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October 2026

Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE)

UNECA Sub-Regional Offices for Eastern and Southern Africa

Venue: Windhoek, Namibia
10 – 13 November 2026

THEME:

Bridging Eastern and Southern Africa:

Connectivity, Trade and Investment for a More Integrated Continent

PROVISIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

DRAFT

DAY 1 - Tuesday 10 November 2026

08h00 – 09h00 [Registration](#)

09h00 – 10h00 [Opening Session](#)

Welcoming remarks

- UN Resident Coordinator, Namibia
- Outgoing Bureau Chair, Eastern Africa:
- Outgoing Bureau Chair, Southern Africa:
- Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Guest of Honour, Minister of Finance, Namibia

10h00 – 10h30 Constitution of both Bureaus, Review and Adoption of the Agenda

Chair: Host country

In this session, the 2 new Bureaus of the ICSEO will be constituted. These new Bureaus will guide participants on the review and adoption of the agenda.

10h30 – 11h00 Health Break

11h00 – 13:00 [Session 1: Macroeconomic and Social Overview](#)

Co-Chairs: SRO-EA & SRO-SA

- 11h00-11h30: Presentation on Macroeconomic and Social Overview of Eastern Africa
- 11h30-11h45: Country interventions
- 11h45-12h15: Presentation on Macroeconomic and Social Overview of Southern Africa
- 12h15-12h30: Country interventions
- 12h30-13h00: Discussion

13h00 – 14h00 : Lunch Break

14h00– 15h30: [Session 2: Theme Presentation: Bridging Eastern and Southern Africa: Connectivity, Trade and Investment for a More Integrated Continent](#)

Moderator: Mr. Andrew Mold, Director, Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

14h00-14h30: Presentation — ECA

14h30-15h00: Panel Discussions

- **Panellist 1:** Namibia Minister of Finance
- **Panellist 2:** TBD
- **Panelist 3:** TBD
- **Panelist 4:** TBD

15h00-15h30: Discussion

15h30- 15h40: [Session 3: Theme Presentation of the 2026/7 Economic Report on Africa](#)

15h40-16h00: Discussion

16h00 – 16h15 Health Break

- 16h15-17h45: [Session 4: Regional and international agendas and other special initiatives \(SRO-SA\)](#)
Moderator: Bureau- Southern Africa
- 16h15-16h45: Presentation of the working paper
- 16h45-17h30: Discussion

DAY 2 Wednesday 11 November 2026

08h30 -12h30: [Session 5: State of Regional Integration in Eastern and Southern Africa: Trends in Trade Facilitation](#)

- 08h30-09h00: Presentation “State of Regional Integration in Eastern and Southern Africa: Trends in Trade Facilitation”
- 09h-10h30: Round-table “Accelerating Trade Facilitation and Regional Integration in Eastern and Southern Africa”
 - Discussant 1
 - Discussant 2
 - Discussant 3

10h30-10h45 Health-Break

10h45-12h00: Discussion

12h00 – 12h30: Summary of key messages and recommendations

12h30 – 13h30 Lunch Break,

13h30- 17h30 [Session 6: ICT and Energy Connectivity and Regional Power Market Pooling in Support of Industrialization in Eastern and Southern Africa](#)

13h30-14h00: Presentation: ECA

14h00-15h00: Panel discussion/ Round-table

- Panelist1
- Panelist2...

15h00-15h15 Health Break

15h15-17h00: Discussion

17h00 – 17h30: Summary of key messages and recommendations

DAY 3 Thursday 12 November 2026

08h30 -12h30: [Session 7: From Profitable Banking to Productive Finance: Reducing the Cost of Credit for Investment in Eastern and Southern Africa](#)

- 08h30-09h00: Presentation “From Profitable Banking to Productive Finance: Reducing the Cost of Credit for Investment in Eastern and Southern Africa”
 - 09h00-10h00: Round-table
 - Discussant1
 - Discussant2
 - Discussant 3

10h00-10h15 Health-Break

10h15-12h00: Discussion

12h00 – 12h30: Summary of key messages and recommendations

12h30 – 13h30 Lunch Break,

13h30- 17h30 [Session 8: State of Tourism in Eastern and Southern Africa](#)

13h30-14h00: Presentation: ECA

14h00-15h00: Panel discussion

- Panelist1
- Panelist2...

15h00-15h15 Health-Break

15h15-16h15: Discussion

16h15 – 17h30: Summary of key messages and recommendations

DAY 4 Friday 13 November 2026

08h30-10h00: [Session 9: Presentation of the activity report of the SRO-EA and SRO-SA since the last sessions of the ICSEs and programme of work for the remainder of the 2026 annual program.](#)

- **08h30-08h45:** Presentation by Eastern Africa
- **08h45-09h00:** Discussion
- **09h00-09h15:** Presentation by Southern Africa
- **09h15-09h30:** Discussion

09h30-10h00: [Session 10: Presentation of the CoM 2027 Theme](#)

- **09h30- 09h45** Presentation of the theme of the 2027 Conference of African Ministers of Finance and Economic Development (CoM-59)
- **09h45-10h00 :** Discussion

10h10-10h15 Health Break

10h15- 11h45 [Session 11: Presentation on the recommendations from various sessions](#)

Recommendations on

- i. the macroeconomic situation in Eastern and Southern Africa;
- ii. the thematic report—bridging Eastern and Southern Africa: Connectivity, Trade and Investment for a More Integrated Continent
- iii. theme presentation of the 2026/7 Economic Report on Africa
- iv. regional and international agendas and other special initiatives
- v. state of regional integration in Eastern and Southern Africa: trends in trade facilitation
- vi. ICT and Energy Connectivity and Regional Power Market Pooling in Support of Industrialization in Eastern and Southern Africa
- vii. From Profitable Banking to Productive Finance: Reducing the Cost of Credit for Investment in Eastern and Southern Africa;
- viii. State of Tourism in Eastern and Southern Africa
- ix. SRO-EA Activity report;
- x. SRO-SA Activity report;
- xi. CoM 2027 theme.

11h45-12h45: [Session 12: Consideration of the Draft Outcome Statement](#)

12h45-13h00: Any Other Business

13h00 -13h15: Closing of the joint meeting

13h15-13h45: Press conference

13h15 – 14h15 Lunch Break