

Annex III A: Kano

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA): STAKEHOLDERS SENSITISATION AND CONSULTATION FORUM FOR THE NORTHWEST GEOPOLITICAL ZONE

KANO CORONATION HALL AfCFTA COMMUNIQUE

The Nigeria Office for Trade Negotiations (NOTN) of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, in partnership with the Government of Kano State, organized, for the Northwest Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria, a *“Stakeholders Sensitization and Consultation Forum on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”*, at the Coronation Hall, Kano, Nigeria, on 2nd May 2018. The AfCFTA Stakeholders Forum was opened by H.E. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, OFR, Kadimul Islam, Executive Governor, Kano State represented by Alhaji Usman Alhaji, Secretary to State Government. Ambassador Chiedu Osakwe, Chief Trade Negotiator, Director-General of the Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations delivered an Opening Statement. The Kano AfCFTA Sensitization and Consultation Forum was moderated by Mr. Ahmad Rabi, Kano State Commissioner for Trade and Industry and Economic Reform Champion

2. Participants at the AfCFTA Northwest Zone Forum, included representatives of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), Kano Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (KACCIMA), Kano State Market Leaders and Civil Society Organisations, Manufacturers Association Nigeria (MAN), National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME), Nigerian Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI), Nigerian Employers Consultative Association (NECA), Nigerian Trade Experts Forum (NTEF) and the National Economic Summit Group (NESG). Also, participating were owners of businesses, business operators and other natural and corporate persons. The Office of the Chief of Staff to Mr. President was represented by Mr. Francis Anatogu,

Senior Special Assistant to the President on Public Affairs, responsible for AfCFTA matters. In total, there were over (198) registered participants.

3. At the opening of the Kano Forum, it was noted that the nationwide *Aft:FTP Stakeholder Sensitization and Consultation Forum* was being held in accordance with the "Presidential Directive on the African Continental Free Trade Area", of 21 March 2018. The purpose is to engage, systemically and thoroughly, with industry and sectoral groups, business owners and operators and, all Stakeholders so as to:

deepen and extend the knowledge of natural and corporate persons on the AfCFTA,

review the benefits, opportunities and potential competitive challenges in the AfCFTA;

review the specific areas of domestic trade-related complementary policies, identified by Stakeholders, across which improved implementation by Government, in partnership with the private sector, is urgently required in order to facilitate Nigeria's competitive engagement in intra-African trade by manufacturers and service providers; and,

establish regular and predictable channels for communication and exchange of views on trade and trade-related complementary policies for Nigeria's enhanced performance in intra-African and global trade.

4. In his Opening Statement, Executive Governor Ganduje underlined the historical importance of trade for the prosperity of Kano and the Northwest Zone of Nigeria. Trade and investment were inseparable and remain critical for welfare, growth, poverty reduction and employment not only in the Northwest region, but throughout Nigeria. This was why Kano State was hosting this important Forum on the AfCFTA and gave it its full and undivided support. Historically, Kano was a trading point and hub, connecting Nigeria to Central Africa and beyond. The role of Kano as a trading nexus had to be re-established and the AfCFTA provided an opportunity.

5. The Kano AfCFTA Stakeholders Forum acknowledged and appreciated the giant strides of President Muhammad Buhari GCFR for his genuine democratic culture and attitude. By directing for the sensitization and consultations before joining the AfCFTA even though he has been given approval to do so by the Federal Executive Council, he has demonstrated his uniqueness in commitment to carry the entire citizenry along and prepare the nation for the tasks ahead in order to benefit from the project. We thank the President for his kindness and pray for God to continue to increase him in good health, wisdom and courage and grant him continuing victory in all his endeavours.

6. Acknowledging the role of Nigerian Labour in national development, the Kano AfCFTA Stakeholders Forum commended the leadership of the Labour Movement for advocating respect for core labour values during the 2018 May Day Celebrations. It was noted that the contributions of Labour remained essential to reforming the Nigerian economy for productivity increases, sustained growth, welfare and job creation. The success of public private sector partnerships depended on the productivity and creativity of Nigerian Labour.

7. The Sensitisation presentations focused on the relationships between the AfCFTA (trade policy); the Industrialization Programme; and, the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (macroeconomic framework). The purpose was to connect and inter-relate the three areas of trade, industrial and macroeconomic policies so that they are mutually supportive for growth, welfare enhancement and job creation.

8. The presentation on trade, described the provisions of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area; the covered Protocols, resulting from Stage 1 of the negotiations for Trade in Goods and Services. These Protocols were, namely: the Protocol on Trade in Goods (and associated Annexes); the Protocol on Trade in Services; and, the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes.

9. The presentation reviewed the built-in legal provisions in the agreement for appropriate safeguards for strategic areas of the Nigerian economy for reasons of

industrial policy, job creation, food security, national security and, countervailing unfair and injurious economic activities against the Nigerian economy, including but not limited to trans-shipment and dumping in the Nigerian market and smuggling that undermined attempts at industrializing the Nigerian economy. The presentation also pointed to provisions that reinforced the development dimension of the AfCFTA, in particular the Special Economic Zones and the Dispute Settlement Mechanism that established the AfCFTA as a rules-based governance system in Africa.

10. The presentation on the Industrialization Programme reviewed key elements contained in a list of 49 initiatives and projects across the 5 subcommittees of the Industrial Policy and Competitiveness Advisory Council. These included initiatives under the following:

- 10.1 Policy and Regulation: compilation and publication of investment incentives; Anti-Smuggling; Road Fund Trust Scheme; Developing legislative amendments for Anti-smuggling, Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA) and Excess Dividend Tax; consolidating taxes for single tax collection points in States.
- 10.2 Trade and Markets: Establishment of an ICT Cluster; improvement of private sector involvement in a number of sectors: agro-allied; Cotton, Garment and Textile (CGT); and Heavy Metal; and, enhanced trade infrastructure/support for exports through collaboration with the PEBEC Secretariat to expedite elimination of barriers to trade.
- 10.3 Critical Infrastructure: improvement of power supply, expansion of broad band coverage across Nigeria to deepen the capacity for the digital economy, and expansion of road networks.
- 10.4 Skills and Capacity-Building: Apprenticeship training programmes to develop skills.

- 10.5 **Financing:** improve access to financing, reduce cost of money, and deepen the country's financial depth. Encourage public/private partnerships, encourage Concessioning, encourage listing of corporates/private sector companies on the Nigerian stock exchange

11. The presentation on the macroeconomy highlighted the key aspects of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan in relation to Nigeria's trade and industrial policies. There were 3 objectives in the ERGP. These were to:

- i) **Restore Growth:** focusing on achieving macroeconomic stability and economic diversification. Macroeconomic stability by undertaking fiscal stimulus, ensuring monetary stability and improving the external balance of trade. Achieving economic diversification, by implementing policies and strategies on the key sectors driving and enabling economic growth, particularly agriculture, MSME-led growth in industry, manufacturing and key services by leveraging science and technology.
- ii) **Invest in Nigerians:** increasing social inclusion, creating jobs and improving the human capital base of the economy.
- iii) **Build a globally competitive economy:** To be achieved through investing in infrastructure, improving the business environment, and promoting digital-led growth.

12. In this context, the presentation underscored the 4 core execution priorities in achieving the objectives of the ERGP:

- Stabilizing the macroeconomic environment
- Achieving agriculture and food security
- Ensuring energy sufficiency (power and petroleum products)
- Improving transportation infrastructure
- Driving industrialization focusing on Small and Medium Scale Enterprises.

13. Discussions in the Kano AfCFTA Forum took place in the context of the presentations in these 3 areas of trade, industrial and macroeconomic policies. Stakeholders welcomed the presentations, the linkages and the objective of policy coherence for mutual supportiveness, while noting that implementation remained an area of weakness, domestically, with wide scope for improvement.

14. Stakeholders agreed that trade policy, expanded markets, regional integration and boosting intra-African trade, on a platform of a rules-based system for intra-African trade, were consistent with the goals and priorities in the ERGP. Stakeholders affirmed that trade policy, regional integration and engagement were central to Nigeria's development strategy in a global economy under rapid and uncertain change.

15. The Kano Stakeholders Forum welcomed and supported the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area as a necessary step in the 21st Century Global Economy in dynamic transformation. At the same time, in doing so, the Kano Stakeholders Forum drew attention to the areas identified in the presentations of the Industrialization Programme and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, where urgent action is required on an immediate, on-going and permanent basis to support Nigerian manufacturers and service providers. Kano Stakeholders Forum underlined the urgent necessity for specific action for improved action and implementation in the areas of:

- i) Countervailing measures against transshipment, dumping and other injurious trade practices against Nigerian manufacturers and service providers;
- ii) Predictable, cost effective power supply;
- iii) Reducing the cost of money and improving access to credit;
- iv) Sustaining on-going progress, already registered in the Nigerian Business Environment;
- v) Modernizing and updating Nigerian Logistics, particularly with regard to supply chains;

- v) Effective border management and enforcement and mitigation of smuggling; and,
- vi) Factoring impacts of AfCFTA trading environment in an updated ERGP.

16. The Stakeholders highlighted Government's historical weakness in the implementation of policies and programmes and called for structured partnerships with the private sector on the AfCFTA implementation which should include periodic monitoring, reviews and updates to stakeholders for action by the Federal Government of Nigeria in partnership with the private sector.

17. The Kano AfCFTA Stakeholders Forum commended the Kano State Government for the on-going construction of the Kano Economic City (KEC). Stakeholders noted, positively, the objective of the KEC to modernize the existing markets of Kantunkwani; Singa; Sabon Gari; Dawanau; and, Kurmi, dating back to the 15th Century. Stakeholders welcomed the example by Kano in economic transformation with the construction of the KEC to restore its position as Strategic Trade Hub, linking Central Africa through Kano to Nigeria. In this context, Kano AfCFTA Stakeholders Forum recommended that specific steps should be taken to re-activate and update historic trade corridors with the objective of using these corridors to boost Nigerian exports and hence intra-African trade.

18. In concluding the Sensitization and Consultation Forum, Participants at the Kano Forum recommended that Nigeria should join in the adoption and signing of the AfCFTA and engage effectively in the implementation of the AfCFTA. In doing so, effective coordination and monitoring mechanisms should be established by the Government to ensure that the opportunities of the AfCFTA are maximized and that Nigeria consolidates its number 1 economic position on Africa and sustains its leadership in the African Union.

19. The Kano AfCFTA Stakeholders Forum thanked the Kano State Government for hosting the first in the Sensitization and Consultation Forum for the 6 Geopolitical Zones and commended in particular H.E. Dr. Ganduje, OFR, Kadimul Islam, Executive Governor of Kano State for his leadership and initiatives for trade and economic transformation.

its number 1 economic position on Africa and sustains its leadership in the African Union.

19. The Kano AfCFTA Stakeholders Forum thanked the Kano State Government for hosting the first in the Sensitization and Consultation Forum for the 6 Geopolitical Zones and commended in particular H.E. Dr. Ganduje, OFR, Kadimul Islam, Executive Governor of Kano State for his leadership and initiatives for trade and economic transformation.

Done this day in Kano, Second of May Two Thousand and Eighteen

C. J. Isafawa...

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NWABU, LEGGERSI NUKA, ESQ
(NTEF)

Annex III B: Maiduguri

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA): STAKEHOLDERS SENSITISATION AND CONSULTATION FORUM FOR THE NORTHEAST GEOPOLITICAL ZONE

NORTHEAST AfCFTA TRADE AND STABILITY COMMUNIQUE

The Nigeria Office for Trade Negotiations (NOTN), of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, in partnership with the Borno State Government, organized, for the Northeast Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria, a *“Stakeholders Sensitization and Consultation Forum, on the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”*. The AfCFTA Northeast Stakeholders' Forum was held at the Multipurpose Hall, Government House, Maiduguri, Borno, Nigeria, on 15th May 2018.

2. The AfCFTA Northeast Stakeholders' Forum was opened by [H.E. **Alhaji Kashim Shettima**, Executive Governor, Borno State, represented by the Deputy Governor]. Ambassador Chiedu Osakwe, Chief Trade Negotiator, Director-General of the Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations delivered an Opening Statement on the objectives of the AfCFTA and the purpose of the nation-wide Sensitization and Consultation exercise. The Northeast AfCFTA Sensitization and Consultation Forum was jointly moderated by Alhaji Yarima Lawan Kareto, Borno State Commissioner for Trade, Investment, Tourism and Industry and, Ambassador Osakwe.

3. Participants at the AfCFTA Northeast Stakeholders' Forum, included: representatives of Northeast Micro- Small and Medium Enterprises and affiliated *“Market Associations”*; National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME); Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC); National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA); Borno Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (BOCCIMA); Manufacturers Association Nigeria (MAN); Nigerian Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI); Nigerian Employers Consultative Association (NECA); Nigerian Trade Experts Forum (NTEF); and, the National Economic

and, the National Economic Summit Group (NESG). Also, participating were owners of businesses, business operators, marketeers, and other natural and corporate persons. The Office of the Chief of Staff to Mr. President was represented by Mr. Francis Anatogu, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Public Sector Matters, responsible for AfCFTA matters. In total, there were 278 registered participants.

4. In his Opening Statement, H.E. **Alhaji Kashim Shettima**, Executive Governor, Borno State underlined the historical importance, over time, of cross-border, intra-African trade for economic growth and welfare, job creation and the overall prosperity of the Northeast Zone of Nigeria. Cross-border trade between the Northeast Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria and neighbouring countries in Central Africa had gone on for centuries. This cross-border trade had sustained growth, generated jobs, supported rural well-being and livelihoods and promoted prosperity-based dialogue, in the context of a previously environment-friendly Lake Chad Basin. Trade Integration was critical for growth, job creation and poverty reduction, not only in the Northeast region, but throughout Nigeria. Governor Kashim Shettima underscored the fact that the peace, security and stability of the Northeast Geopolitical Zone and the neighbouring African countries, on the foundation of cross-border trade, were mutually supportive with the goals of peace, security and stability of Nigeria. Trade cooperation remains one of the solutions for rebuilding fractured societies and post-conflict economic recovery.

5. Governor Kashim Shettima informed the AfCFTA Northeast Forum Participants that, seven (7) Governors, from countries in the Lake Chad Basin States and provinces, in Cameroun, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, met in Maiduguri on 8th and 9th May. The 7 Governors from the 4 countries had established the **Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum**, facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). They had agreed to a framework for building peace and fostering sustainable development across the Lake Chad Basin. Tackling the challenges being faced in the Basin required collective efforts and cross-border cooperation. *No country could do it alone.* Governor

Shettima informed the Forum that the Lake Chad Governors' Forum affirmed their commitment to use the platform to promote dialogue and cross-border exchange.

6. Governor Shettima believed that the AfCFTA, designed to expand intra-African trade, was mutually supportive with the platform and the objectives of the *Lake Chad Governors' Forum*, agreed on 9th May by Chad, Cameroun, Niger and Nigeria. Governor Shettima expressed appreciation to the Federal Government of Nigeria for the honour of hosting the AfCFTA for the Northeast Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria. The Northeast gave the AfCFTA, for intra-African trade, its full and undivided support.

7. AfCFTA Northeast Stakeholders' Forum Participants welcomed the 21st March 2018 "*Presidential Directive on the African Continental Free Trade Area*". The Forum gave its support to the nation-wide exercise to engage in a thorough and systemic consultation with industry and sectoral groups, business owners and operators and, all Stakeholders, of which the purpose was to:

- deepen and extend the knowledge of natural and corporate persons on the AfCFTA;
- review the benefits, opportunities and potential challenges from the AfCFTA;
- identify critical areas of domestic trade-related complementary policies, across which improved implementation by Government, in partnership with the private sector, is urgently required in order to facilitate Nigeria's competitive engagement in intra-African trade by manufacturers of goods and service providers; and,
- establish regular and predictable channels for communication on trade and trade-related complementary policies for Nigeria's enhanced performance in intra-African and global trade.

8. The AfCFTA Northeast Stakeholders' Forum applauded the leadership of Governor Shettima in the establishment of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum. The Forum supported the linkage of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum with the

AfCFTA. Both were mutually supportive in cross-border integration and boosting intra-African Trade for growth, welfare, job creation and the promotion of peace and prosperity through rules-based platforms.

9. The technical Sensitization presentations focused on the relationships between the AfCFTA (trade policy); the Industrialization Programme; and, the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (macroeconomic framework). The purpose was to connect the three areas of trade, industrial and macroeconomic policies so that they are mutually supportive for stability, growth, welfare enhancement and job creation.

10. The presentation on trade, described the provisions of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA; the covered Protocols, resulting from Stage 1 of the negotiations for Trade in Goods and Services. These Protocols were, namely: the Protocol on Trade in Goods (and associated Annexes); the Protocol on Trade in Services; and, the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes.

11. The presentation reviewed the built-in legal provisions in the agreement for appropriate safeguards for strategic areas of the Nigerian economy for reasons of industrial policy, national security, food security, job creation and, countervailing unfair and injurious economic activities against the Nigerian economy. The latter included trans-shipment and dumping in the Nigerian market, smuggling and piracy, all of which undermined attempts at industrializing the Nigerian economy. The presentation also pointed to provisions that reinforced the development dimension of the AfCFTA, in particular the Special Economic Zones and the Dispute Settlement Mechanism that established the AfCFTA as a rules-based governance system in Africa.

12. The presentation on the Industrialization Programme reviewed key elements contained in a list of 49 initiatives and projects across the 5 subcommittees of the Industrial Policy and Competitiveness Advisory Council. These included initiatives on:

12.1 *Policy and Regulation*: compilation and publication of investment incentives; Anti-Smuggling; Road Fund Trust Scheme; Developing

legislative amendments for Anti-smuggling, Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA) and Excess Dividend Tax; consolidating taxes for single tax collection points in States.

- 12.2 *Trade and Markets*: Establishment of an ICT Cluster; improvement of private sector involvement in a number of sectors: agro-allied; Cotton, Garment and Textile (CGT); and Heavy Metal; and, enhanced trade infrastructure/support for exports through collaboration with the PEBEC Secretariat to expedite elimination of barriers to trade.
- 12.3 *Critical Infrastructure*: improvement of power supply, expansion of broad band coverage across Nigeria to deepen the capacity for the digital economy, and expansion of road networks.
- 12.4 *Skills and Capacity-Building*: Apprenticeship training programmes to develop skills.
- 12.5 *Financing*: improve access to financing, reduce cost of money, and deepen the country's financial depth. Encourage public/private partnerships, encourage Concessioning, encourage listing of corporates/private sector companies on the Nigerian stock exchange

13. The presentation on the macroeconomy highlighted the key aspects of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan in relation to Nigeria's trade and industrial policies. AfCFTA Northeast Stakeholders' Forum took note of the 3 objectives in the ERGP, to:

- i) restore growth: focusing on achieving macroeconomic stability and economic diversification. Macroeconomic stability by undertaking fiscal stimulus, ensuring monetary stability and improving the external balance of trade. Achieving economic diversification, by implementing policies and strategies on the key sectors driving and enabling economic growth, particularly agriculture, MSME-led growth in industry, manufacturing and key services by leveraging science and technology;

- ii) invest in Nigerians: increasing social inclusion, creating jobs and improving the human capital base of the economy; and,
- iii) build a globally competitive economy: through investing in infrastructure, improving the business environment, and promoting digital-led growth.

14. The AfCFTA Northeast Stakeholders' Forum noted the 4 core execution priorities in achieving the objectives of the ERGP:

- Stabilizing the macroeconomic environment
- Achieving agriculture and food security
- Ensuring energy sufficiency (power and petroleum products)
- Improving transportation infrastructure
- Driving industrialization focusing on Small and Medium Scale Enterprises.

15. In this context, the AfCFTA Northeast Forum agreed that trade policy, expanded markets, regional integration and boosting cross-border regional trade, on a platform of a rules-based system for intra-African trade, were consistent with the goals and priorities in the ERGP. Stakeholders affirmed that trade policy, regional integration and engagement were central to Nigeria's development strategy in a global economy.

16. The AfCFTA Northeast Stakeholders' Forum supported the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area as a necessary step in the 21st Century Global Economy in dynamic transformation.

17. Stakeholders at the Forum reiterated the urgency, as identified in the presentations on the Industrialization Programme and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, where action is required, on an immediate, on-going and permanent basis, to support Nigerian manufacturers and service providers. The Forum underlined the urgent necessity for accelerated implementation action in the areas of:

- i) Countervailing measures against transshipment, dumping and other injurious trade practices against Nigerian manufacturers and service providers;
- ii) Predictable, cost effective power supply;
- iii) Reducing the cost of money and improving access to credit;
- iv) Sustaining on-going progress, already registered in the Nigerian Business Environment;
- v) Modernizing and updating Nigerian Logistics, particularly with regard to supply chains;
- v) Effective border management, enforcement action and mitigation of smuggling; and,
- vi) Factoring impacts of AfCFTA trading environment in an updated ERGP.

18. The AfCFTA Northeast Stakeholders' Forum took particular note and supported the position of the Micro- Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Northeast Geopolitical Zone, represented by 25 "Market Associations". In endorsing the AfCFTA, the Market Associations of the Northeast Geopolitical Zone appealed for the support of the Government to, urgently:

- consider funding the completion of the mapping of MSMEs and Market Associations in the Northeast Geopolitical Zone;
- provide micro-credit and trade finance, on the platform of the GEEP-BOI Market Money Programme, for the Northeast Geopolitical Zone;
- expand the application of the "Anchor Borrowers Programme" of the CBN in the Northeast Geopolitical Zone; and,
- restore historic intra-African Trade Corridors for the Northeast Geopolitical Zone into Central Africa (with Chad, Cameroun and Niger); and, avoiding

subsequent border closures. Special attention was drawn to keeping open the 4 historic trade corridors for the prosperity of the geopolitical zone and the Nigerian economy, on the four routes of: i) Maiduguri →→ Bama →→ Banki; ii) Maiduguri →→ Dikwa →→ Gamboru-Ngala; iii) Maiduguri →→ Monguno →→ Baga Road; and, iv) Maiduguri →→ Damsak →→ Difa. Informal trade on these routes should be mainstreamed into the formal economy.

19. The Stakeholders were unanimous that the Federal Government, historically, remained weak on coordination and implementation of policies and programmes. They called for structured public private partnerships and updated coordination mechanisms, for AfCFTA implementation, with particular regard to MSMEs in the Northeast.

20. In concluding, the AfCFTA Northeast Stakeholders' Forum recommended that Nigeria reviews and adopts the AfCFTA to enable Nigeria to consolidate its number 1 economic position on Africa and sustains its leadership in the African Union.

21. In taking decision to adopt the AfCFTA, critical evaluation and concrete measures should be taken in the following areas to ensure that the opportunities of the AfCFTA are maximized:

- a) secure and enforce borders to prevent smuggling, transshipment and dumping;
- b) improve competitiveness through predictable and cost effective power supply; efficient logistics infrastructure; improved access to credit at reduced costs; sustained ease of doing business reforms;
- c) protect industries and business sectors that will be put at risk by AfCFTA implementation;
- d) identify and support businesses and sectors with potential to grow export volume and create jobs locally

22. The AfCFTA Northeast Stakeholders' Forum thanked the Borno State Government for hosting the Second Sensitization and Consultation Forum in Nigeria. The Forum commended in particular H.E. **Alhaji Kashim Shettima**, Executive Governor, Borno State, for his leadership and initiative for trade and economic transformation, on the establishment of the ***Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum and on the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)*** to promote intra-African trade and cooperation.

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Annex III C: Makurdi

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA): STAKEHOLDERS SENSITISATION AND CONSULTATION FORUM FOR THE NORTH CENTRAL GEOPOLITICAL ZONE

MAKURDI NORTHCENTRAL AfCFTA TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMUNIQUE

The Nigeria Office for Trade Negotiations (NOTN), of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, in partnership with the Benue State Government, organized, for the North Central Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria, a *“Stakeholders Sensitization and Consultation Forum, on the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).* The AfCFTA North Central Stakeholders’ Forum was held at State House New Banquet Hall, on 18th May 2018.

2. The *Stakeholders Sensitization and Consultations Forum is being held nation-wide pursuant to the Directive of Mr. President to the AfCFTA Presidential Committee, to undertake* nation-wide sensitization and consultation with trade, industry, labour, civil society and other stakeholders on the substance of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement.

3. The AfCFTA North Central Stakeholders’ Forum was opened by H.E. Dr. Samuel Ortom, Executive Governor of Benue State. Ambassador Chiedu Osakwe, Chief Trade Negotiator, Director-General of the Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations delivered an Opening Statement on the objectives of the AfCFTA and the purpose of the nation-wide Sensitization and Consultation exercise. The North Central Zone AfCFTA Sensitization and Consultation Forum was jointly moderated by Professor Simon Kpelai, Honourable Commissioner for Industry, Trade and Investment and, Ambassador Osakwe, Director-General Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations and Chief Trade Negotiator.

4. Participants at the AfCFTA North Central Zone Stakeholders' Forum, included: representatives of Micro- Small and Medium Enterprises and affiliated "*Market Associations*" and "*Association of Farmers*"; National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME); Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC); National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA); Benue Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (BECCIMA); Manufacturers Association Nigeria (MAN); Nigerian Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI); National Council for Women's Society; Federation of Muslim Women Association in Nigeria (FOMWAN); Nigerian Trade Experts Forum (NTEF); and, the Nigerian Union of Journalist (NUJ). Also, participating were owners of businesses, business operators, marketeers, and other natural and corporate persons. The Office of the Chief of Staff to Mr. President was represented by Mr. Francis Anatogu, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Public Sector Matters, responsible for AfCFTA matters. In total, there were 357 registered participants.

5. In his Opening Statement, H.E. Dr. Samuel Ortom, Executive Governor, Benue State, stated that a country which exports commodities in raw form exports her wealth and job opportunities to destinations/countries that process these raw materials. He therefore appealed that this forum and many others be organised to critically examine the AfCFTA initiative with a view to ensuring that the country's interest is well protected. Governor Ortom, Executive Governor underlined the importance of security for stability and the attraction and retention of investments in Benue State, and the North-Central geo-political zone. He regretted the withdrawal of investors, recently, as a result of violence and insecurity in the State.

6. The AfCFTA Stakeholders Forum acknowledged and appreciated the decision by President Muhammadu Buhari to direct the on-going nation- and industry-wide sensitization and consultation exercise. By his decision for a nation-wide Sensitization and Consultation, Mr. President gave proof of his commitment to promoting transparency, accountability and the rule of law.

7. The AfCFTA Stakeholders' Forum applauded the leadership of Governor Ortom, in providing policy direction and guidance on matters of national importance and African industrialization through Trade Integration. The Forum welcomed his efforts, through programmes and initiatives, to attract investments, expand employment opportunities and promote peace and prosperity on the basis of dialogue and the rule of law.

8. The technical sensitization presentation focused on the relationships between the AfCFTA (trade policy); the Industrialization Programme; and, the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (macroeconomic framework). The purpose was to connect the three areas of trade, industrial and macroeconomic policies, and the Nigerian business environment in the North Central geo-political zones so that they are mutually supportive for stability, growth, welfare enhancement and job creation.

10. The presentation on trade, described the provisions of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA; the covered Protocols, resulting from Stage 1 of the negotiations for Trade in Goods and Services. These Protocols were, namely: the Protocol on Trade in Goods (and associated Annexes); the Protocol on Trade in Services; and, the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes.

11. The presentation on trade reviewed the built-in legal provisions in the agreement for appropriate safeguards for strategic areas of the Nigerian economy for reasons of industrial policy, national security, food security, job creation and, countervailing unfair and injurious economic activities against the Nigerian economy. Some of which are:

- i) reduction in tariffs on 90% of trade lines for all trade among African countries;
- ii) exclusion list of up to 10% tradable lines to protect strategic sectors, products and services;
- iii) provisions for Rule of Origin, among others, to curb trans-shipment and dumping in the Nigerian market, smuggling and piracy, all of which undermined attempts at industrializing the Nigerian economy;

- iv) provisions for economic development such as Special Economic Zones; and
- v) the Dispute Settlement Mechanism that established the AfCFTA as a rules-based governance system in Africa.

12. The presentation also noted that Stage 2 of the AfCFTA Negotiations would be dedicated to investment, intellectual property and competition law and policy.

13. The technical presentation underscored the points for maximizing the benefits from the AfCFTA. They highlighted inter alia, economies of scale that would facilitate industrial expansion, attraction of Domestic and Foreign Direct Investments, in particular areas such as agriculture and agri-business. The presentation underlined, expanded markets, regional integration and boosting cross-border regional trade, on a platform of a rules-based system for intra-African trade, were consistent with the goals and priorities in the ERGP. The Presentation affirmed that trade policy, regional integration and engagement were central to Nigeria's development strategy in a global economy.

14. Stakeholders at the North Central AfCFTA Forum reiterated the urgency, as identified in the presentations on the Industrialization Programme and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, where action is required, on an immediate, on-going and permanent basis, to support Nigerian manufacturers and service providers. The Forum underlined the urgent necessity for accelerated implementation action in the areas of:

- i) Countervailing measures against transshipment, dumping and other injurious trade practices against Nigerian manufacturers and service providers;
- ii) Predictable, cost effective power supply;
- iii) Reducing the cost of funds, improving access to credit and increasing the amortisation period on loans;
- iv) Sustaining on-going progress, already registered in the Nigerian Business Environment;

- v) Modernizing and updating Nigerian trade Logistics, particularly with regard to supply chains;
- vi) Effective border management, enforcement action and mitigation of smuggling; and,

15. While some Stakeholders pointed to the range of benefits from the AfCFTA, others Stakeholders called for structured public private partnerships, improved and updated coordination mechanisms, for AfCFTA implementation. Benue Chamber of Commerce Industry Mines and Agriculture (BECCIMA) stakeholders in their contributions asked for the support of the Industrial Policy and Competitiveness Advisory Council for critical industrial clusters in the North Central Geopolitical Zone. To drive trade-related industrial development, the North Central Geopolitical Zone, requested support for trade-related industrial finance, specifically in support of negotiated long term loans, with a 1.7% interest, amortized over a 20-year period. The direct support of the FGN was required to access the negotiated line of credit to buy the capacity and engineering solutions to jumpstart specific industrial activity in the North Central zone. Currently, the cost of money made industrialization and competitiveness impossible.

16. The AfCFTA North Central Zone Stakeholders' Forum was robust interactive and reflected a range of views. They felt that it was premature and complementary policies need to be undertaken. In this context Stakeholders were unanimous that critical evaluation and concrete measures should also be taken in the following areas to ensure that the opportunities of the AfCFTA are maximized:

- i) secure and enforce borders to prevent smuggling, transshipment and dumping;
- ii) improve competitiveness through predictable and cost effective power supply; efficient logistics infrastructure; improved access to credit at reduced costs and favourable terms; sustained ease of doing business reforms;

- iii) protect industries and business sectors that are potentially at risk by AfCFTA implementation, so as to support infant industry, ensure food security and national security and also ensure industrialization of Nigeria's economy;
- iv) identify and support businesses and sectors with potential to grow export volume and create jobs locally;
- v) establish effective coordination and monitoring mechanisms to align the efforts of government entities at all tiers of government;
- vi) sustain engagement with public and private sector stakeholders.

17. The Stakeholders in the zone agreed that labour standards and gender rights should be reflected in the AfCFTA Agreement.

18. The Stakeholders' Forum thanked the Benue State Government for hosting the North Central Zone AfCFTA Sensitization and Consultation Forum. The Forum commended in particular **H.E. Dr. Samuel Ortom**, Executive Governor, Benue State, for his leadership and initiative for economic transformation in the North Central.

Dated and Signed 18th May, 2018.

Annex III D: Owerri

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA): STAKEHOLDERS SENSITISATION AND CONSULTATION FORUM FOR THE SOUTH EAST GEOPOLITICAL ZONE

OWERRI SOUTH EAST AfCFTA COMMUNIQUE ON MARKET ACCESS FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The Nigeria Office for Trade Negotiations (NOTN), of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, in partnership with the Imo State Government, organized, for the South East Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria, a *“Stakeholders Sensitization and Consultation Forum, on the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)”*. The AfCFTA South East Stakeholders' Forum was held at Imo Concorde Hotel, Owerri, Imo State, on 21st May 2018.

2. The *Stakeholders Sensitization and Consultations Forum is being held nation-wide pursuant to the Directive of Mr. President for nation-wide sensitization and consultation with all stakeholders on the substance of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement.*

3. The AfCFTA South East Stakeholders' Forum was opened by H.E. Owelle Rochas Anayo Okorochoa, OON, Executive Governor of Imo State ably represented by Honourable Commissioner for Information Professor Nnamdi Obiareri, Ambassador Chiedu Osakwe, Chief Trade Negotiator, Director-General of the Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations delivered an Opening Statement on the objectives of the AfCFTA and the purpose of the nation-wide Sensitization and Consultation exercise. The South East Zone AfCFTA Sensitization and Consultation Forum was jointly moderated by Engineer Emma Ojinere, Honourable Commissioner for Trade and Investment and, Ambassador Osakwe, Director-General Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations and Chief Trade Negotiator.

4. Participants at the AfCFTA South East Zone Stakeholders' Forum, included: representatives of South East Traders Associations; Micro- Small and Medium Enterprises and affiliated "*Market Associations*"; National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME); Nigerian Poultry Association; National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA); Owerri Chambers of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (OCCIMA); Piggery Association of Nigeria; Onitsha Chamber of Commerce; Aba Traders Association; Nigerian Trade Experts Forum (NTEF); Nigerian Association of Small Scale Industrialist (NASSI); Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN); Nigerian Shippers Council; South East Chamber of Commerce; Owerri Chamber of Commerce; Auctioneers Association; and, the National Economic Summit Group (NESG). Also, participating were owners of businesses, business operators and marketeers. The Office of the Chief of Staff to Mr. President was represented by Mr. Francis Anatogu, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Public Sector Matters, responsible for AfCFTA matters. In total, there were 220 registered participants.

5. In his Opening Statement, H.E. Owelle Rochas Anayo Okorochoa, OON, Executive Governor of Imo State, stated that trade Integration was critical for growth, job creation and poverty reduction, not only in the South East region, but throughout Nigeria. Governor Okorochoa underscored the fact that trade and investments were engines for growth, in the absence of which no economy could survive and prosper. He underlined that the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area was the wise course of action for Nigeria and Africa. Stating that, it will boost intra-African trade, expand investment and promote industrialization for Africa. He noted that Nigeria was a leader in Africa and membership of the AfCFTA was central to Nigeria's leadership.

6. The Executive Governor noted that the principal economic activity for livelihood in this zone is trade and industry. We are traders, industrialists, creators and innovators. We cannot be separated from our trade and industry. Through trade and industry, we have fostered the integration of this zone. We have improved livelihood conditions. We

have created jobs. We can be found all across Nigeria, Africa and beyond. Trade, Industry and investments are engines for growth, in the absence of which no economy can survive and prosper. These are the areas of economic activity for which we are known and we are proud of it. The economy of the South East Zone of Nigeria was driven by trading activities, as its principal mainstay. The AfCFTA was a mandate of African Union Heads of State and Government, and Imo State together with South East Stakeholders supported the African Continental Free Trade Area. The South East Zone supported the AfCFTA for trade, business and job creation.

7. The AfCFTA Stakeholders Forum acknowledged and appreciated the decision by President Muhammadu Buhari to direct the on-going nation- and industry-wide sensitization and consultation exercise before Nigeria joins the AfCFTA. By his decision for a nation-wide Sensitization and Consultation, Mr. President gave proof of his commitment to promoting a democratic government based on transparency, accountability and the rule of law.

8. The AfCFTA Stakeholders' Forum applauded the leadership of H.E. Owelle Rochas Anayo Okorochoa, Executive Governor of Imo State in providing policy direction and guidance on matters of national importance. The Forum welcomed his efforts to attract investments, expand employment opportunities and promote prosperity through trade and economic reform.

9. The technical sensitization presentation focused on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

10. The presentation on trade, described the provisions of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA; the covered Protocols, for Trade in Goods and Services. These Protocols were, namely: the Protocol on Trade in Goods (and associated Annexes); the Protocol on Trade in Services; and, the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes.

11. The presentation on trade reviewed the built-in legal provisions in the agreement for appropriate safeguards for strategic areas of the Nigerian economy for reasons of industrial policy, national security, food security, job creation and, countervailing injurious economic activities against the Nigerian economy. The safeguard provisions presented were:

- i) reduction in tariffs on 90% of trade lines for all trade among African countries;
- ii) exclusion list of up to 10% tradable lines to protect strategic products;
- iii) provisions for Rules of Origin, among others, to curb trans-shipment and dumping in the Nigerian market, smuggling and piracy, all of which undermined attempts at industrializing the Nigerian economy;
- iv) provisions for economic development such as Special Economic Zones; and
- v) the Dispute Settlement Mechanism that established the AfCFTA as a rules-based governance system in Africa.

12. The presentation also noted that Stage 2 of the AfCFTA Negotiations would be dedicated to investment, intellectual property and competition law and policy.

13. Stakeholders underlined the vital importance of:

- *Trade and Markets*, through the establishment of an ICT Cluster; improvement of private sector involvement in a number of sectors: Agro-allied; Cassava, Palm Oil, Shoes Garment and Textile (CGT); and Heavy Metal; and, enhanced trade infrastructure/support for exports through collaboration with the PEBEC Secretariat to expedite elimination of barriers to trade
- *Critical Infrastructure and the* improvement of power supply, expansion of broad band coverage across Nigeria to deepen the capacity for the digital economy, and expansion of road networks, rail networks and eastern seaports

- *Skills and Capacity-Building*: Apprenticeship training programmes to develop skills.
- *Financing*: improve access to financing, reduce cost of money, and deepen the country's financial depth. Encourage public/private partnerships, encourage concessioning, encourage listing of corporates/private sector companies on the Nigerian stock exchange.

15. On this background, exchanges in the AfCFTA South East Stakeholders Forum underscored points for maximizing the benefits from the AfCFTA. The Traders Associations re-emphasised over and again the vital importance of open markets. Traders in the South East Zone underscored their right to import and export, particularly for their products of shoes, textiles and clothing, pharmaceuticals, automobile spare parts, and agricultural products. The AfCFTA South East Stakeholders Forum affirmed the position that trade, expanded markets, regional integration and boosting cross-border regional trade, on the platform of a rules-based system for intra-African trade, supported their businesses in the Zone and employment generation. Regional integration and engagement were central to the survival of their businesses, their trading activities and the growth of their Micro- Small and Medium Enterprises. Stakeholders advised that the Government should focus on growing the economy through trade and business, and strengthen government partnerships with the private sector, on the basis of building backward and forward linking communication lines on policies to further ease the business environment in the South-East zone.

16. Furthermore, representatives of Traders, MSMEs and Chambers of Commerce in the South East Geopolitical Zone welcomed the currency swap arrangements with China, which facilitated their trade. To support their businesses, they asked for further support in the form of trade finance and micro-finance. Stakeholders pointed to areas for business environment reforms. Specifically, they requested the stoppage of multiple and proliferating taxation; "harassment of and extortion by a number of agencies of government, market unions and touts" in the South-East zone. Trade and industrial

performance could be significantly enhanced with improved Ease of Doing Business Conditions; particularly, the free flow of goods and services inside the South Eastern Zone with less harassment of traders and industrialists.

17. In this context, the AfCFTA South East Stakeholders' Forum endorsed the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area as a necessary step for trade facilitation, which was supportive of Nigeria's economic policy and the country's leadership in the African Union.

18. Stakeholders at the South East AfCFTA Forum reiterated the points of urgency, where action is required, on an immediate, on-going and permanent basis, to support Nigerian manufacturers and service providers. The Forum underlined the necessity for accelerated implementation action in the areas of:

- i) Countervailing measures against transshipment, dumping and other injurious trade practices against Nigerian manufacturers and service providers;
- ii) Predictable, cost effective power supply and parity in tariff charges in the South-East;
- iii) Reducing the cost of money, improving access to credit;
- iv) Modernizing and updating Nigerian logistics, particularly with regard to supply chains, especially railway transport systems;
- v) Urgently set up and operationalize dry dock and implement the gas master plan eastern network.
- vi) eliminating the considerable domestic restrictions for movements of goods and supply of services within the South Eastern Geopolitical Zone.

19. In concluding, the AfCFTA South East Zone Stakeholders' Forum recommended that Nigeria adopts the AfCFTA to enable Nigeria consolidate its number 1 economic position on Africa and sustain its leadership in the African Union, through improving

competitiveness in trade in goods and services. AfCFTA South- East Stakeholders also recommended specific sensitization and consultation with Aba and Onitsha.

20. The Stakeholders' Forum thanked the Imo State Government for hosting the South East Zone AfCFTA Sensitization and Consultation Forum. The Forum commended in particular H.E. Owelle Rochas Anayo Okorochoa, OON, Executive Governor of Imo State, for his leadership and initiative for trade and economic transformation, and for his leadership also in support for the AfCFTA to promote intra-African trade and investment.

Dated 21st May, 2018, at Owerri, Imo State.

ORGANIZATION	NAME	SIGNATURE

Annex III E: Calabar

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA): STAKEHOLDERS SENSITIZATION AND CONSULTATION FORUM FOR THE SOUTH SOUTH GEOPOLITICAL ZONE

CALABAR COMMUNIQUE: AfCFTA AND FREE TRADE ZONES (FTZs) – A GROWTH AND PROSPERITY AGENDA

The Nigeria Office for Trade Negotiations (NOTN) of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, in partnership with the Cross River State Government, organized, for the South South Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria, a “*Stakeholders Sensitization and Consultation Forum, on the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)*”. The AfCFTA South South Stakeholders’ Forum (*hereafter: AfCFTA South South Forum*) was held at the International Conference Center, Calabar, Cross River State, on 28th May, 2018.

2. The *Stakeholders Sensitization and Consultations Forum is being held nation-wide, pursuant to the Directive of Mr. President for nation-wide sensitization and consultation with all stakeholders on the substance of the AfCFTA Agreement.*
3. The AfCFTA South South Forum was opened by H.E. Senator (Professor) Benedict Ayade, Executive Governor of Cross River State. Ambassador Chiedu Osakwe, Chief Trade Negotiator for Nigeria and Director-General NOTN, delivered an Opening Statement on the objectives of the AfCFTA and the purpose of the nation-wide Sensitization and Consultation exercise. The AfCFTA South South Forum was jointly moderated by Honourable Peter Egba, Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Cross River State, and Ambassador Osakwe, Director-General, Nigerian NOTN and Chief Trade Negotiator.
4. Participants at the AfCFTA South South Zone Stakeholders’ Forum, included: representatives of South South Traders Associations; Micro- Small and Medium

Enterprises and affiliated “*Market Associations*”; National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME); National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA); XXXX Chambers of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (XXXCCIMA); Nigerian Trade Experts Forum (NTEF); Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN); South South Chambers of Commerce; Calabar Chambers of Commerce; Nigerian Labour Congress; and, the National Economic Summit Group (NESG). Also, participating were owners of businesses, business operators and marketeers. In total, there were [130] registered participants.

5. In his Opening Statement, H.E. Professor Ayade, Executive Governor of Cross River State, stated that Cross River State was honoured to have been chosen to host the AfCFTA Stakeholders Forum. Trade and investment Integration was critical for growth, development, job creation and poverty reduction, not only in the South South region, but throughout Nigeria. Executive Governor Ayade, underscored the fact that trade and investments were engines for growth. In their absence, no economy could prosper. The South South Zone had been open to the global economy since the 19th Century. The establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area was the right course of action for Nigeria and Africa. It created huge opportunities for Nigerian entrepreneurs and businesses, to expand intra-African trade. It held the potential for a multiplier effect on investment expansion. A single market for Trade and Investment in Africa would promote industrialization because of the economies of scale. Nigeria was a leader in Africa and membership of the AfCFTA was central to Nigeria’s leadership because the African Continental Free Trade Area was a key pillar for modernizing the African Union (AU) in the process of regional integration. Cross River State was honoured to host the South South AfCFTA Stakeholders Forum. As the Executive Governor of Cross River State, he was pleased and stood ready to champion the AfCFTA.

6. The Executive Governor noted that “the principal economic activity for livelihood in the South South Geopolitical Zone remained trade, industry and agriculture. The

6. The Executive Governor noted that “the principal economic activity for livelihood in the South South Geopolitical Zone remained trade, industry and agriculture. The South South Zone had been open to trade integration and globalization influences from the 19th Century. Trade and globalization had contributed to modernization and development, improved livelihood conditions and fostered job creation. The economic reforms and transformation underway in the South South Zone and Cross River State in particular, were based, *inter alia*, on the establishment of Free Trade Zones, where goods could be received, manufactured and processed, with value added and create, and re-exported without the intervention of customs authorities.

7. The Executive Governor noted that the AfCFTA was a mandate of African Union Heads of State and Government and was necessary for the implementation of Agenda 2063, the Vision and Programme of the African Union for an Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa. The South South Zone and Cross River State supported the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, as an economic agenda that would ensure the profitability of the Free Trade Zones being constructed in the South South Zone. It would boost business, expand job creation and spur economic welfare and livelihood. In supporting that Nigeria signs the AfCFTA, it was necessary that the design and implementation of domestic policies and programmes would be pro-business, trade and investment and, that appropriate safeguards are in place and tightened against injurious trade behavior and unfair practices from outside Nigeria's borders.

8. The AfCFTA South South Stakeholders Forum acknowledged the decision by President Muhammadu Buhari to direct the on-going nation- and industry-wide sensitization and consultation exercise before Nigeria joins the AfCFTA. Sensitization and Consultations were necessary, as a permanent process, in a democracy, based on the rule of law.

9. In their contributions, the AfCFTA South South Forum commended the leadership of H.E. Professor Ayade, Executive Governor of Cross River State in providing direction

and guidance in the process of economic transformation in Cross River State, particularly in the construction of the Free Trade Zones. The South South Forum welcomed the efforts of the Executive Governor to attract investments, expand employment opportunities and promote prosperity through the Free Trade Zones and economic reform. Stakeholders gave support to his role to champion the AfCFTA in order to promote the commercial viability of the South South Free Trade Zones.

10. The technical sensitization presentation by the Director-General of the Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations (NOTN) focused on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The presentation on trade, described the provisions of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA, and the covered Protocols. These Protocols were, namely: the Protocol on Trade in Goods (and associated Annexes); the Protocol on Trade in Services; and, the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes.

11. The presentation reviewed the built-in legal provisions in the Agreement for appropriate rules-based safeguards for strategic areas of the Nigerian economy for reasons of industrial policy, national security, food security, job creation and, countervailing injurious economic activities against the Nigerian economy. The rules-based safeguard provisions presented were:

- i) reduction in tariffs on 90% of trade lines for all trade among African countries;
- ii) exclusion list of up to 10% tradable lines to protect strategic products;
- iii) provisions for Rules of Origin, among others, to curb trans-shipment and dumping in the Nigerian market, smuggling and piracy, all of which undermined attempts at industrializing the Nigerian economy;
- iv) provisions for economic development such as Special Economic Zones; and
- v) the Dispute Settlement Mechanism that established the AfCFTA as a rules-based governance system in Africa.

12. The presentation also noted that Stage 2 of the AfCFTA Negotiations would be dedicated to investment, intellectual property and competition.

13. Stakeholders underlined the vital importance of:

- *Trade and Markets*, through the establishment of an ICT Cluster; improvement of private sector involvement in a number of sectors: such as Agro-allied; Cassava, Palm Oil, Shoes, Automobiles, Garment and Textile (CGT); and steel; and, enhanced trade infrastructure/support for exports through collaboration with the PEBEC Secretariat to expedite the elimination of barriers to trade,
- *Critical Infrastructure and the* improvement of power supply, expansion of broadband coverage across Nigeria to deepen the capacity for the digital economy, and expansion of road networks, rail networks, and the seaports in the South South Geopolitical Zone;
- *Skills and Capacity-Building*: Apprenticeship training programmes.
- *Financing*: improve access to financing, reduce cost of money, and deepen the country's financial depth. Encourage public/private partnerships, encourage concessioning, encourage listing of corporates/private sector companies on the Nigerian stock exchange.

14. On this background, exchanges in the AfCFTA South South Stakeholders Forum underscored points for maximizing the benefits from the AfCFTA. They re-emphasised over and again the vital importance of open markets, appropriately safeguarded from injurious trade practices, and trade integration. Stakeholders in the South South Zone underscored the urgent necessity for deepening the Free Trade Zones for productivity, economic growth and job creation. They pointed to products from the FTZs particularly textiles and clothing, pharmaceuticals, electronic products, steel, and agricultural products. The AfCFTA South South Stakeholders Forum affirmed the position that trade, expanded markets, regional integration and boosting cross-border regional trade, on the platform of a rules-based system for intra-African trade, supported their

businesses in the Zone and employment generation. Regional integration and engagement were central to the survival of their businesses, their trading activities and the economic growth, health and vitality of the South South Zone. Stakeholders advised that the Government should focus on growing the economy through trade, industry in the Free Trade Zones, businesses, and strengthen government partnerships with the private sector, and with policies to further ease the business environment in the South-South Zone.

15. In this context, the AfCFTA South South Stakeholders' Forum endorsed the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area as a necessary step for facilitating trade, attracting investment and deepening industrial activity, linked to global value chains in the Free Trade Zones. This would contribute to productivity, competitiveness and growth in Nigeria, and buttress Nigeria's leadership in the AU.

16. The AfCFTA South South Stakeholders' Forum recommended that the NOTN organize a workshop in the South South Zone on the AfCFTA and Free Trade Zones.

17. AfCFTA Stakeholders South South Forum pointed to areas, where urgent action is required, on an on-going and permanent basis, to support Nigerian manufacturers and service providers. These were the areas of:


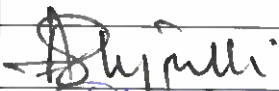



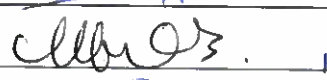
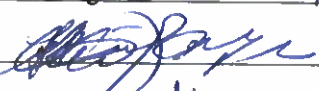
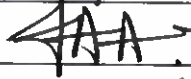


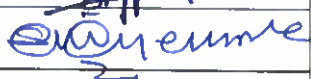
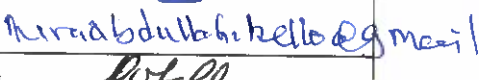








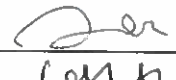

- i) greater investment of resources in the construction and upgrade of Free Trade Zones (FTZs);
- ii) Countervailing measures against transshipment, dumping and other injurious trade practices against Nigerian manufacturers and service providers;
- iii) Predictable, cost effective, power supply;
- iv) Reducing the cost of money and improving access to credit;



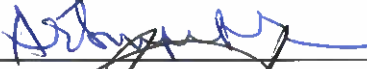
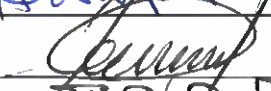

- v) Modernizing and updating Nigerian logistics, particularly with regard to supply chains, especially railway transport systems, maritime services and associated trade infrastructure; and,
- vi) eliminating the domestic restrictions for movements of goods and supply of services within the South South Geopolitical Zone.

17. In concluding, the AfCFTA South South Zone Stakeholders' Forum recommended that Nigeria adopts the AfCFTA to enable Nigeria consolidate its number 1 economic position in Africa and sustain its leadership in the African Union, through improving competitiveness in trade in goods and services, specifically through the Free Trade Zones.

18. The AfCFTA South South Stakeholders' Forum thanked the Cross River State Government for hosting the South South Zone AfCFTA Sensitization and Consultation Forum. The Forum commended in particular H.E. Senator (Professor) Benedict Ayade, Executive Governor of Cross River State, for his leadership in the construction of trade infrastructure, improvement of the environment and for trade and economic transformation through the growth of Free Trade Zones, and for his leadership also in support for the AfCFTA to promote intra-African trade and investment. Stakeholders gave support to his role as Champion of the AfCFTA.

Dated 28th May, 2018, at Calabar, Cross River State.

ORGANIZATION	NAME	SIGNATURE
Timber Dealers Association Akim Timber Market Calabar	ASUQUOITA	
NIG. CUSTOMS SERVICE	ALIFU, A-S	
AKIM TIMBER MKT-	A. E. AKPAN	
AKIM TIMBER MKT	S. J. EKANEM	
AKIM Timber MKT	K. S. EKANDEM	
Engr Auwal Ibrahim	/NASME	
Rembert Kiforin NBA. Rep.	NIPC BARR. CHURCHILL G.	 Hon.
NESG	Prof Jonathan Anem	
FARMERS COUNCIL	OWEN OYAMA	
PHCCIMA	ERASMUS CHUKUNDA	
NEPZA	OYESOLA OYEKUNLE	
CALABAR P.T.Z.	Nura Abdullahi Bello	
BAYELSA INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY	PATIGWCE ABAYI	
YENAGOA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	IDIKIO, Warmato Jones	
Private sector Nabome Raymond	Nabome Raymond	
NANTS CROSS RIVER	OMINI NTA SAM	
ANIE ITON	BRIGHTLOW LOG	
MION Global Group	Dr Charles Amanee	
Chief Hon. Etim Asido	NASI CRS	
GREAT FAVOUR FARM	ROBERT ORIM	
CHIGOA FARM	IBETH CHOMA U	
Chiclay	Anna Igbo	

ORGANIZATION	NAME	SIGNATURE
CALCCIMA	EFA IMOKE	
DA CCIMA (DELTA)	Chief Emma Avwke	
Gross River State Govt	Peter Egbu	
UYO CCIMA	Dr. Okon Ema	
Secretary-General All Africa Association	Ebiokere J. Eredia	

For speech & medical
interpretation

DS, Bayelsa State
Microfinance & Enterprise
Dev. Agency

Annex III F: Lagos

THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)

Stakeholder Sensitization and Consultation Forum for the South West Geopolitical Zone

Summary Report

Civic Center, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria, 30 May 2018

Summary Report

The Nigeria Office for Trade Negotiations (NOTN) of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, organized, for the South West Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria, a *"Stakeholders Sensitization and Consultation Forum, on the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on 30th May, 2018.* Participants at the AfCFTA South West Zone Stakeholders' Forum, included: representatives of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN); National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME); National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA); Ogun State Chambers of Commerce and Industry (OGUNCCIMA); Nigerian Trade Experts Forum (NTEF); National Economic Summit Group (NESG); African Women Entrepreneurship Programme (AWEP), Nigeria Agri- Business Group (NABG) Also, participating were representatives of Lagos State Ministry of Commerce, owners of businesses, business operators and marketeers. In total, there were 83 registered participants. The AfCFTA Sensitisation and Consultation in the South West Zone was co-anchored by the Lagos Chambers of Commerce and Industry (LCCI).

2. The forum featured a technical presentation on the AfCFTA by Ambassador Chiedu Osakwe, DG NOTN/Chief Negotiator for Nigeria and remarks and comments by different Organised Private Sector Groups. The technical presentation by the Director-General of the Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations described the provisions of the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA, and the covered Protocols. These Protocols were, namely: the Protocol on Trade in Goods (and associated Annexes); the Protocol on Trade in Services; and, the Protocol on the Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes. The presentation answered the questions on what and why the AfCFTA and reviewed the built-in legal provisions in the Agreement for appropriate rules-based safeguards for strategic



areas of the Nigerian economy for reasons of industrial policy, national security, food security, job creation and, countervailing injurious economic activities against the Nigerian economy. The rules-based safeguard provisions presented were:

- i) reduction in tariffs on 90% of trade lines for all trade among African countries;
- ii) exclusion list of up to 10% tradable lines to protect strategic products;
- iii) provisions for Rules of Origin, among others, to curb trans-shipment and dumping in the Nigerian market, smuggling and piracy, all of which undermined attempts at industrializing the Nigerian economy;
- iv) provisions for economic development such as Special Economic Zones; and
- v) the Dispute Settlement Mechanism that established the AfCFTA as a rules-based governance system in Africa.

The presentation also outlined the potential benefits of the AfCFTA to the Nigerian Economy as well as the potential Risks and Challenges


3. The representatives of the OPS (MAN, NACCIMA, LCCI, NASME, NESG) who spoke commended the AfCFTA Agreement and unanimously agreed that Nigeria should adopt and sign the AfCFTA as well as tackle issues that impede on Nigeria's competitiveness. Some of the issues raised included the need for more offensive and defensive studies; Increased Business intelligence gathering; Trade Support Infrastructure (Reducing the cost of money and improving access to credit, Predictable, cost effective, power supply); Need to establish Trade Consultative Council; Need for Competition Policy; Need for inclusiveness for women owned businesses in the export led economy and Capacity building for businesses.



4. In conclusion the President of Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises informed the meeting that NASME would harmonise positions with other OPS Members which would be presented to the Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations

Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations
Maitama, Abuja

C. I. Osafo...
30th May 2018


~~Handwritten signature~~
RWASE-OP
30th May 2018

