

## The Global African Investment Summit – COMESA & Government of Rwanda 5 - 6 September 2016, Kigali, Rwanda

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Preamble

Last year Africa's policymakers took a defining step to further bolster intra-regional trade across the continent. The land-mark Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) was officially launched in Sharm el Sheikh in June 2015, attracting the endorsement of 26 Heads of States to economically integrate Africa's three major regional economic communities – the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the East African Community (EAC).

Together, the three economic blocks will create the largest trading block in Africa, comprising 26 countries, 620 million consumers, a combined GDP of almost \$1.2 trillion USD, and spanning half the continent from Cairo to Cape Town. By harmonising trade policies, removing trade barriers and promoting trade facilitation, the TFTA aims to reap enormous benefits for the regions' economies and populations.

This landmark initiative has sparked significant negotiations, ratifications, and decisions on a number of issues required to complete the mammoth task of regional integration. As these endeavours start, it is clear that debate and exchange of ideas in trusted and inclusive forums are necessary to engage relevant stakeholders, and ultimately achieve a prosperous common market.

#### ***The Global African Investment Summit – COMESA & Government of Rwanda*** **“Accelerating African economic integration through trade and investment”**

The Global African Investment Summit (TGAIS) will introduce its first edition on the African continent in September this year. *TGAIS – COMESA & Government of Rwanda* will be held under the high patronage of H.E. Paul Kagame on 5-6 September in Kigali, Rwanda, in partnership with COMESA and Government of Rwanda.

TGAIS is an internationally-recognised business platform, creating a unique meeting place for global investors, and public and private sector African project owners. The last Summit took place in London in December 2015, and attracted over 1,500 investors who manage over \$425 billion USD in funds geared for emerging markets, or specifically Africa.



The primary objective of the Summit is to engage the private sector on the TFTA initiative, and explore how the public and private sector can work together to help realise the aspiration of Africa's largest single market. In particular, the two-day programme agenda will examine three key areas:

1. Developing trade and investment corridors in the TFTA region
2. Attracting investment and private sector players to enhance the physical infrastructure to facilitate the movement of goods and persons
3. Creating an environment that enables harmonisation through policy and regulation

*TGAIS - COMESA Rwanda* will bring together over 1,000 high-level delegates from the public and private spheres over two days that include:

- Conference plenary keynotes from top global and African -high level profile speakers
- Topical panel debates featuring public and private sector thought-leaders
- Sector-focussed sessions: Manufacturing, Power, Agribusiness, Infrastructure, ICT
- Special roundtables highlighting regional investment opportunities
- Exhibition showcases from the Tripartite investment promotion agencies
- Private bilateral meetings with investors from across the globe
- Dedicated networking sessions

### **Why attend *TGAIS - COMESA Rwanda*?**

- Identify concrete investment and business opportunities that arise from the TFTA
- Gain access to African heads of state, government ministers and head of investment promotion agencies
- Network with qualified African and international investors in control of \$200 billion USD of funds looking specifically for opportunities in the region
- Debate and tackle business-critical, African investment and trade issues
- Build and strengthen crucial business relationships, networks and partnerships

### **Who will attend *TGAIS - COMESA Rwanda*?**

- Senior government officials: Heads of State, ministers, heads of RECs, investment promotion agency leaders, and policy makers from Africa and beyond
- Executive-level business leaders from around the world, including: CEOs, CFOs, CIOs, COOs, Presidents, MDs, VPs, Heads of Africa/ Government Relations/ Investment Banking
- Financiers and investors: investment banks, private equity, sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, family offices, UHNWIs, operators
- International governmental organisations and multilateral agencies
- Professionals services: consultants, legal advisors, risk consultants, academics
- Leading international, regional and local media and publications