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(CRCI10)



CONTINENTAL WORKSHOP ON TRADE AND GENDER “THE ROLE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECS) IN SUPPORTING GENDER SENSITIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (CFTA)”

Tuesday, 31 October 2017

Caucus Room 11,
United Nations Conference Centre
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Background

It is traditionally considered that the impacts of trade agreements and trade policy in general are gender neutral. Real life experience has proven that this is not the case. While trade liberalization is not inherently good or bad for gender inequality, gender and trade mutually affect each other in ways that can amplify existing gender gaps. To meaningfully acknowledge this relationship – and use it for closing and not widening the gender gap – it is important that rather than being an afterthought, gender considerations become an integral part of trade agreements and trade policy.

The African countries launched the negotiations for the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) in June 2015, with negotiations expected to conclude by the end of 2017. The CFTA is an ambitious continental project, and is likely to have deep impacts in terms of boosting intra-African trade and strengthening Africa’s position in the global market. Given the expected changes in the dynamics of Africa’s trade within the continent and with others, the ability for African countries to consider gender aspects of trade policy is crucial. The African regional economic communities (RECs) form the backbone of the CFTA process and can have an important role in guiding and supporting the implementation of gender-sensitive strategies by their respective member states.

Objective

The Continental Workshop on Trade and Gender will provide a platform for the RECs to share experiences about gender mainstreaming, and discuss ways in which they can more effectively support member states in incorporating gender considerations into trade policy and more specifically the implementation of the CFTA.

Panelists

Representatives of regional economic communities; ECA and external experts

Contact person

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