



Making the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Work



Creating One African Market

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA
CREATING ONE AFRICAN MARKET

#AfCFTA2018 | 17-21 March 2018 | Kigali, Rwanda





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AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

MAKING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA) WORK

Call for Applications

Announcement in Brief

<u>Type</u>	:	Short Term Course
<u>Programme Area</u>	:	Trade
<u>Beginning end of the course</u>	:	24 February – 05 April 2020
<u>Duration</u>	:	5 Weeks
<u>Language</u>	:	Bilingual (English-French)
<u>Location</u>	:	Web Based E-Learning
<u>Fee</u>	:	No Fee
<u>Application Deadline</u>	:	09 February 2020
<u>Specific target audience</u>	:	No
<u>Website</u>	:	http://services.unidep.org/e-idep/
<u>Applications</u>	:	https://www.unidep.org/?apply

PROGRAM RATIONALE

The 18th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2012, adopted a decision to establish an African wide Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by an indicative date of 2017. The Summit also endorsed the Action Plan on Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT) which identifies seven clusters: trade policy, trade facilitation, productive capacity, trade related infrastructure, trade finance, trade information, and factor market integration. The AfCFTA will bring together fifty-five African Union Member States with a combined population of more than one billion, two hundred million people and a combined gross domestic product of more than US \$2.5 trillion. In terms of numbers of participating countries, AfCFTA will be the world's largest free trade area since the formation of the World Trade Organization.

The main objectives of the AfCFTA are to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments, and thus pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the Customs Union. It will also expand intra-African trade through better harmonization and coordination of trade liberalization and facilitation and instruments across the RECs and across Africa in general. The AfCFTA is also expected to enhance competitiveness at the industry and enterprise level through exploitation of opportunities for scale production, continental market access and better reallocation of resources. The establishment of the AfCFTA and the implementation of the Action Plan on BIAT provide a comprehensive framework to pursue a developmental regionalism strategy. The former is conceived as a time bound project, whereas BIAT is continuous with concrete targets to double intra-African trade flows from January 2012 to January 2022.

The African Union Assembly launched the continental free trade area negotiations at the 25th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on 15 June 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa. This decision marked a significant step towards advancing Africa's regional integration and development agendas. The AfCFTA offers a window of opportunity for African countries to boost intra-African trade, to diversify, structurally transform, and meet the important development goals the continent is committed to under its Agenda 2063 – of which the AfCFTA is a flagship project – and the global Agenda 2030. The AfCFTA's first priority is to broaden Africa's economic and market space. It has other priorities such as addressing supply-side constraints, weak productive capacities and infrastructural bottlenecks.

AfCFTA negotiations cover a broad scope of issues, and are divided into two phases. Phase I which was successfully concluded, covers trade in goods and trade in services. Issues negotiated relating to goods include tariff reductions, non-tariff barriers, rules of origin, customs cooperation, trade remedies, standards and technical barriers to trade. The second Phase which is about to start, will include negotiations on investment along with other issues like competition policy, intellectual property rights and movement of business persons. The AfCFTA is more than a trade agreement. Its wide scope – covering trade in goods, trade in services, investment, competition policy and intellectual property rights – provides a platform to facilitate the inclusive structural transformation of African countries.

African leaders held an Extraordinary Summit on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) from 17-21 March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda, during which the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA was presented for signature, along with the Kigali Declaration and the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Free Movement of Persons, Right to Residence and Right to Establishment. In total, 44 out of the 55 AU member states signed the consolidated text of the AfCFTA Agreement, 47 signed the Kigali Declaration and 30 signed the Protocol on Free Movement. To date fifty four (54) countries have signed the AfCFTA agreement and twenty seven have ratified beyond the 22 ratifications required for the treaty to come into force.

In the view to provide policymakers, private sector actors with the clear understanding of the AfCFTA objectives, negotiations and impact on the country socioeconomic transformation, the African Trade

Policy Center (ATPC) in collaboration with IDEP is looking for highly qualified in-class and on-line modules courses developer and delivery on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end the course, participants will be provided not only a general and comprehensive overview of regional trade agreement, but also the various steps needed and the role of various stakeholders including the media and private sector and other non-state actors to make it a success. A particular emphasis should be put on the development of national strategies to fully utilize the opportunities of AfCFTA.

At the end of this online course, participants should be able to:

- Appreciate the role that regional integration could play in Africa's economic growth and development
- Understand the arduous process leading to the AfCFTA, and the way forward
- Recall and understand key provisions of the AfCFTA agreement and its protocols
- Critically assess what it would take for the AfCFTA to deliver on its promises
- Evaluate the likely impacts of the AfCFTA — both in terms of gains and losses — on their respective country
- Recommend, as part of a country AfCFTA strategy, measures that their government could take to leverage the opportunities arising from the AfCFTA and mitigate any short-term costs
- Explain the fundamentals of the AfCFTA and its potential impacts to other interested parties.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The course comprises 5 modules. The outline of the modules is as follows:

- **Module 1:** Regional integration in Africa: Overview
- **Module 2:** AfCFTA: Where do we stand today?
- **Module 3:** AfCFTA: Next steps
- **Module 4:** Impacts of the AfCFTA
- **Module 5:** Making AfCFTA work

METHODOLOGY

This self-paced course will be delivered from 24 February to 05 April 2020. The course will be moderated asynchronously on a weekly basis and participants are required to participate in the weekly on-line discussions. In addition, each module has interactive lessons that provide the core content around the topic for that module. The lessons are designed in a way that learners are also able to self-assess their understanding through built-in quizzes. Additional resources such as bibliographies, web links and optional readings are provided for participants who wish to deepen their knowledge of the course topic.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The course targets groups and individuals that are interested in obtaining a better understanding of regional trade agreement, the role of various stakeholders and how AfCFTA can serve as an instrument for the development of African continent.

They include:

- Civil servants in National Ministries and Agencies responsible for urban
- development and local Government as well as Ministries of Trade, Finance, planning and
- Economic development
- Diplomats from Permanent Missions and Ministries of Foreign Affairs
- Officials from Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- Professionals in private sector and civil society organizations
- Faculty, researchers and students
- Interested citizens

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Acceptance to the Course

Applicants to the course are expected to have, as a minimum, a bachelor's degree preferably where courses related to trade. In addition, two years of work experience will be required. Women candidates are also strongly encouraged to apply.

Until the registration deadline, participants are accepted to the course on a rolling basis and subject to availability of slots.

Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform at <https://www.unidep.org/?apply>

Certificate of Completion

A Certificate of Completion will be issued by IDEP to all participants who successfully complete the course-related self-assessments presented for each module.

Technical Requirements

Access to internet is an essential condition for participation. The following specifications, as a minimum in terms of hardware and software, are required to take this e-Learning course, please consult your Network Administrator or Systems person to ensure that you have the following:

- Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X; Linux
- Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space
- Software:
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader
 - Adobe Flash Player
 - Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
 - Browser: Internet Explorer 7 or higher or Firefox 36 or higher
- Modem: 56 K
- Note that JavaScript, Cookies and Pop-ups must be enabled

CONTACT INFORMATION

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