

Manufacturing Underpins Africa's Economic Transformation

Africa has no other viable or alternative path for its economic transformation except through manufacturing and the technology that goes with it. Ms. Phyllis Wakiaga, the Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) emphasises the urgent need to accelerate Africa's industrialisation trajectory in the wake of the continued decline in the Asian manufacturing sector positions Africa as the emergent frontier for the 4th Industrial Revolution.

Ms. Wakiaga who also serves as the East Africa Manufacturers Network secretary and the Chair of the Kenya chapter of the UN Global Compact, accentuates the efforts being made by the national, regional and continental bodies to broaden the industrialisation space on the continent. Oiling the synergies between regional manufacturing bodies is at the top of the agenda for KAM in-line with the fledgling Pan Africa Manufacturers Association in liaison with the African Union (AU) within the purview of the regional trade agreements and recently enacted Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) protocols.

The UN Global Compact is a voluntary initiative based on member CEO commitment to implement universal sustainability principles and taking of steps to support UN goals including the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This includes aligning strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption as well as take actions that advance societal goals.

Whereas there are the continental regional bodies, COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), SADC (South Africa Development Cooperation), ECOWAS (Economic Commission for Western Africa States) and the EAC (East Africa Community); there are continued deliberate efforts to harmonise the functions and mandates of these regional bodies to bring about a balance and seamless facilitation of trade among African countries.



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