

# **CONCEPT NOTE**

## **THE AFRICA SME ROUNDTABLE 2024**

**28 – 29 June, 2024.**

Theme: “Leveraging SMEs for Inclusive Economic Growth; Future Proofing of Africa’s SME Ecosystem”.

### **BACKGROUND**

Small and medium enterprises are global drivers of development, providing employment, adding up to Gross Domestic Products of nations and driving inclusivity irrespective of gender.

In the past decade, the global economic environment has experienced volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA), requiring the need for conscious, concerted efforts at addressing these challenges. With this reality in mind, AAASME, in accelerating partnerships to deepen its mandate to impact SME’s globally, is holding the Africa SME Roundtable to build on previous editions and seeks a conclave that therefore aligns efforts at guaranteeing inclusive economic growth of SMEs pursuing strategies that can future-proof Africa’s SME ecosystem.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The core goal of the roundtable is to provide a platform for Continental SMEs to strategize on further inclusivity towards future-proofing Africa’s SME ecosystem.

#### **Objectives of the Event:**

The objectives of the event amongst others will be to

- Positioning SMEs for the AfCFTA market
- Use technology as a tool for accelerating the transformation of SMEs in the AfCFTA market.
- SMEs financing

- Creating understanding the importance of logistics and supply chain as critical keys for industrialization era in Africa.
- Enhancing the place of SMEs in special economic zones (SEZ)
- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), sustainability and SMEs
- Linkages and market access for SMEs of agricultural products.

Other objectives of the summit include the following:

- To accelerating the pathway to the industrialization of 6 pilot States in Nigeria.
- To attract global Finance for impact investment in core sectors of the pilot State's economy;
- To boost the Agricultural production capacity of the pilot states in areas where it has competitive advantage;
- To leveraging the existing digital knowledge of the pilot state's youth population into creating a Digital Economy;
- To explore the Creative and Blue Economy potentials of the pilot states and evolve a *circular* economy in the states.
- To Harness Carbon Credit Advantage for Pilot States.

### **Roundtable Structure:**

The roundtable event which holds at Abuja, Nigeria in a hybrid mode is expected to be a fusion of ideas that will birth sustainable and shared economic prosperity for the SMEs ecosystem.

Furthermore, it will provide for keynote presentations, panel discussion, sign-on-deals, business-2-business and business-2-government meetings, 'made-in-Africa' exhibitions amongst others.

## **Event Features:**

The event will have a high level opening ceremony and key discussions in line with the above mentioned objectives will equally form the panel discussions.

## **Expected Output:**

Synopsis of proceedings with a communique will be issued.

## **Expected Outcome:**

A call for participatory action to bolster the role of SMEs.

## **Who can participate?**

Participants who will be drawn from across the African continent and indeed the globe include:

- Entrepreneurs
- Academics
- SME Experts and Practitioners
- Chambers of Commerce
- Trade Organizations
- UN systems
- Financial Institutions
- Inter-Governmental Organizations
- Regional Economic Communities
- Other interested partners

## **Conclusion:**

The two (2) days shall round off with a formal wrap up with communique issued.