



United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Inception and Methodology Workshop for the 11th Edition of the Report on Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA XI)

Beyond the AfCFTA: Bringing the Continental Customs Union and Common Market About

Date: 15 May 2023

Time: 12:00hrs- 18:00hrs (EAT)

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Draft Programme of Work

Moderator: Francis Ikome, Chief of Regional and Integration Section, Regional Integration and Trade Division, ECA

12:00 – 12:20hrs	Opening of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening Remarks: Representative of ECA• Opening Remarks: Representative of AUC• Opening Remarks: Representative of AfDB• Opening Remarks: Representative of UNCTAD (TBC)
12:20 – 13:00hrs	Brief overview of the rationale for the choice of the theme/focus of ARIA XI and the objectives of the inception and methodology workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Francis Ikome, ECA Discussion
13:00-13:25hrs	Chapter 1: The Status of Regional Integration in Africa Presentation & Discussion
13:25 – 13:50hrs	Chapter 2: Theoretical, conceptual and nexus issues around Free Trade Areas, Customs Unions, and Common Markets Presentation & Discussion
13:50- 14:15hrs	Chapter 3: The advent of AfCFTA, its deeper integration provisions and ongoing implementation processes versus the transition/progression to a continental Customs Union and Common Market



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	Presentation & Discussion
14:15 – 14:40hrs	Chapter 4: Trade and economic benefits of a customs union and a common market for Africa: Making the case for a continental customs union and a common market for Africa Presentation & Discussion
14:40 – 15:00hrs	Break
15:00 – 15:30hrs	Chapter 5: Requirements for a Continental Customs Union: Stabilization and harmonization of tariff and non-tariff systems/operationalizing a common external Tariff Presentation & Discussion
15:30 – 16:00hrs	Chapter 6: Requirements for establishing a Continental Common Market: Policy coordination and harmonization Presentation & Discussion
16:00 – 16:30hrs	Chapter 7: Exploring/Leveraging the RECs experiences with free trade areas, customs unions, and common markets in facilitating the establishment of the continental Customs Union and African Common Market Presentation & Discussion
16:30 – 17:00hrs	Chapter 8: Lessons from select cases/experiences with customs unions and common markets from across the world Presentation & Discussion
17:00 – 17:30hrs	Chapter 9: Contemplating the Governance and resources requirements for establishing and operationalizing the continental Customs Union and African Common Market Presentation & Discussion
17:30 – 17:45hrs	Tentative Timeline for drafting ARIA XI
17:45 – 18:00hrs	Closing Representative of the ECA