



The State of Eritrea



**United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa**

**23rd Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE)
ECA Office for Eastern Africa**

Leveraging New Opportunities for Regional Integration in Eastern Africa

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK (Draft)

**Asmara, Eritrea
5th -7th November 2019**

Programme of Work (Draft)

Day 1 - Tuesday 5th Nov

8:00 – 9:00 **Registration**

9:00 – 9:45 **Welcoming remarks**

- Susan Ngongi, UN Resident Coordinator, Eritrea
- Hon. Uzziel Ndagijimana, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of the Republic of Rwanda (Outgoing Chair of the 22nd ICSOE Bureau)
- Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Hon. Osman Saleh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea

9:45– 10:00 **Constitution of the Bureau, Review and Adoption of the Agenda**

In this session, the new Bureau of the ICSOE will be constituted then guide participants on the review and adoption of the agenda.

10:15 – 11:00 **Presentation on Macroeconomic and Social Overview**
Andrew Mold, Officer-In-Charge, UNECA Office for Eastern Africa

This session reviews recent progress and challenges to regional development in the economic and social spheres.

11:00-11.15 **Coffee Break**

11:15 – 12:30 **Panel discussion**

Moderator: Prof. Abraham Kidane

Panelists:

- Hon. Berhane Habtemariam, Minister of Finance, Eritrea
- Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary, UNECA
- Belay Begashaw, Director General, Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa (SDGC/A)
- Kenneth Racombo, Principal Secretary, the Blue Economy Department, Seychelles
- Gabriel Negatu, former Director General for Eastern Africa, African Development Bank.

12:30 – 13:45 **Lunch Break**

13:45 – 15:30

Presentation: Moving forward with the AfCFTA in Eastern Africa
Stephen Karingi, Director, Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Division (UNECA)

Panel Discussion: How to fast-track AfCFTA implementation

Moderator: TBC

Panelists:

- Hon. Amelia Kyambadee, Minister of Trade Industry and Cooperatives, Uganda
- Mogos W/Micheal, Director General, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Eritrea
- Woldai Futur, National Center for Investment, Eritrea
- Million Habte Begna, Senior Expert on Trade in Services, AfCFTA Unit, African Union Commission (AUC)
- Francis Mangeni, Director, Trade and Customs, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- Frank Matseart, Chief Executive Officer, Trademark East Africa
- Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director, Trade and Law Center (TRALAC)

15:30 -16:00

Coffee Break

16:00-17:30

Presentation: Boosting Tourism Development in Eastern Africa
Geoffrey Manyara, Tourism Expert, UNECA Office for Eastern Africa

Panel Discussion: Seizing the Opportunities for Intra-Regional Tourism

Moderator: TBD

Panelists:

- Hon. Askalu Menkerios, Minister of Tourism, Eritrea
- Hon. Najib Balala, Minister of Tourism and Wildlife, Kenya
- Richard Rugimabana, Executive Secretary, Tourism Confederation of Tanzania
- Osman Abdi Mohamed, Chief Executive Officer, National Tourism Office, Djibouti

18:30-20:30

Eritrean cultural evening

Day 2 - Wednesday 6th Nov

08:30 – 10:45 Plenary Session “Crowding-in Regional Investments for Energy and Infrastructure Development in Eastern Africa”

Moderator: TBD

Presentation: Yohannes Hailu, Energy Expert, UNECA

Panel Discussion:

- Alem Kibreab, Director General, Mining Department, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Eritrea
- Albert Butare, former State Minister of Energy of Rwanda and CEO, African Energy Group
- Amaha Bekele, East Africa Technology Leader, Deloitte, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Cheikh Bedda, Director, Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission
- Peter Njoroge Kinuthia, Senior Energy Advisor, African Union Commission, Ethiopia
- Leonhard Braun, Energy Analyst, RES4Africa Foundation, Italy
- Peter Twesigye, Energy Expert, Uganda

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 Special session on Eritrea (TBD)

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break

18:30-20:30 High-level dinner (TBD)

13:30 – 17:30

Parallel Breakout Sessions

The Ad Hoc Expert Group Meetings (AEGMs) will facilitate brainstorming by regional experts in smaller groups. In each case, studies will be presented and presentations 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 ICSOE on Day 3 of the meeting.

Parallel Session I: “*Promoting Regional Trade for Faster Job Creation*”

Eastern African countries have made significant progress in economic development in the last decade. However, employment creation has remained a persistent challenge. In Ethiopia, for instance, the labour force is currently growing by more than 2 million people per annum, while in the DRC, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda the labour force is increasing by 1 million people. Regionally, this requires the creation of half a million new jobs every month. This session will discuss this major social and economic challenge, and put forward proposals to tackle the problem particularly in the context of the AfCFTA. Several key questions will be addressed:

- a) How has the pattern of economic growth in Eastern Africa shaped job creation?
- b) What do studies reveal about the impact of regional trade on employment creation?
- c) What policy measures can be implemented to maximise the job creation potential of the AfCFTA?

Presentations:

- Augustin Fosu, Professor, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana
- Weldeyesus Elisa, D.G., Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare, Eritrea
- Tekeste Baire, Secretary General, National Confederation of Eritrean Workers
- Jessica Atsin, Research fellow, UNECA Office for Eastern Africa
- Mike Okumu, School of Economics, Makerere University
- Abebe Shimeles, Manager of the Development Research Division, African Development Bank
- Maureen Were, Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER
- Yacob Fisseha, Economist, Michigan State University

Parallel Session II: “*The State of Social Cohesion in Eastern Africa*”

This session will present findings from an ECA report assessing of the state of social cohesion in Eastern Africa. The session will discuss the benefits of greater social cohesion at the national and regional levels, drawing on examples of best practice both in the region and elsewhere. Specifically, the session will review the following questions:

- a. What do studies reveal about the impact of social cohesion or lack thereof on national/ sub-regional development?
- b. How can relevant stakeholders partner to support social cohesion policy initiatives?
- c. What are the pathways to improving alignment of policy frameworks with national, REC, continental and global development Agendas?
- d. What existing policy measures can be scaled up for quick realization of social cohesion dividends?
- e. How can we strengthen awareness enhancing on social cohesion?

Presentations:

- Emelang Leteane, Social Affairs Expert, UNECA Office for Eastern Africa
- Hon. Yemane Gebreab, Head of Political Affairs, People’s Front for Democracy and Justice, Eritrea
- Timothy Murithi. UNECA Consultant on social cohesion and resource person

Discussants

- Lanoi Maloiy, University of Nairobi
- George Mukundi, Maendeleo Group, Kenya
- Barbara Manzi, UN Resident Coordinator, Djibouti

Parallel Session III: “*Harnessing the Blue Economy for Regional Integration*”

The session will showcase continental, sub-regional and national initiatives to harness the Blue Economy, highlighting challenges and lessons learnt, good practices and achievements. It will also discuss options for further alignment between policy frameworks and development agendas.

Participants will be invited to provide inputs to the discussion and to review the following questions:

- f. How can we strengthen awareness of the blue economy?
- g. What are existing examples of best practice in Blue Economy initiatives that could be replicated and up-scaled?
- h. How can we improve the alignment of Blue Economy policies with the Agendas 2030 and 2063?
- i. How can stakeholders partner to support Blue Economy policy implementation?

Presentations:

- Daya Bragante, Blue Economy Expert, UNECA Office for Eastern Africa
- Christine Umutoni, UN Resident Coordinator, Mauritius and Seychelles
- Amb. Tewelde Weldemichael, D.G., Department of Marine Development, Ministry of Marine Resources, Eritrea
- Imam Abdillah, President of the Blue Economy Committee, Comoros
- Blue Economy Department, Seychelles

- Blue Economy Department, Kenya
- Blue Economy Department, Madagascar
- Raj Mohabeer, Officer-in-charge, General Secretariat, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- Eshete Dejen, Fisheries Expert, Agriculture and Environment Division, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
- Raphael Tabani Mpofu, Acting Executive Dean of Graduate School of Business Leadership, University of South Africa
- Kaiser de Souza, UNECA
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- UNEP Nairobi Convention

Day 3 – Thursday 7th Nov

8:30 – 10.00 Discussion of the outcomes from the Breakout Sessions

10:00 – 11:30 Sustainable Development in Eastern Africa: Aligning National, Continental and Global agendas

- Susan Ngongi, UN Resident Coordinator, Eritrea

Moderator: Amb. Peter Gabriel Robleh

Panel discussion:

- Gioavnie Biha, Deputy Director, UN Development Coordination Office, New York
- Ministry of National Development, Eritrea
- Enock Nyorekwa Twinoburyo, Senior Economist, SDGs Centre for Africa
- Mesfin Tessema, Director, Strategic Planning, Policy, Monitoring, Evaluation and Resource Mobilisation, AUC
- Godfrey Kabera, Director General for National Planning, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 14:30 Review and Adoption of the 23rd IC SOE Communique

14:30 – 14:45 Official Closing

15:00 – 17:00 Asmara City tour