

Navigating Structural Constraints

A Policy Framework for Nigerian Enterprise Resilience and Growth (2000–2026)

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ABSTRACT

The Nigerian business environment is characterised by persistent structural constraints, including infrastructure deficits, regulatory complexity, and limited access to finance. These constraints have historically stifled enterprise resilience and growth, necessitating a coherent policy response that moves beyond isolated interventions. This policy brief aims to synthesise evidence on the most binding constraints to enterprise development and to propose a novel, integrated policy framework designed to enhance systemic resilience and sustainable growth for businesses. The analysis employs a mixed-methods approach, integrating a systematic review of policy documents and academic literature with a thematic analysis of stakeholder interviews and focus group discussions with entrepreneurs, policymakers, and financiers. A dominant theme identified is the critical interaction between infrastructure gaps and financing costs, which collectively erode profitability for over 70% of surveyed small and medium-sized enterprises. The analysis reveals that fragmented policy measures have often failed due to a lack of coordination between monetary, fiscal, and industrial policy domains. Structural constraints are interconnected and require a systemic, rather than sectoral, policy approach. Resilience and growth are achievable only through mechanisms that simultaneously address multiple bottlenecks within the business ecosystem. Implement a coordinated 'Resilience Covenant' linking targeted infrastructure investment to de-risked credit mechanisms. Establish an independent regulatory review commission to streamline business regulations. Foster public-private dialogue platforms for continuous policy feedback and adaptation. structural constraints, enterprise resilience, policy coordination, business environment, Nigeria, growth framework This brief introduces a novel policy mechanism, the 'Resilience Covenant', which formally links fiscal infrastructure commitments to monetary sector de-risking instruments, offering a new model for integrated economic governance.

Keywords: *Structural adjustment, Enterprise resilience, Sub-Saharan Africa, Institutional theory, Policy framework, Business environment, Access to finance*

Article Highlights

- Infrastructure gaps and financing costs erode profitability for over 70% of SMEs.
- Proposes a novel 'Resilience Covenant' linking fiscal investment to de-risked credit.
- Advocates for an independent commission to streamline complex business regulations.
- Calls for systemic policy coordination to address interconnected structural constraints.

The Resilience Covenant

A proposed policy mechanism that formally links targeted public infrastructure investment to de-risked private credit instruments, creating a new model for integrated economic governance.

This brief synthesizes evidence to propose a coordinated framework for enterprise resilience.

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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