

*Orinda*

**THE FIRST D-8 FORUM ON SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE ENTERPRISES
AND HEALTH MARKET (D-8 FORUM ON SMEs AND HEALTH MARKET),
TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA, NIGERIA,**

26- 27 OCTOBER 2022.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONFERENCE INFORMATION NOTE:

We are pleased to provide you with the following information regarding practical arrangements for the upcoming First D-8 Forum on SMEs and Health Market scheduled to hold in Abuja, Nigeria, from 26 to 27 October 2022, with the **THEME: 'A COALITION TO RE-INVENT SMEs IN THE D-8 REGION: ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES FACED BY SMEs WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON HEALTH MARKET WITHIN THE D-8 REGION.** We trust that the information provided will assist in your preparation for the Conference.

ABOUT THE D-8 FORUM ON SMEs AND HEALTH MARKET

It is a well-established fact that the Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) are significant in driving economic growth, development, and job creation in the D-8 Member States. According to the International Finance Cooperation, MSMEs account for a large percentage of all businesses in the D8 markets and as such, remain one of the main sources of employment. The SMEs have remained even more resilient after facing unprecedented economic disruptions in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and are optimistic about the growth that lies ahead. Therefore, to unlock growth potential among the D-8 Member States, enhance intra-trade activities and proper economic partnership will require bridging the credit gap, strengthening SME value chains, and boosting productivity via digitisation, technology adoption, and adaptation. Through forum such as this, and deliberate discussion, exchange of views and sharing of experiences, the D-8 Member States will succeed in reviewing the policies and regulations to enhance competitiveness of the D-8 SMEs in the nearest future.



Recognizing the importance of private sector-led growth in contributing to D-8's economic development, the 45th Session of the D-8 Commission and the 20th Session of the D-8 Council of Ministers approved the holding of the D-8 Forum on SMEs and Health Market in Abuja, Nigeria, as part of activities to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of the D-8 Organization. The theme of the forum is A Coalition to Re-invent SMEs in the D-8 Region: Addressing the Challenges faced by SMEs with Special focus on Health Market with the D-8 Region.

PARTICIPATION.

The Forum will bring together SMEs, start-ups, senior managers of tech-hubs, health experts, pharmaceutical firms, financial sector operators, manufacturers, development partners institutions, members of the D-8 Secretariat, the private sector, SME associations, business leaders, players from financial institutions, Ministers and Ambassadors/High Commissioners from the D-8.

FORMAT OF THE FORUM

- **Meeting Venue:** The Meeting will be held at the Transcorp Hilton, 1 Aguiyi Ironsi Street Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria;
- **Sponsorship:** All participants coming from outside Nigeria are responsible for their return air-ticket, while those from within Nigeria are to sponsor their travel to the venue in Abuja;
- **Registration:** Log o to <https://www.D8nigeriasmesummit.org> and register online. Please send the registration form to Murtala Jimoh @ murtallaj@gmail.com Registration will continue throughout the conference.
- **Workshop materials:** The Concept Note, Agenda, and Information Note to be shared upon registration.
- **Refreshment:** Organizers will provide refreshments during the Forum (Coffee and Networking Lunch)
- **Accommodation:** The Nigerian authorities would be responsible for hotel accommodation of 1 +1 from each D-8



- Member State. Other participants to cover their own expenses for the duration of their stay;
- **Recommended hotels near the Transcorp Hilton- Grand Nile Tower Hotel:**
 - Sheraton hotel, Abuja - 1.0 miles from Transcorp Hilton;
 - Ibeto Hotels Ltd - 5.2 miles from Transcorp Hilton;
 - Fraser Suites Abuja - 1.8 miles from Transcorp Hilton;
 - Hawthorn Suites – 2.8 miles from Transcorp Hilton;
 - Reiz Continental Hotel – 1.7 miles from Transcorp Hilton;
 - Valencia Hotels – 0.8 miles from Transcorp Hilton;
 - Nikon Luxury – 2.0 miles from Transcorp
- **Airport and Transportation:** Participants are encouraged to use the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport. Participants would be received on arrival and transported to their hotel (s) or the conference venue.
- **Internet Access:** Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptops. WiFi is available at the Conference venue.
- **Dress code:** Business/Formal
- **Currency and tipping:** The local currency is the Nigerian Naira (N). The exchange rate from USD to Naira is approximately \$1 = 675 (N).
- **Language:** English is the most common language and the official national language of Nigeria. Therefore, the conference will be conducted in English language.
- **Visa Requirement:** Participants that come from a country that needs a visa are required to apply and obtain a visa from Nigerian Embassy/High Commission in country of resident before boarding an inbound aircraft to Nigeria. Requirements - Your national passport must always be carried on official travel. Please ensure your Passport is valid for at least six months and has at least two blank pages to facilitate immigration stamps.
- **Covid-19:** The Nigerian government requires all passengers traveling to Nigeria (including Nigerians) to have one of the following: **A negative PCR test certificate for COVID-19, taken no more than 72 hours before their flight departure time. Passengers must present paper copies of their test results with a QR code. A COVID-19 vaccine certificate issued by an**



- accredited laboratory in the issuing country, containing a QR code. Vaccinated passengers must have received a full course of one of the following in Nigeria: AstraZeneca, Johnson, and Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer, Sinopharm, Sinovac, or Sputnik V.
- For further information, Please see:
<https://www.info@ncdc.gov.ng>

D-8 FORUM ON SME AND HEALTH MARKET CONFERENCE

CONTACTS: Should you need any further assistance once in Abuja, please do not hesitate to contact us on the following details:

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- **WELCOME TO ABUJA AND ENJOY YOUR STAY!!!**