



Economic Commission for Africa

African Trade Policy Centre

**African Workshop on Economic Partnership Agreements – Reaping the
benefits on the EPAs**

Programme

8-10 October 2008

Wednesday, 8 October 2008

08:00 – 9:30

Registration

9:30 – 10:00

Opening Session (Conference Room 2)

Chair: Mr. Abdoulahi Mahamat, Office-in-Charge, Trade, Finance and Economic Development Division, Economic Commission for Africa

Welcoming Statement

Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa

Mrs. Elisabeth Tankeu, Commissioner Trade and Industry, African Union Commission

10:00 – 10:30

Objectives and expectations of the Workshop

Mr. Stephen Karingi, Chief, Trade and International Negotiations Section, Trade, Finance and Economic Development Division, Economic Commission for Africa

10:30 – 11:00

Networking and Coffee Break

11:00 – 13:00

Breakout Sessions 1 (Simultaneous)

Group 1: (Conference Room 2)

Towards comprehensive EPA agreements in ECOWAS region: State of play in negotiations – issues, challenges and actions

ECOWAS Commission to lead the discussions.

Group 2: (Caucus Room 10)

Towards comprehensive EPA agreements in ESA region: State of play in negotiations – issues, challenges and actions

COMESA Secretariat will lead the discussions.

Group 3: (Conference Room 5)

Towards comprehensive EPA agreements in EAC region: State of play in negotiations – issues, challenges and actions

EAC Secretariat will lead the discussions.

Group 4: (Caucus Room 1)

Towards comprehensive EPA agreements in CEMAC region: State of play in negotiations – issues, challenges and actions

CEMAC Secretariat will lead the discussions.

Group 5: (Caucus Room 2)

Towards comprehensive EPA agreements in SADC region: State of play in negotiations – issues, challenges and actions

SADC Secretariat will lead the discussions.

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 17:30

Plenary Session 1 (Conference Room 2)

Chair: Ambassador Peter Robleh, Senior Regional Advisor, African Trade Policy Centre, ECA

14:30 – 15:00

Presentation of the ECA study on interim EPAs

Presenter: Mr. Stephen Karingi, Chief, Trade and International Negotiations Section, ECA

EPAs Rationalisation and Integration,

Presenter: Mr. Joseph Atta-Mensah, Chief, Regional Integration Section, ECA

15:00 – 16:00

Presentation and discussions on selected EPA issues

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT: *Trade and Environment and Trade and Labor in the context of the CARIFORUM EPAs and implications on ACP states.*

UNCTAD: *Towards the African EPA template: Some issues for consideration for Africa.*

FAO: *Towards an African Common Market for Agricultural Food Products: Implications of EPAs*

ECDPM: *EPAs Provisions on Institutional-Setting and Monitoring.*

16:00 – 16:15

Networking and Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:30

Presentation and discussions on selected EPA issues

ICSTD: Selected Legal Issues on Interim EPAs: MFN Clause and interpretation of Article XXIV

South Centre: The Safeguard Issue in the EPAs and the WTO and Developing Countries' Mode 4 Offensive Interests

ITC: Outcomes of Public-Private Dialogues on EPAs

Thursday, 9 October 2008

09:00 – 10:00

Plenary Session 2 (Conference Room 2)

Chair: Ambassador Maitine Djoumbe, Ambassador of Chad and Coordinator of Central Africa Group in Brussels

09:00 – 10:00

Elements of a harmonised template for a pro-development EPA

Presenter: Mr. Stephen Karingi, Chief, Trade and International Negotiations Section, ECA

10:00 – 10:30

Networking and Coffee Break

10:30 – 13:00

Breakout Sessions 2 (Simultaneous)

Group 1: (Conference Room 2)

ECOWAS countries review proposals for harmonising EPA template.

Group 2: (Caucus Room 10)

ESA countries review proposals for harmonising EPA template.

Group 3: (Conference Room 5)

EAC countries review proposals for harmonising EPA template.

Group 4: (Caucus Room 1)

CEMAC countries review proposals for harmonising EPA template.

Group 5: (Caucus Room 2)

SADC countries review proposals for harmonising EPA template.

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 17:30

Plenary Session 3 (Conference Room 2)

Chair: Ambassador Peter Robleh, Senior Regional Advisor, African Trade Policy Centre, ECA

14:30 – 16:00

Feedback session on review of proposals for harmonising EPA template by RECs

16:00 – 16:15

Networking and Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:30

Feedback session on review of proposals for harmonising EPA template by RECs

Friday, 10 October 2008

09:00 - 12:45

Plenary Session 4 (Conference Room 2)

Chair: Mr. Abdoulahi Mahamat, Office-in-Charge, Trade, Finance and Economic Development Division

09:00 – 11:00

Way forward in consolidating the draft EPA template

Presenter: Mr. Stephen Karingi

11:00 – 11:15

Networking and Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45

Meeting report and conclusions

Presenters: Mr. Robert Lisinge and Mr. Ben Idrissa Ouedraogo, Associate Economic Affairs Officers, ECA

12.45 - 13.00

Closing Ceremony

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch