



The AfCFTA's Influence on Southern African Regional Supply Chains: A Theoretical Framework

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Abstract

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) represents a significant development in regional integration within Africa, with its potential to reshape supply chains across Southern Africa. This framework explores how the AfCFTA influences these chains, particularly focusing on Nigeria as a key player. The analysis will draw from existing literature on trade liberalization, economic integration theories, and supply chain dynamics. A qualitative approach will be employed to explore potential pathways through which the AfCFTA can affect regional supply chains in Nigeria. The theoretical framework established provides a structured lens to analyse future developments in the AfCFTA's impact on supply chains, offering policy recommendations to enhance its effectiveness and benefits for Southern African economies. Based on the insights derived from this theoretical framework, it is recommended that policymakers focus on improving infrastructure connectivity and enhancing cross-border regulatory cooperation to maximise the potential of the AfCFTA in Nigeria and beyond.

Keywords: *African, Regionalism, Supply, Integration, Economies, Framework, Trade*

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