

2024 CALL FOR PAPERS: AC DSI/ASC AfCFTA Centre



Africa Change Development Studies Institute / ASC AfCFTA Studies Centre (AC DSI/ASC AfCFTA Centre) in partnership with Centre for Career and Leadership Training in Zimbabwe (CCLTZ); and Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) Faculty of Social Sciences, Julius Nyerere School of Social Studies, Department of Sociology and Anthropology Studies; and ZIMRUSS Consultancy Ltd.

2-3 October 2024. Venue: VIRTUAL. Location: Zimbabwe.

URL www address (upcoming): <https://sites.google.com/ac-dsiasc-afcfta.org/ac-dsiasc-afcfta-org/home>

2024 ASC AfCFTA Virtual International Conference: Micro-Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) driven industrialization and transformation of marginalized rural -urban and resettled communities in Southern and Sub Saharan Africa in a fast advancing digital world.



Significance of the generation changing and wealth creation Micro-Small-Medium Scale enterprises (MSMEs) driven transformative African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as an African Union Pan African flagship project cannot be underestimated especially where urgency for identity and survival in a world of complexities calls. On a highly resonating note for responsive dispensations, a Davos 2024 January, World Economic Forum report on world leaders dialogue among several resolutions called for a new model of growth that balances productivity with equity and sustainability. The conception of a transformative AfCFTA driven by Micro- Small and Medium Scale enterprises (MSMEs) has greater scope within the context of visibly inclusive Davos 24 January resolution. The new growth model and attendant socioeconomic conditions implied by the Davos 24 January 2024 World Economic Outlook, constitute a fundamental position that is extensively echoed by the United Nations

Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), especially Goal 1 which accentuates ending poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 9 which advocates building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; Goal 10 which reiterates reduction of inequality within and among countries; and Goal 17 which advocates strengthening of the means of implementation and revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development. Goals 1,9,10 and 17 greatly inform developmental mission of Micro- Small and Medium Enterprises in AfCFTA driven industrialization and transformation of marginalized communities in Zimbabwe, Southern and Sub Saharan Africa in a fourth industrial digital revolution phase (4IR). Indeed Micro-Small- Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) drive for the AfCFTA while finding resonance in the Davos 24 January new growth model, and a selected UNSDGs it practically inherits an integration and cooperation drive within a context of the Africa Agenda 2063, Aspiration 7 which situates *Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner and also Aspiration 6 which advocates for an Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.* The 2023 Africa Economic Outlook indicated hurdles for Micro-Small and Medium scale enterprises (MSMEs) for most economies within the sub Saharan Africa in the wake of potentially disruptive geopolitical tensions namely: Xenophobia in South Africa; Cape Delgado Mozambique Crisis; Foreign backed Coups in Sahel Region; outposts of dictatorship across regions of the world; Russia – Ukraine Crisis; Declining Culture of Humancentric Constructive Dialogue; Superpower Nuclear Attack Threat; Middle East /Israel – Gaza Conflict and Superpower Pacific Rim tensions. These circumstances if not well tamed and reacted to, have a potential to compromise the Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises driven AfCFTA industrialization agenda in Zimbabwe, Southern, Sub Saharan Africa on a short, medium and long term. The 2023 Africa Economic Outlook report while alerting on hurdles confronting Micro-Small and Medium scale enterprises (MSMEs) in most sub Saharan African economies proposed mitigatory and recovery policy priorities for responsive and progressive Member States to address namely: reducing rising inflation; managing exchange pressures; managing debt obligations while creating space for development spending; and improving living standards and potential growth, particularly in resource intensive countries. Certainly, much to the favor of a responsive Zimbabwe, Southern and Sub Saharan Africa, the generational and transformative essence of Micro-Small and Medium Scale enterprises (MSMEs) driven AfCFTA Initiative as an immense legacy reclamation African Union flagship program is inevitable in this opportunity bound fourth industrial revolution phase. Empowerment and transformative potential of Micro-Small and Medium scale enterprises (MSMEs) through the AfCFTA industrialization program in marginalized rural-urban and resettled communities of the sub-Saharan Africa across law-abiding. This potential for the law abiding embraces: race, gender, tribe, religion, origin, dynasty, clan, households; age; culture especially for women, youth – girl and boy child; disabled, able men and women across age; households; public and private sector; local and international development partners (global pan African Community). Indeed, the MSMEs driven AfCFTA transformative-empowerment potential is generational and a reality for responsive and progressive dispensations across the Southern and Sub Saharan Africa. Cognizant of the development socioeconomic disparities (WPDS 2023) between and within sub Saharan Africa

2938-5645 GNI ppp US\$; World (20510 US\$ GNI ppp); and More Developed – High Income Regions (56361 – 60988 GNI ppp US\$), the mission of Micro-Small and Medium scale enterprises (MSMEs) stands clearly to bridge the development inequalities -gaps while simultaneously increasing the GNI US\$ per capita and wealth, uplifting living standards; consolidating peace-



security; rewarding hard work; wealth sharing; hope; empowerment drive and mutual master-servant trust and cooperation between marginalized citizens and the member state governments. In the light of the programmed Micro-Small and Medium Scale enterprises role in a transformative AfCFTA as an African Union flagship pan African project, the 2024 Africa Change Development Studies Institute / ASC AfCFTA Studies Centre International Conference Secretariat invites key development players namely: government; private sector; industry; marginalized communities; public; ministries-local authorities; churches; chiefs and headmen; academia, researchers; youth; women; local and international NGOs + development partners; development cooperation institutions (diplomats) and interested parties to submit abstracts and contribute policy relevant publishable research papers to this wonderful Virtual “International Conference: Micro-Small and Medium Scale enterprises driven AfCFTA industrialization and transformation of marginalized communities in Zimbabwe, Southern and Sub Saharan Africa in a fast advancing digital world” to be held 2-3 October 2024: ONLINE. Papers would be developed around the following themes:

- Transformative Afrocentric AfCFTA Initiative
- Domestic market, import and exports, identity and ownership
- Infrastructure development, investment
- Industry, agriculture and value addition
- Mining, manufacturing and value chains
- Scientific and technological progress, education, research and innovation
- Partnership, cooperation, diversity, inclusivity
- War, conflict, instability, peace, rehabilitation and coexistence
- Climate change, environment and disaster management

- Inclusive Micro-Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSMEs), empowerment and identity
- Religion, culture and language
- Peace, security and democracy
- Banking, Finance, Loans, Savings
- Smart City Development Initiatives
- Youth, gender, women, men, boy – girl child
- Rural transformation, development
- Trade, Customs, Investment and Markets
- Industrialization, integration and legacy reclamation
- ICT, Smart Cities, growth and development
- Constructive dialogue, philosophy; progress, freedom
- Digital technologies and transformation
- Big Data, data, metadata and transformation
- Migration, Conflict and Mutual Cooperation
- **Poverty, wealth redistribution, prosperity.**
- **Humanity, coexistence, mutuality, justice and identity**

Kindly paper structure to comprise of:

- Topic; Abstract (6 keywords and phrases – 300 words), Introduction, Methodology; Literature Review; Results, Discussion, Conclusion and Bibliography. Paper have a maximum of 5000-6000 words.

Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation (Ppt)

- Prepare maximum Microsoft Word 18 PowerPoint Presentation slides.

Business Schedule:

- Abstract submission deadline : May 30.2024
- Abstract Acceptance deadline : June 6.2024
- Full paper submission deadline : August 28.2024
- Conference Date: 2-3 October 2024
- Venue: ONLINE -VIRTUAL (ASC AfCFTA Centre Conference Secretariat)
- Revised Paper Submission – October 27. 2024
- 2024 ASC AfCFTA Special Edition publication: December 15.2024.

Send Abstract

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- Dr Manasa Sibanda : manasa.sibanda@yahoo.com; +263 772284644; and
- Mr Francis Mambo : (Operations Managing Director: Zimruss Consultancy)

Registration:

- Free and Open to all participants. Indicate on Centre website + email address:

Resource Mobilization / Capacity Building / Progressive Circles and Development Partners:

- Promotion-Session/s Funding- Donations (Cash and Kind) – Pledges- Appreciation.

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<i>Note: Please copy/send proof of payment to contacts below: Professor (Fellow)Dr Chikowore: godchik60@yahoo.co.uk / godchik@ac-dsiasc.afcfta.org; + 263773378014) and (Mr Daniel Mugwanda : dm26215@gmail.com; +263779197433).</i>
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