

## COMESA INVESTMENT FORUM (CIF26)

26 March 2026

Nairobi, Kenya

### Concept Note

COMESA is Africa's largest Regional Economic Community. It was notified as a Regional Trade Agreement (RTA) to the World Trade Organisation under the Enabling Clause on 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1995. Moreover, COMESA is working towards becoming a Common Market and a full Economic Community. With its 21 Member States, namely; Burundi, Comoros, DR Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

With a population of over 682 million, a Gross Domestic Product of \$1.1 trillion and a global export/import trade in goods worth US\$ 383 billion, COMESA forms a major market place for both internal and external trade and investment. Furthermore, FDI inflows to COMESA surged by 154 per cent to USD65 billion in 2024, the strongest increase among African regional groupings and a new record for the bloc.

The bi-annual gathering is a regional, landmark event hosted under the High Patronage of H. E. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, aiming to promote greater economic integration and cross border Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) among COMESA Member States. This year's edition will take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya, and is organized by the COMESA Regional Investment Agency in collaboration with the Government of Kenya – through the Ministry of Trade, Investments and Industry and Kenya Investment Authority (InvestKenya).

COMESA Investment Forum (CIF26) is a unique business-to-business and government-to-business platform, bringing together policy makers, leading investors, COMESA Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs), COMESA institutions, and financiers. The programme will feature keynote speakers, interactive panel discussions, expert presentations and B2B engagement opportunities.

The 2026 edition builds on the success of CIF24, attended over 300 delegates. The forum facilitating more than 500 B2B and B2G meetings that connected projects and business owners to investors, and discussed means to further intra-COMESA collaboration initiatives. The one-day event promises to convene more than 300 leaders in business and policy from across the region.

#### The Forum is driven by two main objectives:

- Promote intra-COMESA cross-border trade and investments by **showcasing the diverse business opportunities available in COMESA** Member States to potential business leaders from the region.
- Create awareness among **regional investors and business communities** about COMESA Secretariat and institutions and their services to facilitate trade and investments.

### **What to look forward to**

- Gain valuable insights from COMESA Secretariat, institutions and National Investment Promotion Agencies about the business opportunities in the region and its Member States.
- Engage with over 300+ leading industrialists, policy makers, financiers, and project owners from COMESA.
- Create linkages and identify potential business and partnership opportunities cross various sectors.