



## **Concept Note for High-level dialogue on Regional Commodity Exchange as a means to boost investments, production and industrialization in Africa**

### **Background and Justification**

Commodity exchanges are platforms that facilitate the trade of agricultural and mineral products and derivatives contracts based on these commodities. They can play a vital role in promoting regional value chains, enhancing food security, diversifying exports, and reducing price volatility. Several African countries have created commodity exchanges, such as the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX), the East Africa Exchange (EAX) in Rwanda, and the Africa Mercantile Exchange (AfMX) in Kenya. However, success has been limited because commodity exchanges face many challenges, such as a lack of regulatory frameworks, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to finance, and low awareness among stakeholders.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) advocates for developing regional commodity exchanges because Africa has a large commodity base that can support regional exchanges and the development of regional value chains. Following the COVID-19 crisis, the conflict in Ukraine and climate change shocks, the East African region experienced extremely high food price inflation as a result of the disruptions to the global supply chains. Developing regional commodity exchanges and value chains would help buffer the region against shocks to the global food supply chains and the resulting food inflation.

In this context, the ECA Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa (SRO-EA) will organize a Side Event on regional commodity exchanges in Africa during the tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD)

### **Objectives**

The main objectives of the side event are to:

- 1) Convene a high-level panel discussion on the organization of regional commodity exchange in East Africa to discuss the following :

## **Outcomes**

The expected outcomes of the side event are:

- Enhanced knowledge and capacity of stakeholders on commodity exchanges in Africa;
- Increased dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders on developing and harmonizing regulatory frameworks for commodity exchanges in the region;
- A draft roadmap and action plan for advancing the development and harmonization of regulatory frameworks for commodity exchanges and derivatives markets in Africa.

## **Date, Venue, and Participants**

The event will take place on the sidelines of the tenth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), which will be held in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt from 23 to 25 April 2024.

## **Agenda**

### **High-level dialogue on Regional Commodity Exchange as a means to boost investments, production and industrialization in Africa**

**Moderator:** Ms. Mama Keita, Director, Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

#### **Panelists**

- 1) Lamon Rutten\*\*, the CEO of Bourse Africa and a former manager of the UNCTAD Commodities Branch
- 2) Eleni Gabre-Madhin\*\*, Chief Innovation Officer UNDP Africa,
- 3) Albert Essien, the chairman of Ghana Commodity Exchange and a former group CEO of Ecobank Transnational Incorporated
- 4) Joshua Rugema Chief Executive Officer at East Africa Exchange (EAX), Rwanda.
- 5) Prof Issouf Soumare, Director of The Laboratory for Financial Engineering (LABIFUL) at Université Laval
- 6) Ms. Sonia Essobmadje Chief, Innovative Finance and Capital Markets section of ECA

**Contact** Mr. Rodgers Mukwaya Email: mukwayar@un.org