



Economic Commission for Africa

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Janneh says continental Free Trade Area good for growth and boosting development

UN Under Secretary-General and ECA's Executive Secretary Mr. Abdou Jannet said that Africa's intra-African trade could be enhanced by 50.7% over a 12-year period with the creation of a Continental Free Trade Area by 2017. In addition, better trade facilitation could result in a two-fold increase in the share of intra-African trade over the next ten years.

Mr. Jannet was addressing a 1-day Special Session for African Ministers of Trade on the sidelines of UNCTAD XIII, holding in Doha, Qatar from 22-26 April.

With reference to the 4th Assessing Regional Integration in Africa Report undertaken jointly by the ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, Mr. Jannet said, "the Continental FTA would also lead to increased real incomes for African people through positive impacts on real wages for all categories of African workers."

Africa has been growing at an average of over 5% per annum since the turn of the Millennium, which, he described as "respectable, but below the rate needed for rapid transformation and for the early

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NEPAD Agency, FAO start joint fisheries project

The NEPAD Agency and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have begun implementation of a joint project aimed at boosting fisheries development in Africa and improving the standard of living of fishers on the continent.

The NEPAD Agency and FAO partnership is a collaborative undertaking with the objective of supporting regional efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs). Its expected long-term impact is a significantly enhanced contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to poverty alleviation, food security and economic growth through improved and sustainable management of the fishery and aquaculture sectors.

This partnership will focus on the environmental sustainability of ecosystems in both marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture. This approach, appropriately dubbed the Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries and

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Chief of Section
Kwabia Boateng

Editor

Yinka Adeyemi

Assistant Editor

Meseret Arega

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achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.” In this regard, he said there is a realization that trade, especially intra-Africa trade, which is a paltry 12% of its overall trade, “can further boost growth and ultimately development.”

He saluted the Ministers of Trade for their leadership in promoting the case for increasing intra-Africa trade noting that the resolution made last year in Accra calling for the establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area gave a boost to the January 2012 African Union Summit discussions. At the Summit, a

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Aquaculture (EAF/EAA), also has a second focus area - that of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). Other elements of the NFFP will deal with sustainable development of aquaculture businesses, post-harvest value chain and Disaster Risk Management (DRM).

“The implementation of this programme has been long awaited, and now it’s time to deliver for the benefit of the African people continent-wide,” Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, NEPAD Agency’s Fisheries Advisor, said at the inauguration of the project.

The NEPAD Agency is grateful to FAO and the Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA) for harmonizing their fisheries development efforts in Africa, through NPCA’s Fisheries Programme. NFFP Co-coordinator, Ms. Gunilla Greig, expressed the hope that the programme would make a significant contribution to NEPAD’s fisheries agenda.

Source: www.nepad.org

decision adopting an Action Plan to Boost intra-African trade and a Road Map, Framework and Architecture for fast-tracking the establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) was reached. “The successful achievement of this desirable outcome require reducing high transaction cost associated with transporting and moving goods across borders, improving weak infrastructure, improving institutional policies, and implementing trade protocols,” he said.

Mr. Janneh made a number of proposals, including abolition of road blocks; use of one-stop border posts; and harmonization of rules of origin to simplify compliance and transactions costs.

Underscoring the need for partnerships for boosting intra-Africa trade, he welcomed UNCTAD’s interest in supporting this process and said, “UNCTAD can help by enabling Africa to know more about and learn from the experience of other developing regions and by continuing to put its technical programmes, like the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) at the disposal of African countries and Regional Economic Communities.”

Source: Special to ECA

Upcoming Event

- 9th Steering Committee and 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the Interim Guinea Current Commission (IGCC) , 9-11 May 2012 , Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire.
- World Economic Forum, 9-10 May 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- MDG Review Exhibition & Summit 2012, 3 -4 May 2012, Cape Town, South Africa
- 8th CAADP Partnership Platform (PP) , 3 -4 May 2012, Nairobi, Kenya

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