



How a German Can Register/Incorporate a Company in Nigeria from Germany (2026 Cost & Requirement)

Description

Introduction

With a population surpassing **200 million** and a GDP of approximately **\$470 billion**, **Nigeria** stands as one of Africa's most active and high-potential economies. Over the last decade, **Germany and Nigeria** have deepened bilateral trade relations, with German exports in **machinery, industrial equipment, renewable energy, and automotive technology** reaching record levels.

As German investors increasingly explore West African markets, one recurring question is:

How can a German entrepreneur or company legally register and operate a Nigerian business from Germany, without physically visiting Nigeria?

This comprehensive 2026 guide explains every **step, cost, and regulatory requirement** involved in incorporating a **Limited Liability Company (LLC)** in Nigeria from Germany, and how to open a Nigerian corporate bank account remotely.

1. The New AI-Powered CAC Incorporation System

The **Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)**, which oversees business registration in Nigeria, has transitioned to a **fully automated AI-driven online system**. The new

digital portal now enables **end-to-end incorporation** from any country, including Germany.

This reform means:

- No manual or paper forms.
- No courier submissions or physical presence.
- All applications, filings, and certificates are processed and issued **digitally**.

Once a company's incorporation is approved, all certificates and supporting documents are issued electronically and can be verified online.

This has made it possible for **German investors to set up a Nigerian company remotely**, using only scanned identification and digital signatures.

2. Why German Investors Are Incorporating in Nigeria

Germany's economic strength lies in **engineering excellence, renewable energy, and industrial manufacturing**, all of which align perfectly with Nigeria's emerging infrastructure and energy sectors.

Nigeria offers:

- **Full repatriation of capital and profits** for foreign shareholders.
- **Investment incentives** under the Pioneer Status scheme.
- **Access to the ECOWAS market**, a regional bloc of over **400 million consumers**.
- **Low barriers to entry** for starting new companies, thanks to CAC digital reforms.

For German entrepreneurs, registering a local entity in Nigeria provides the **legal structure** needed to bid for government contracts, secure import/export licenses, and participate in the rapidly growing **technology and energy transition** markets.

3. Requirements for Incorporation

To incorporate a Limited Liability Company (LLC) in Nigeria from Germany, you will need the following:

A. Name Availability

Provide a proposed company name for reservation via the CAC online portal.

B. Details of Directors, Shareholders, and Secretary

You must supply for each person:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Nationality
- Residential address
- Gender
- Phone number
- Email address

C. Shareholding Structure

Define the ownership distribution. Example:

- German shareholder – 80%
- Nigerian shareholder – 20%

D. Company Objectives

Specify your business activities — e.g., trading, consultancy, manufacturing, logistics, or renewable energy development.

E. Identification

Upload scanned copies of international passports or German national IDs for all shareholders and directors.

F. Registered Nigerian Address

A Nigerian address is mandatory. If unavailable, a **registered office address service** can be arranged.

G. Signatures

Each director and shareholder must provide a **scanned signature** on plain white paper.

4. Can a German Be the Sole Director and Shareholder?

Yes, a German citizen **can own and direct a Nigerian company alone**. However, this setup faces some **practical challenges**.

A foreign director **without Nigerian residency status** cannot obtain key credentials such as:

- **BVN (Bank Verification Number)**
- **NIN (National Identification Number)**

Both are required for:

- Opening a corporate bank account
- Completing certain regulatory filings

Recommended Approach:

Until you obtain a **residency permit (CERPAC)** through an **STR Visa** supported by an **Expatriate Quota** (issued by the **Ministry of Interior**), appoint a **temporary Nigerian director**.

This enables smooth operation, bank account setup, and compliance while you remain the **100% shareholder** from Germany.

5. Step-by-Step Incorporation Process

Step 1: Reserve Company Name

Access the CAC AI Portal → Input a proposed name → Check for availability.
Approval is usually granted within **24-48 hours** and valid for **60 days**.

Step 2: Submit Incorporation Details

Complete the online form specifying company type, shareholding structure, business nature, and registered office.

Step 3: Upload Required Documents

Attach:

- Passport copies
- Address verification documents

- Passport photos
- Signature pages

Step 4: Review and Approval

The AI system conducts a preliminary validation before forwarding to a CAC officer for compliance review.

Approval typically takes **3-7 working days**.

Step 5: Issuance of Certificate

Once approved, your **Certificate of Incorporation**, **Status Report**, and **MEMART** are issued **digitally** and can be downloaded instantly.

6. Post-Incorporation Compliance

Compliance Item	Description	Timeline
Tax Identification Number (TIN) Upgrade	Issued by FIRS; required for banking and tax reporting.	3-5 working days
SCUML Certificate	For anti-money laundering compliance and bank account setup.	5-7 working days
Tax Clearance Certificate	Confirms tax compliance, often required for contracts.	3-5 weeks
Director Verification	Verifies the identity of both foreign and Nigerian directors.	Same day

7. Opening a Corporate Bank Account in Nigeria

Once your TIN is available, you can proceed to open a corporate bank account.

However, Nigerian banks require at least **two directors** to have:

- **BVN**

- **NIN**

Until the German director secures this, you may:

- Appoint a **Nigerian resident director**, or
- Engage a **professional director service** through your consulting firm.

Once you acquire your CERPAC and local identification numbers, you can fully manage the company's banking and financial affairs.

8. Estimated Cost Breakdown

Service	Duration	Cost (USD)
LLC Incorporation (₦100M Share Capital)	7-14 working days	\$2,775
SCUML Certificate	5-7 working days	\$60
TIN Upgrade & Tax Clearance	3-5 weeks	\$275
Director Verification	Same day	\$150
Bank Account Setup Assistance	Post-TIN approval	\$80
Registered Office Address (1 Year)	12 months	\$250
Change of Director (if needed)	2-4 working days	\$60

Total Estimated Package: ≈ \$3,650

Completion Timeline: 30-35 working days.

9. Legal & Immigration Requirements for German Investors

To personally manage operations from within Nigeria, a German investor must obtain:

1. **Expatriate Quota Approval** – Issued by the Minister of Interior.
2. **STR Visa** – Permits business entry into Nigeria.
3. **CERPAC Card** – Residency identification used for BVN, NIN, and other compliance processes.

This sequence ensures full legal authorisation to function as a **resident company director** in Nigeria.

10. Why Germany-Nigeria Trade Relations Are Growing

Germany is one of Nigeria's largest European trade partners, with increasing collaboration in renewable energy, industrial machinery, and agricultural technology.

Nigeria exports crude oil and agricultural commodities to Germany, while importing **German engineering, automotive parts, and industrial systems**.

Establishing a company in Nigeria gives German entrepreneurs:

- Direct involvement in **local infrastructure and energy projects**.
- Compliance eligibility for **public and private sector tenders**.
- Simplified **profit repatriation** under Nigeria-Germany **double taxation agreements**.

11. Key Benefits of Incorporating a Nigerian Company from Germany

- **Remote Setup** – Entire process done online via CAC's AI portal.
- **Full Ownership** – Up to 100% foreign shareholding permitted.
- **Legal Recognition** – Nigerian-registered companies enjoy strong legal protection.
- **Tax Incentives** – Access to fiscal benefits and pioneer industry incentives.

- **Banking Options** – Operate both Naira and domiciliary (foreign currency) accounts.
- **Regional Reach** – Access to the entire ECOWAS market through Nigeria.

12. Common Misconceptions

Myth	Reality
Foreigners can't own Nigerian companies	100% foreign ownership is allowed.
Physical presence is required	Registration is fully digital.
Bank accounts can't be opened remotely	Temporary Nigerian directors can enable setup.
Certificates must be collected manually	All documents are issued online and downloadable.

13. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: Can I use my German address as the company's registered office?

A: No. A Nigerian address is compulsory, though professional firms can provide a registered office service.

Q2: How long does the registration process take?

A: Approximately **30-35 working days** including post-incorporation compliance.

Q3: Must I travel to Nigeria?

A: No, not for incorporation. You only need to travel if you wish to manage operations personally.

Q4: Can profits be repatriated back to Germany?

A: Yes. Nigeria allows unrestricted repatriation through authorised banks.

Q5: What is the minimum share capital for foreign-owned firms?

A: ₦100 million, the standard threshold for foreign participation under CAC guidelines.

14. Conclusion

Incorporating a company in Nigeria from Germany is now a **transparent, efficient, and globally accessible process**.

Thanks to the CAC's AI-driven digital registration system, **German entrepreneurs can establish a Nigerian entity from anywhere in the world**, download all certificates online, and later assume full operational control after obtaining a residency permit.

Nigeria's expanding digital economy, infrastructure development, and market potential present **enormous opportunities** for German investors looking to enter Africa's largest market with long-term impact.

Whether you are a **German SME, multinational, or independent entrepreneur**, this guide gives you the clarity and confidence to register, operate, and thrive under Nigerian law, all from Germany.

Final Insight:

A German investor can fully own and incorporate a Nigerian company remotely, but must secure a **CERPAC residency card** to function as a director. Until then, appointing a Nigerian director ensures banking, tax, and compliance operations proceed without delay.

Category

1. Foreign Company Incorporation