

July 10, 2025

Brochure



# AFRICAN™ INDUSTRIAL FORUM

**AFRICA'S FUTURE**

SHAPING GLOBAL INDUSTRIES THROUGH SMART  
MANUFACTURING, AUTOMATION, AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



# Welcome

**By Prof. Rose-Margaret Ekeng-Itua**

Founder, African Industrial Forum

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Distinguished Stakeholders, Partners, and Friends,

It is with immense joy and pride that I welcome you all to the launch of the African Industrial Forum, a vision that has been close to my heart, and one whose time, I believe, has truly come.

As Founder of this Forum, I stand before you with deep conviction and great hope. This platform has been established to provide a collaborative space where Industry, Academia, Government, and Youth can come together to reimagine and reshape Africa's future, not as a consumer continent, but as a global industrial leader.

Africa is rising, and with it comes an incredible opportunity and responsibility to ensure that this rise is built on sustainable, inclusive, and transformative growth.

The African Industrial Forum exists to facilitate critical conversations and foster meaningful partnerships that will drive the continent's industrialization, empower its youth, and position it as a competitive force in the 4th and 5th Industrial Revolutions.

This is not just a forum—it is a call to action.

We must build the pipelines that connect education to employment, policy to practice, and vision to implementation. We must come together to design and deploy solutions that prepare our youth for future-proof jobs, jobs that don't just exist today, but will thrive tomorrow in the ever-evolving industrial ecosystem.

The sectors represented here today—Manufacturing, Energy, Finance, Academia, Technology, and Youth groups—are all vital pillars of the Africa we envision. Your expertise, your voice, and your commitment are essential to ensuring that this vision becomes a reality.



I invite you to join the African Industrial Forum to contribute your insight, your innovation, and your influence. I especially encourage you to attend and actively participate in the first convening of the Forum, where together, we will chart actionable paths to make Africa a producing and manufacturing economy, not just for today, but for generations to come.

Let us be bold. Let us be visionary. Let us be united. And above all, let us be committed to shaping Africa's future by design, not by default.

Thank you, and welcome to the African Industrial Forum.

# Mission

Our mission is to architect a technology-driven and policy-informed ecosystem that serves as a nexus for disseminating and implementing cutting-edge advancements in automation, artificial intelligence, robotics, machine learning, and industrial IoT in Africa. This integration is designed to address the continent's specific manufacturing challenges while transforming Africa from a predominantly consumer-driven economy to a robust, production-centric powerhouse.



# Goals

01

## Smart Manufacturing

To create a forum for the discussion and implementation of actionable items that ensures that Africa is at the fore front of Smart Manufacturing and Automation thereby moving from a consumer economy to a producing/ manufacturing economy.

02

## Stakeholder Collaboration

To create a platform for stakeholders—including policymakers, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and academics—to exchange knowledge, build partnerships, and co-develop solutions tailored to Africa's unique manufacturing challenges and opportunities.

03

## Youth Empowerment

To start conversations that address the skills gap in smart manufacturing and automation while encouraging youth empowerment to boost Africa's GDP.

04

## Manufacturing Investment

To encourage investments in local manufacturing ecosystems and technologies to stimulate economic growth, improve global competitiveness, and ensure sustainable industrial development across the continent.

05

## Workforce Development

To bridge the skills gap in manufacturing by ensuring a vibrant, relevant workforce pipeline for the industry.

# African Manufacturing: A need for Data-driven Industrial Revolution.

## Pre-Colonial:

Indigenous artisanal production (textiles, metallurgy, ceramics) driven by local knowledge and resourcefulness.

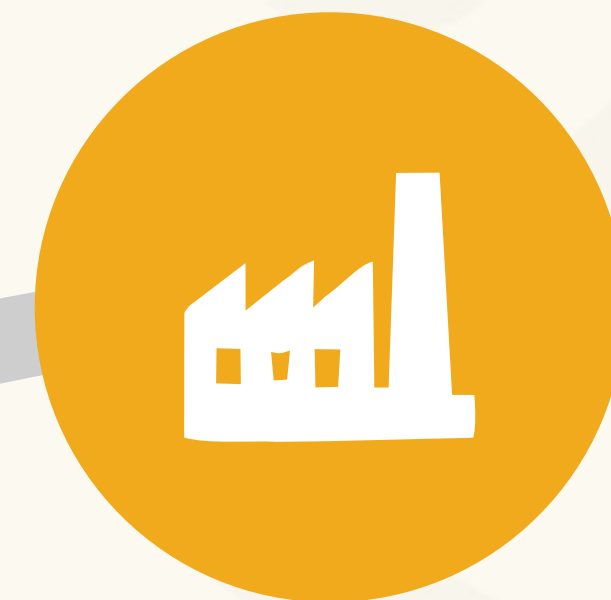
## Colonial Era:

Manufacturing redirected to resource extraction; infrastructure built to export raw materials, limiting domestic industrial growth.

## Post-Independence:

Import substitution policies sparked early industrialization, later challenged by structural adjustments that exposed industries to global competition.

**Historical  
Evolution**



# Current State & Economic Impact.



## African Manufacturing: A need for Data-driven Industrial Revolution

1

### **GDP Contribution:**

Manufacturing contributes ~10% to many African GDPs. Nigeria's manufacturing sector added ~₦32.3 trillion (2018–2022), averaging 9% of GDP.

2

### **Export Trends:**

**Key Exports:** Textiles, processed foods, automotive parts, chemicals.

**Major Markets:** European Union, China, United States. AfCFTA aims to boost intra-African trade, targeting a \$450 billion market by 2035.

3

### **Investments:**

**FDI surge in Nigeria:** 67% increase in 2023, reaching ~\$1.59 billion.

Continuous domestic investments in infrastructure and skills are paving the way for modern manufacturing clusters.

# Agenda for African Industrial Forum (AIF)



## Inaugural Convening

Theme:

# AFRICA'S FUTURE:

Shaping Global Industries Through  
Smart Manufacturing, Automation,  
And Artificial Intelligence

**Date:** Thursday, 10th July, 2025

**Time:** 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM WAT



Time	Session	Scan to Reg.
3:00 PM – 3:05 PM	<b>Welcome Address</b> – Prof. Rose-Margaret Ekeng-Itua, Founder, African Industrial Forum	
3:05 PM – 3:15 PM	<b>Opening Remarks</b> – Special Guest or Dignitary (TBC)	
3:15 PM – 3:30 PM	<b>Keynote Address</b> – <i>Title: "Africa's Industrial Renaissance: Vision and Action"</i> Keynote Speaker: [TBD]	
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	<b>Stakeholder Panel Discussion</b> – <i>Theme: "Collaborating Across Sectors to Future-Proof Africa's Workforce and Economy"</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> – Academia Representative, Finance Sector Leader, Energy Sector Executive, Manufacturing Sector Expert (Moderated by [Moderator Name])	
4:30 PM – 4:45 PM	<b>Awards &amp; Recognitions</b> – Honoring exceptional contributions to Africa's industrial advancement	
4:45 PM – 5:00 PM	<b>Closing Remarks</b> – Prof. Rose-Margaret Ekeng-Itua Invitation to join the Forum and be part of future engagements	

**Register:** [www.aiforum.afritech2.com/reg](http://www.aiforum.afritech2.com/reg)

**Location: Virtual (ZOOM)**



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