



**Ms. Phyllis Wakiaga**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Kenya Association of  
Manufacturers (KAM) and  
Chair, Kenya Chapter of the  
UN Global Compact

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As a woman leader, Ms. Wakiaga recognises the increasingly important role women continue to play in the world of manufacturing and entrepreneurship under what is now referred to as the Global Reset

sector kept the systems going during this difficult time of the global health crisis. It is notable that women played a very significant role during this challenging time.

#### **Post-Pandemic Global Reset**

As a woman leader, Ms. Wakiaga recognises the increasingly important role women continue to play in the world of manufacturing and entrepreneurship under what is now referred to as the Global Reset dispensation as is espoused with the growing number of women in Manufacturing in Africa. Women dominate the beer industry leadership in Kenya. In Sub-Saharan Africa for example, boasts the world's highest rate of women entrepreneurs, at 27 percent. The MasterCard Index of Women Entrepreneurs 2017 listed two African countries, Uganda (34.8%) and Botswana (34.6%), as having the highest percentage of women entrepreneurs globally. This compares favourably with countries where gender equality has made great strides like the United States, where half the labour force are women and 29 percent of working in the manufacturing sector.

Overall, the post-pandemic dispensation has brought about a significant re-organising of global supply chains and things are most likely never going to go back to what they were before the pandemic.

According to the KAM Chief Ex-

ecutive, the other important critical aspect that plays in the strengthening of the industrialisation agenda in Africa is supporting the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). These players compliment the role and functioning of the bigger players in manufacturing by providing primary raw material, components, finishing or intermediary services.

She reiterates that a robust manufacturing sector creates jobs in a sustainable manner. This in turn puts money in the hands of many more people who in then spend their money in the local economy and pay taxes. It in turn boosts the economy, allowing more money to be put into services and innovation which then leads to emerging of new industries and thus catalyse a cyclic process that brings about a dynamic social-economic transformation. It is therefore incumbent upon African countries to consciously provide for a nurturing environment for the manufacturing sector across the board and do away with those policies that threaten to stifle the sector and thus hamstringing the overall socio-economic growth on the continent which is supposedly the world's new global factory.

Ms. Wakiaga concludes it is indisputable that Africa's prosperous future is pegged on manufacturing; as is also captured in Kenya's Vision 2030 and the Big 4 Agenda.