



Trillion Investment Framework Presented at AfroChampions Boma

AfroChampions Initiative and African Union open consultations to elaborate a platform to support AfCFTA-enabling projects across Africa

Kigali, October 11, 2019 - In partnership with the African Union, the AfroChampions Initiative officially presented a draft *Trillion Investment Framework* to fully operationalize the African Continental Free Trade Area through private sector-driven investments across various sectors on the continent by the year 2030. The objective is to create a blended-finance vehicle for infrastructure and strategic projects on the continent, involving private sector operators, financing and development institutions, banks and credit institutions as well as sovereign and private funds. This major step would be supported by a set of monitoring and incentive mechanisms to ensure that projects are better prioritized, adequately funded - and deployed in a faster way.

Beyond the fund, the Framework could indeed serve as a broader instrument allowing for better coordination of public policies while promoting cross-border projects with high impact. In its current design, it comprises a matrix for determining the eligibility of AfCFTA certified programmes and projects; its sets up an independent monitoring and reporting mechanism based on Africa-focused and AfCFTA-triggered benchmarks following on AfCFTA commitments of all relevant stakeholders. With such approach, the AfroChampions Initiative would be able to monitor translation of the AfCFTA Treaty's principles and provisions into national laws as well as private operators' commitments and behaviours, highlighting also best practices in place. An example of the benchmark model has been made public, highlighting Rwanda as one of the states most committed to the future African single market.

The presentation of the draft Trillion Dollar Framework was made on the occasion of on-going Afro-Champions Boma dedicated to green industrialization being hosted in Kigali, Rwanda. Incidentally Kigali is also where the AfCFTA was signed in March 2018. "*AfCFTA is the largest and ambitious development program. This requires equal resolve in its implementation. The draft Trillion Dollar Investment Framework has been designed against this background and will promote Public-Private Partnerships in the financing and implementation of the AfCFTA agreement,*" said HE Albert Muchanga, Commissioner in Charge of Trade and Industry at the African Union Commission.

"*With the investment framework designed by the AfroChampions Initiative, we would give ourselves the means for genuine economic cooperation to boost inclusive growth; the scheme will greatly intensify African trade, which represents only 17% of trade on the continent,*" said Paulo Gomes, former Executive Director at the World Bank and member of the AfroChampions Initiative's Executive Committee.

"*For over 30 years I have monitored and actively invested in the African market as head of multiple sovereign wealth funds in the Gulf Region. Though opportunities abound, the executional risk has hampered many great ideas. Thanks to AfroChampions' advocacy, the 'Trillion Dollar Investment Framework' could help to catalyse these investments for all stakeholders*" also added Soud Ba'alawy, Founder of Dubai-based ENSPIRE fund.

A wide ranging round of consultations had now been opened with relevant stakeholders to refine and improve the proposed approaches. The African Union Commission, will, in line with the existing Memorandum of Understanding facilitate presentation of the draft Trillion Dollar Investment Framework for Africa to African Union Policy organs by the AfroChampions Initiative, starting with the inaugural meeting of the Council of Ministers of Trade of the African Continental Free Trade Area. In addition, the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission and the AfroChampions Initiative will organize a session dedicated to the project during the Africa Industrialization Week to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 18-21 November, 2019.

About the AfroChampions Initiative

The AfroChampions Initiative is a public-private partnership designed to galvanize African resources and institutions to drive further Africa's economic integration; as a consequence, the Initiative supports the emergence and success of African corporate champions, which have a critical role in integrating African markets and accelerating the transformation of the continent. The Initiative was founded by the advisory and research firm Konfidants, which manages the secretariat jointly with strategic advocacy firm Impulse Africa. The Initiative is Co-Chaired by President Thabo Mbeki and Mr. Aliko Dangote, President and CEO of Dangote Group. The Initiative is headquartered in Accra, Ghana, and works with regional and global partners and governments, with the support of other corporate and institutional partners. The AfroChampions Initiative has defined 4 pillars of activity, all aimed at supporting Africa's economic integration, including (1) Capacity building for the next generation of African executives; (2) Policy-shaping for a successful implementation of the African continental free trade area; (3) Creating a powerful group of AfroChampions companies able to speak with one voice and identify common areas of interest, within the AfroChampions Club; (4) Driving investment into game-changing projects on the continent.

<http://afrochampions.com/about/who-we-are/>

About the AfCFTA

The main objectives of the AfCFTA are to create a free trade area covering goods and services on the African continent, with free movement of persons and investments, and thus pave the way for deeper integration on the continent including the customs union and the single market. It will also expand intra-African trade through better harmonization and coordination of trade liberalization and facilitation across the RECs and across Africa in general. The AfCFTA is also expected to enhance competitiveness at the industry and enterprise level through exploitation of opportunities for scale production, continental market access and better reallocation of resources. Under the leadership of the AfCFTA Leader, Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, the AfCFTA agreement has been finalized by African Union Ministers for Trade on December 4, 2017 and signed by 44 African states on March 1, 2018 in Kigali under the aegis of the Rwandan Presidency of the African Union. It should be ratified by African Union member states throughout 2018, while discussions will continue on additional protocols and implementation processes until 2020.

About the African Union and its Department for Trade and Industry

The vision of the African Union is that of: "An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena." To help achieving this vision on the economic front, the Department for Trade and industry, under the leadership of Commissioner Albert Muchanga, leads on matters relating to intra-African economic integration, and notably the AfCFTA negotiations in collaboration with other departments in the AUC.

For more information, please contact:

Anne-Elvire Esmel - Program Director, AfroChampions Initiative - ae@afrochampions.com

Whatsapp: + 33 6 46 41 77 84

Ron Osman Omar - Senior Policy Advisor, Trade and Industry Department, African Union - OmarR@africa-union.org