



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

The Eighth Session of Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-8)

Side Event

Primer for the AfCFTA Country Business Index (ACBI) Report

Concept Note

**Monday 28th February from 2 to 3.30 PM (Kigali Time GMT+2), Venue: Zoom
meeting, Virtual via INDICO platform: Meeting Link
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89642805608>**

Background

Regional integration is a powerful tool for Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 as it enables to support the achievement of **most SDGs**. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has the potential to foster sustainable development and improve welfare in Africa. For the AfCFTA to deliver on its premises, the participation of the private sector namely business and small and medium sized enterprises especially women (**SDG 4**) and young owned ones is key to harness the AfCFTA economic and welfare premises.

Cognizant of this, ECA has developed the AfCFTA Country Business Index as a key instrument through which businesses in Africa can articulate their main trade challenges under the free trade agreements in force across African countries to policy makers. The index will assess the perceived impact of AfCFTA on the private sector's ability to trade and invest across African borders. The implementation and uptake of this powerful tool in the context of the Common Country Analysis (CCAs) and new generation UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF), the AfCFTA National and Regional Strategies can help Africa build forward better a more inclusive development model to support achieving the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Building strong and sustainable partnerships is key to populate the utilization of this index at national, regional, and continental level (**SDG 17**).

Objective of the event: The objective of the side event is to present a Primer of the AfCFTA Country Business index Report.

Partners:

- The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- The United Nations Development Coordination Office (UN-DCO)

Panellists:

- H.E. Dr. Vera Songwe, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (TBC)
- Ms. Letty Chiwara, UN Women Representative to Ethiopia, AU and UNECA
- Ms. Eskedar Nega Woldekidan, Team Leader, Regional Office for Africa, United Nations Development Coordination Office (UN-DCO)
- Mr. John Bosco Kalisa, Executive Director/CEO, East African Business Council (EABC)
- Mr. Chancellor Kaferapanjira, Chairperson of the SADC Business Council, CEO for Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce, and Industries (MCCCI) (TBC)

Presenter:

- Mr. Stephen N. Karingi, Director of Regional Integration and Trade Division (RITD), ECA

Moderator:

- Ms. Mama Keita, Director of the sub-regional office for East Africa, ECA

Date and Venue of the Event

The Session will take place on Monday 28th February 2022 virtually via INDICO platform using the following Meeting Link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89642805608> . The event is free and open to the public through Zoom registration.

Format of the meeting

The session will begin with opening remarks from the ECA Executive Secretary followed by a brief presentation by ECA on the scope, content, and policy recommendations from the ACBI Primer. The Panelists will then be invited to discuss how the ACBI can be utilized in informing AfCFTA National Strategy, CCAs and AfCFTA Regional Strategy through the active involvement of the private sector followed by a Q&A session.

Documentation

Prior the Session, the organizers will endeavor to send the Primer of the AfCFTA Country Business Index (ACBI) to panelists by electronic mail as soon as the latter have confirmed their participation.

For further information, please contact

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