AUGUST 2026

VOL. 1

NEWSLETTER

# NATIONAL AfCFTA COORDINATION OFFICE

BOOSTING INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE



NEWSLETTER [Issue No. 001] • [August 2026] Vol.1

# TABLE OF CONTENT

Page 1 — Remarks
Page 2 — About the NCO
Page 3 — President Mahama Advocates AfCFTA Expansion for Caribbean Nations
Page 4 — Ghana and Gabon Deepen Bilateral Ties
Page 5 — Hon. Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare Calls for Urgent Implementation of the AfCFTA
Page 6 — Harnessing FDI for National Transformation: Leveraging AfCFTA
Page 7 — The Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness and Ministry and TradeMark Africa Partner to Accelerate AfCFTA
Page 8 – 10 — NCO strengthens Strategic Partnership
Page 10& 11 — Trade Update & Connect with Us

# NATIONAL AfCFTA COORDINATION OFFICE

## BOOSTING INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE

NEWSLETTER [Issue No. 001] • [August 2026] Vol.1



***"We must move beyond historical sentimentality and build concrete economic bridges. Integrating the Caribbean into the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area will unlock unprecedented trade, investment, and market access across the Atlantic."*** — H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana.



***"Africa's future is promising, but Agenda 2063 must deliver tangible improvements in the lives of our people. We must not wait until 2063 to see the benefits. We must build that future now,"*** — Hon. Minister Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare, Minister for Trade, Agribusiness and Industry.

## WELCOME STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL AFCFTA COORDINATOR

Welcome to this edition of Ghana's National AfCFTA Coordination Office Newsletter. It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all institutions, the business community, and our partners for continuously engaging with the National AfCFTA Coordination Office.

The Office remains dedicated to working with partners like you to support Ghanaian enterprises in harnessing the full benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement.

Our aim is to strengthen SMEs' trading capacity. We also aim to address non-tariff barriers and to create pathways for accelerating Ghanaian private sector competitiveness to be able to benefit from the AfCFTA.

Together, we will build lasting partnerships that empower businesses to expand beyond borders, drive sustainable growth, and contribute to Africa's shared prosperity.



**MR DODE SEIDU**

## ABOUT THE NCO

The National AfCFTA Coordination Office (NCO) was established in March 2020 under the Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry (MoTAI). This office serves as a central point for coordinating the Government of Ghana's policy and strategic response to the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement.

The NCO is responsible for the day-to-day management of implementation and programme administration. It is also the liaison office between the AfCFTA Secretariat and the Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry, as well as other Ghanaian stakeholders. In line with its coordination role, the National Coordination Office is dedicated to establishing an efficient operational network of all the key institutions involved in the implementation of AfCFTA in Ghana.

### VISION

To make Ghana Africa´s number one trading partner

### MISISION

To position Ghanaian businesses and stakeholders to harness the benefits of the AfCFTA.

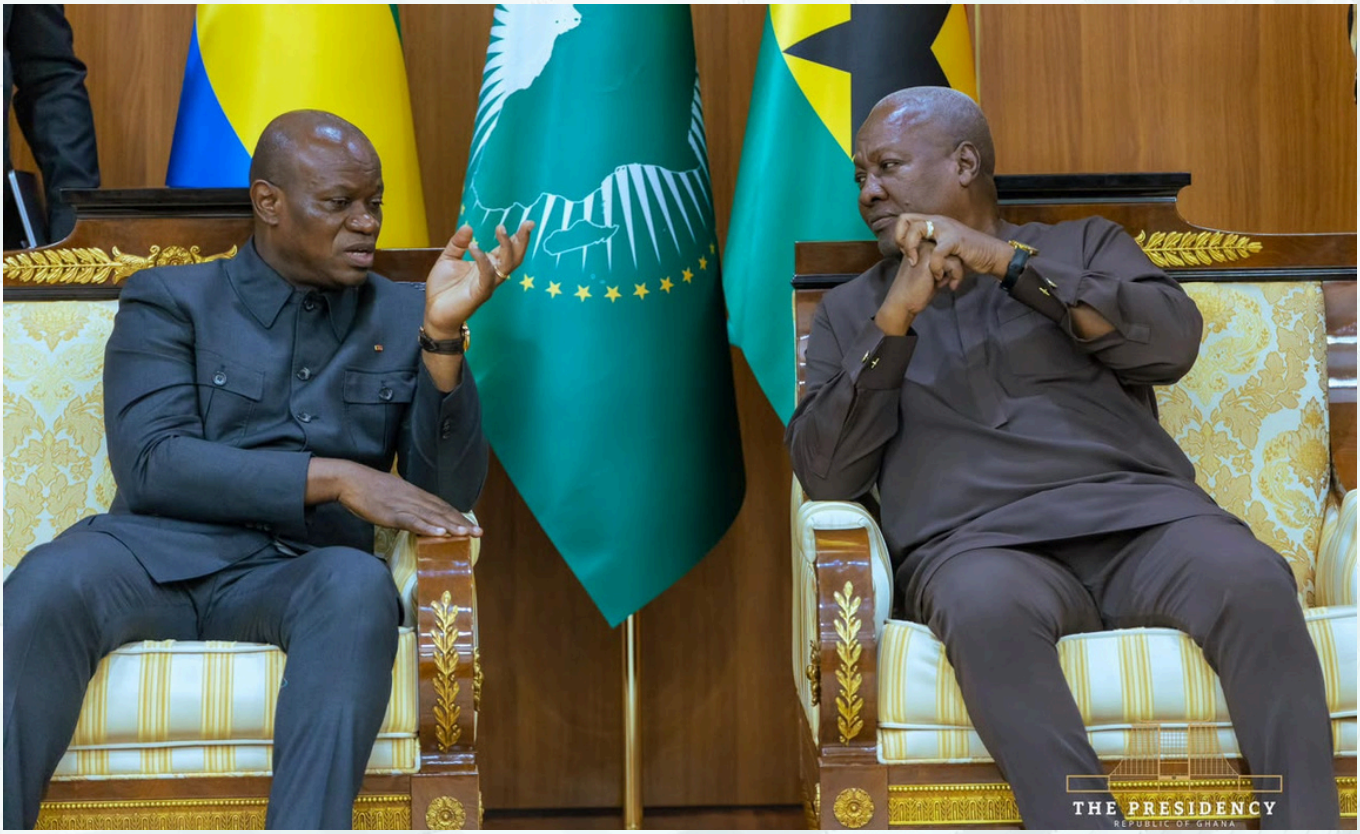


# PRESIDENT JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA SEEKS TO EXPAND AFCFTA FRAMEWORKS TO INCLUDE CARIBBEAN NATIONS




The President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama did a state visit to Jamaica in August 2026. During his stay in Jamaica, he proposed expanding the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework to include Caribbean nations. The president's goal is to turn historic African Diaspora ties into a strategic economic partnership alongside Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness.

The initiative focuses on driving policy support to integrate CARICOM into regional trade networks through upcoming African Union forums. The initiative looks at setting up direct sea and air transport links to reduce freight expenses. By concentrating on key growth sectors such as agro-processing, services, digital tech, and technical exchange, the initiative seeks to build a robust trans-Atlantic trade corridor that fosters long-term economic expansion for both Africa and the Caribbean.




## GHANA AND GABON DEEPEN BILATERAL TIES AS PRESIDENT OLIGUI NGUEMA CONCLUDES HISTORIC OFFICIAL VISIT TO ACCRA

Following a three-day state visit by Gabonese President Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema, hosted by President John Dramani Mahama, Ghana and Gabon signed two strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) establishing permanent diplomatic consultations and joint diplomatic training. Aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063, the UN SDGs, and the trade-enabling goals of the AfCFTA, the bilateral summit focused on deepening pan-African integration, protecting constitutional governance, strengthening regional security, and removing socio-political barriers to foster cross-border cooperation and seamless trade across the continent.

In a comprehensive joint communiqué issued at the close of the visit, both leaders pledged strict adherence to the foundational principles of the AU Constitutive Act and the UN Charter.

NATIONAL AfCFTA COORDINATION OFFICE
BOOSTING INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE

NEWSLETTER [Issue No. 001] • [August 2026] Vol.1

# HON. ELIZABETH OFOSU-ADJARE CALLS FOR SME FINANCING, LOCAL PROCESSING, AND URGENT AFCFTA IMPLEMENTATION AT AFLIGA 2026








The Minister for Trade, Agribusiness and Industry, Hon. Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare, has made an urgent call to accelerate the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Speaking at the 2026 Africa Future Leaders Institute of Global Affairs(AFLIGA) Thought Leadership Series, Hon. Ofosu-Adjare stated that African small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) must lead the continent's economic integration. While acknowledging AfCFTA's vast market potential, she underscored that overcoming systemic structural barriers facing local businesses is essential to achieving true economic transformation.

Hon. Ofosu-Adjare also pointed out the importance of core themes and a strategic focus centered on driving regional growth. Hon. Ofosu-Adjare additionally stated the need to expand market access through accessible capital, streamlined border administration, efficient logistics, and affordable transportation. The Hon. Minister at the end of her message, stated that there is also a need for a decisive shift toward value addition and industrialization, which would transition the continent from exporting raw commodities to engaging in domestic processing. She added that a decisive shift toward value addition and industrialization would ultimately create jobs and keep economic value locally, allowing citizens to experience the tangible benefits of Agenda 2063 today.

NATIONAL AfCFTA COORDINATION OFFICE
BOOSTING INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE

NEWSLETTER [Issue No. 001] • [August 2026] Vol.1

# GHANA TO CONVERT A TOTAL OF $14.6 BILLION PIPELINE INTO LOCAL JOBS AND ENTERPRISE GROWTH, LEVERAGING AFCFTA AND GLOBAL MARKET




The Minister for Trade, Agribusiness and Industry, Hon. Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare, officially launched Ghana Investment Promotion Authority´s (GIPA) 2025 Annual Investment Report, which outlined Ghana's strategic economic direction following a highly successful investment year. In 2025, Ghana secured approximately US$2.6 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The US$2.6 billion FDI in 2025 secured by Ghana was across more than 250 projects, along with nearly US$12 billion in announced and pipeline investment commitments, reflecting strong global investor confidence. To ensure these headline figures deliver tangible national benefits, the government is shifting focus from tracking inflows to operationalizing capital.

The administration's strategy centers on strengthening localized value chains by directly connecting foreign investments with domestic suppliers, expanding agroprocessing and manufacturing to eliminate raw commodity exports, and empowering local SMEs to meet international quality standards. Ultimately, this approach aims to generate long-term employment, build resilient domestic enterprises, and scale up local productive capacity so Ghanaian businesses can fully capitalize on preferential single-market opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and broader global trade networks.

## GHANA'S MINISTRY OF TRADE, AGRIBUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AND TRADEMARK AFRICA RENEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO ACCELERATE AFCFTA INTEGRATION




The Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry, represented by Hon. Minister Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare, signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TradeMark Africa. The agreement expands their existing collaboration to modernize trade infrastructure, boost Ghana's export competitiveness, and drive private-sector participation within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

To achieve its core objectives, the strategy rests on three key pillars:
The first key area is Targeted Business Support which provides capacity-building initiatives, simplified market entry strategies, and export enhancement tailored to SMEs, women entrepreneurs, and youth-led businesses. The second key area is Trade Facilitation & Border Modernization which implements modernized border management frameworks and systems engineered to minimize logistical costs and transit delays for cross-border cargo. The third key area is Digital Trade Infrastructure, which comprehensively upgrades trade platforms to streamline documentation workflows, optimize institutional efficiency, and lower overall trade corridor transaction costs

# STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: NCO ACCELERATES GHANA'S DRIVE UNDER THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AFCFTA)

**NCO Engages with the Chief of Staff of the AfCFTA Secretariat**

On 20th August 2026, the National Coordinator met with Mr. Rui Pedro Livramento, the Chief of Staff at the AfCFTA Secretariat, to align national implementation strategies with continental framework goals. This domestic momentum builds upon stronger ties with the continental governing body.





**Modernizing Trade Infrastructure with TradeMark Africa and Ghana´s Trade Ministry, Agribusiness and Industry**

Kicking off the series of engagements on 12th August 2026, the NCO supported the signing of a landmark Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry and TradeMark Africa. Attended by Hon. Minister Ofosu-Adjare and TradeMark Africa Deputy CEO Allen Asiimwe, the agreement targets digital trade infrastructure upgrades, border system modernization, and reduced transit costs to bolster Ghanaian export competitiveness.

**NCO Reaffirmed Empowering MSMEs and Expanding Infrastructure With the Ghana Enterprises Agency**

In a meeting with Ms. Margaret Ansei Magoo, CEO of Ghana Enterprises Agency, on 24th August 2026, the NCO aligned on expanding market access, export readiness, and compliance standards for MSMEs. A central priority is establishing clear reporting channels so businesses can promptly report continental trade challenges to the NCO for targeted inter-agency resolution.



## CONT´D



**Ghana Trade Fair Company (GTFC):** In discussions with CEO Naa Amerley Bamba on 24th August 2026, both organizations agreed to collaborate on joint capacity-building workshops covering payment systems, trade fair participation, and continental business-to-business (B2B) networking. Following the meeting, the NCO team toured GTFC's ongoing construction of ultra-modern, 30,000-capacity event facilities complete with global-standard hotel accommodations designed to host major international trade expos.

**Capital Mobilization and Continental Alignment at GIPA´s 2025 Annual Report Launch.**

On 21st August 2026, the National Coordinator, Mr. Seidu, joined the Minister of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry, Hon. Elizabeth Ofosu-Adjare for the launch of the 2025 Annual Investment Report by the Ghana Investment Promotion Authority (GIPA). The report recorded USD 2.62 billion in total FDI for 2025, including over USD 200 million in intra-Africa investments from Nigeria, Morocco, and Mauritius. GIPA CEO Mr. Simon Madjie noted that the revised GIPA Act 2026 (Act 1173) aligns directly with the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment, cementing Ghana's standing as a gateway economy






**Operationalizing Trade Rules with GRA Customs**

During a high-level engagement with Mr. Aaron Kanor, Commissioner of the Ghana Revenue Authority (Customs Division), Mr. Seidu emphasized that the AfCFTA represents a direct gateway for Ghanaian enterprises to enter new continental markets. To ensure local businesses leverage these advantages, the NCO and GRA Customs committed to establishing seamless data exchange, streamlining the issuance of Certificates of Origin, accelerating trade approvals, and jointly tackling non-tariff barriers (NTBs).

## CONT´D

**NCO collaborates with GNCCI to clear export bottlenecks and accelerate AfCFTA growth.**

In a recent high-level courtesy call, the National AfCFTA Coordination Office (NCO) and the Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI), which represents roughly 10,000 businesses nationwide, agreed to strengthen collaboration to accelerate Ghanaian exports under the AfCFTA. To expedite certification and eliminate trade statistics discrepancies, both parties committed to reactivating joint Rules of Origin committees and fully synchronizing trade data among the NCO, GNCCI, the Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry, and GRA Customs. Adopting a platform focused on creating domestic industrial growth and capturing intra- African market share, the NCO aligned with GNCCI's call for urgent institutional reforms to resolve operational bottlenecks, reduce high transit and logistics costs, and eliminate regulatory overlaps among agencies like the FDA, GSA, and Customs.



## TRADE UPDATES

- **African Union Formally Adopts Phase II Protocols to Deepen Single Market Implementation**

The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government has officially adopted key Phase II protocols under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement, marking a significant shift toward a fully integrated continental economy. The newly adopted instruments comprising the Protocols on Digital Trade, Investment, Intellectual Property Rights, and Competition Policy are designed to harmonize trade frameworks across member states. Notably, the Protocol on Digital Trade establishes unified rules for cross-border e-commerce, data flows, and consumer protection, while the Investment Protocol replaces disparate bilateral treaties with a single continental legal standard aimed at boosting intra-African capital flows. AfCFTA Secretariat officials highlighted that these protocols expand the agreement beyond physical goods to cover the modern digital and service-driven economy, providing small and medium enterprise (SME) exporters with predictable regulatory environments across all participating markets.

***Source: AfCFTA Secretariat Press Release / African Union Information and Communication Directorate***

- **Ghana Records Trade Surplus in Q1 2026 as Regional Market Access Expands**

Ghana recorded a trade surplus of GHS 46.1 billion ($4.3 billion) in the first quarter of 2026, driven by strong export performance across key product sectors, according to the latest figures from the Ghana Statistical Service. The growth highlights an ongoing push to turn regional policy frameworks into practical commercial activity. Under the Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) and expanding tariff reduction schedules, policy interventions across Africa are shifting focus toward market linkages for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), commercial service trade liberalization, and digital trade tools such as the UNCTAD e-trade reform tracker to streamline cross-border documentation and boost intra-African trade volumes.

***Source: Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) Trade Bulletin & AfCFTA Implementation Updates (Q1 2026).***

- **AfCFTA Secretariat and Quest Ghana Sign $5.17 Billion Joint Venture to Launch Digital Trade Corridor**

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat signed a landmark $5.17 billion Joint Venture Agreement with Quest Ghana in Accra. The initiative aims to build a robust Digital Trade Corridor designed to streamline cross-border trade operations, enhance digital payment interoperability, and accelerate customs clearances across participating member states. By addressing key non-tariff barriers and standardizing digital compliance frameworks, the project is expected to significantly reduce administrative latency for commercial enterprises, particularly small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) expanding their access to regional markets across the continent

## CONNECT WITH US

info@afcftagh.org

https://afcftagh.org/

National AfCFTA Coordination Office

National AfCFTA Coordination Office

https://www.instagram.com/nco_afcftagh/