

# THE BRIDGE DIGEST

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## PRESENTATION OF THE RATIFICATION STUDY



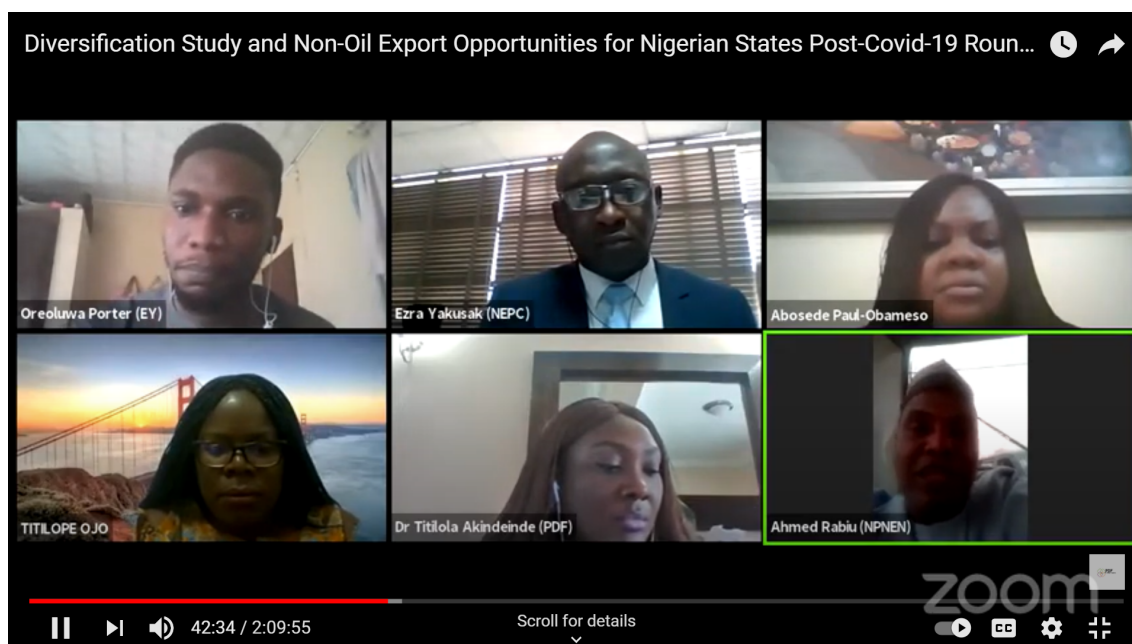
On the 16th of February 2021, the Programme Manager PDF Bridge Dr Titilola Akindeinde formally presented the Study To Inform The Ratification Of The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI), Otunba Richard Adeniyi Adebayo CON.

The presentation which happened in the office of the minister was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary of FMITI Dr Nasir Sani-Gwarzo, The Special Assistant to the Honourable Minister – Trade and Enterprise Growth, Bibi Olofure, Trade Adviser – Nigeria’s Trade Facilitation Desk, Emeka Uwanaka, and directors in the ministry.

The Honourable Minister who received the study commended FCDO's support to the ministry through PDF Bridge and added that given that there is no study of this kind available in the Ministry, this one fills the gap. The study was commissioned to provide more information on what the AfCFTA means for Nigeria and what it signifies in terms of Nigeria’s commitment to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), gender amongst other things.

The study can be found [here](#).

# DIVERSIFICATION STUDY ROUNDTABLE



A roundtable to discuss the findings and recommendations from a study on ‘Diversification and Non-oil Export Opportunities for Nigerian States Post-Covid19’ held on the 18th of February 2021. This was organized by the Trade Policy Workstream of the PDF Bridge Programme. Nigeria’s economic vulnerability to the impact of COVID-19 finds its roots in decades of undiversified basket of export. This study was commissioned to provide an evidence base for federal and states governments, private investors and exporter groups in Nigeria that wish to expand their export base. Panelists at the roundtable discussion were drawn from Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Nigeria Governorship Forum (NGF), Federation of Agricultural Commodities Association of Nigeria (FACAN), Network of Practicing Non-oil Exporters of Nigeria (NPNEN), Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiations (NOTN) etc. In their stride towards encouraging diversification, NEPC is planning a Domestic Export Warehousing Scheme. This scheme will identify factors hindering successful export by ensuring standardization of products, certifications and appropriate packaging while exporters warehouse their goods free of charge pending export at the designated warehouses. These warehouses will be situated in each of the 6 geo-political zones (2 in each) in the country. Here’s a [link](#) to access the complete study.

## KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT NETWORK LUNCH MEETING

The first KM Meeting for the year 2021 took place on the 12th of February 2021. It was an introductory meeting for new members who joined the network in the days after the last meeting in December. Also, at the meeting, suggestions were made by members on proposed activities for the network in the new year in terms of capacity building and training. This is aimed at increasing the capacity of members to deliver effectively in their various programmes which is in line with the networks mandate. The first training has been scheduled to take place in March and modalities are being put in place. Highlight of the meeting was a discussion on evolving programme KM Strategy Document. This can be done through exploring what works and fits the programme as well as what can support the overall goals of the organization. An update was also given on progress made with inviting new programmes to the network seeing that some programmes will be closing out in a couple of months to avoid the network thinning out.

## TRADE MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME PRODUCES RESULTS

To support existing exporters and encourage entrance of new non-oil exporters, the Trade Policy Workstream of the PDF Bridge engaged in a mentorship programme with experienced exporters as mentors committed to building the export sector by mentoring new and growing exporters. This handholding helps them avoid initial pitfalls in the export business from a practical perspective. Testimonials from the programme show that at least 2 mentees have exported for the first time while another reached an advanced stage of getting her products certified by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and is currently pushing to get the Healthcare Compliance Certification Board (HCCB) certification. Toritseju Okanlawon a mentee has successfully written a commercial template with the guidance of her mentor amongst other things. She is being prepared to get a contract from the USA to export shea butter along with other mentees in her group.

# NPNEN TOWNHALL MEETING



PDF Bridge's Trade Policy Workstream is supporting and growing a coalition of non-oil exporter voices for policy engagements with national and subnational governments in Nigeria. An outcome of its predecessor programme PDF II, the Network of Practicing Non-oil Exporters of Nigeria (NPNEN) has continued to make strides and successfully organized a live Town Hall Meeting on the 5th of February 2021. The hybrid meeting engaged with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) particularly on the most recent CBN pre-export policy on documentation which allows banks to blacklist exporters based on delayed repatriation of proceeds. NPNEN reiterated that it threatens export business, economic growth, and diversification via the non-oil sector. Representatives of relevant government agencies who also doubled as panelists were Mrs Rita Owase, Mr Adeleke Olumuyiwa, Representative of CBN Director Development Finance Department, Chief Ede Dafinone, Chairman of MAN export group, Charles Nduka representative of NACCIMA export group, Mr Sunny Omeiza Michael, Representing the Assistant director Trade promotion department of Lagos chamber of commerce and Industry. Mr Bamidele Ayemibo and Femi Boyede made a presentation titled "Exporting from Nigeria: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly". At the end of the townhall meeting, NPNEN expressed willingness to assist the CBN and other policy makers with suggestions that will improve export documentation and smoothen the process.



## ABOUT US

*The PDF Bridge programme provides direct technical support to the Federal Government of Nigeria, its agencies and independent regulators in key economic sectors. Read more here: [www.pdfnigeria.org/bridge](http://www.pdfnigeria.org/bridge)*