



**AFRICA TRADE
DEVELOPMENT
FORUM 2024**



**DIGITAL
TRADE**



2-3 DECEMBER 2024



THE MARRIOT HOTEL, KIGALI, RWANDA



Republic of Rwanda
**Ministry of Trade
and Industry**



INTRODUCTION

Africa is advancing its economic development agenda rapidly. Young people are demanding not just jobs, but fulfilling careers that give them control over their futures. Trade has the power to make that happen, and it is up to us to connect the dots between trade policies and the real change that the continent is pursuing.



Leaders in Africa, therefore, must collaborate and put concerted efforts to guide the continent towards a one Africa future, where under the Africa Continental Free Trade Area frameworks, trade is a transformative force.

Trade, often seen as a complex web of transactions, is fundamentally a vehicle of opportunity.

To meet this demand, TradeMark Africa (TMA) is partnering with governments across the continent to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and more environmentally sustainable.

TMA's strategy is three pronged



REDUCING TIME & COST OF TRADE

By reducing the time and cost of trading across borders, countries can lower prices and make essential goods and services accessible to more people.



STREAMLINED TRADE PROCESSES

Streamlined trade processes create trade opportunities for export-oriented businesses, so stimulating further investment and growth.



CONDUCTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Finally, a conducive business environment catalyses the creation of jobs and empowers small and medium enterprises. This environment invites innovation, attracts investments, and builds the foundations on which nations can thrive.

TRADE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

With our shared goals for a prosperous Africa in mind, we are re-establishing the Africa Trade Development Forum, a gathering aimed at propelling advancements in trade facilitation and shaping a strategic voice for trade across the continent.

This year, the Government of Rwanda is proud to co-host the event in Kigali from December 2 to 3, 2024 under the theme **Digital Trade**. Building on the successes of previous fora held in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2018, and 2019, this platform will bring together Heads of States and senior Government Officials, Development Partners, Academicians, Multilateral Organisations and Private Sector leaders and innovators to discuss and make decisions that will achieve our vision of a thriving Africa.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Participants will discuss innovative digital trade practices and technologies already adopted in the continent and future opportunities. The following will be explored:



1. **Driving inclusion and sustainability** – how to increase access, sustainability and ethics in trade through digital processes.



2. **The future for policy** – integrating digital technologies into traditional trade governance frameworks.



3. **New funding models**



4. **Increasing trust** – the place of distributed ledger technology (DLT) and Artificial Intelligence.



5. **Evolution of e-commerce** – digital trade as a catalyst for expanding opportunities to access markets.

THE CONVERSATION

This event will reimagine Africa's trade landscape, where digital innovation unlocks the continent's borderless potential. We will explore how technology can empower businesses, connect markets, and foster inclusive economic growth. Backed by data, we will envision a future where cross-border trade is seamless, secure, and sustainable; with a focus on interoperability of digital services, in particular payments and information exchanges. Through insightful discussions and collaborative exploration, we will uncover strategies to bridge the digital divide, ensuring that every African benefits from digital trade.

Examples of digital trade initiatives that will be showcased

1. Digital policy infrastructure: AfCFTA's digital trade protocol
2. From port to capitals – Africa's groundbreaking public Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System. [Read more here.](#)
3. Trust driven paperless trade corridors- The Trade Logistics Information Pipeline. [Read more here.](#)
4. Africa's custom agencies embracing the future: Use of Artificial Intelligence in trade.

OBJECTIVES



1. Showcase Africa's digital trade experiences, lessons and share success stories from a **people**, **politics** and **practice** perspective.



2. Strengthen partnerships among government officials, industry leaders, scholars and key stakeholders in the trade and digital sectors.



3. Provide a collaborative platform to amplify a unified voice for Africa's digital future and explore innovative concepts.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

OPENING REMARKS

Keynote speeches from host Government and international funding bodies.

PRESIDENTIAL FIRE-SIDE CHAT

Featuring host Government and leaders from the private sector and funding bodies.

MINI INVESTMENT FORUM

A sideline event organised by Trade Catalyst Africa to explore funding opportunities and partnerships for infrastructure development.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Will include interactive sessions like panel discussions, round tables, open-omic sessions. Discussions will focus on emergent trends in digital trade, policy evolution and technological breakthroughs, based on research findings from leading institutions.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Showcases and targeted discussions on digital payments, AI integration, and the nexus on digital and green trade.

CLOSING PRONOUNCEMENT

A joint call to action by the Government of Rwanda, ministers of trade from Africa and international delegates, underscoring key outcomes from the event and commitments.



Africa Trade Development Forum '24

Unlocking Africa's Trade
Through Digital Innovation



DECEMBER, 2 - 3, 2024



KIGALI, RWANDA



ABOUT MINISTRY OF TRADE, RWANDA

With rigour and proficiency, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, facilitates Rwanda's economic transformation goals and vision through advancing for a competitive and knowledge based private sector, promotion of industrialization, create a conducive and flourishing environment for entrepreneurs, integrate into regional and global markets while ensuring a high level of consumer and intellectual property protection for Rwandans.

<https://www.minicom.gov.rw/about>



Republic of Rwanda
**Ministry of Trade
and Industry**

ABOUT TRADEMARK AFRICA

TMA is a leading African Aid-for-Trade organisation, established in 2010 with the mission to grow intra-African trade and increase Africa's share in global trade, while helping make trade more pro-poor and environmentally sustainable. Our focus on reducing the cost and time of trading across borders through enhanced trade policy, better trade infrastructure, standards that work for businesses, greater use of digital innovations and a focus on creating trade access for vulnerable groups, has contributed to substantially lower cargo transit times, improved border efficiency, and reduced trade barriers. TMA has expanded in recent years to cover 14 countries across East and the Horn of Africa, to Southern and West Africa.



TMA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by 12 institutional and philanthropic development partners. TMA works closely with regional and continental organisations, national Governments, the private sector and civil society organisations.

www.trademarkafrica.com

TMA'S AREAS OF OPERATION



TMA DONORS





Republic of Rwanda
**Ministry of Trade
and Industry**



Ask about the event

tdfkigali@trademarkafrica.com

Join the conversation

 www.trademarkafrica.com

 TradeMark Africa

 @trademark_africa

 @TradeMarkAfrica

 TradeMark Africa

 @TradeMarkAfrica