



## **NSIA & JICA Set to Launch US\$50 Million Impact Innovation Fund to Empower Nigerian Startups**

**[ABUJA, NIGERIA, 20TH FEBRUARY 2026]** The Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (“NSIA”) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (“JICA”) have finalised agreements to launch a US\$50 million Impact Innovation Fund aimed at strengthening the Nigerian start-up ecosystem. The Fund will provide patient capital to pre-seed, seed, and early-stage startups addressing critical social challenges in sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, education, energy, waste & water management.

JICA will provide US\$14 million in grant support, while NSIA will contribute up to US\$20 million to match the grant. Structured as an onshore public fund, the initiative combines financial support with technical assistance to help startups refine products, scale operations, and expand into new markets. The Fund is expected to create jobs, improve livelihoods, and contribute to sustainable economic development across Nigeria.

Speaking at the agreement signing ceremony between NSIA and JICA at the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Aminu Umar-Sadiq, Managing Director and CEO of NSIA, said:

*“The Fund represents a transformative step for Nigeria’s startup ecosystem. By providing early-stage ventures in high-impact sectors with the capital and support they need to grow, we are enabling innovators to tackle some of Nigeria’s most pressing challenges. Our collaboration with JICA underscores our commitment to entrepreneurship, inclusive growth, and sustainable development.”*

Preparations are underway to operationalise the Fund and develop a pipeline of high-impact startups ready for investment. NSIA remains committed to advancing socio-economic development through strategic partnerships that scale impact, expand innovative solutions, and unlock access to capital.

### **About the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA)**

The Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) is an investment institution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, established under the Nigeria Sovereign Wealth Act (2011) to manage and invest in a diversified portfolio of medium and long-term funds. Its mission is to play a leading role in driving sustained economic development for the benefit of all Nigerians by building a savings base for the Nigerian people, enhancing the development of Nigeria’s infrastructure, and providing stabilisation support in times of economic stress.



NSIA operates three distinct funds: the Stabilisation Fund, the Future Generations Fund, and the Nigeria Infrastructure Fund. For more information, please visit [www.nsia.com.ng](http://www.nsia.com.ng).

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### **About the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is a governmental agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, responsible for implementing Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to support the socio-economic advancement of developing countries. Through a combination of technical cooperation, grant aid, and concessional loans, JICA addresses global development challenges and promotes inclusive and sustainable growth. The agency is committed to building resilient societies, strengthening institutional capacities, and enhancing bilateral cooperation through impactful, long-term development initiatives.