

**Remarks by Amb. Abhishek Singh, High Commissioner of India to
Nigeria on India-Nigeria Trade Webinar on the Textile Sector on
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Prof. Adesoji Adesugba, 1st Deputy President ACCI & NACCIMA Focal
Person for Indian Relations

Dr. Hamma Ali Kwajaffa, DG, Nigerian Textile Manufacturers Association
(NTMA)

Good morning and welcome to all joining from India and Nigeria for this
India–Nigeria Trade Webinar on the Textile Sector.

Textiles is a story of heritage for both our nations. India has a 5000-year
legacy in handlooms, cotton, and garments. Today we are one of the world's
largest producers and exporters of cotton yarn, fabrics, technical textiles, and
readymade garments.

Nigeria has a rich tradition **in Aso Oke, Ankara, and cotton farming**. With
a population of over 220 million and a growing fashion industry, Nigeria
represents one of the largest textile and apparel markets in Africa. India's
main exports to Nigeria is Cotton fabrics, polyester-viscose blends, carpets,
traditional wear fabrics, and affordable garments. India also exports textile
machinery.

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India is a leading supplier of cotton yarn, synthetic yarn, specialty fabrics, and dyes & chemicals that Nigerian mills and garment makers need. As for technology & Machinery, Indian companies are global leaders in affordable textile machinery — from spinning and weaving to garmenting and processing. We can support Nigeria's "**Cotton, Textile and Garment Policy**" and reduce import dependence.

There is strong demand in Nigeria for Indian ethnic wear, home textiles, technical textiles, and fast-fashion garments. At the same time, Nigerian designers can access Indian fabrics to serve global markets. We can help to connect Indian MSME textile clusters directly with Nigerian distributors and fashion houses in Lagos & Kano through virtual conferences.

In the context of capacity building, Government of India under its flagship program ITEC has been offering every year 250 slots of training in various streams which include many courses related to textile sector. These courses are fully funded by the Indian Government which include airfare, accommodation and visa.

In order to make this partnership work we need to work together on **3 things**:

Trade facilitation - Easier market access, clarity on standards by Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) for textiles

Investment - Joint Ventures in garment manufacturing, processing units, and textile parks in Nigeria

Logistics & Finance - Direct shipping routes, and credit lines from EXIM Bank and other institutions to support buyers and sellers.

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In order to enhance bilateral trade mechanism, we are working on **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** between the two countries and would seek Nigeria's cooperation to reconcile this proposal with the African Continent Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) to strengthen the bilateral trade.

The webinars that the High Commission has initiated and now conducts twice a month are a direct reflection of that commitment. As I mentioned today, my team and I at the High Commission remain fully dedicated to strengthening India–Nigeria bilateral trade. I would also like to commend the Abuja Chamber of Commerce & Industry, ACCI, for its steadfast support to the High Commission.

I urge all exporters, importers, manufacturers, and designers on this webinar to use today's B2B sessions well. Share your requirements. Explore partnerships. Let's move from conversation to contracts. In closing, let us remember: Fashion connects cultures. Textiles create jobs.

From the looms of India to the markets of Nigeria — let us weave a stronger economic future together.

Thank you.
