



A REPORT OF THE ALP PRACTICE GROUP AFCFTA TOWNHALLS Q1, 2024

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(1) ALP GROUP HOLDS 7TH GLOBAL TOWNHALL THEMED “AfCFTA’S GUIDED TRADE INITIATIVE (GTI): RE-IMAGINING THE GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN”

On 13 February 2024, the ALP Group comprising ALP NG & Co. and ALP East Africa held its 7th Global Townhall themed “AfCFTA’s Guided Trade Initiative (GTI): Re-Imagining the Global Supply Chain”. The event which was moderated by Mr. Olasupo Shasore SAN, founding Partner at ALP NG & Co and Ms. Patricia Mutiso, Director Partnerships at ALP Trade Africa brought together a distinguished panel of speakers for an engaging discussion. The esteemed speakers at the event included Professor Jonathan Aremu (Guest Speaker) Chairman of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA) on AfCFTA Trade Group (Nigeria), Ms. Beatrice Chaytor (Head of Division – Trade in Services, AfCFTA Secretariat), Dave Anderson Partner – Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner-BCLP (Brussels), Patience Okala Expert Investment Advisor – DTIID, AfCFTA Secretariat (Ghana), Olusegun Olutayo Senior Trade Expert/ Lead Trade Enablement NAC-AfCFTA Secretariat (Nigeria), and Umar Oba Adelodun Entrepreneur: Solid Minerals, Infrastructure, Real Estate & Agriculture (Nigeria)

The panel shared valuable insights and perspectives on the African Continental Free Trade Area’s (AfCFTA’s) Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) during the townhall event. References were made to non-exhaustive areas considered crucial to the actualisation of seamless intra-Africa trade, such as the expectations of the prevalent competition regime to be introduced under the Agreement, the intricacies and vitality of the investment landscape on the continent, the immeasurable value of the services industry under the Services protocol, the preparedness of Nigeria to engage in trade under the GTI, and call for deeper levels of integration within the Regional Economic Communities, given how crucial they are to the AfCFTA’s actualisation.

The GTI from its inception was intended to be implemented in phases. Phase 1 of the GTI which commenced on 7 October 2022 involved the participation of 8 countries, namely: Mauritius, Ghana, Tunisia, Cameroon, Rwanda, Kenya, Egypt & Tanzania. Recently the AfCFTA launched phase 2 of the GTI and Nigeria will be a participating member state, alongside 22 other countries.

[Watch the Video](#) from the webinar [here](#)

[For more information on AfCFTA's GTI, please click here](#)

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(2) ALP GROUP HOLDS 8TH GLOBAL TOWNHALL THEMED “WOMEN AND YOUTH IN TRADE: INCLUSIVITY UNDER THE AfCFTA AND REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS”

Again, on 26 March 2024, the ALP Group comprising ALP NG & Co. and ALP East Africa held its 8th Global Townhall themed “Women and Youth in Trade: Inclusivity under the AfCFTA and Regional Trade Agreements”. The panel discussion was moderated by Mrs. Oyinkansola Badejo-Okusanya, founding Partner at ALP NG & Co. and Ms. Nana Adjoa Hackman, Managing Partner at Africa Legal Associates. The event brought together a distinguished panel of speakers for an engaging discussion and they include Ms. Faith Tigere – AfCFTA Consultant at International Trade Centre (Switzerland), Ms. Julia Charlton (Chair, Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce & Partner, Charltons Solicitors, (Hong Kong), Dr. Ama – Co-Founder, Africa Sustainable Trade Change Makers (United Kingdom), Janice Kimaro – Regional Coordinator, East African Women in Business Platform (EAWiBP) (Tanzania), and Isobel Acquah – Director – Center for Law & Innovation, CERTA Foundation, (Rwanda)

The expert panel provided in-depth insight into the intricacies of women involved in trade by highlighting some initiatives such as “SheTrades”, which is a product of a collaborative effort between the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the African Union Commission. SheTrades was established with the objective of empowering women to trade seamlessly in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) at all levels.

It was discussed at the townhall meeting that the East African Community (EAC) had established a one-stop border pass within East Africa toward the seamless movement of entrepreneurs and cross-border trade strictly within the region. It was further elucidated that the procedure for clearing goods at the different borders within the EAC has significantly been simplified.

Youth engagement held a significant segment of discourse on the panel, most especially along the lines of mentorship, basic schooling, and ensuring that they are given opportunities for decision making in framing policies relevant to their unique age demographic.

For more information on the engagement, please click here:

[For more information, please click here](#)

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