

AFRICA TRADE CAPACITY SYMPOSIUM

Domestication as an accelerator for AfCFTA implementation: The Catalytic Role of Capacity Building

Date: 18th - 19th February 2025 | Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - UNECA Conference Hall Room 6

DAY 1: 18TH FEBRUARY 2025

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Opening Session: Welcome and Keynote address

Welcome remarks: Mr. Tages Mulugeta Degu, Director Regional Integration, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, Ethiopia

Remarks: Prof. Melaku Desta, Coordinator, ATPC-UNECA

Remarks: Dr. Joy Kategekwa, Director Regional Integration Coordination Office, AfDB

Remarks: Dr. Peter Kiuluku, ESAMI Director General

Remarks: Mr. Simon Masanga, ESAMI Board Chairperson and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe

Opening remarks: Amb. Hans Henric Lundquist, Swedish Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti, Permanent Representative to AU, IGAD and UNECA

Keynote: *H.E Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AfCFTA, read by Dr. Tsotetsi Makong, Director, Coordination and Programmes, AfCFTA*

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Session 1: Assessing Africa's Trade Capacity Needs

- Dr. Tsotetsi Makong, Director, Coordination and Programmes, AfCFTA
- Dr. Caiphaz Chekwoti, Head ESAMI-**trapca**
- Ms Diane Sayinzoga: Head, UNCTAD Regional Office, Ethiopia
- Dr. Jean-Christophe Maur, Senior Economist Trade, World Bank

Chair: *Dr. Joy Kategekwa, Director Regional Integration Coordination Office, AfDB*

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Session 2: *Igniting Implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement and other trade agreements - Key success factors to the domestication and implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement and REC Treaties Reflections and lessons learned from RECs and Private sector*

- Ms. Marie Angelique Umulisa, Trade Policy Expert, EAC
- Dr. Jacob Kotcho, Director Common Market, ECCAS
- Dr. Johansein Rutaiwa, Senior Programme Officer, SADC
- Dr. Wumi Olayiwola, Principal Programme Officer, ECOWAS
- Mr. Frank Dafa, Technical Expert, Trade Policy and NTMs, EABC
- Mr. Deirdre Toomey, Deputy Permanent Representative to the African Union, Embassy of Ireland

Chair: *Prof. Melaku Desta, Coordinator, ATPC-UNECA*



4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Session 3: *Intra-Africa trade challenges, bottlenecks and potential solutions – reflections from State Parties*

- Mr. Ezron Chirambo, Chief Trade in Services Officer, Ministry of Trade, Malawi
- Mr. Tages Mulugeta Degu, Director Regional Integration, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, Ethiopia
- Mr. Andrew Ngolloe, Assistant Minister for Revenue and Tax Policy, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Liberia
- Mr. Ahmed Warsame, Director Economic Integration in Charge of EAC Affairs, Somalia
- Ms. Aude Lanois, Deputy Head of Programme and Component Manager, GIZ AUC
- Mr. Kebour Ghenna, Executive Director, PACCI

Chair: *Dr. Tsotetsi Makong, Director of Programmes and Coordination, AfCFTA*

DAY 2: 19TH FEBRUARY 2025

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Session 4: *Partnering for Impact: Reflections and Role of partners in the implementation phase of the AfCFTA and REC Treaties.*

- Ms. Ometere Omoluabi-Davies, Regional integration Coordination, AfDB
- Mr. Willie Chatsika, Head of Africa, ITTC, WTO
- Mr. Julian Sievers Juzbasic, Partnerships and Outreach Coordinator, EIF
- Mr. Eugene Torero, Regional Director, Horn of Africa and Rwanda, TMA
- Mr. Emmanuel Soubiran, Team Leader for Green, Digital and Economic Transformation, European Union, Ethiopia

Chair: *Mr. Fuad Farah, Trade & Economic Integration Lead, Embassy of Sweden*

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Charting the Course for Africa's Trade Future-Key messages and recommendations - A Road map for enhancing trade capacity in Africa.

Rapporteurs: Ms Shylet Nyabeze

Chair: *Mr. James Thokozani Ngwira, Trade Law Expert, ESAMI-trapca*

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Official Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks

- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - Sida
- African Development Bank - AfDB
- African Continental Free Trade Area - AfCFTA
- ESAMI-**trapca**