MITE AGORA

MFG INFRA TRADE EXPORT

MITE AGORA WECA

Overview

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Concept Note: MITE AGORA WECA (Manufacturing, Trade, Infrastructure and Exports for West and Central Africa)

Introduction:

The MITE AGORA WECA on Manufacturing, Infrastructure, Trade and Exports for West and Central Africa aims to address the challenges and opportunities in these critical sectors across the region.

It will bring together policymakers, industry experts, academics, and stakeholders to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and develop strategies for sustainable economic growth, job creation, and regional integration.

Objectives:

- Explore the current state of manufacturing, trade, infrastructure, and exports in West and Central Africa.

- Identify the key challenges and opportunities in these sectors and propose effective solutions.

- Promote regional collaboration and cooperation to enhance trade and economic integration.

- Share best practices, innovative approaches, and success stories from the region and beyond.

- Facilitate networking and partnerships among participants to foster economic growth.

- Provide a platform for policymakers to discuss policy frameworks and reforms to promote manufacturing, trade, infrastructure, and exports.

- Encourage investment in the region's manufacturing sector and support the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

- Highlight the importance of sustainable practices, technology adoption, and digitalization in the manufacturing, trade, and infrastructure sectors.

"Connecting the Dots"

"Accelerating International Trade Through Creativity and Know How"

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KEY THEMES

The MITE Agora will focus on the following themes:

a) *Manufacturing:*

- *Enhancing industrialization and value addition in West and Central Africa.*
- *Promoting innovation, research, and development in manufacturing.*
- *Strengthening supply chains and fostering local content development.*
- *Addressing skills gaps and promoting workforce development in the manufacturing sector.*

b) *Infrastructure:*

- *Improving infrastructure development, including transportation, energy, and telecommunications.*
- *Exploring public-private partnerships for infrastructure projects.*
- *Addressing infrastructure gaps and promoting sustainable and resilient infrastructure.*
- *Enhancing connectivity and logistics to support trade and exports.*

c) *Trade:*

- *Facilitating regional trade and removing barriers to intra-regional commerce.*
- *Enhancing export competitiveness and diversification.*
- *Promoting trade facilitation measures, such as customs harmonization and digitalization.*
- *Exploring opportunities for trade with global markets and regional economic communities.*

d) *Exports:*

- *Supporting export-oriented industries and value chains.*
- *Identifying and addressing export barriers and challenges.*
- *Promoting branding, market access, and international trade promotion.*
- *Exploring opportunities for regional integration and leveraging regional trade agreements.*

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KEY THEMES

Agora Format:

The Agora (conference) will include plenary sessions, panel discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities. Experts, policymakers, and industry leaders will deliver keynote speeches, share research findings, and participate in interactive sessions to exchange ideas and experiences.

Target Audience:

The Agora is designed for policymakers, government officials, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, and development partners working in the manufacturing, trade, infrastructure, and export sectors in West and Central Africa.

Outcomes:

- *Enhanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities in manufacturing, trade, infrastructure and exports.*
- *Policy recommendations and strategies to promote sustainable economic growth and regional integration.*
- *Increased awareness of best practices and successful models from the region and beyond.*
- *Creation of networks and partnerships to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing.*
- *Increased investment in the manufacturing sector and support for SMEs.*
- *Identification of innovative solutions and technologies to drive growth in the sectors.*

"Connecting the dots and making business happen"

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