

Lagos, Nigeria, July 4, 2018 – The Policy Development Facility (PDFII) hosts its 3rd Exporters Dialogue with the theme “Enhancing Trade Across Nigeria’s Borders”

Non-oil export value chain actors and stakeholders will converge in Lagos this July to discuss cross-border trade, the challenges and opportunities for Nigeria, especially SMEs. In the wake of arguments for and against Nigeria signing the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, the need for non-oil exporters to review the benefits and address the constraints is important. It is time that Nigeria maximizes opportunities for trade across its borders.

To ensure an inclusive and balanced dialogue, a diverse range of stakeholders representing both the public and private sectors have been invited to participate.

According to Professor Jonathan Aremu, head NESG Trade Policy Commission “This dialogue would be an opportunity to build the capacity of stakeholders (public & private) to objectively engage on trade and trade related matters using evidence”. “A review of Nigeria’s Trade policy to reflect current realities is key in this discourse”, he added.

Lead consultant with the Africa International Trade & Commerce Research Sand Mba says, “Building on trade relations with Africa and the global market, it is now fundamentally important to engage processes that will ensure our agricultural Geographical Indications (GIs) is competitive. This is an opportunity for us to recommend the preservation, quality, reputation of our traditional agricultural produce for international trade in a sustainable manner”.

Also speaking, Sola Salako Ajulo, President & Founder Consumer Advocacy Foundation of Nigeria (CAFON), says “The impact of trade agreements on consumers is a critical consideration in this discourse, International trade has moved from protecting the country to protecting the customer”

According to Titilope Ojo, Lead Exporter Voices, “The Policy Development Facility through its Trade Policy workstream will continue to galvanise exporter voices around trade policy issues thereby creating an enabling environment for the sector to thrive”.

Policy Development Facility, organisers of the event are hopeful that these series of dialogues will create a platform for the Non-Oil Export community of practice to participate and influence export and trade policy issues.