourage their active participation in GTI.
5. **Cross-Border Cooperation:** Strengthen relationships with trading partners within the AfCFTA to promote cross-border trade. Ghana and Kenya's experiences can serve as a reference for establishing such partnerships.
6. **Information Sharing:** Promote transparent information sharing between government agencies, private sector stakeholders, and other relevant organizations to enhance coordination and understanding.
7. **Market Research:** Encourage businesses to conduct thorough market research to identify viable export opportunities within the AfCFTA region.

14 CONCLUSION

The study trip to Ghana gave participants a thorough grasp of how the Guided Trade Initiative under the AfCFTA is being put into practice. Undoubtedly, the learned lessons will help to advance continental trade facilitation efforts. AfCFTA member nations can fully achieve the initiative's potential and generate sustainable economic growth through expanded Intra-african trade through embracing technology, encouraging stakeholder involvement, prioritizing harmonization, and continual improvement.

These major lessons learned from Ghana's experience implementing the AfCFTA's Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) offer insightful information for other members, including Nigeria. For a GTI program to be implemented successfully, there must be strong coordination, proactive problem-solving, widespread sensitization, standardization, capacity building, defined stakeholder roles, automation, integration of informal trade, engagement with local authorities, and collaboration. Nigeria may greatly contribute to the AfCFTA's goals and advance intra-African trade and economic growth by adopting and adapting these practices to its own situation.





STUDY TOUR TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH
TO GUIDED TRADE INITIATIVE AND MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

REPORT OF THE GUIDED TRADE INITIATIVE MISSION TO RWANDA EMBARKED UPON BY THE NIGERIAN TEAM.

DATE: 01 - 07 OCTOBER, 2023



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01 INTRODUCTION

1. The adoption of the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by the Heads of State of the African Union, in March 2018, marked a significant step towards tackling the perennial challenges and barriers that have inhibited Intra-African trade for decades. As at end April 2022, fifty-four (54) African countries had signed the AfCFTA agreement, and forty-seven (47) countries had ratified it.
2. Although negotiations on some areas and protocols are still ongoing, the Secretariat recognised the need to commence trading under a fast track approach. This led to the launching of the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI). The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) GTI is a solution-oriented approach that aims to facilitate trade between interested state parties by connecting businesses and products for export and import. It is a “solution based approach” to test the legal framework of State Parties, Border to Border customs processes and procedures, and any other export requirements.
3. The purpose of this study tour is to gain insights into the implementation of the GTI under the AfCFTA framework in Rwanda. The AfCFTA, launched the First phase of the GTI in October 2022, and aimed to put to test that various instrumentalities of trade under the AfCFTA regime. Its purpose is to enable the start of trading under the preferences of the AfCFTA Agreement among a group of State Parties that have met the minimum requirements for meaningful commercial trade. The First Phase of this Initiative involved eight (8) State Parties (Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania and Tunisia) representing the five regions of the continent. The AfCFTA Secretariat is currently on the verge of launching the second phase of the GTI, and Nigeria is actively preparing to join this phase. Hence the need to learn from the practical experience from the Rwanda via peer-to-peer learning. the purpose is to leverage the experience to prepare strategic businesses, exporters, and the private sector in Nigeria to participate effectively in the GTI arrangement when launched.
4. In order to demonstrate Nigeria’s commitment, and readiness to fulfil her commitments to the AfCFTA and to demonstrate her zeal to get involved in the second phase of the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI), the National Action Committee



of the AfCFTA (Nigeria’s AfCFTA Coordinating office) working in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organised a study tour of Rwanda. The UNDP provided critical support in areas of advice, logistics and coordination that allowed for a better fact finding exercise which was, to understudy the Rwandan experience and lessons learnt via its participation in the implementation of the GTI, and to ramp up Nigeria’s preparedness to join the initiative.

02 STUDY TOUR OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of the study tour includes:

- To review the implementation approaches and market opportunities under the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) of AfCFTA.
- To gain valuable insights from strategic institutions responsible for trade facilitation, policy formulation and private sector involvement under the GTI.
- Familiarise with the GTI in Rwanda and identify the challenges and opportunities of the GTI implementation.
- Develop recommendations for how the AfCFTA can be implemented more effectively, particularly by Nigeria.

03 EXPECTED OUTPUT

The expected outputs from the study tour includes:

- Gather information and understand of Rwanda's approach to implementing the GTI.
- Gather information and understanding of market opportunities in Rwanda and Nigeria for trading under the Guided GTI.
- Draw out lessons learnt from meetings with strategic institution for trade facilitation, policy formulation and private sector involvement under the GTI.
- Meet with, and gather information on the challenges faced by the government and the private sector when implementing and trading under the GTI respectively, and to understand their experience and identify parts of this experience that Nigeria can incorporate into its GTI processes and procedures to ensure efficient trade facilitation.
- Develop recommendations on how the AfCFTA can be implemented more effectively, particularly by Nigeria.



>> 04 THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION FOR RWANDA STUDY TOUR

S/N	NAME	ORGANIZATION /DESIGNATION
1	Fatima Bello, Phd	NAC-AfCFTA, Team Lead/ Coordinator, Policy, Regulation & Law
2	Zakari Jimeta	NAC-AfCFTA, Senistization/Communication Coordinator
3	Utubor, Laurretta Ebele	Nigeria Customs Service – Superintendent of Customs (TF)
4	Oluyinka Omojolaibi	Manufacturers Association of Nigeria(MAN) – Ag. Head,Reasearch & Economic Policy Division
5	Sola Obadimu	Nigeria Association of Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Agriculture (NACCIMA) – Director General
6	Akanbi, Kabir A.	Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investment, - Assistant Chief Commercial Official (Multilateral/Intra Africa Trade)
7	Saied Tafida Sulaiman	UNDP/National Coordinator, Tax for SDGs Nigeria



05 TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1	Arrival in Kigali
Day 2	Visit to Rwanda Revenue Authority/Customs Department Visit UNDP Rwanda Country Office
Day 3	Interaction with Rwanda Private Sector Federation Interaction with Nigerian High Commission, Kigali, Rwanda
Day 4	Visit to Rwanda Mountain Top Tea Ltd
Day 5	Interaction with Rwanda Development Board (RDB) Visit to Agropy Ltd
Day 6	Interaction with the Ministry of Trade & Industry (MINICOMM) Visit to the AFRIXIM Bank - Funds for Export Development Africa (FEDA)
Day 7	Departure

»»» BRIEFING SESSION WITH RWANDA UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE

The team visited the Rwanda UNDP Country Office in Kigali for a meet and greet session.

»»» VISIT TO RWANDA REVENUE AUTHORITY (RRA)/CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

The team interacted with the Rwandan Revenue Authority, particularly the Customs Department. The purpose of the meeting was to get insight into the customs procedure for Rwandan exports to other African countries within the AfCFTA GTI. On the Implementation of the AfCFTA, the team was informed that RRA had submitted its list of Customs Officials authorized to issue and sign Certificates of Origin as its Designated Competent Authority (DCA) to AfCFTA Secretariat for transmission to AfCFTA State Parties. The trading documents that they verify for prior to certification include the AfCFTA Certificate of Origin, AfCFTA Origin declaration and Supplier/Producer declaration, Packing List Invoice, etc.

The Deputy Commissioner General of Customs further informed that Rwanda had so far exported coffee and tea to Ghana since October, 2022.

On challenges with trading under the AfCFTA GTI since its launch, the DCG, noted that most of the desired export from Rwanda to other countries where not in Category A hence reducing the export potentials. Other challenges include lack of enough sensitization and awareness of the initiatives as well as transport and logistics issues.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. The strong need for awareness and sensitization strategy/plan on the GTI to private sector operatives in Nigeria as much as to key port and customs operatives and officials;
2. Need for a coordinated approach to exporting and importing procedures among relevant government agencies within the countries and at the ports of entry/exit;
3. Need for a fast track simplified customs procedures such as the single window as well as the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO);
4. Need to consider entering into Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) with other regional blocks for the implementation of AfCFTA AEO.

»»» INTERACTION WITH RWANDA PRIVATE SECTOR FEDERATION

The team interacted with the Private Sector Federation which is the organ similar to Nigeria's MAN and NACCIMA. The Deputy Chairman who received the delegation informed that the Private Sector Federation (PSF) had been in existence for 24years, has over 200,000 members, 64,646 leaders, 5 cluster groups, and 76 sectorial associations in 36 offices.

He informed that to assist their members take advantage of the opportunities presented by the AfCFTA and other trade agreements/arrangements. The PSF engaged in the various services which include proactive advocacy and business research through PPD and BRC, Capacity development through the IBI, Business Clinic and advisory, Exhibitions and Trade fairs, and Health insurance to members, amongst others. He equally stated that their members have exported tea and coffee to Ghana within the AfCFTA.

On the challenges so far since the GTI commenced, he enumerated the following:

1. Unharmonised standards and customs procedures;
2. Limited awareness on the AfCFTA and its opportunities;
3. Lack of Trade Support Infrastructure;
4. Lack of Political will on the part of importing countries;
5. Inadequate information sharing.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Strong need for awareness and sensitization strategy/plan on the GTI to private sector operatives;
2. Need for harmonization of customs procedures and standardization;
3. Need for trade Support Infrastructure such as effective payment system (PAPSS is a welcomed initiative), transport and logistics, communication etc;
4. Strong collaboration between government and private sector.

»» VISIT TO RWANDA MOUNTAIN TOP LTD

The team visited the Rwanda Mountain Tea Limited to gain insights into the company's export experience to Ghana under the AfCFTA GTI. According to the COO, Mr. Bisengimana Jonathan, the company, is a family owned business established in 2005. It primarily engaged in tea production and marketing in Rwanda, EAC and Africa. The company also invests in other distinct area of business which include hydropower generation, fabrication of concrete material, transport & logistics and mining, among others.

On the experience in export to Ghana, the Marketing Manager, Dr. Martins Luther Mawo informed that over the last year, about 10 shipments of 600-650kg per shipment has been made to Ghana. He attributed the little success to having a distributor already residing in Ghana with great knowledge in the importation processes and strong logistics network.

He concluded that through market research, it discovered that there is strong interest for the company's products in Nigeria. This has prompted the thinking towards adopting a similar strategy to that deployed in Ghana, to gain access into the Nigerian market using the AfCFTA GTI.

The company has also expressed desire to have a commercial presence in Nigeria and leverage on the packaging industry to pack and distribute its products.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Need for harmonisation of certifications and standards to facilitate smooth and increased intra-Africa trade between Nigeria-Rwanda and other State Parties;
2. Need to facilitate collaboration between Rwanda and Nigeria Private Sector actors in the tea business;
3. Increased private sector success can be attributed to governments' unwavering support for the OPS;

4. Strong Public-Private collaboration in the dissemination of relevant information to OPS to explore intra-Africa trade opportunities;

»» INTERACTION WITH RWANDA DEVELOPMENT BOARD (RDB)

The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) is a government institution mandated to accelerate Rwanda's economic development by enabling private sector growth. RDB was established in 2008 through a merger of 8 government institutions, primarily to create a One Stop Shop for business and investments under the supervision of the Office of the President.

Currently, RDB's key services are: One Stop Center services which houses 25 licensing institutions that facilitate (business and investment registration, visa facilitation, EIA, tax incentives management, etc.), Investment Promotion, Investment Deals Negotiation, Export & Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Development, Tourism and Conservation, and Private Sector Skills Development.

On facilitating trade under AfCFTA, the team was informed that RDB has facilitated about 1million dollars' worth of export State Parties in Mushrooms, Coffee and Tea. It also granted companies a 50% rebate in Standards fees to reduce their costs as well as assisted some companies to market their products on e-Commerce platforms such as Alibaba etc.

On challenges to the implementation of the AfCFTA, the RDB identify the following:

- a. Initial resistance from relevant agencies in setting up the One-Stop-Centre
- b. ICT Literacy and ICT infrastructure
- c. High setup cost implication
- d. Lack of awareness and participation of products;
- e. Registration of products;
- f. Inadequate market information and connection with buyers, and
- g. Information on tariff offers from different countries.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Strong political will in governance and coordination structures;
2. Benchmarking with best performing countries and international practices as evidenced in the 2-3 days turn around processing times for importation, etc;
3. Inclusive development centered around empowering youth and women;

4. Trade facilitation centers equipped with advanced technologies significantly contribute to streamlined trade processes and improved transparency;
5. Good use of the Simplified Trade Regime (STR) to facilitate and capture cross border trade among informal trade actors.

»»» VISIT TO AGROPY LTD.

AgroPy is a value protection company formed as a joint venture between Horizon Group and British Investors and manufacturers of natural eco-friendly, liquid and powder pesticides in Rwanda.

The interaction between the team and the company centered on market access information and compliance procedure into the Nigerian market.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Access to information on importing procedures, certification etc;
2. Adequate training and capacity building programs are crucial to ensure that stakeholders have the necessary skills to utilise guided trade platforms effectively.

»»» INTERACTION WITH THE MINISTRY OF TRADE & INDUSTRY (MINICOMM)

A presentation delivered by Mr. Fred Murigande, Rwanda Trade Negotiator, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Rwanda centered on the implementation approaches and market opportunities under the AfCFTA GTI.

On the AfCFTA Structure in Rwanda, he noted that there exist a technical committee which oversees:

- a. AfCFTA implementation
- b. Engagement with private sector
- c. AfCFTA Negotiation – Negotiating Forum forums/Committees
- d. Capacity building workshops
- e. Identify Potential Sectors for exports
- f. Provide information relating to market access
- g. Provide technical assistance such as
 - (i) provide information to exporters on liberalised products
 - (ii) extend legal documents for exporting of goods under AfCFTA
 - (iii) creation of AfCFTA /GTI desks in all offices that may provide market access information/support to businesses looking to trade under the AfCFTA
 - (iv) training of Businesses on priority sectors with regard to more profitable

- and marketable products
- (v) training of businesses on how to meet the market requirements, and
- (vi) facilitate special cargo tariff for businesses that want to export under the AfCFTA

On Rwandan’s product of export for AfCFTA, the team was informed that tea, coffee and flowers had been identified as initial products to export under the GTI to enjoy preferential trade. He added that through MoUs, Trade fairs etc, their products have enjoyed export to other countries. He also noted that Rwanda government through the Ministry plan to attend the 3rd Intra Africa Trade Fair coming up in Egypt, in November, 2023.

On AfCFTA awareness, the Director General informed that there is regular awareness activities on what AfCFTA is and how to benefit from it, and dissemination is done through local media houses, events, meetings, etc.

On effective implementation, the Permanent secretary informed that the National Coordination Office is the important point of call for participating under the AfCFTA, he then stated the NAC-SEC is to be the focal point for contact and all necessary information with regards the AfCFTA and GTI going forward.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Guided trade initiatives plays a crucial role in enhancing trade efficiency, reducing transaction costs, and minimizing trade barriers;
2. Collaboration between government bodies, industry stakeholders, and technology providers is essential for successful implementation and sustainability of the GTI;
3. Trade facilitation centers equipped with advanced technologies significantly contribute to streamlined trade processes and improved transparency; and
4. Regulatory frameworks need to evolve to accommodate the unique requirements and challenges posed by the GTI.

»»» FUNDS FOR EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AFRICA (FEDA)

The CEO of FEDA, Marlene Ngoyi informed the team that the Fund for Export Development in Africa (“FEDA”), is the impact investment arm of the African Export-Import Bank (“Afreximbank”), set up to support intra-African trade growth, value-added export development, and industrialization.

She added FEDA recently secured about US\$670 million across its four fund strategies. Of the \$670 million raised, \$270 million is earmarked for FEDA Direct Equity Fund, which will provide equity and quasi-equity financing to businesses aligned with FEDA's mandate.

US\$250 million is allocated to the Strategic Initiatives Fund, a proprietary fund established by Afreximbank to implement landmark and high impact greenfield investments in sectors critical to the growth of intra-African trade and value-added export development across the African Continent. Currently building Oncology Centre in Abuja in partnership with King College, London to reduce medical tourism as well as a quality to ensure standardization in trade and reduce export rejections.

The third strategy involves the implementation of a private credit fund, Africa Credit Opportunities Fund, L.P. ("ACOF"), jointly sponsored by FEDA and Gateway Partners Group with US\$125 million committed. ACOF will invest in credit instruments to support trade enablement and growth in Africa.

FEDA's fourth strategy involves a US\$25 million Venture Fund to provide equity, quasi-equity and venture debt financing to high-impact early-stage ventures across Africa.

She concluded by requesting Nigeria to enroll as a member of FEDA to maximize the benefits of FEDA.



06 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Establish an AfCFTA one-stop-shop:** Establish an AfCFTA one-stop-shop comprising of all trade facilitation agencies to coordinate export and import procedures and processing.
2. **Implement AEO:** To ensure security and integrity of traders participating in AfCFTA and cargo traded, the Customs should implement AEO and Advance Ruling as tools to facilitate Nigeria's participation in the second phase of the GTI.
3. **Upgrade Single Window:** For better coordination and ease of doing business, modalities should be finalized to enable relevant agencies involved in the import and export documentation process to integrate in the National Single Windows which is being implemented by Customs in line with the provisions of the Business Facilitation Act 2023.
4. **Comprehensive Sensitization and Communication Strategy/Plan:** Massive strategic stakeholder engagement/ sensitization that will build capacity which will lead to facilitation and participation in trade. Ensure uniformity across all states in export trade and activities.
5. **Simplified Trade Regime (STR):** Implementation of a Simplified Trade Regime (STR) to capture data (trade and actors) on informal trade close to the border.
6. **Deploy ICT Infrastructure:** Heavy deployment of ICT Infrastructure and literacy for effective management and transparency within the AfCFTA trade regime.
7. **Pairing Program:** establish exporter pairing programme to countries on the GTI.
8. **Entrepreneurial Initiatives:** Establish a "first-link" Program targeted at startups which form the first part of a value chain and other backward integration to first actors such as growers and manufacturers.
9. **Collaborations and Networking:** Support Nigerian businesses to attend exhibitions and organize regular strategic trade missions.
10. **FEDA Membership:** Fast-track Nigeria's FEDA membership to develop export related infrastructure, and create access to funding for Nigerian businesses.

07 CONCLUSION:

The team gained valuable insight into the implementation of AfCFTA, and more importantly, the implementation of the GTI by Rwanda. In the course of the study, they were able to identify, from Rwanda's practical experience, several areas which Nigeria can build into its approach to ensure and support effective trade and facilitation as it prepares to participate in phase two of the GTI.

In conclusion, it is clear that the success of trade under the AfCFTA in Rwanda stems from high government involvement and participation, government reactivity in awareness and capacity building, and deployment and reliance on ICT for effective administration and process transparency.





AFCFTA HACKATHON 2025 REPORT

DATE: MAY 01 - MAY 03, 2025





  
Nigeria AfCFTA
Hackathon 2025
Date: 03-05-2025

#20,000,000.00

01 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The AfCFTA Hackathon 2025, held from May 1–3, 2025, at Lagos’s Landmark Centre, was a flagship event under the umbrella of the Science of Trade Conference, a premier platform dedicated to advancing innovation and technology in African trade. The hackathon successfully brought together innovators from six African nations to develop digital trade solutions in alignment with Area (AfCFTA) the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

Organized in partnership with the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Ascend Studios Foundation, AWS, NITDA, and GFA Technologies, this hackathon, a key feature of the Science of Trade Conference 2025 attracted hundreds of applications. From those, 60 teams representing Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Niger, Algeria, and The Gambia were selected to participate.

As a central highlight of the Science of Trade Conference, the AfCFTA Hackathon yielded breakthrough innovations in fintech, e-commerce, logistics automation, and

trade compliance. Winning teams ExportPlug, GET Ai, and Synall received cash prizes, technical support, and incubation to scale their solutions across the continent.

02 INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

AFCFTA & DIGITAL TRADE

The AfCFTA, the world’s largest free trade area by participating countries, aims to increase intra-African trade by 52% by 2035. A critical component is digital trade, encompassing:

- Cross-border e-commerce
- Smart logistics & customs & payments automation
- Regulatory technology (RegTech) for compliance
- Digital identity for trade onboarding

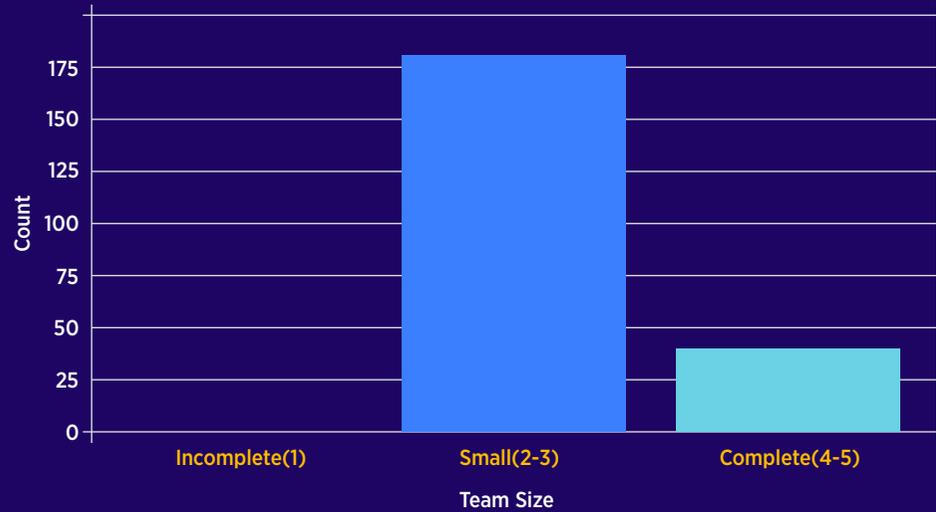


03 EVENT OVERVIEW

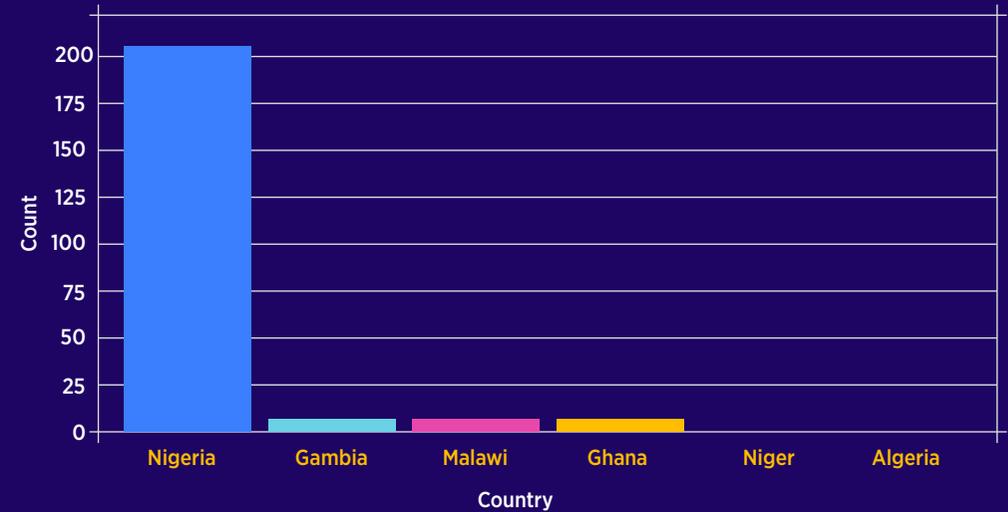
Date	May 1–3, 2025
Location	Landmark Event Centre, Lagos
Lead Partner	
Supporting Partners	    
Participants	60 teams from 6 African countries
Judges	Trade policy experts, tech leaders, and investors

AFCFTA HACKATHON REGISTRATION ANALYSIS

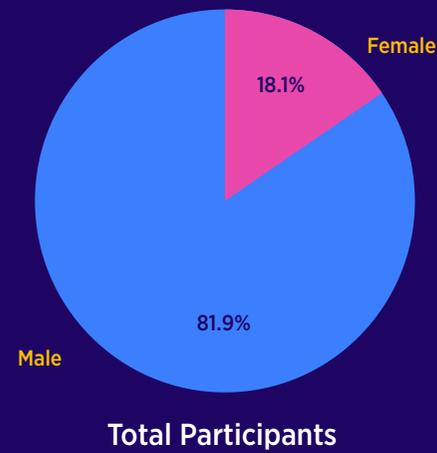
Team Size Distribution



Team Leaders by Country



Team Lead Gender Distribution



04 PRE-EVENT EXECUTION

STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION

A multi-partner collaboration ensured seamless planning:

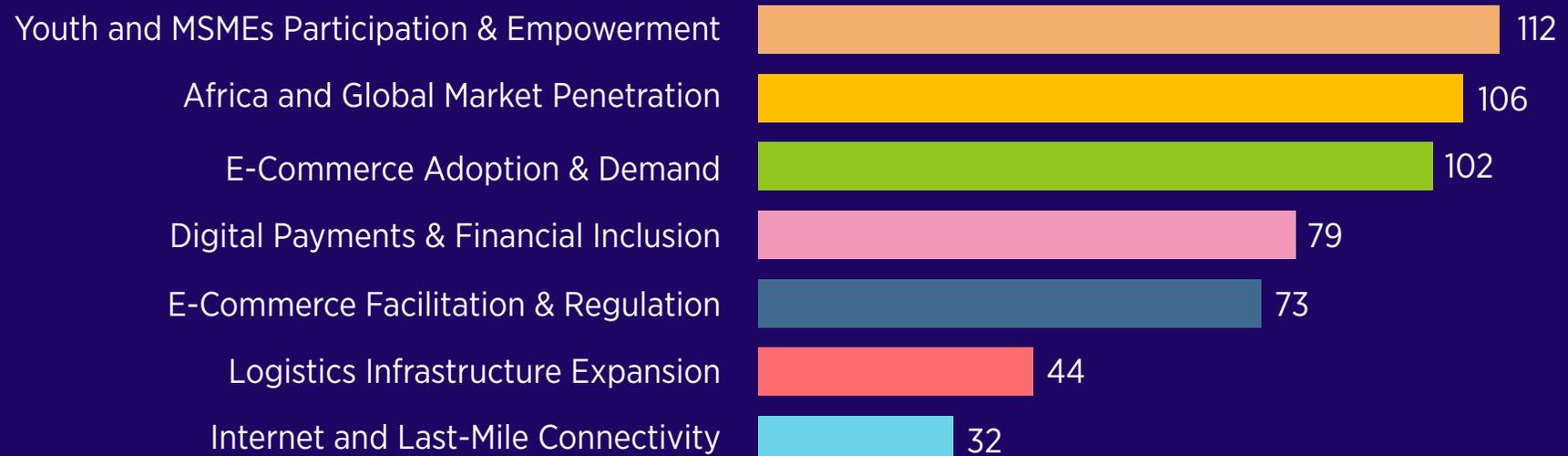
- **Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office:** Led policy alignment and AfCFTA integration.
- **Ascend Studios Foundation:** Managed mentorship programs and participant inclusivity.
- **NITDA:** Provided regulatory guidance and sandbox incentives.
- **GFA Technologies:** Handled technical implementation including the infrastructure, challenge design, and data analytics.
- **Cherith-Code Concept Ltd:** Supported the policy alignment and AfCFTA integration.
- **AWS:** Supplied cloud resources and developer support.

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE & OUTREACH

- »» **Hackathon Website:** www.afcftahackathon.com
 - Features: Challenge briefs, registration portal, schedules, FAQs.
- »» **Application Management:**
 - Hundreds of applications reviewed.
 - 60 teams selected (Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Niger, Algeria, Gambia).

CHALLENGE DESIGN

CHALLENGE AREAS SELECTION BY TEAMS



Research and drafting of 7 AfCFTA-aligned technical challenges for Digital Trade

05 EVENT IMPLEMENTATION

DAY 1: ORIENTATION & ACTIVATION

- Opening speeches by Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, NITDA, AWS, Ascend Studios and GFA Technologies
- Team verification & mentorship sessions.
- Challenge breakdown & Q&A.

DAY 2: HACKATHON DEVELOPMENT

- Deep tech sessions (AI, blockchain, cloud computing).
- Mentorship from industry experts.
- First-stage judging: 10 teams shortlisted.



DAY 3: GRAND FINALE & AWARDS



06 POST-EVENT IMPACT & NEXT STEPS

»» AFCFTA START-UPS HACKATHON ACADEMY

- Incubation program for all 60 participating teams.
- Mentorship, funding access, and AfCFTA integration support.

»» POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

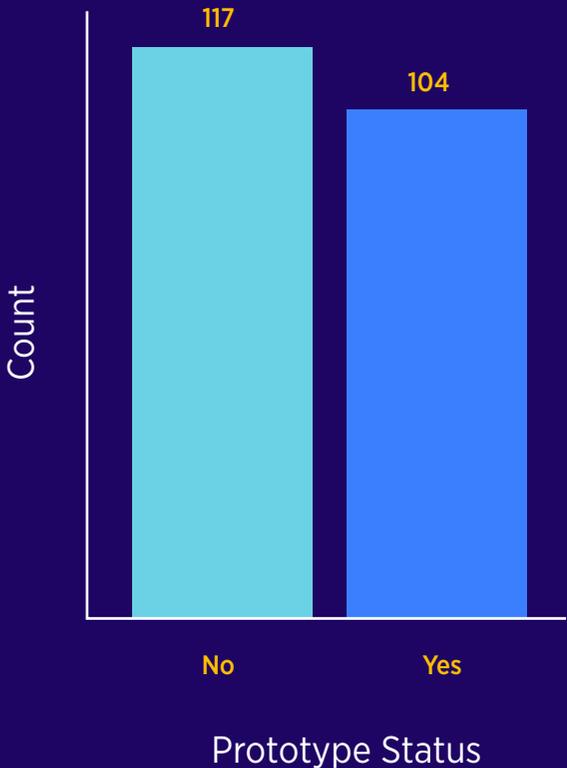
- Adoption of winning solutions into AfCFTA's digital trade framework.
- Public-private partnerships for scaling innovations.

»» FUTURE ROADMAP

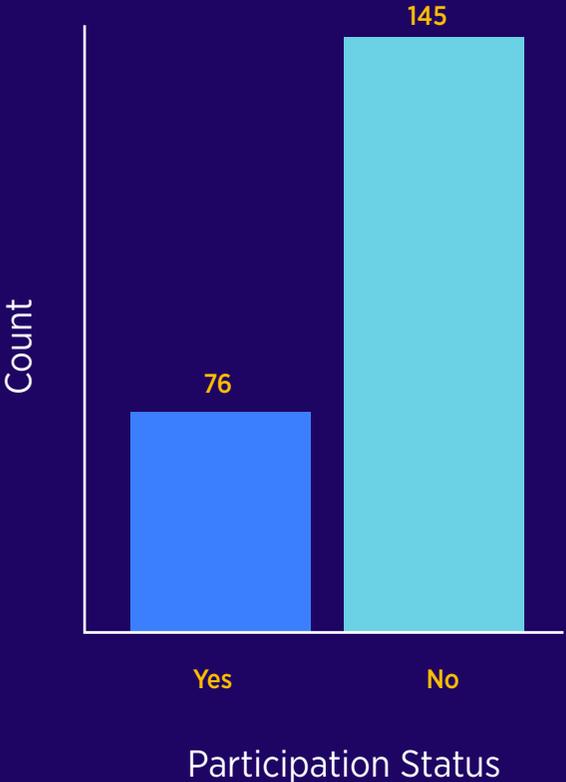
- Expand to more African countries in 2026.
- Strengthen investor partnerships for startup funding.

PROTOTYPE, PARTICIPATION AND AVAILABILITY

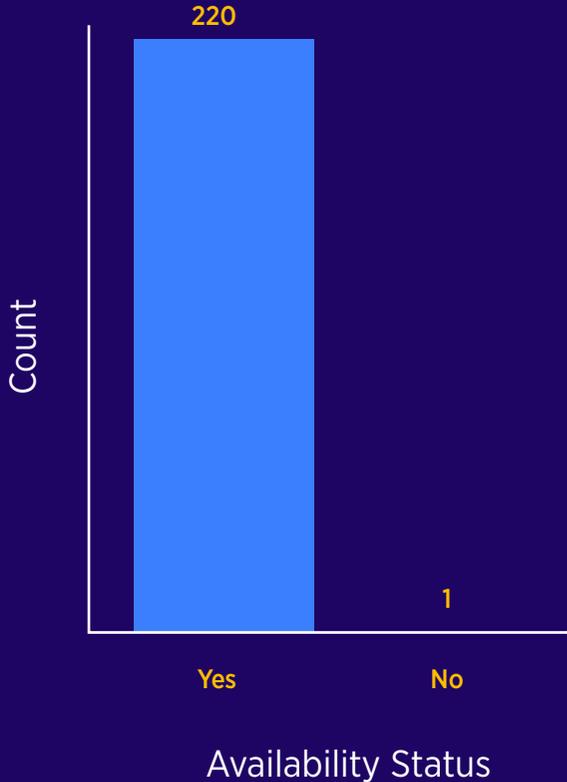
Has Prototype



Has Participated Before



Availability



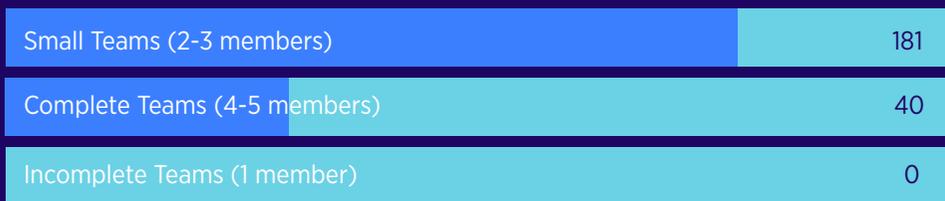
07 PARTICIPATING TEAM ANALYSIS

»» TEAM SIZE DISTRIBUTION

- Small Teams (2–3 members): 181
- Complete Teams (4–5 members): 40
- Incomplete Teams (1 member): 0

Insight: Most teams preferred compact 2–3 member setups, suggesting either agility or partial team formations still needing support.

Team Size Distribution

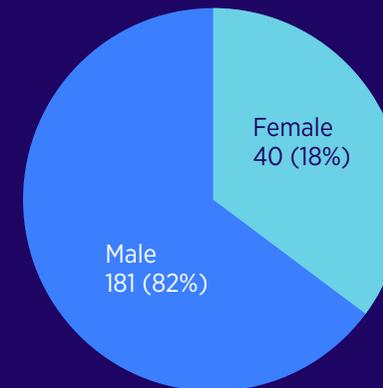


»» TEAM LEADER GENDER DISTRIBUTION

- Male: 181 (~82%)
- Female: 40 (~18%)

Observation: Female-led team participation is underrepresented. Future editions could introduce special incentives or targeted outreach for women-led teams.

Team Leader Gender Distribution



»» GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF TEAM LEADERS

- Nigeria: 209
- Gambia: 5
- Malawi: 3
- Ghana: 2
- Niger: 1
- Algeria: 1

Geographic Diversity of Team Leads



Insight: Strong local engagement from Nigeria, but also international presence—validating the Pan-African scope of the AfCFTA vision.

08 OUR PARTNERS



»» NIGERIA AfCFTA COORDINATION OFFICE

Role: Lead Organizer and Policy Driver

- The Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office served as the lead convener of the hackathon, providing strategic direction and ensuring alignment with Nigeria's national objectives under the AfCFTA framework.
- It oversaw policy integration, participant selection strategy, and post-event implementation through the AfCFTA Start-ups Hackathon Academy.
- The Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office ensured the hackathon challenges and outcomes reflected core protocol priorities like digital trade facilitation, MSME inclusion, and regulatory harmonization.

»» NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NITDA)

Role: Regulatory Innovator and Prize Sponsor

- NITDA played a pivotal role in embedding digital policy themes in the hackathon, particularly through its E-Commerce Regulatory Sandbox Program.
- It sponsored one of the major prizes — awarding ₦10 million to GET Ai for their innovative sandbox solution.
- The agency provided mentorship, access to government tools, and support for scaling viable products post-event.

»» CHERITH-CODE CONCEPT LTD.

Role: Strategic Partner

- Cherith-Code also handled analytics, live data dashboards, and supported cross-agency integration during the event.
- Organized the various Judges and Mentors.

»» ASCEND STUDIOS FOUNDATION

Role: Innovation Ecosystem Builder

- Ascend Studios brought its expertise in organizing high-impact entrepreneurship programs to the hackathon.
- The foundation helped shape the mentorship structure and ensured inclusivity in coordination, and engagement participant recruitment — especially women and youth-led teams.
- It also supported stakeholder mobilization, media coordination and engagement with international guests.

»» GFA TECHNOLOGIES

Role: Technical, Infrastructure & Cloud Innovation Partner

- As the official technical partner, GFA was responsible for:
 - i. Designing and developing the hackathon website
 - ii. Curating and documenting the seven digital trade challenges
 - iii. Managing participant applications, team formation, and digital onboarding
 - iv. Coordinating on-site technical logistics and reporting
 - v. Launching the AfCFTA Start-ups Hackathon Academy for post-event mentorship and incubation
- GFA Technologies ensured smooth digital infrastructure for the hackathon.
- Their role included managing hosting environments, platform security, data capture, and integration of backend systems.
- They also collaborated on digital identity verification protocols and offered developer resources to participants.

»» AMAZON WEB SERVICES (AWS)

Role: Global Technology Partner

- AWS provided cloud credits, technical toolkits, and training resources for hackathon participants.
- It supported the winning teams with cloud infrastructure for scaling their MVPs.
- AWS engineers and advocates served as virtual mentors during the event.

09 FINALISTS REPORT



1ST PLACE – EXPORTPLUG

Category: E-commerce, Cross-border Trade

Challenge: Trust & Operational Friction in AfricanExport Trade

Solution: ExportPlug developed a secure and verified export marketplace platform tailored to MSMEs. It features authenticated seller storefronts, automated export documentation, RFQ negotiation tools, and embedded trade guidance. Designed for seamless user experience, it aims to simplify export procedures and ensure trust in digital trade across Africa.

Prize: 20 Million Naira



2ND PLACE – GET AI

Category: AI & Digital Trade Compliance

Challenge: Regulatory Bottlenecks and Data-Driven Trade Intelligence

Solution: GET AI introduced a smart regulatory sandbox solution powered by AI for MSMEs and government agencies. It streamlines trade compliance, guides users through documentation, and enhances data-sharing.

Prize: 10 Million Naira + NITDA Sandbox access



3RD PLACE – SYNALL

Category: Digital IP & Licensing

Challenge: Complex licensing processes hinder monetization of authentic African creative works.

Solution: Synall - A blockchain-powered platform enabling one-click licensing for African music, art & IP, Transparent royalty tracking & payments, Verified authentication of cultural assets and Smart contract automation.

Prize: Mentorship Award

10 OTHER FINALISTS

TEAM AFIARI

Challenges Addressed: • Youth & MSME Inclusion • E-commerce Adoption

Solution Summary: Afiari developed a platform that enables MSMEs to digitize and manage their operations from procurement to point-of-sale. The solution includes an integrated ERP system, a cross-border marketplace, and a performance dashboard tailored for small businesses seeking online expansion and trade readiness across African markets.

TEAM AFRITAP

Challenges Addressed: • Limited access to mobile transactions in low/no network zones • Distrust in centralized financial institutions • Inadequate trade opportunity visibility for MSMEs

Solution Summary: AfriTap is an offline-first, blockchain-enabled financial transaction platform tailored for MSMEs in connectivity-challenged environments. It integrates NFC-based payments, a decentralized social commerce network, and AI-powered financial advisory features for traders to increase inclusion and economic participation.

TEAM AFRITRUST

Challenges Addressed: E-commerce Policy & Trust Deficit

Solution Summary: AfriTrust proposed a legal-policy framework using blockchain and smart contracts cross-border trade standards, compliance, and dispute resolution. The solution aims to enforce to increase trust in digital trade through harmonized e-commerce policies and verifiable legal protections for both consumers and businesses.

TEAM AFYADOCS

Challenges Addressed: Lack of trust and verification in cross-border trade documentation

Solution Summary: AfyaDocs is a document authentication platform designed to digitize and verify trade certificates in real-time. It provides dual perspectives for traders and regulators, contributing to the AfCFTA's goals of a paperless, transparent trade system. The solution aligns directly with provisions in the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol concerning trust services and mutual recognition of electronic records.

TEAM APHRIKA TRADE LINK

Challenges Addressed: • Low awareness of AfCFTA policies • Youth and MSME disengagement from trade systems

Solution Summary: Aphrika Trade Link is a mobile-first, gamified learning platform designed to educate African youth and MSMEs about AfCFTA rules, trade mechanisms, and opportunities. The solution combines microlearning modules, community engagement, and real-world trade exposure to convert awareness into active cross-border economic participation, simplifies and secures export processes for MSMEs while supporting localization through language options and mobile-first interfaces. This solution emerged as the Grand Prize Winner of the Hackathon.

TEAM FEEDBAG AGRIHUB

Challenges Addressed: E-commerce Adoption in Agriculture

Solution Summary: Feedbag Agrihub developed a real-time agricultural marketplace powered by AI and blockchain to connect farmers directly with buyers and logistics providers. It enhances transaction transparency, reduces post-harvest losses, and builds trust through traceable digital supply chains.

TEAM ID-KIT

Challenges Addressed: Border Verification and Cross-Border Logistics

Solution Summary: ID-KiT built a toolkit focused on digital identity verification and logistics management for cross-border trade. The system enables fast, secure identity checks at borders and supports customs agencies with integrated compliance workflows, aimed at reducing delays and fraud.

TEAM KURAWAY

Challenges Addressed: Trust and Global Visibility in B2B E-Commerce

Solution Summary: Kuraway is a B2B platform offering verified African vendor storefronts, escrow payments, and vetted product listings. It facilitates international trade connections and provides logistics and trade finance integrations to enhance Africa's position in global sourcing markets.

TEAM MICROVARSITY

Challenges Addressed: Export Training and MSME Capacity Gaps

Solution Summary: Microvarsity is a vocational education platform focused on training African entrepreneurs in export trade. It offers expert-led courses, mentorship, and practical tools designed to improve MSME readiness for international trade opportunities, particularly in high-impact sectors like agriculture.

TEAM OJAH

Challenges Addressed: Payment and Logistics Integration for Exporting SMEs

Solution Summary: Ojah developed a reliable payment processing, is built to support fresh full-scale commerce platform that helps African SMEs sell globally by integrating international shipping services, and product listing tools. The platform and perishable goods with real-time tracking and seller support.

TEAM TANDELA (AFRITRUST)

Challenges Addressed: MSME Global Expansion and E-Commerce Trust

Solution Summary: Tandela built a trust infrastructure for digital commerce that assigns trade scores, digital trade identities, and compliance checklists to African businesses. The platform helps MSMEs gain international buyer trust and enables policymakers to assess export readiness.

TEAM TRANSLEATHA

Challenges Addressed: Trade Policy Complexity and Market Access

Solution Summary: Transleatha developed a cross-border trade platform that simplifies regulatory compliance and trade policy navigation for African exporters. It provides real-time policy updates, operational dashboards, and verified logistics integrations, acting as a trade companion for growing MSMEs.



The 15 finalist teams of the AfCFTA Hackathon 2025 demonstrated a diverse range of solutions tackling digital trade adoption, policy harmonization, MSME support, logistics optimization, financial inclusion, and export facilitation. Their innovations reflect the core objectives of the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol—to build a seamless, secure, and inclusive digital trade ecosystem across Africa.

The entire 60 teams also showcased groundbreaking solutions targeting key objectives of the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol, including trust services, paperless trade, MSME empowerment, financial inclusion, and digital commerce regulation. Their technologies are not only viable but also directly aligned with the digital transformation goals of intra-African trade.

All teams now form part of the AfCFTA Start-ups Hackathon Academy, where they will continue receiving mentorship, policy guidance, and funding opportunities to scale their ideas and support the goals of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

11 JUDGES

DR. ADESUWA O. EREDIAUWA

Role:

- Coordinator, Bashir Adeniyi Centre for International Trade & Investment
- Economist (Nigerian Institute of International Affairs)

Key Expertise:

- Regulatory transparency in trade, shifting policies from "disruptive" to "facilitative."
- Sustainable economic growth through predictable trade processes.

Relevance to AfCFTA:

- Critically evaluates solutions for alignment with trade facilitation reforms and ease of cross-border compliance.

2. MR. OLUSOJI AWOGBADE

Role:

- International Trade Policy/Law Consultant, HARBOURISM LP
- Legal Advisor, UNDP, Nigerian Government

Key Expertise:

- Trade law, environmental regulations, and investment frameworks.
- Drafting trade policies for African governments and multilateral bodies.

Relevance to AfCFTA:

- Assesses hackathon projects for legal viability and integration with AfCFTA's trade protocols.

3. PROF. MUHAMMED TAWFIQ LADAN

Role:

- Former DG, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS)
- Hubert Humphrey Fellow

Key Expertise:

- Human rights law, environmental sustainability, and SDG-aligned trade policies.
- Advisor to UN agencies on governance and development.

Relevance to AfCFTA:

- Focus on inclusive trade solutions that address gender equity, climate resilience, and labour rights.

4. PROF. JONATHAN AREMU

Role:

- Professor of International Economic Relations, Covenant University
- ECOWAS Consultant

Key Expertise:

- ECOWAS Common Investment Market, regional trade harmonization.
- Ex-Central Bank of Nigeria economist.

Relevance to AfCFTA:

- Evaluates projects for scalability across ECOWAS/AfCFTA markets and investment attractiveness.

5. MR. CHIJOKE ODO

Role:

- Partner & West Africa Global Trade Advisory Leader, Deloitte.

Key Expertise:

- Trade automation, compliance analytics, and supply chain optimization.
- Advises multinationals on AfCFTA-driven opportunities.

6. GRACE OLUWALOLA

Role: CEO of GFA Foundation

Background:

- Social entrepreneur and advocate for youth empowerment, education, and technology.
- GFA Foundation focuses on skills development, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship support across Africa.

What She Brings:

- Expertise in sustainable development and youth innovation.
- Strong understanding of AfCFTA's potential for SMEs and startups.
- Experience in judging tech and social impact initiatives.

7. KENISE HILL

Role: Deputy Political and Economic Chief, US Consulate, Lagos

Background:

- US diplomat with experience in trade, economic policy, and Africa-US relations.
- Works on initiatives fostering US-Africa business ties, digital economy, and innovation.

What She Brings:

- Insight into international trade policies and cross-border digital solutions.
- Connections to US tech ecosystems that could benefit AfCFTA startups.

8. MRS. OLUWATOSIN LEWIS-OKOH

Role: Senior official at National Information Technology Development Agency (NiTDA).

Background:

- IT policy expert with experience in Nigeria's digital transformation and regulatory frameworks.
- Likely involved in data governance, cybersecurity, and fintech innovation.

What She Brings:

- Knowledge of AfCFTA's digital trade protocols and compliance requirements.
- Ability to assess scalability of hackathon solutions across African markets.
- Collective Judge Contributions.

This panel ensures a 360° evaluation of hackathon based on:

- Policy & Law: Awogbade, Ladan, Erediauwa.
- Trade Tech: Odo, Lewis-Okoh.
- Regional Integration: Aremu, Hill.
- Social Impact: Oluwalola.

HACKATHON EVALUATION CRITERIA

- **AfCFTA Compliance:** Does the solution align with the agreement's digital trade, facilitate intra-African trade, customs, logistics? or payment provisions?
- **Innovation:** Use of AI, IoT, or blockchain to solve trade barriers.
- **Scalability:** Potential for adoption across multiple African countries.
- **Inclusivity:** Benefits for women, youth, or informal traders.
- **Policy Compliance:** Does it align with AfCFTA's digital trade and data governance frameworks?

12 OUTCOMES & IMPACT

- **Participation:** 300+ applicants, 60 selected teams, cross-continent collaboration.
- **Innovation Pipeline:** 7 key AfCFTA-related domains explored.
- **Mentorship and Judges:** Over 15 expert mentors and Judges participated.
- **Policy Integration:** Challenges mapped directly to the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol.
- **Visibility:** National media coverage, US Consulate endorsement, government dignitary support.
- **Inclusion:** Women and youth-led businesses prioritized. At least 40% of teams led by young innovators.

13 STRATEGIC NEXT STEPS

»» STARTUP GROWTH TRACKING

- Monitor progress of incubated teams through the AfCFTA Start-ups Hackathon Academy.
- Facilitate investor connections for scaling winning solutions like ExportPlug, GET AI, and Synall.

»» POLICY INTEGRATION

- Work with the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office to adopt viable solutions into digital trade.
- Align outputs with national implementation strategies across member states.

»» EXPANSION FRAMEWORK

- Develop a blueprint for annual hackathons, expanding to 10+ African countries by 2026.
- Strengthen partnerships with AU, RECs, and private sector champions.

»» KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

- Publish a public playbook documenting best practices for replicable AfCFTA innovation challenges.

14 CONCLUSION

The Nigeria AfCFTA Hackathon 2025 has demonstrated the power of collaborative innovation in advancing Africa's digital trade agenda. By uniting policymakers, technologists, and entrepreneurs, the event delivered practical, scalable solutions to critical trade barriers while fostering a pipeline of high-potential startups.



15 PARTNER WITH US: AFCFTA HACKATHON 2026

The AfCFTA Hackathon 2026 is a pan-African innovation challenge designed to unite institutions, organizations, and forward-thinking innovators in building cutting-edge digital solutions that accelerate intra-African trade, address policy and regulatory barriers, and empower micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) across the continent. To ensure lasting impact and broad-scale adoption, we are inviting strategic partners from the financial sector, diplomatic community, corporate industry, and development ecosystem to join us. Your participation will not only shape the future of African trade but also unlock opportunities to support innovation, entrepreneurship, and regional integration.

Explore the strategic engagement opportunities outlined below and discover how your organization can play a key role in this transformational initiative.

»» FINANCING & SPONSORSHIP

Provide tiered cash prizes and startup grants to reward and support impactful solutions.

»» CHALLENGE DESIGN

Co-create problem tracks aligned with sector needs (e.g., health, agriculture, fintech) and address policy gaps relevant to AfCFTA goals.

»» MENTORSHIP & TRAINING

Deliver workshops and provide expert mentorship during the event on business, tech, and regulatory matters.

»» TECH INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

Offer cloud services, internet access, devices, and trade-related APIs for participants to build and test solutions.

»» POST-HACKATHON INCUBATION

Support top teams with incubation programs and pilot testing opportunities in real markets.

»» VISIBILITY & MEDIA EXPOSURE

Promote winning teams through demo events, media coverage, and expert-led publications.

»» INVESTMENT & SCALE-UP SUPPORT

Facilitate equity investments and help teams navigate trade ecosystems for scale.

»» DIPLOMATIC & GOVERNMENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Enable cultural sponsorships and talent mobility through startup visas and cross-border programs.



Event Programmes & E-Flyers



NIGERIA AfcFTA 10th Anniversary FORUM

One African Market Opportunities: Onboarding the Next Generation Driven by Innovation

Afreximbank African Trade Centre (AATC), Abuja, Nigeria



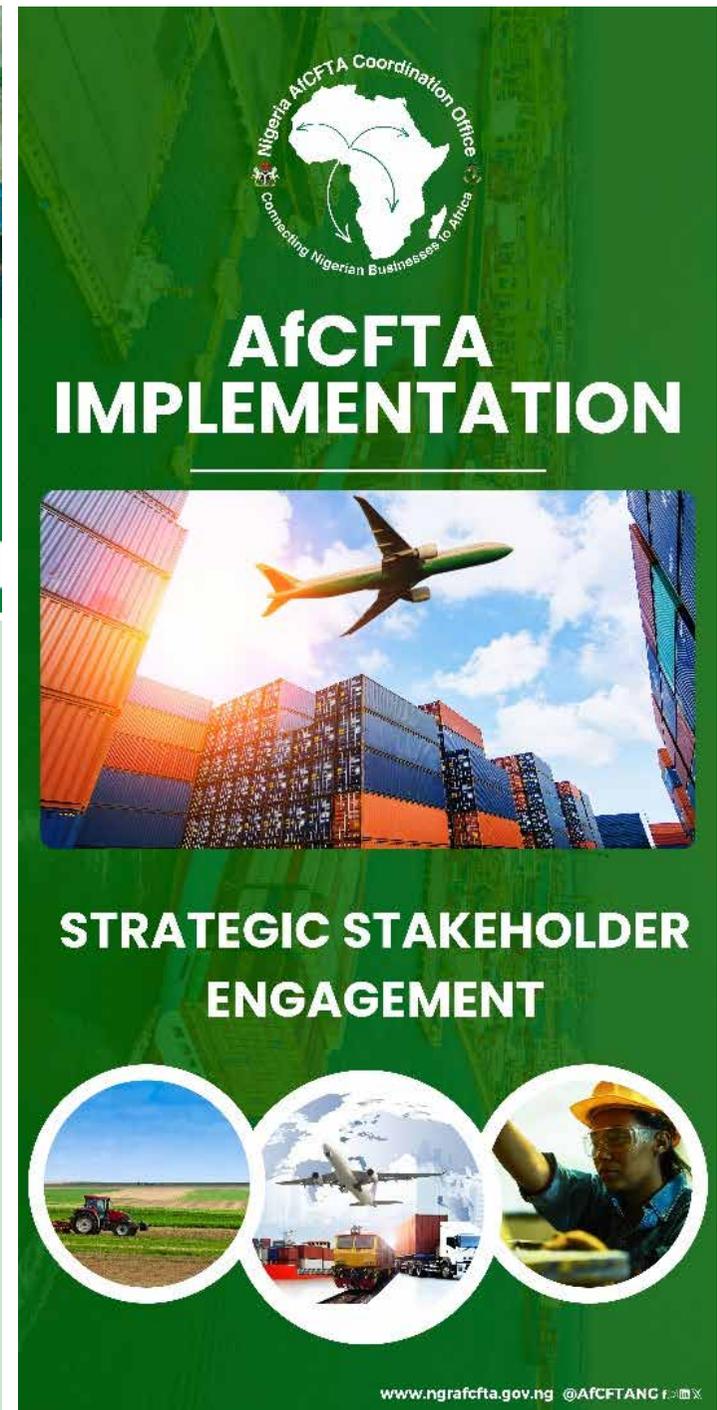
GUIDED TRADE INITIATIVE

ONBOARDING STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP

Connecting Nigerian Businesses to the AfCFTA.

Thursday 09:00 AM - 18 MAY 2023

Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) Auditorium, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory



Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office
Connecting Nigerian Businesses to Africa

AfcFTA IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

www.ngrafcta.gov.ng @AfCFTANC



Invest Jigawa
...tune to the future



AfcFTA-NAC and Jigawa State AfcFTA TWG

AFCFTA IMPLEMENTATION: JIGAWA WORKING VISIT

MEETING WITH BUSINESSES AND STAKEHOLDERS

Date: Tuesday 7th May, 2024 | Time: 10:30am
Venue: Manpower Development Institute (MDI), Dutse Jigawa State



STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Theme: The Role of **NAFDAC** in AfCFTA Implementation

 **Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025**  **8AM**

 **Fraser Suites,
294 Leventis Close, CBD, Abuja**



www.ngrafcfta.gov.ng @AfCFTANG

PHOTO STORIES

GIZ Country Heads in ECOWAS Visit



Biashara Africa

Biashara Africa



Continental Engagements









Digital Trade workshop





Sub-National Engagement: Jigawa



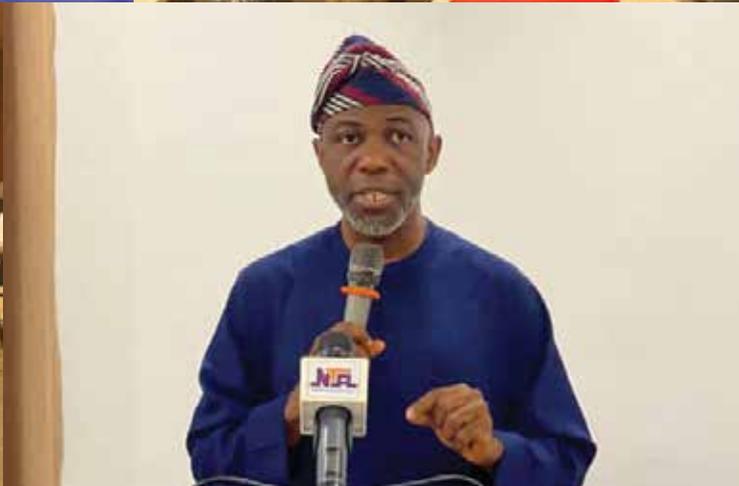
Sub-National Engagement: Ogun





Rules of Origin training









Nigeria Customs Service Workshop





AfCFTA Partners



Domestic Engagement on AfCFTA Implementation, Bayelsa - 2025



Engagement on Digitalization of AfCFTA Process in Nigeria



DCG Adeola
ICT Dept. Nigeria Custom Service

DCG CK Niagwan
T & T, Nigeria Custom Service



First Shipment Documentation In Lagos





Strategic Engagements









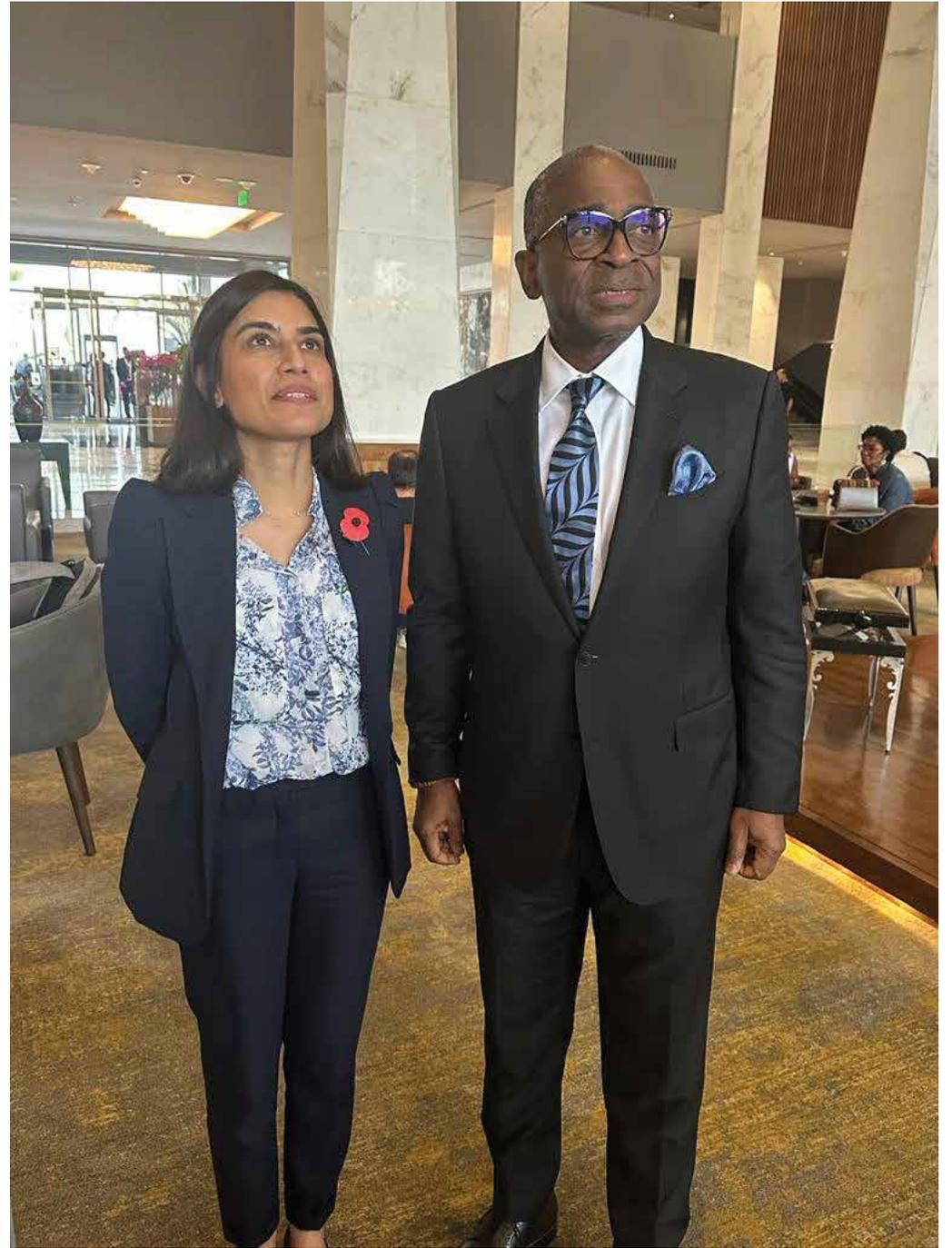


15th FMITI Council Meeting, Katsina



IATF Cairo, 2024

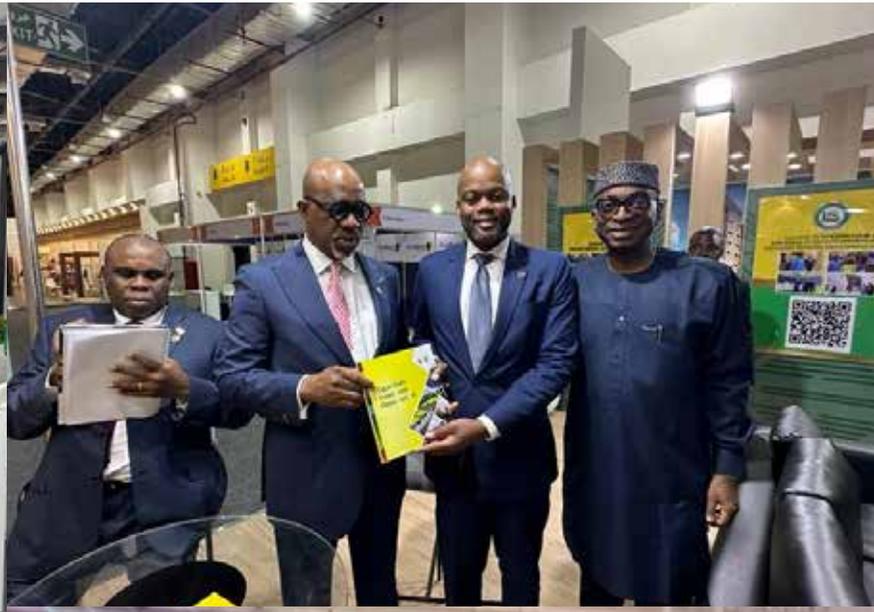














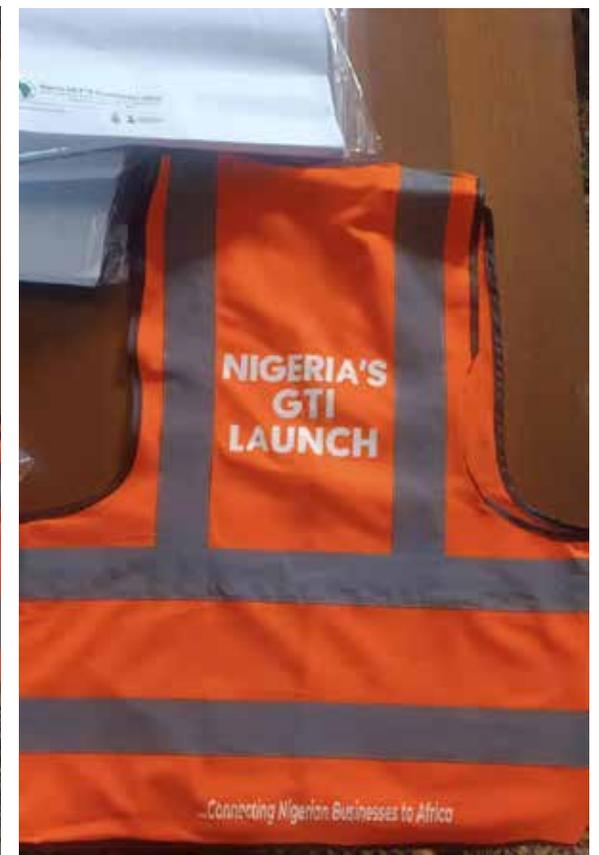


Strategic visit to Nigeria Customs Service



Mr Bashir Adeniyi Adewale, PhD MFR
Comptroller General of Nigeria Custom Service

GTI, 2024



NEXIM Bank/Sealink Engagement



AfCFTA NTBs Workshop, 2025





WIPO Visit



Nigeria's Shippers Council Visit



Hackathon-2025











Nigeria AfCFTA
Coordination Office
PRESENTS FIRST EDITION

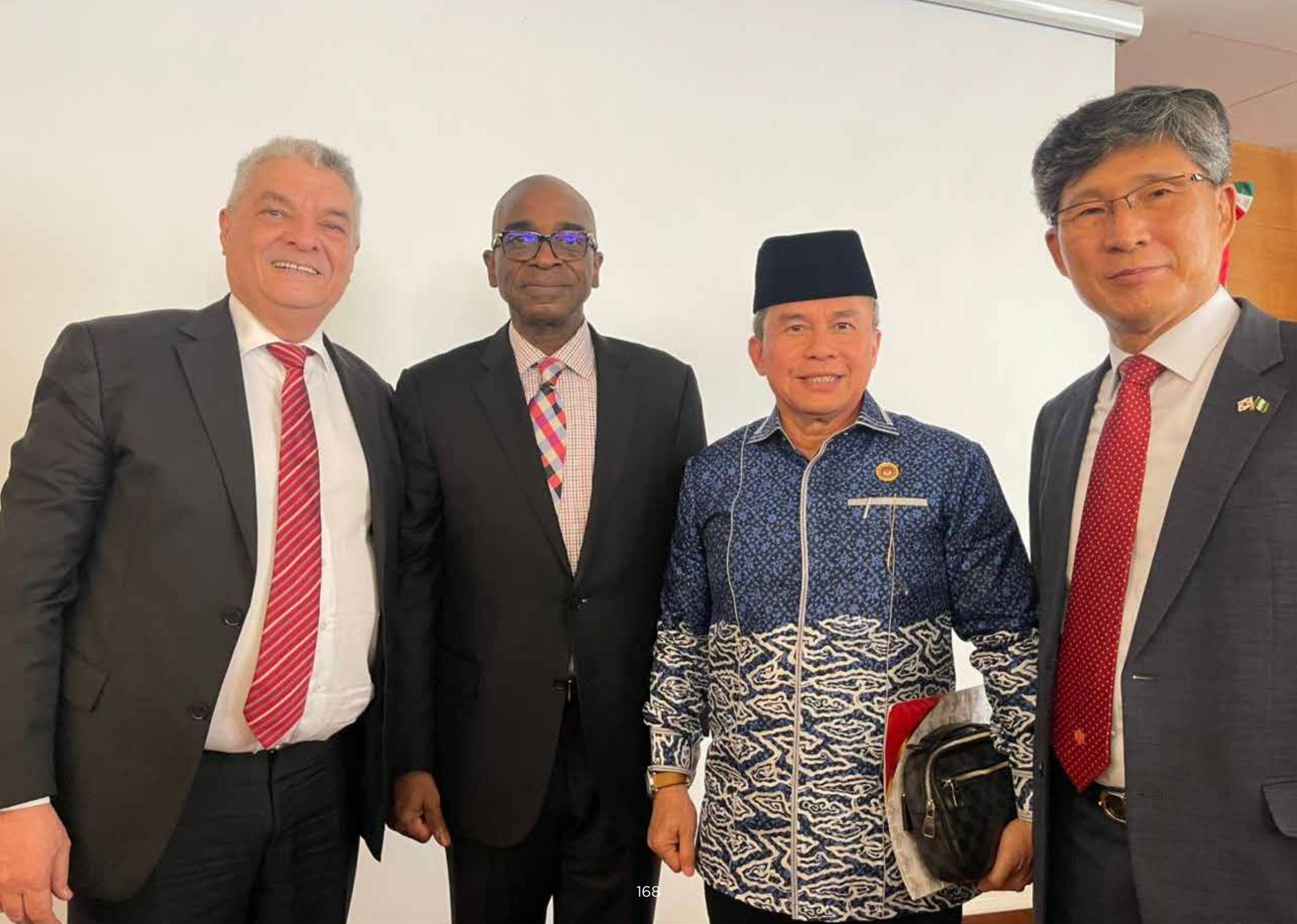
Nigeria AfCFTA Hackathon 2025

Empowering Youth for Africa's Future Trade
*A 3 day challenge to where we'll work together
to use technology to improve trade in Africa.*

Global Inclusivity and AI: Africa







Natonal Single Window



Second Shipment Documentation In Lagos



AfCFTA Peer Learning, Maputo, Mozambique, 2025





SpaceX/Starlink Team's Visit



International Engagement: Indonesia





International Engagement: China











REPORT OF MEDIA ENGAGEMENT & PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN (2024 - 2025)

Executive Summary

The Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office implemented a sustained, strategically aligned media engagement and publicity campaign between 2023 and 2025 to support Nigeria's effective participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Over the review period, the Office recorded 131 positive media headlines across 120 print and online publications, complemented by extensive national and international television and radio coverage. Please, find attached the 46 report.

The campaign amplified key AfCFTA milestones, including Nigeria's inaugural and subsequent exports under the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI), Rules of Origin implementation, large-scale capacity-building programmes for exporters and regulators, digital trade advocacy, and innovation-led initiatives such as the AfCFTA Hackathon. Media sentiment remained overwhelmingly positive, reinforcing Nigeria's leadership posture, institutional readiness, and commitment to inclusive, trade-led growth.

Overall, media engagement functioned as a strategic policy enabler—enhancing public awareness, strengthening private-sector confidence, supporting inter-agency coordination, multi-stakeholder approach and advancing the Federal Government's trade, industrialisation, and export diversification objectives under the Renewed Hope Agenda.

Introduction

The Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI) and Federal Ministry of Finance, is mandated to coordinate, implement, and drive Nigeria’s participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Central to this mandate is sustained stakeholder engagement and strategic public communication to ensure national ownership, policy coherence, private-sector participation, and international credibility.

Between 2023 and 2025, the Office executed a structured media engagement and publicity campaign to inform domestic and international stakeholders of Nigeria’s AfCFTA readiness, milestones, reforms, and opportunities. The strategy supported implementation priorities including the Guided Trade Initiative, export readiness, Rules of Origin administration, digital trade, youth and MSME participation, and continental economic diplomacy.

This report consolidates media engagements within the period and assesses scope, reach, tone, and thematic focus, for the information and oversight of the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment.

Analysis Of Media Engagement

Volume and Reach

The Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office recorded 131 media headlines across 120 print and online newspapers, alongside features on 10 national and international television platforms and radio coverage. Engagements spanned mass-market dailies, business and policy publications, online media, and broadcast media—ensuring penetration across policymakers, investors, exporters, SMEs, and the general public.

Tone and Sentiment

Coverage was predominantly positive and promotional, emphasizing preparedness, reforms, and tangible outcomes. Where challenges were referenced, reporting framed them within ongoing policy responses and institutional solutions, reinforcing confidence in government delivery.



Thematic Focus

Coverage clustered around:

AfCFTA implementation milestones
(GTI launches and shipments)

Capacity building for exporters, customs,
and regulators

Private-sector enablement, MSMEs, women
and youth participation

Digital trade, fintech, and innovation
(including the AfCFTA Hackathon)

Continental and international engagements
reinforcing Nigeria's leadership

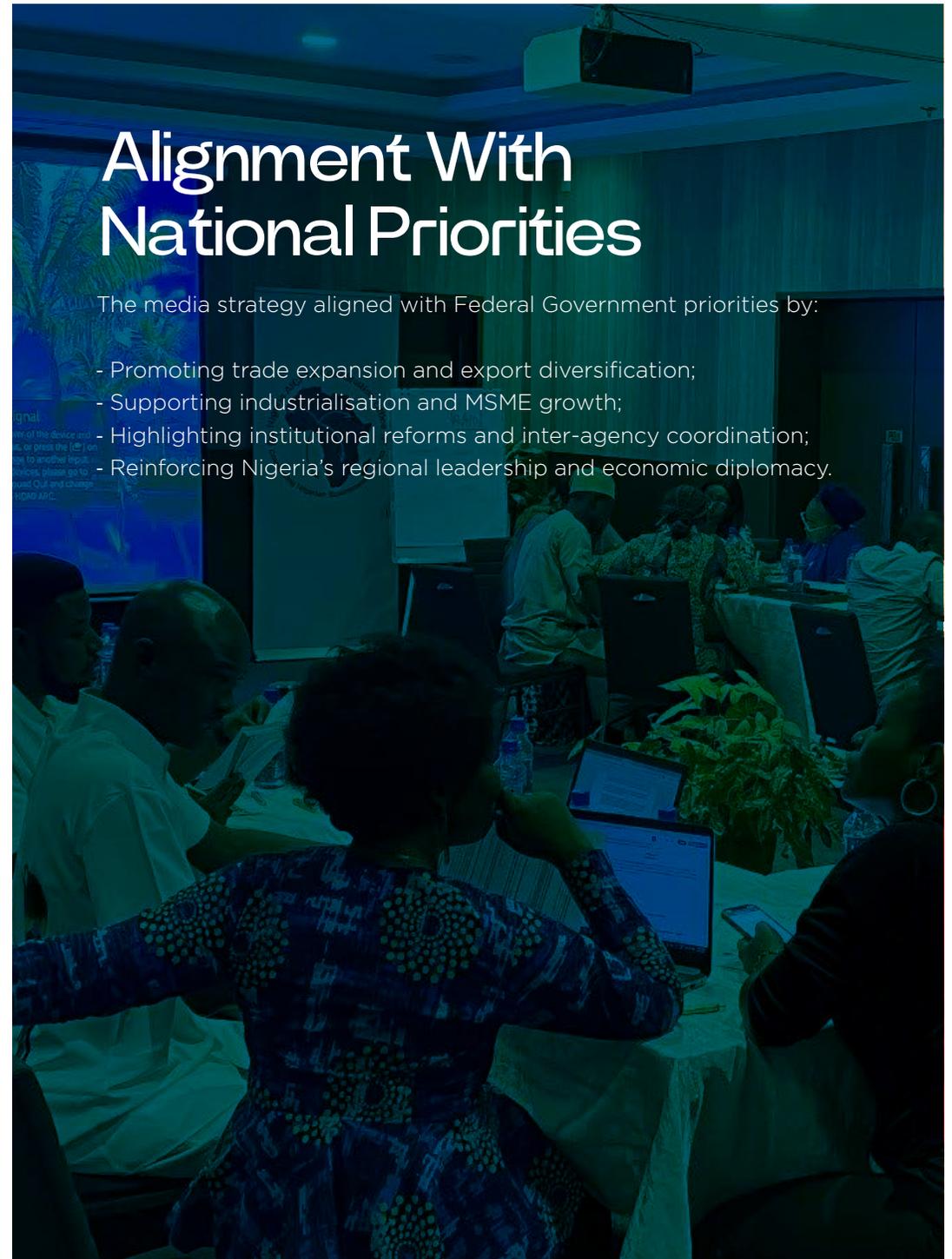
Institutional Visibility

Media engagement consistently positioned the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination as the national coordinating authority with clear leadership visibility. This strengthened stakeholder confidence and clarified AfCFTA governance arrangements.

Alignment With National Priorities

The media strategy aligned with Federal Government priorities by:

- Promoting trade expansion and export diversification;
- Supporting industrialisation and MSME growth;
- Highlighting institutional reforms and inter-agency coordination;
- Reinforcing Nigeria's regional leadership and economic diplomacy.



Impact Assessment

This section summarises the expected policy, institutional, and reputational impacts of AfCFTA-related interventions, focusing on improved awareness, stronger coordination, and enhanced confidence in Nigeria's role in intra-African trade.

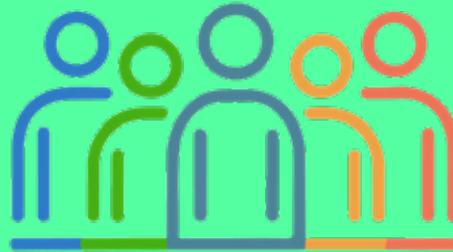


Policy and Stakeholder Impact

Increased awareness and understanding of AfCFTA among exporters and regulators;

Higher participation in trainings, consultations, and pilot initiatives;

Improved confidence among businesses to engage in formal intra-African trade.

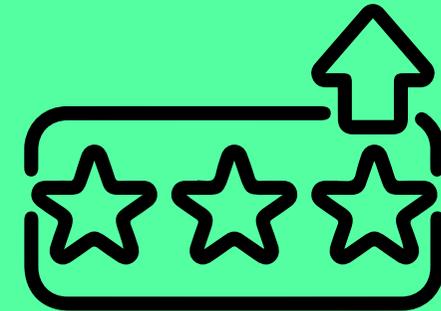


Institutional Impact

Enhanced credibility and visibility of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office as coordinating authority;

Clearer public and stakeholders awareness of AfCFTA

Stronger inter-agency collaboration and multi-stakeholder model.



Reputational Impact

Positive national and international perception of Nigeria as proactive and reform-oriented;

Reinforced investor confidence and continental credibility.

Consistent messaging enhances credibility and policy coherence.

Milestone-driven communication generates stronger traction.

BREAKDOWN OF THE REPORT

131

News Headlines

120

Newspapers Covered

10

National and International TV Headlines

1

Radio

May
2023

26-05

TVC NEWS

AfCFTA Executive Secretary, Segun Awolowo Speaks On Benefits Of Dangote Refinery



06-06

PUNCH

Shettima pledges Nigeria's leadership in AfCFTA



Executive Secretary of National Action Committee on the AfCFTA, Olusegun Awolowo, underscored the crucial role of the agreement in stimulating intra-African trade, thereby driving economic growth

09-08

LEADERSHIP

Zenith Bank Trade Seminar: Stakeholders Highlight Need For Value-added Exports





Non-oil export: AfCFTA, NACCIMA partner to exploit potential of GTI

Awolowo spoke at a joint interactive session organised by AfCFTA and the Nigerian Association of Chambers, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA) to inform the Nigerian business community about the impact of GTI on trade with African countries.



AfCFTA: Nigeria To Start Locally Produced Commodities Export To South Africa, Others April

Nigeria is poised to commence formal exportation of locally produced commodities to South Africa, Rwanda, Cameroon, and Kenya next month, marking a significant milestone under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Guided Trade initiative.



Nigeria to join continental trade initiative – AfCFTA's boss

The Executive Secretary, National Working Committee, African Continental Free Trade Area, Nigeria, Segun Awolowo, has expressed the readiness of the country to join the second phase of the Guided Trade Initiative.

06-04

20-08

21-08

23-08

21-08

23-08



29 African countries to join continental trade initiative – AfCFTA

No fewer than 29 African countries have expressed interest to facilitate trade in the second phase of the Guided Trade Initiative under the African Continental Free Trade Area.



Stakeholders advocate e-commerce integration to boost \$3.4trn AfCFTA market

Awolowo, represented by Dr Fatima Bello, Coordinator, Policies Regulations and Laws Workstream, AfCFTA, said an innovative interim approach called the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) was developed to stimulate and encourage trading.



AfCFTA: How Nigeria Can Benefit From GTI – Awolowo

Executive Secretary, National Action Committee for Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Olusegun Awolowo, has reiterated Nigeria's commitment to fostering continental economic integration and realising its benefits in Africa via the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI).



UNDP, NAC, others validate five trade-in-services opportunities for Nigeria under AfCFTA

Speaking on the sideline of the workshop, the Executive Secretary, National Action Committee on AfCFTA, Olusegun Awolowo, represented by the Senior Trade Expert and Lead Trade Enablement, NAC-AfCFTA) Olusegun Olutayo restated the mandate of the committee to coordinate all the federal ministries, departments, and agencies on the implementation of AfCFTA.



AfCFTA: Nigeria commences export to S’Africa, others in April

Nigeria is to begin the formal export of locally produced commodities to South Africa, Rwanda, Cameroon and Kenya from next month under the GTI



16-12

February
2024

06-02

03-03

08-03



Obasanjo, Saraki seek stronger Angola-Nigeria trade ties

The Secretary of the National Action Committee of AfCFTA, Nigeria, Olusegun Awolowo, said the lack of Foreign Direct Investment between Nigeria and Angola underscored the untapped potential for economic engagement between the two largest oil exporters in Africa.



Reflecting on AfCFTA Implementation in Nigeria

It is observed that, for the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office being the vanguard of the implementation of the AfCFTA in Nigeria, under the leadership of the National Coordinator, Mr. Olusegun Awolowo, 2024 marked a significant milestone.



Nigeria Ready to Tap into \$16tn Digital Trade Potential Under AfCFTA, Says Awolowo

Executive Secretary, National Action Committee on African Continental Free Trade Area (NAC-AfCFTA), Mr. Olusegun Awolowo, on Thursday, has said the country was prepared to sign onto the AfCFTA protocol on digital trade to take advantage of the \$16 trillion market potential of the sector.



CIBN, partners advocate PAPSS adoption for Africa's \$3trn market

Mr Segun Awolowo, Executive Secretary, National Action Committee on AfCFTA (NAC-AfCFTA), expressed joy that bankers were keying into his visions to boost exportation by embracing PAPSS.



Science of Trade Confab: Empowering entrepreneurs for global markets

The conference, which took place from Monday, May 27 to Wednesday May 29, 2024 at the Landmark Event Centre, served as a significant opportunity for stakeholders in the trade ecosystem to exchange knowledge and collaborate.



08-03

12-03

26-04

06-05

06-07

13-07



AfCFTA: Awolowo Affirms Nigeria's Export Plans To S'Africa, Others In April

Awolowo, in chats with our correspondent, noted that although some businesses in Nigeria currently export products to these countries informally, but beginning from April, Nigerian companies would start the official and formal export of commodities to African nations under the AfCFTA treaty.



Zenith Bank, AfCFTA launch innovative smart trade portal

The Secretary of the National Action Committee on AfCFTA, Mr. Olusegun Awolowo.



Tinubu set to unveil AfCFTA's Preferential Trade Initiative



In a statement by Senior Trade Policy and Law Expert/Lead Trade Enablement, Nigeria AfCFTA, Olusegun Olutayo, the launch, organized by the Nigeria AfCFTA coordination office on behalf of the government of the federal republic of Nigeria and the AfCFTA secretariat, will take place at Apapa Port, Lagos.

Nigeria Set To Begin Preferential Trade Under AfCFTA Guided Initiative

In a statement signed by the senior trade policy and law expert/lead trade enablement, Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Mr. Olusegun Olutayo, said this was in line with the vision of Africa's founding fathers to unite the continent in one, shared prosperity and the renewed hope agenda of Tinubu administration.



Preferential trade under AfCFTA initiative for launch Tuesday

According to the national coordinator of Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Olusegun Awolowo, Nigeria signed the AfCFTA Agreement on 7 July 2019, becoming the 34th AfCFTA State Party.



Nigeria set to export products to African countries - FG
National Coordinator, Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Olusegun Awolowo, disclosed this in Lagos at the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Nigeria's inaugural shipment under the Guided Trade Initiative framework and ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Nigeria records first shipment four years after AfCFTA nod
Speaking at the launch of the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) and Nigeria's inaugural shipment under AfCFTA protocol, President Bola Tinubu, said AfCFTA is not just a trade agreement but a bold vision for Africa's industrialisation, equitable growth, and prosperity of Nigerians.

13-07

13-07

14-07

16-07

17-07

18-07



Nigeria set to commence preferential trade under AfCFTA initiative

The launch ceremony, co-organized by the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office and the AfCFTA Secretariat, will be held at Apapa Port, Lagos.



Nigeria opens doors to continental trade with first AfCFTA shipment

Awolowo announced the approval to transform the National Action Committee on the AfCFTA (NAC-AfCFTA) to a Nigeria/AfCFTA Coordination Office (NACO) with authority to effectively deliver on the desired outcomes.



AfCFTA: Nigeria, Africa must export their way out of poverty, depression - Awolowo

The National Coordinator of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office (NACO), Segun Awolowo, has said Nigeria, and indeed Africa, must export their ways out of poverty by adequately implementing the agreement.



FG to maximise benefits of AfCFTA

The President stated that trade has inherently become highly competitive and that the country cannot become complacent.

BUSINESS DAY

Dangote, Flour Mills, Tolaram make first AfCFTA exports

INDEPENDENT

Nigeria Launches Guided Trade Initiative Under AfCFTA, Records Economic Growth, Continental Leadership

LEADERSHIP

Nigeria Starts Trading Under AfCFTA, Sees \$50bn In Benefits

Daily Trust

FG trains exporters on AfCFTA rules of origin

As part of the Federal Government's preparations to take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office has partnered with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to train no fewer than three million Nigerian businesses.



NSC, AfCFTA partner to boost intra-African trad

The two institutions aim to improve maritime connectivity via the Sea Link Project, a strategic initiative to boost intra-African trade.



19-07

30-07

31-07

1-08

21-08

27-09



AfCFTA: Nigeria Engages Importers & Exporters Ahead of Trade Deal Rollout

As Nigeria prepares to domesticate the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement, the AfCFTA Coordination Office has convened a high-level summit in Abuja, bringing together prospective importers and exporters.



Nigeria's non-oil export drive in focus as FirstBank hosts Agric, Trade Conference

The Executive Secretary, National Working Committee, African Continental Free Trade Area, Nigeria, Segun Awolowo, has expressed the readiness of the country to join the second phase of the Guided Trade Initiative.



AfCFTA Coordination Office Engages Bank of Industry on Trade and Economic Growth Initiatives

In a strategic move to strengthen Nigeria's participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the National Coordinator of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Mr. Olusegun Awolowo, recently hosted the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Industry (BoI), Dr. Olasupo Olusi, at the Coordination Office in Abuja.

THE AUTHORITY

NCS, AfCFTA coordination committee hold workshop to boost intra-African trade

The event brought together key officers of the NCS, including Area Controllers and representatives from the AfCFTA Coordination Office, to discuss strategies for improving trade across Africa.



DAILY COMMERCE
Pulse of the Economy

Awolowo reiterates Customs role in AfCFTA implementation

Awolowo made the call at a workshop organised for the port comptrollers from various NCS command posts held in Abuja.



PR PRIMETIME REPORTERS

NCS, AfCFTA Coordination Committee Hold Workshop To Boost Intra-African Trade

In his opening remarks, Segun Awolowo, National Coordinator of the AfCFTA Committee highlighted the immense potential of AfCFTA in transforming Africa's economic landscape.

Daily Trust

NCS, AfCFTA committee parley to boost intra-African trade

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), in collaboration with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Coordination Committee, has held a one-day workshop at the weekend to enhance trade facilitation across the African continent.

21-10

11-10

16-10

18-10

20-10

21-10

Daily Trust

FG Trains NAFDAC Officers on Quality Assurance for AfCFTA Implementation

The Federal Government has commenced capacity-building training for Directors and key officers of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to enhance their understanding of quality assurance and regulatory standards under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

ARISE NEWS

NIGERIA CUSTOMS PROMOTES AFCFTA IMPLEMENTATION

NA NEWS 24

AfCFTA Office In Nigeria Solidifies Agreement Through Consultations With Nigeria Custom Service

THE AUTHORITY

NCS, AfCFTA coordination committee hold workshop to boost intra-African trade

The event brought together key officers of the NCS, including Area Controllers and representatives from the AfCFTA Coordination Office, to discuss strategies for improving trade across Africa.

INDEPENDENT

Customs, AfCFTA Coordination Committee Sensitise Stakeholders On Intra-African Trade

Segun Awolowo, National Coordinator of the AfCFTA Committee, in an opening remarks, highlighted the immense potential of AfCFTA in transforming Africa's economic landscape.

22-10

TheGuardian

Shipping delays, infrastructure gap threaten AfCFTA target

Senior International Trade Policy & Law Expert/Lead, Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Olusegun Olutayo, underscored the persistent stagnation in intra-African trade, which had grown by only a 10 per cent increase in 61 years, marginally from 10 per cent in 1964 to about 18-20 per cent in 2025.

16-10

NIGERIAN TRIBUNE

Nigeria makes first shipment under AfCFTA to Kenya

Olusegun Olutayo, Senior Trade Expert and Lead of Trade Enablement at the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, noted that the shipment from Nigeria to Kenya, specifically to the port of Mombasa, demonstrates the collaborative spirit of AfCFTA.

20-10

8-11

TheGuardian

FG deepens AfCFTA implementation, targets 40% GDP growth by 2030

National Coordinator of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Olusegun Awolowo, said the government has stepped up implementation through an advanced training initiative on the Rules of Origin (RoO)



TheGuardian

Customs facilitates first shipment from Nigeria to Kenya under AfCFTA

BUSINESS DAY

Nigeria completes first AfCFTA shipment to Kenya

NIGERIAN TRIBUNE

NCS facilitates Nigeria's first AfCFTA shipment to Kenya

THE AUTHORITY

Awolowo advocates maritime security for AfCFTA as summit opens in China

He made the call at the ongoing 2024 Abuja Forum Conference in Zhengyang, China, themed Effecting The Spirit Of The Beijing Summit Of The Forum On China-Africa Cooperation, Promoting Shared Goals For The Future Of China-Africa Modernization.

LEADERSHIP

Nexhub, AfCFTA Discuss Strategic Growth to unlocking Nigeria's non-oil export

The Group Managing Director of Zeenab Foods and chairman of The Nigerian Exporters Hub (Nexhub), Dr. Victor Ayemere, led a delegation to meet with the National Coordinator of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Mr. Segun Awolowo, to discuss the progress of Nexhub.

Arewa Agenda

Experts underscore role of IPRs in trade under AfCFTA

The National Coordinator of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Olusegun Awolowo, has called for legal protection of African creations, noting that safeguarding Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) is critical to achieving economic growth and sustainability through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).



The Guardian

Tinubu approves N250 billion AfCFTA readiness fund

The Nigerian AfCFTA Coordination Office stated this in Abuja at an event organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nigeria, in partnership with the Women Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (WCCIMA).

THE AUTHORITY

Stakeholders laud Nigeria's first export to Kenya under AfCFTA

Speaking recently during the documentation exercise at the Apapa Area Command of NCS, the Senior Trade Policy and Law Expert/Lead at the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Olusegun Olutayo, said the shipment is a demonstration of the collaborative spirit of AfCFTA.

10-11

29-11

30-11

6-12

7-12

9-12



Experts underscore role of IPRs in trade under AfCFTA

Awolowo made the call at the ongoing 5th edition of the All Africa Intellectual Property Summit 2024, which is being held in Kigali, Rwanda.



Experts urge women-led businesses to leverage AfCFTA for growth

Olusegun Olutayo, senior trade expert at the Nigerian AfCFTA Coordination Office, highlighted the broader benefits of AfCFTA for all Nigerians, regardless of their economic roles.



AfDB advocates local solutions to Africa's economic challenges

Senior Trade Expert and Lead, Trade Enablement, Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Olusegun Olutayo, explained that businesses within the African market could benefit from AfCFTA by paying reduced or zero tariffs. He spoke at AfCFTA Awareness and Sensitisation webinar organised by Bashir Adeniyi Centre for International Trade and Investment (BACITI) of The Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA).



Customs facilitates first shipment from Nigeria to Kenya under AfCFTA

According to Olutayo, Nigeria, as part of the ECOWAS bloc, submitted a tariff concession schedule that includes 90 percent liberalization under Category A. This indicates that products within this category, when exported within Africa, qualify for reduced tariffs rather than the Most Favored Nation (MFN) rates.

10-12



ECA, AfCFTA to support Nigerian women, youth businesses

Speaking during the ceremony in Lagos, Senior Trade Expert/Lead, Trade Enablement, AfCFTA National Coordination Office, Olusegun Olutayo, said the shipment marks another milestone in the implementation of the AfCFTA Nigeria Guided Trade Initiative and a step in the right direction for the economic development of Nigeria.

18-12



AfCFTA: Compass Global, partners empower SMEs, commit to intra-African trade

Segun Awolowo from Nigeria's AfCFTA Coordination Office, participated in the opening ceremony of the Kenya deal room.

28-12

17-12



Skincare firm launches first shipment under AfCFTA to Kenya

Speaking during the ceremony in Lagos, Senior Trade Expert/Lead, Trade Enablement, AfCFTA National Coordination Office, Olusegun Olutayo, said the shipment marks another milestone in the implementation of the AfCFTA Nigeria Guided Trade Initiative and a step in the right direction for the economic development of Nigeria.



Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office Advances Women and Youth Participation in Trade with UNECA and UNDP Support



24-12

January
2025

14-01

20-01

22-01

20-02

21-03

26-03



Nigeria's first shipment arrives in Kenya under AfCFTA pact

The shipment, which included synthetic filaments produced by Lucky Fibres Limited (Lush), a subsidiary of the Tolaram Group, was facilitated under AfCFTA's preferential trade terms. Senior Trade Expert, Olusegun Olutayo from Nigeria's AfCFTA Coordination Office described the feat as a triumph for the continent.



AfCFTA: Operators project regional trade boost for Nigeria

Experts say that this presents an opportunity for Nigeria to promote agricultural products, manufactured goods, and services,



AfCFTA: Nigeria to begin export to S'Africa, others in April

Executive Secretary, National Action Committee on AfCFTA, Olusegun Awolowo, made the disclosure at the Abuja stakeholders workshop on the AfCFTA digital trade protocol



Nigeria's first AfCFTA consignment arrives Kenyan Port

The Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, led by Olusegun Awolowo, coordinated the shipment per the African Union's 31st Ordinary Assembly decision mandate.



Nigeria's Maiden AfCFTA Shipment Arrives in Kenya

In a statement, Senior Trade Expert at the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Olusegun Olutayo, said in line with its mandate under the leadership of the National Coordinator, Mr. Olusegun Awolowo, the office had coordinated the landmark event.



AfCFTA Pledges Support For Nigerian Businesses

Nigeria (AfCFTA) coordination office, under the leadership of the national coordinator, Olusegun Awolowo, is committed to supporting Nigerian businesses to export under the AfCFTA framework.



Nigeria to maximize AfCFTA benefits through fintech investment

Awolowo, who was represented by the Senior Trade Expert/Lead at the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Olusegun Olutayo, showcased Nigeria's leading role in AfCFTA implementation, particularly through the transformation from a Committee into the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office

AfCFTA to transform Africa's 600m unbanked population – FG

Speaking at the recent Aquarian Consult Afri-Caribbean Investment Summit in Abuja, Olusegun Awolowo, National Coordinator for AfCFTA, emphasized the critical role of digital payment systems in boosting cross-border trade across the continent.



AfCFTA: Nigeria Engages Importers & Exporters Ahead of Trade Deal Rollout

As Nigeria prepares to domesticate the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement, the AfCFTA Coordination Office has convened a high-level summit in Abuja, bringing together prospective importers and exporters.



Nigeria's non-oil export drive in focus as FirstBank hosts Agric, Trade Conference



21-06

24-06

30-07

31-07

18-08

18-07



AfCFTA to transform Africa's 600m unbanked population – FG

Represented by Olusegun Olutayo, Senior Trade Expert/Lead at the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Awolowo highlighted how fintech firms could bridge Africa's financial inclusion gap through mobile banking, blockchain, and decentralized finance (DeFi) solutions.



FG trains exporters on AfCFTA rules of origin

As part of the Federal Government's preparations to take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office has partnered with the World Customs Organization (WCO) to train no fewer than three million Nigerian businesses.



Govt trains agencies, private sector on AfCFTA rules

Senior Trade Expert, Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Olusegun Olutayo, stated that The National Coordinator of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Mr Olusegun Awolowo, explained that the workshop was part of the administration's broader strategy to drive inclusive trade growth.



FG, World Customs train MAN, NACCIMA on AfCFTA Rule of Origin

National Coordinator of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Mr. Olusegun Awolowo, said the multi-sectoral training organized in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO)



AfCFTA: Nigeria eyes 40% GDP growth by 2030

The Federal Government of Nigeria is intensifying efforts to implement the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, aiming to boost the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth by 40% by 2030.



Shipping delays, infrastructure gap threaten AfCFTA target

Senior International Trade Policy & Law Expert/Lead, Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Olusegun Olutayo, underscored the persistent stagnation in intra-African trade, which had grown by only a 10 per cent increase in 61 years, marginally from 10 per cent in 1964 to about 18-20 per cent in 2025.

20-09

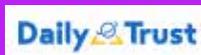
12-10

21-10

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30-10

28-11



FG Trains NAFDAC Officers on Quality Assurance for AfCFTA Implementation

The Federal Government has commenced capacity-building training for Directors and key officers of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to enhance their understanding of quality assurance and regulatory standards under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).



AfCFTA: Game-changer for economic transformation for Oyo, Nigeria

National Coordinator of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Mr. Olusegun Awolowo, stated that the government has stepped up implementation through an advanced training initiative on the Rules of Origin



Private sector involvement key to boosting AfCFTA- Prof Ladan

A Professor of Regional Economic Integration Law and Practice in Africa, Prof Mohammed Ladan, says the contributions of the private sector in driving the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) will help to achieve the goal of a single continental market and boost intra-African trade



ECA, AfCFTA to support Nigerian women, youth businesses

Speaking at the event organised by the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, Sebege said entrepreneurs would gain visibility under the AfCFTA initiative.

18-12

NEWSPAPER REPORT

6

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025 • THISDAY

NEWS



STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS MEETING...

L-R: Senior Trade Expert/Lead, Nigeria Coordination Office, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Olusegun Olutayo; Director General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Prof. Moji Adeyeye; and Representative of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance, Dalhat Jarman Binji, during the strategic stakeholder engagement, "The Role of NAFDAC in AfCFTA Implementation", organised by AfCFTA in Abuja... recently

8 NEWS

THISDAY • MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024



AFCTA IMPLEMENTATION CONFERENCE...

L-R: National Coordinator Nigeria, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Mr Olusegun Awolowo, Deputy Comptroller General, Trade & Tariff Nigeria Customs Service, DG General Magnus, Senior Manager, Commodity Finance, African Bank, Mr Daniel Momo, and the Senior International Trade Policy Officer, National Action Committee on the AfCFTA, Mr Chagema Oduya, during the AfCFTA Implementation conference, Theme: Enhancing Trade Facilitation under the AfCFTA regime, held in Abuja... recently

Abdullahi Sule: We Haven't Borrowed to Develop Nasarawa

• Says IGR increased to N20 billion from N7.7 billion in 2019

Investment in infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and power, has been a key focus of the government, according to Governor Abdullahi Sule. He said the state has not borrowed to develop Nasarawa, but rather used its own resources to fund development projects. Sule highlighted the state's economic growth, particularly in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors, and noted that the state's infrastructure development has been a key focus of the government's agenda. He also mentioned the state's efforts to attract foreign investment and improve the business environment. Sule stated that the state's infrastructure development has been a key focus of the government's agenda, and he highlighted the state's economic growth, particularly in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. He also mentioned the state's efforts to attract foreign investment and improve the business environment.

ITF Lauds Nigeria, Set to Collaborate on Aviation Development in Africa

The International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) has commended Nigeria for its commitment to aviation development in Africa. The union praised the Nigerian government for its efforts to improve the aviation sector and create jobs for its members. ITF representatives visited Nigeria to meet with government officials and industry stakeholders. They discussed the challenges facing the aviation sector and explored opportunities for collaboration. The union expressed its support for the Nigerian government's initiatives to modernize the aviation infrastructure and enhance safety standards. ITF also highlighted the importance of fair labor practices and workers' rights in the aviation industry.

Lawal Becomes Tinubu's New CSO

Dr. Ibrahim Lawal has been appointed as the new Chief Security Officer (CSO) of the Nigerian government. He will be replacing General Abdulsalam Abacha, who has retired. Lawal is a former military officer and has extensive experience in security and intelligence. He was previously the Director of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). Lawal's appointment is seen as a move to strengthen the government's security apparatus. He will be responsible for coordinating the activities of the various security agencies and ensuring the safety of the President and other high-ranking officials. Lawal is expected to take office soon.

Ensica Holds Abuja Seminar, Says Firm Building over 700 Housing Units

Ensica, a leading real estate and construction firm, held a seminar in Abuja to discuss housing development in Nigeria. The seminar was attended by government officials, industry experts, and members of the public. Ensica's CEO, Mr. [Name], stated that the firm is currently building over 700 housing units across various locations in Nigeria. He highlighted the firm's commitment to providing affordable and quality housing for the Nigerian population. The seminar also featured presentations on the latest trends in real estate and construction technology. Ensica is a member of the Nigerian Real Estate Association (NREA) and is committed to ethical practices and transparency in the real estate industry.

Ensica Holds Abuja Seminar, Says Firm Building over 700 Housing Units

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Renewed Hope: No section of Nigeria's left out in infrastructure devt, says Umahi

Lawrence Oloye ABIA

The Minister of Works, Erhan Umahi, has asserted that no section of the country has been left out in the infrastructure development by the Federal Government.

"I'm trying to be as inclusive as possible. No section of the state or country is left out in the infrastructure development projects (designed) by the President Bola Tinubu administration, and his leadership while leading Nigeria," he said during a meeting with the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting chaired by the President at the Villa.

Umahi, responding to a question about the extent of the project, said the first section covers 116 km across the country.

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Umahi, responding to a question about the extent of the project, said the first section covers 116 km across the country.

On the Abuja-Kano road, which spans 1,600 km and costs N40 billion, 20 per cent has been released to contractors. In addition, the Abuja-Cadiz application project valued at \$2 billion dollars has also received a 20 per cent payment for ongoing work.

Regarding regional upgrades, Umahi said funds have been released to cover all four sections of the road between Ilorin and Oyo, and further monies were disbursed through the State Road Fund to support the Oyo projects, which have also commenced.



PHOTO: ADAMU SANUEL

74% of children in detention homes awaiting trial - Report

A new report has revealed that 74 per cent of children and young adults held in Nigeria's local institutions (detention homes) were either awaiting trial or the outcome of legal reports.

Only 26 per cent of those reportedly had been convicted, highlighting significant delays in the justice system process.

The assessment of the Situation of Children and Young Adults Deprived of Liberty in Nigeria in 2024 report was developed by the Ministry of Justice with support from UNICEF Nigeria.

Published in 2024, the report revealed that

analysis of the conditions and treatment of inmates in conflict with the law.

According to the findings, a total of 13,099 children and young adults were held in detention between 2022 and 2023.

The assessment also revealed that 87 per cent of children in detention homes had not been convicted, highlighting significant delays in the justice system process.

2027: We're not party to Tinubu's endorsement - Kano PDP

Muhammad Kabir ABIA

The Kano State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), rejected the endorsement of President Bola Tinubu for its 2027 general election.

"We are not party to the endorsement of President Tinubu's second term agenda by some members from the western part of this country," he said.

"We believe in our party and any candidate that emerges in the presidential election."

Kabir, who spoke at a meeting in Kano, insisted that the party had

what it takes to secure the presidency in 2027 and as such, there was no reason whatsoever to endorse Tinubu.

On the new candidate, he said: "We categorically distance the Kano state chapter from the leadership members who have formed a coalition under the APC."

"This coalition does not represent the interests of the PDP and we urge our members to reject any objective."

Stranded Nigerian miners in CAR safe - NIDCOM

The Nigerian Inter-Agency Commission (NIDCOM) said the stranded Nigerian miners in Central African Republic (CAR) who arrived in the Nigerian Embassy, Bamfidi, safe.

A statement signed by Mr. Adeniyi Babatunji, NIDCOM Director, Media, Publicity and Protocol said, "NIDCOM confirmed their arrival in the Nigerian Embassy, Bamfidi."

Minister of Education, Dr. Tinuji Adeniyi, has issued the instruction of compulsory and random drug integrity tests for students in tertiary institutions across the country.

Caribe, announced that while he will present evidence and evidence to the Drug Management Office to alert them to the dangers of their debt-increasing operations. "It is sad that despite our efforts, some tertiary institutions are not sufficiently empowered to implement the drug testing policy."

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Trustees' roles in ASAC member at FEC honour, Oloye

Lawrence Oloye ABIA

President Bola Tinubu has sworn Dr. Stephen Oluofemi Omi as the 13th member of the National Assembly Service Commission (NASAC).

Dr. Omi, who was sworn in at the Presidential Palace, said he will continue to work with the NASAC to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

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view and dismissal of applicants had been notified to each member in March.

The NASAC Commission on Establishment and Public Service, led by Sen. Chris Panyin, presented the report to the Senate Committee on Public Service and Civil Service.

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Rise in mental health cases among security officials' wives' - Adeniyi

Stephen Oluofemi Omi ABIA

Kano State Governor, Abubakar Adamu Adamu, said that the high rate of mental health challenges among security officials' wives is a concern.

He said he will continue to work with the NASAC to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

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Business

WHAT'S NEW

INFLATION RATE		LENDING RATE		EXCHANGE RATE		EXCHANGE RATE	
February 2023	23.8%	Interest Rate	35%	USD/NGN	14.23	USD/NGN	14.23
January 2023	24.8%	Prime Lending Rate	32.5%	EUR/NGN	14.23	EUR/NGN	14.23
December 2023	24.8%	Maximum Lending Rate	34.0%	GBP/NGN	14.23	GBP/NGN	14.23

Refinery owners seek more investment in private plants

Refinery owners are seeking more investment in private plants to meet the growing demand for refined petroleum products.

IATA: African airlines record 6.7 per cent year-on-year increase in demand

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) reported a 6.7 per cent year-on-year increase in demand for African airlines.



Fertiliser: Nigeria exports N193bn worth of urea to South America

NOTABLE
Two Nigerian firms are leading fertilizer production and exports

By Ayi Akomolafe

Nigeria's fertilizer exports to South America reached a record of N193 billion in the first three months of 2024.

The shipment, which was facilitated by 11 ships through Lagos and Lagos Port between January and March 2024, were produced by Dangote and Indorama Eleme Fertiliser and Chemical Limited.

The shipping data revealed that in March 2024, 30,000 tonnes of urea were shipped out from Dangote's 30,000 tonnes Kanabatu D, 30,000 tonnes Adia, 17,000 tonnes Sherik Island, 30,000 tonnes Pearl Island, 30,000 tonnes.

The NPAs shipping data added that African Super Fertiliser, 30,000 tonnes; Indorama Eleme Fertiliser and Chemical Limited, 30,000 tonnes; Kanabatu D, 30,000 tonnes; Adia, 17,000 tonnes; Sherik Island, 30,000 tonnes; Pearl Island, 30,000 tonnes.

Also in January, Theodora with 30,000 tonnes; Wu Yang Fertiliser, 30,000 tonnes; and BC Puri, 30,000 tonnes left Lagos Port to various destinations.

Dangote's received out 120,000 tonnes of urea worth N69 billion (84.2 million) from Nigerian ports to Brazil and other destinations between January and February 2024.

In December 2023, a total of 314,400 metric tonnes of urea valued at N197.16 billion (\$19.48 billion) left Nigerian airports to Brazil.

Findings indicated that between November and December, a total of 167,000 tonnes were shipped out, while 146,700 tonnes were recorded in between September and October 2023.

Being the number of vessels that moved the cargoes out of the country

Business

COMPETITION

Both international and local investors are competing to gain the market, which is the lack of deregulation.

Deregulation: 'N15.42trn fuel import confirms policy's success'

Business Movers

Nigeria's importation of N15.42 trillion worth of petrol in 2024 marks the commencement of operations for the Nigerian Petroleum Refiners Association (NPRA) and the Nigerian Petroleum Refiners Association (NPRA) has said.



Left to Right: Governor, Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Governor, Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Governor, Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Governor, Deputy Governor of Lagos State.

He stated that Nigeria was prioritizing deregulation of liberalised economy, as there are no specific measures to liberalisation of fuel.

the liberalisation of the markets. "If we were not to do that, we can only generate products that are not sold in Nigeria. It means that if products are cheaper outside the country, it will not compete with the ones that are being sold here in Nigeria. So, it is a competitive, level international and local, are competing to gain the market. That is the beauty of deregulation."

The NPRA has stated that members should have their own where they have better offers and their business advantage or profit.

He said there was no business justification for a member to submit where there are better in terms of cheaper prices and generate some where else.

He stated that business members were generally driven by profit processes.

According to him, through its

YES! During the period of petrol import in 2024.

↑ Increase in petrol import

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The Business Desk

Stocks	Up
Bonds	Down
Commodities	Stable
Real Estate	Up
Technology	Down
Healthcare	Stable
Energy	Up
Manufacturing	Down
Services	Stable
Transportation	Up
Telecommunications	Down
Media	Stable
Retail	Up
Food & Beverage	Down
Textiles	Stable
Automotive	Up
Construction	Down
Infrastructure	Stable
Defense	Up
Space	Down
Art & Culture	Stable
Education	Up
Healthcare	Down
Finance	Stable
Law	Up
Other	Down

Index Dashboard

INDEX	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	+0.45%
Sensex	+0.30%
FTSE 100	+0.20%
DAX	+0.15%
Nikkei 225	+0.10%
Hang Seng	+0.05%
ASX 200	+0.02%
EUR/USD	1.0850
USD/GBP	0.7850
USD/JPY	148.50
USD/CAD	1.3500
USD/AUD	1.5000
USD/NZD	1.6000
USD/HKD	7.8000
USD/TWD	30.5000
USD/SGD	1.3500
USD/INR	83.5000
USD/BRL	5.5000
USD/ZAR	18.5000
USD/RUB	90.0000
USD/TRY	30.0000
USD/PHP	55.0000
USD/THB	35.0000
USD/VND	23.0000
USD/IDR	15.0000
USD/MYR	4.5000
USD/KRW	1,300.0000
USD/CHF	0.9000
USD/SEK	10.5000
USD/NOK	11.0000
USD/DKK	6.5000
USD/PLN	4.0000
USD/CZK	20.0000
USD/HUF	350.0000
USD/RON	4.5000
USD/BGN	1.8000
USD/HRK	7.5000
USD/COP	3,800.0000
USD/CLP	800.0000
USD/ARS	350.0000
USD/UYU	35.0000
USD/VEF	20.0000
USD/BOL	6.5000
USD/DOJ	20.0000
USD/PYG	20.0000
USD/ECV	20.0000
USD/GHS	12.0000
USD/NGN	830.0000
USD/KES	120.0000
USD/UGX	3500.0000
USD/ZMW	20.0000
USD/BWP	13.0000
USD/MOP	1.0000
USD/MXN	17.0000
USD/INR	83.5000
USD/BRL	5.5000
USD/ZAR	18.5000
USD/RUB	90.0000
USD/TRY	30.0000
USD/PHP	55.0000
USD/THB	35.0000
USD/VND	23.0000
USD/IDR	15.0000
USD/MYR	4.5000
USD/KRW	1,300.0000
USD/CHF	0.9000
USD/SEK	10.5000
USD/NOK	11.0000
USD/DKK	6.5000
USD/PLN	4.0000
USD/CZK	20.0000
USD/HUF	350.0000
USD/RON	4.5000
USD/BGN	1.8000
USD/HRK	7.5000
USD/COP	3,800.0000
USD/CLP	800.0000
USD/ARS	350.0000
USD/UYU	35.0000
USD/VEF	20.0000
USD/BOL	6.5000
USD/DOJ	20.0000
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USD/NGN	830.0000
USD/KES	120.0000
USD/UGX	3500.0000
USD/ZMW	20.0000
USD/BWP	13.0000
USD/MOP	1.0000
USD/MXN	17.0000

WHAT'S NEW

IFC: Equity, bonds attract \$4trn in new capital for developing economies

Kenya Airways mulls return to Abuja, weighs options

NEWS



UNDP, AFCFTA AND LELEOK ONBOARDING STUDENTS TRAINING PROGRAMME...

L-R: The Director General, Maryam Babangida Women Development Centre, Hajia Asabe Bashir, Senior International Trade Policy Officer, National Action Committee on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA), Dr Oluwaseun Olatunji, Founder / CEO, Leleok Bags Academy, Chief Mrs. Cnwa Ezenwa, Former Minister of Women Affairs, Dams Paoline Tallen, and the Program Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mrs Clare Henshaw, during the UNDP, AFCFTA and Leleok Bags Academy first onboarding students training programme for Women, Youths, and Persons with disabilities in fashion, bag-making and innovative accessories, held at the Leleok Bags Academy Head Office in Abuja... recently

Shettima Inaugurates Projects, Says Enugu Back to Life under Mbah

Vice President, Senator Kaduna Shettima yesterday lauded Governor Peter Mbah's development strides in Enugu State, noting that he was turning the state around through multiple projects across all sectors.

He also used the opportunity to thank some of the infrastructural projects by the Mbah administration, such as the command and control security infrastructure and the International Conference Centre.

He stated that time for politics was over and stressed federal government's readiness to work with visionary leaders across party lines to move the country forward.

The governor who was a recipient of the 2024 MSMEs Awards by the Office of the Vice President, observed that almost 90 percent of businesses in the country were small scale.

NACCIMA Commends Tinubu's Efforts to Address Socio-economic Challenges

The Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) has commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration's commitment to address the Nigeria's economic, political, and security challenges and place the country on the path of prosperity.

According to him, Nigeria's remarkable economic achievements are a source of great pride. He said "As of 2024, the country has emerged as one of Africa's largest economies and ranks among the global top 20, driven by growth in sectors like agriculture, the creative industries, and the digital economy.

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LP/N Assembly Caucus Warns Soludo, Assembly over Proposed Joint Account

The Labour Party Caucus in the National Assembly has expressed concern over alleged moves by Governor Chikwendu... Soludo

As entrepreneurs, we have experienced both challenges and successes, highlighted by the successful commissioning of the iconic Dangote Refinery, a testament to the ingenuity of the Nigerian

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Recommendations

2026-2027

AfCFTA Implementation
Media Engagements

Strategic Communication Planning

Annual AfCFTA Communication Strategy aligned with Ministerial priorities

Quarterly media briefings on implementation progress.



Broadcast and Digital Expansion

Increase TV features, explainers, and digital engagement

Engage pan-African and global business media



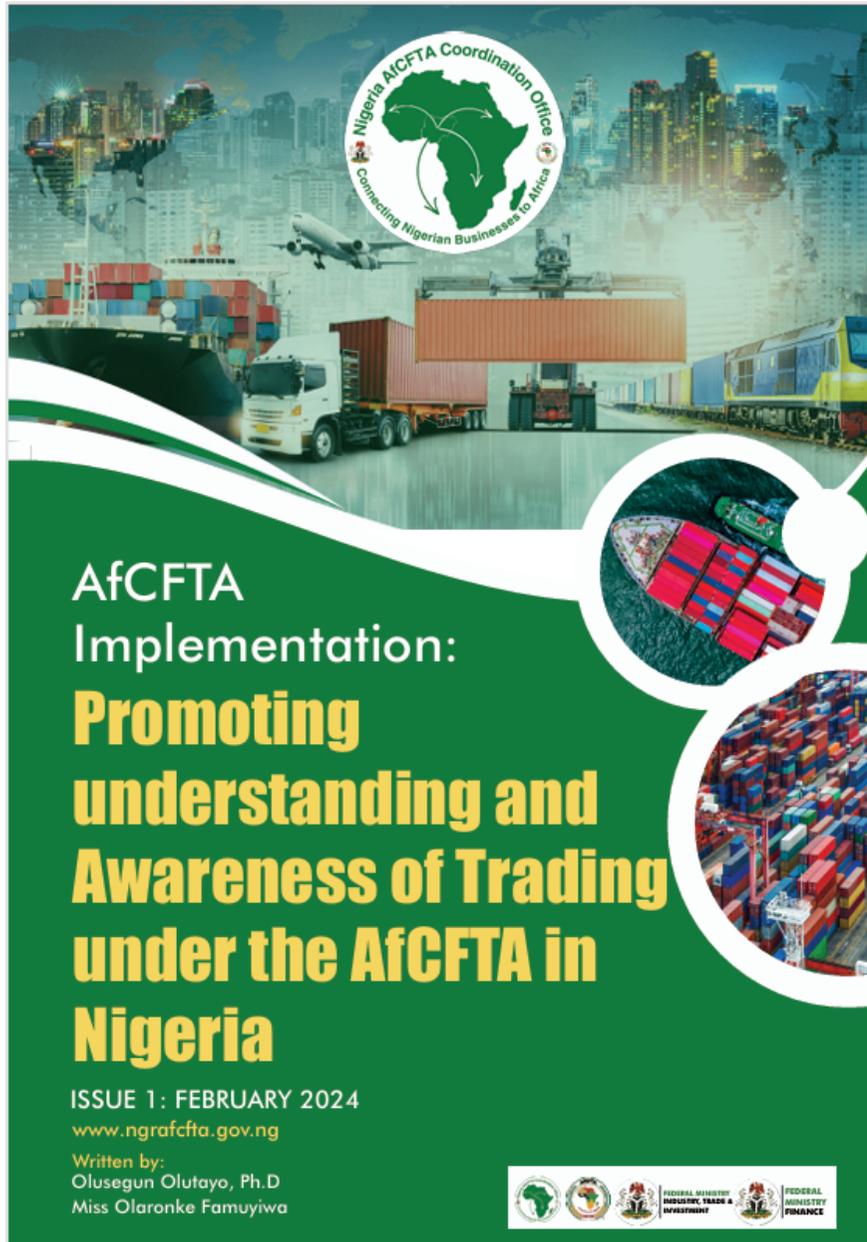
Media Monitoring and Analytics

Institutionalise analytics to measure reach, sentiment, and impact

Use insights to refine messaging.



Special Publication



**AfCFTA
Implementation:
Promoting
understanding and
Awareness of Trading
under the AfCFTA in
Nigeria**

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Miss Olaronke Famuyiwa



AfCFTA
Creating One African Market

Trade in Goods
Trade in Services
Settlement of Disputes
Intellectual Property Rights
Investment
Competition Policy
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Special Publication



AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA & THE PROTOCOLS

Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office

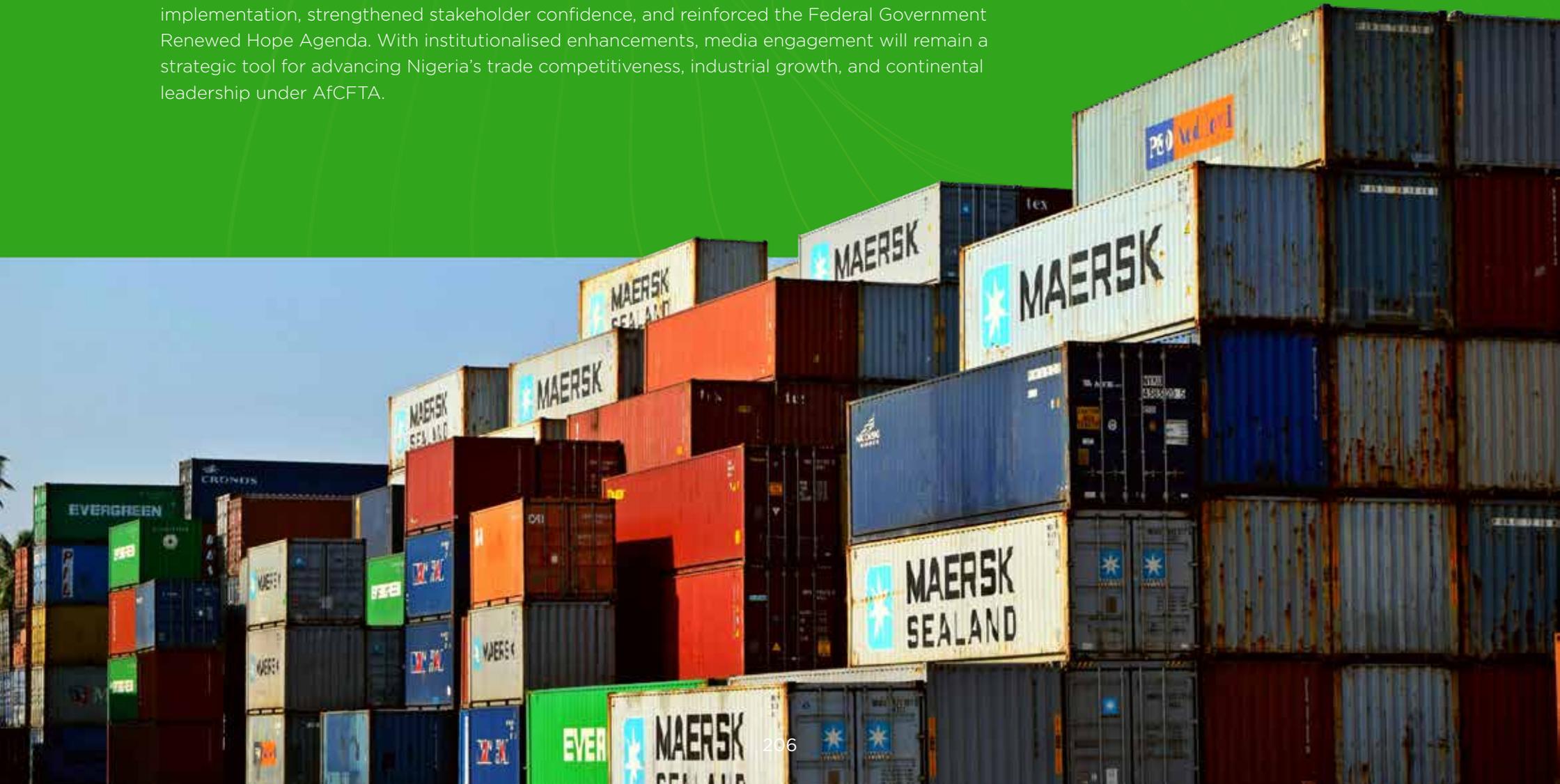
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Nigeria AfCFTA
Coordination Office

CONCLUSION

The 2023–2025 media engagement and publicity campaign significantly supported AfCFTA implementation, strengthened stakeholder confidence, and reinforced the Federal Government Renewed Hope Agenda. With institutionalised enhancements, media engagement will remain a strategic tool for advancing Nigeria’s trade competitiveness, industrial growth, and continental leadership under AfCFTA.







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Connecting Nigerian Businesses to Africa

