



US-Nigeria Trade Council, USA

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Essentializing the Benefits from President Buhari's visit to the United States

Press Release

US-Nigeria Trade Council USA – Essentializing the Benefits from President Buhari's visit to the United States.

Atlanta, GA. USA. Thursday May 3rd, 2018: While the recent visit of President Buhari to the United States is a major milestone to strengthen US-Nigeria relations, deepen economic and military cooperation between both countries, the US-Nigeria Trade Council USA believes that the translation of the benefits of the visit, to the growth of small, medium and large businesses in the trade and education ecosystem is even more significant, and should be aggressively pursued.

The United States and Nigeria should focus less on the politics of the visit but rather drive explicit policies to lower the barriers of trade and promote economic inclusion on both sides. The following sectors in the trade relations between United States and Nigeria are of immediate concern and must be essentialized.

1. Immigration;

- a) **E1 and E2 Treaty Visa:** The US-Nigeria Trade Council calls on Nigerian government to sign a trade treaty with the United States to take bilateral advantage of the E1 (Nonimmigrant Treaty Traders) and E2 (Nonimmigrant Treaty Investors) visa program. With the E1 / E2 treaty visa category, the U.S. welcomes those who perform a great deal of trade or investment in the United States and create value for the American economy through job creation and business growth. This is less complicated than the more known EB5 immigrant investor (green card) program.

An E1 Treaty Trader Visa holder can remain indefinitely within the USA for as long as he or she fulfils the conditions required by this visa. Several Nigerians, by their investment and trade in the United States qualify for this simple visa category.

However, applicants must be a national of a treaty country and a requisite treaty for commerce and friendship must exist between the two countries to promote business and stimulate the economy. Unfortunately, no such trade treaty exists between Nigerian and the United States. Countries that have trade benefits from this visa category include Argentina, Togo, Liberia, Ethiopia, Congo, Morocco, Senegal, Egypt, Jamaica and Cameroon. It is vital that Nigeria and the United States sign such trade treaty.

- b) **Tourism Visa validity:** As with other non-immigrant U.S. visas, a B-1/B-2 visa has a maximum validity period of 2 years and allows for one or multiple entries into the United States from Nigeria. This unfortunately has led to long wait times for US visa and sometimes business opportunities are lost. We call upon the Foreign Affairs Ministry as well as the US Secretary of States to expand this to 10 years. Currently US visas issued from Australia has validity period of 5 years; France 10 years, Kenya 5 years and little-known Kyrgyzstan-5 years.

2. Infrastructure

We commend both the Presidents of the United States and President Buhari of Nigeria for giving priority to infrastructure development particularly in Nigeria where there is currently an infrastructure deficit. The allocation of 30% to capital expenditure in the three Nigerian budgets of 2016, 2017 and 2018 is a step in the right direction. With their understanding of the value of infrastructure, President Buhari should use his visit to White House to make a case for attracting more FDI /partnerships with the U.S on infrastructure

3. Agribusiness development:

Nigeria is one of America's largest trading partners. However, most of US imports are made up mainly of crude oil. Stripping out the oil, the U.S. would have a huge trade surplus. To revitalize the Nigerian economy and create jobs, the US-Nigeria Trade Council emphasizes the need to export more non-oil products to the U.S. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) must be retained and strengthened to facilitate the access of African exporters to the U.S. market. The AGOA Act.

Also, Nigeria must be recognized as a valuable trade partner and preferred source of agricultural and solid mineral raw materials and semi-finished materials to help support United states processing plants

4. 2nd US-Nigeria Agribusiness Investment Summit & Expo

As part of the drive to maximize the benefits of the recent visit of the President Muhammed Buhari to the United States, the 2nd US-Nigeria Agribusiness (Non-Oil) Investment Summit & Expo has been scheduled for November 8-10, 2018 in Atlanta, Georgia. USA.

This is an annual high-level expo of agribusiness ecosystem across Nigeria and the United States of America with a focus on agriculture and value addition of the two Countries. The Summit aims to consolidate the gains that have been made in Nigeria's agriculture environment, and at the same time, to provide solutions to the challenges that bedevil agricultural production, post-harvest management, value addition and market access in the country.

It will be a unique opportunity to explore and expand the international presence for our agribusiness products and services, to introduce delegates to unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technologies (drones) that will make farming more cost effective, and productive for Nigeria farming environment. Participants from Nigeria will be exposed to advanced Agro-biotechnologies and data-driven, modern, large-scale farming solutions in USA, and discover global agriculture funding options available in US to farming projects in Africa.

About the US-Nigeria Trade Council, USA.

The US-Nigeria Trade Council, USA (www.usnigeria.org) is dedicated to strengthening and enriching the vehicle of investment and trade between the United States of America and Nigeria. The Council provides a bilateral forum on key economic, commercial and professional initiatives, as well as business opportunities of interest to American companies operating in or exploring business opportunities in Nigeria, as well as Nigerian companies planning trade ties and business expansion to the US Market.

The US-Nigeria Trade Council's core agenda is built around three interdependent themes:

- Establishment of linkages, policy input and advocacy to increase bilateral trade and investment between US and Nigeria;
- Interchange with the American Business community on the resources that abound in Nigeria, generating Trade, Tourism and Foreign investment in Nigeria;
- promote internationalization of Nigerian businesses, products and services to the US marketplace.

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