



The UK-Nigeria Enhanced Trade and Investment Partnership: What the Inaugural Ministerial Dialogue means for Business

On 16 March 2026, the United Kingdom Minister for Trade, Sir Chris Bryant MP, and Nigeria's Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, co-chaired the inaugural ministerial dialogue of the UK-Nigeria Enhanced Trade and Investment Partnership (ETIP). Launched in February 2024, the ETIP is the primary bilateral framework for deepening trade and investment ties between Nigeria and the UK.

The dialogue convened senior policymakers, technical experts, and private sector representatives to review progress and set priorities across several commercially significant sectors.

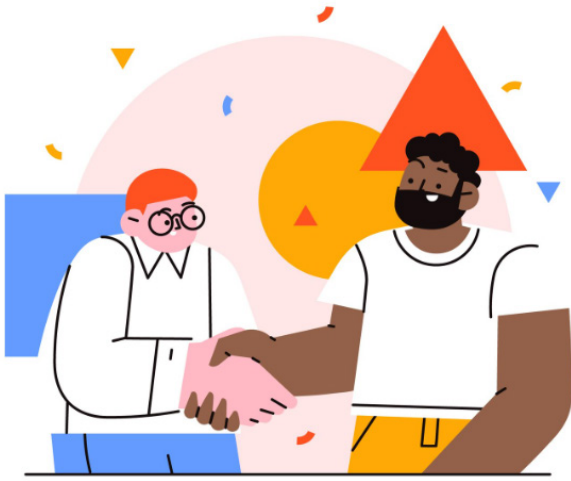
Key Outcomes By Sector

Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare

NAFDAC's adoption of WHO Global Benchmarking Tool-based reliance practices accelerating market authorisation approvals for UK-based pharmaceutical firms. Ministers also welcomed a planned visit by the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to Nigeria to institutionalise Health Technology Assessments — a step that will shape how drugs and medical devices are evaluated and procured going forward.

Agriculture & Exports

Ministers reaffirmed the UK's Developing Countries



Legal and Regulatory Implications

- **Market Access:** Businesses in pharmaceuticals, agribusiness, and professional services should assess how ETIP-driven regulatory alignment affects their market entry strategies and compliance obligations in both Nigeria and the UK.
- **Trade Compliance:** With DCTS barriers actively under review, exporters should engage early on SPS compliance, rules of origin, and certification requirements to position themselves ahead of any regulatory easing.
- **Investment Structuring:** Ministers discussed a potential future investment MOU and tools to improve regulatory clarity for investors — businesses planning Nigeria-UK transactions should monitor developments that may affect how investments are structured and protected.
- **Intellectual Property:** The new Nigerian IP Policy is a timely prompt for businesses to audit their IP holdings, registration strategies, and licensing arrangements in Nigeria.

Trading Scheme (DCTS) as a key vehicle for Nigeria’s export diversification, while acknowledging persistent barriers — including SPS compliance requirements, certification costs, and logistics constraints. Businesses in agri-processing, spices, and beauty products stand to benefit from ongoing export procedure handbooks being developed with the Nigerian Export Promotion Council.

Financial & Professional Services

Discussions on Audit Regulatory Equivalence and mutual recognition of statutory audit qualifications between the UK and Nigerian Financial Reporting Councils are progressing. If concluded, this would significantly ease cross-border practice for audit and professional services firms operating in both jurisdictions.

Intellectual Property & the Creative Economy

Nigeria presented a new Intellectual Property Policy with implementation plans designed to improve investor confidence and protect creative sector practitioners — a development of direct relevance to technology, media, and entertainment businesses with Nigeria-facing interests.

Digital & Regulatory Coherence

The new UK-Nigeria Growth Programme will support capacity-building in digital regulation, innovation policy, and regulatory coherence across priority sectors. This signals a period of active regulatory reform that businesses should monitor closely.



How SimmonsCooper Partners can help

Our Policy-Making and International Law practice advises businesses, investors, and government bodies on trade policy, regulatory compliance, investment structuring, and intellectual property across the Nigeria-UK corridor. To discuss how the ETIP developments affect your business, contact us at info@scp-law.com or visit www.scp-law.com.