



Government of Rwanda



Economic Commission for Africa  
Commission économique pour l'Afrique  
1958 - 2018

# Implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area in Eastern Africa

## From Vision to Action

## PROGRAMME OF WORK

22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts  
Sub-regional office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA)

20 - 22 November, Kigali, Rwanda  
#ICE2018Rwanda #AfCFTA

## Day 1 Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November

**8:30 – 9:30**                    **Registration**

**9:30 – 10:00**                **Welcoming remarks**

- Fodé Ndiaye, UN Resident Coordinator, Rwanda
- Fouady Goulame, General Planning Commissioner, Union of Comoros (Outgoing Chair of the 21<sup>st</sup> ICE Bureau)
- Giovanie Biha, Deputy Executive Secretary of UN Economic Commission for Africa
- Uzziel Ndagijimana, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of the Republic of Rwanda (Incoming Chair of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ICE Bureau)

**10:00 – 10:15**                **Constitution of the Bureau, Review and Adoption of the Agenda**

In this session, the new Bureau of the ICE will be introduced, and the Bureau will subsequently guide participants on the review and adoption of the agenda.

**10:15 – 12:00**                **Macroeconomic and Social Overview of Eastern Africa-  
“Establishing the Groundwork for the Creation of a  
Continental Market”**

This opening session reviews recent progress and challenges to regional development in both the economic and social spheres. While supply-side thinking has dominated policy advice in recent years, this report provides demand-side perspectives on the regional performance, stressing the importance of recapturing domestic markets, accelerating regional integration, and implementing the AfCFTA.

**Moderator:** *Lerato Mbele, Presenter, Africa Business Report at BBC World News*

**Presentation:** *Andrew Mold, Acting Director, Office for Eastern Africa, ECA*

**Panel discussion:**

- *Uzziel Ndagijimana, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda*
- *Matia Kasaija, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda*
- *Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Uganda (TBC)*
- *Belay Begashaw, Director General, SDG Center for Africa*



**12:00 – 13:30      Lunch Break**

**13:45 – 15:30      Plenary Session “Implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area in Eastern Africa: Moving from Vision to Action”**

The signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by 44 member states at the AU Summit on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 represented a remarkable milestone towards achieving the long-standing goal of creating a unified African market. Yet we are only half-way there, for a number of reasons. Firstly, there is a need to achieve 22 ratifications by March 2019 for the agreement to go into force. Secondly, because it is not enough to have political agreement - we still need to win the hearts and minds of the private sector and civil society, who will be the true implementers of the AfCFTA. This session will discuss the way forward in terms of the next steps.

**Moderator:** *Jenerali Ulimwengu, Chairman of the Board of the Raia Mwema Newspaper, Tanzania*

**Presentation:** *David Luke, Coordinator, African Trade Policy Centre, ECA*

**Panel Discussion:**

- *Soraya Hakuziyaremye, Minister of Trade and Industry, Rwanda*
- *Amelia Kyambadde, Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Uganda*
- *Richard Kamajugo, TradeMark East Africa*
- *Prudence Sebahizi, Chief Technical Advisor on AfCFTA, African Union Commission*

**15:30 -16:00      Coffee Break**

**16:00-17:30      Plenary Session “Services Trade and the AfCFTA”**

Ongoing debates on the implementation of the AfCFTA tend to focus on goods trade. Yet there are reasons to believe that a large share of the potential benefits will derive from greater services trade. A number of countries in the region have explicit strategies to leverage more fully their service sectors. But the implementation of the AfCFTA is likely to open up a whole range of new opportunities for growth in service sector trade and FDI. This session will focus principally on financial, cultural and tourism services, and focus on their preparedness to take advantage of the new opportunities.

**Moderator:** *Novella Nikwigize, News Presenter at Rwanda Television*

**Panel Discussion:**

- *Julius Muia, Principal Secretary, State Department for Planning – The National Treasury and Ministry of Planning, Kenya*
- *Diane Sayinzoga, Head of SEZs and Export Department, Rwanda Development Board*
- *Brad McDonald, Deputy Chief, External Policy Division, IMF*
- *Eric Kabera, Filmmaker, founder and president of Rwanda Cinema Centre*
- *Remmy Lubega, CEO of RG Consult*



**18:30-20:30**      **High-level Roundtable Dinner “*Harnessing the AfCFTA for Gender equality*”**

The signing of the AfCFTA in March 2018 sets the stage for the integration of the African continent into a single market. It is crucial to ensure that all its citizens, especially women, are involved in its implementation. The CFTA will open up new opportunities for women, and help them integrate more fully into productive, high-paid sectors of the economy. The objective of the dinner roundtable is to discuss, share lessons and explore how best Eastern Africa can prepare to strengthen women’s participation in trade policies and their implementation.

**Moderator:** *Lerato Mbele, Presenter, Africa Business Report at BBC World News*

**Panel Discussion:**

- *Clare Akamanzi, CEO, Rwanda Development Board*
- *Giovanie Biha, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECA*
- *Frank Matsaert, CEO, TradeMark East Africa*

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## Day 2 Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November

### 09:00 – 10:30 **Plenary Session “Beyond Trade: The Protocol on the Free Movement of People”**

The objective of this session is to analyse and debate the potential consequences of the Protocol of the Free Movement of Persons in Eastern Africa and its expected impact on citizens. While other aspects of the AfCFTA seem to be gaining momentum, there is some reticence regarding the free movement of persons as evidenced by the signing of the Protocol on the free movement of persons by only half of African States. This session will discuss the case for free movement, as an integral part of the AfCFTA.

**Moderator:** *Lerato Mbele, Presenter, Africa Business Report at BBC World News*

**Presentation:** *Emelang Leteane, Social Affairs Officer, ECA*

#### **Panel Discussion:**

- *Christophe Bazivamo, Deputy Secretary General in charge of Finance and Administration, EAC*
- *Regis Gatarayiha, Director General of Immigration and Emigration, Rwanda (TBC)*
- *Linda Oucho, African Migration and Development Policy Centre, Kenya*
- *Cyrus Munyaburanga Nkusi, CEO Governance for Africa, AU ECOSOCC, Rwanda*

### 10:45 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

### 11:00 – 12:00 **Launch of Reports**

**Moderator:** *Ambassador Peter Robleh, The Horn Economic and Social Policy Institute*

#### **Launch:**

*The EAC Energy Security Policy Framework*

- *Christophe Bazivamo, Deputy Secretary General in charge of Finance and Administration, EAC*
- *Olivier Nduhungirehe, Minister of State in charge of East African Community, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rwanda*
- *Robert Nyavumba, Director of Energy, Ministry of Infrastructure, Rwanda*
- *Giovanina Biha, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECA*

#### **Presentations:**

*The East African Monetary Union – Ready or Not? – Thomas Kigabo, Chief Economist, National Bank of Rwanda.*

### 12:30 – 13:45 **Lunch Break**



## 14:00 – 17:00 Parallel Breakout Sessions

The Ad Hoc Expert Group Meetings (AEGMs) will Facilitate brain-storming by regional experts in smaller groups. In each case, presentations will be made by regional experts, and subsequently, participants will debate, with the objective of defining some actionable policy recommendations. Each group will select a rapporteur, who will present the findings to the ICE on Day 3 of the meeting.

### **Parallel Session I: “Trade Facilitation and Manufacturing – How to leverage New Opportunities in Intra-African Trade”**

Given the importance of regional integration for industrialization in the region, it is important to tackle Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) and analyse how trade facilitation can boost trade and manufacturing in the region. Against this background, this session seeks to examine:

- a) The scale of trade facilitation in the Eastern Africa region;
- b) The economic impact of trade facilitation on trade and manufacturing;
- c) The challenges in implementing trade facilitation in the region.

#### **Presentations and panelists:**

- *Rodgers Mukwaya, Economic Affairs Officer, Office for Eastern Africa, ECA*
- *Kato Kimbugwe, Trade Facilitation Expert*
- *Patience Mutesi, Trade Mark East Africa*
- *Robert Opirah, Director General MINICOM Rwanda*
- *Peter Mathuki, Ag. Executive Director, East African Business Council*

### **Parallel Session II: “Balance of Payments Constraints on Economic Growth in Eastern Africa and its relevance to the AfCFTA”**

The session will present econometric results of the study into the determinants of economic growth in the Eastern Africa, from a demand-side, balance-of- payments constraint, perspective. The following questions will be discussed:

- a) What are the principal economic causes and consequences of balance of payments deficits in Eastern Africa?
- b) What are the implications of the funding gap on the balance of payments for regional growth and development?
- c) In the context of the AfCFTA, what policy measures can be implemented to address the persistent trade deficits?

#### **Presentations:**

- *Andrew Mold, Acting Director, Office for Eastern Africa, ECA*
- *Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda*
- *Mulu Gebreeyesus Gebreyohaness, Senior Researcher Fellow, Ethiopian Development Research Institute*
- *Anthony Mveyange, Research and Impact Director, TradeMark East Africa*
- *Enock Nyorekwa Twinoburyo, Senior Economist, SDG Center for Africa*



### **Parallel Session III: “Towards Energy Security in Eastern Africa: Maximising the Gains from the AfCFTA”**

Security of supply of electricity, oil and gas and biomass in Eastern Africa is fundamental to mitigating the socioeconomic impacts of supply disruptions and supporting structural transformation with secure energy. On the basis of the EAC Energy Security Policy Framework, this session will review the proposed approaches to mitigating energy insecurity and engage participating experts towards better awareness of the framework towards better country energy security management. The session will address three key issues:

- a) What are the impacts of energy insecurity on socioeconomic development in Eastern Africa?
- b) How can the EAC Energy Security Policy Framework mitigate energy insecurity in the region?
- c) How can member States move towards designing and implementing national energy security strategies?

#### **Presentations:**

- *Yohannes Hailu, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA*
- *Robert Nyamvumba, Director of Energy, Ministry of Infrastructure, Rwanda*
- *Elsam Byempaka, Senior Energy Expert, East African Community*
- *Dieudonné Ishimwe, Rwanda Inspiration Backup Ltd*
- *Michael Ahimbisibwe, Executive Director, EACREEE*

### **Parallel Session IV: “Promoting services trade within the AfCFTA: The Sustainable Financing of Tourism”**

The main goal of this AEGM will be to explore avenues through which financing for tourism development in the Eastern Africa region could be sustained in line with the African Union Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. This will be done through the sharing of best practice across the globe, the continent and the region. In particular, the session will address the following issues:

- a) The region’s share remains small in terms of global tourism investment. What measures could be undertaken to reverse this trend?
- b) What models for tourism investment and financing would be relevant to facilitate faster tourism growth and development and what policy measures would be appropriate?
- c) In view of the fact that the involvement of Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises ( SMMEs) has been minimal in tourism development, what policy measures could be undertaken to address the challenges that such enterprises face?

#### **Presentations and Panellists:**

- *Geoffrey Manyara, Tourism Expert, Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa, ECA*
- *Ms Belize Kariza, Head of Tourism, RDB, Rwanda*
- *Salifou Sidde, Tourism Financing Expert, SME Trade Links*
- *Jonah Orumoi, CEO, Tourism Finance Corporation, Kenya*
- *Ms Nura-Lisa Karamagi, CEO, Hotel Association of Tanzania*



18:00 – 20:30 *Welcome Cocktail by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of Rwanda*

## Day 3 – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

- 8:30 – 10:45 **Parallel Breakout Sessions (continued from Day 2)**
- 10:45 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 – 12:00 **Discussion of the outcomes from the Breakout Sessions**
- 12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch**
- 14:00 – 15:00 **Launch: UNCTAD Least Developed Countries Report 2018: Entrepreneurship for Structural Transformation: Beyond Business –**  
*Andrew Mold, Acting Director, Office for Eastern Africa, ECA*  
*Moderator: Amb. Peter Robleh, The Horn Economic and Social Policy Institute*
- 15:00 – 15:20 **Review and Adoption of the Final Communiqué of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ICE**
- 15:20 – 15:30 **Official Closing**
- 15:30 – 17:30 **Kigali City tour**





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