



## Somalia Economic Forum

### 2nd Italia-Somalia Business and Trade Forum

#### Mogadishu, May 2023

Within the framework of the ongoing support provided by UNIDO through various programme initiatives to the Somali private sector to build its capacities, the **2nd Italia-Somalia Business and Trade Forum will be held in Mogadishu in May 2023**. UNIDO and Italy are playing a major role in the economic development of Somalia, with inputs at macro level on policy issues to direct support to local SMEs through trainings, advisory services, technology tie-ups and international partnerships by facilitating B2B meetings and beyond. The 2nd Italia-Somalia Business and Trade Forum will be the flagship event of the **Somalia Economic Forum**, an initiative of the Federal Government of Somalia supported by UNIDO, Italy, UN agencies and other development partners of Somalia.

The **2nd Italia-Somalia Business and Trade Forum** has been triggered by the growing interest expressed by the Somali private sector for more Italian-Somali business initiatives, thanks to the 1st Italia-Somalia Business and Trade Forum, held in Mogadishu in 2019 and participated by several Italian companies and associations. As a result of the first Forum, several negotiations and business deals were put in place, showing the enormous potential for international partnerships with the Somali SMEs in different strategic industrial sectors.

This second edition is aimed at **giving new visibility and support to the Somali private sector**, especially in this crucial juncture when the country is coming out of Covid-19 lockdown and political instability. The forum will be organized with the aim of **promoting Somalia as business destination for international companies**, with the goal of establishing partnerships in terms of commercial trade, dealership agreements, technology sourcing and foreign direct investments.

**The event will take place on two days:** the first day will be devoted to the Italia-Somalia Business and Trade Forum, with a first session of company presentations and a second one of B2B meetings, while the second day will be devoted to an **Economic Forum** open to other international companies (from Europe, Asia, Gulf Countries, etc.). On both days the companies will have the opportunity to showcase their products in the exhibition area.

In regard of the industrial sectors, **agriculture, fishery, livestock, poultry, dairy and constructions** will be the focus of this two-day event, which will envisage the **organization of roundtables and panel discussions** on relevant economic subjects and **B2B matchmaking meetings** between international companies and Somali SMEs.

*Following to the event taking place in Mogadishu in May 2023, preliminary talks to hold a follow-up event in Rome, Italy in September-October 2023 have been initiated.*