

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 2024
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - WENA CONNECT
TAGGED "INSPIRE INCLUSION: RAISING WOMEN
LEADERS IN BUSINESS" ON THE 8TH OF MARCH 2024.**





PREAMBLE

The Women Enterprise Alliance International Women's Day WenA Connect Event which held on March 8th, 2024 served as a platform for female entrepreneurs to come together and discuss strategies for inspiring inclusion and raising women leaders in business.

This event, hosted by WenA, brought together 50 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) within the WenA Community for a mentorship session led by the esteemed Founder of WenA, Her Excellency Aisha Babangida.

The event served as a pivotal platform for prominent Women Business Owners from Northern Nigeria, including Bimkaf Limited, Jaunty Group, and others, to convene and deliberate on strategies aimed at empowering and uplifting women in their pursuit of leadership roles within the business community. Under the theme "Inspire Inclusion: Raising Women Leaders in Business," participants engaged in fruitful discussions and shared invaluable insights aimed at fostering a more inclusive and supportive business environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The session yielded several recommendations and actionable items, which are as follows:

Formation of a Strategic Committee:

- Form a committee dedicated to charting the way forward for SMEs

Creation of a Fund for SMEs:

- There was a consensus on the possibility of mobilizing investors to create funds specifically tailored to support SMEs, thereby addressing the ongoing challenges related to access to capital.
- Brainstorm creative funding mechanisms tailored to the needs of entrepreneurs

NAFDAC Collaboration:

- Foster a partnership approach with NAFDAC, aiming to support SMEs rather than solely focusing on revenue.
- Advocate for the harmonization of NAFDAC numbers to streamline processes for SMEs.
- Engage with NAFDAC for reduction of fees.

Policy and Advocacy:

- Advocate for policy improvements or new initiatives that support the growth of SMEs.
- Initiate campaigns to change the mindset towards locally made products.
- Advocate for increased access to markets for locally made products, as well as creating measures to combat the influx of imported goods

Promoting Local Products

- Explore the Swiss co-op shop model, aiming to create similar cooperative ventures for Nigerian-made products.
- Establish manufacturing hubs with NAFDAC registration, ensuring quality standards.
- Consider setting up affordable hubs for entrepreneurs to sell their products, promoting local consumption.
- Encourage entrepreneurs to establish their processing, manufacturing, and packaging facilities.

Mentorship and Collaboration:

- Create structured mentorship programs to guide emerging entrepreneurs.
- Advocate for support and collaboration among local entrepreneurs for mutual growth.



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the WenA International Women's Day WenA Connect Event catalyzed meaningful dialogue and collaboration aimed at advancing the interests of women entrepreneurs and SMEs in Nigeria. We remain committed to translating the insights and recommendations generated during this event into tangible actions that will drive positive change and foster inclusive economic growth.

APPRECIATION

We extend our sincere appreciation to all participants, sponsors, and partners for their unwavering support and dedication to the advancement of women in business.



Rethinking Boundaries

WOMEN ENTERPRISE ALLIANCE

90, Aminu Kano Street

Wuse 2, Abuja

www.wena.org.ng

info@wena.org.ng

+234 (0) 908 771 1765

+234 (0) 703 109 3550