SheTrades Mauritius Hub

She Goes Global

Capacity Building Workshop & B2B Event:

Unlocking opportunities for women entrepreneurs in Southern Africa under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

Jointly Organized by the

Economic Development Board of Mauritius

(Host of ITC She Trades Hub in Mauritius)

&

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Subregional Office for Southern Africa

3-4 September 2025

Venue: Intercontinental Hotel, Balaclava, Mauritius.

Programme of Work

Wednesday September 3, 2025

A. Morning Session

09:00-09:15	**Registration of Participants and Videos by EDB and ECA SRO-SA**
09:15 - 10:15	**Agenda Item 1: Opening Session** ▪ Welcome remarks by Chief Executive Officer, Economic Development Board, Mauritius, **Mr. Mahen Abhimanu Kundasamy**. ▪ Statement by the Director, ECA Subregional office for Southern Africa, **Ms. Eunice G. Kamwendo**. ▪ Statement by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mauritius & Seychelles, **Ms. Lisa Simrique Singh**. ▪ Statement by the AfCFTA Secretariat, **Ms. Gonaya Sethora**. ▪ Address by Junior Minister, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Mauritius, **Honourable Dhaneshwar Damry**. ▪ Keynote Address by Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, Republic of Mauritius, **Honourable Ms. Marie Arianne Navarre-Marie.** **Facilitator:** Master of Ceremony.
10:15–10:20	*Group Photo*
10:20-10:30	Tea Break
10:30-11:30	**Agenda Item 2: The African Continental Free Trade Area** Moderator: **Ms. Lisa Simrique Singh,** *United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mauritius & Seychelles.* Presentations: ▪ Introducing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Rationale, Protocols, and Institutional Structures. *By: Ms. Bineswaree Bolaky, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA SRO-SA.* ▪ Interface between the AfCFTA, SADC FTA and TFTA. *By: Ms. Zodwa Mabuza, Chief, ECA SRO-SA.* ▪ Understanding the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade *By: Ms. Gonaya Sethora, Women and Youth in Trade Expert, AfCFTA Secretariat.* Q&A (15 minutes)
11:30-13:00	**Agenda Item 3: Market Access Opportunities under the AfCFTA for women entrepreneurs in Southern Africa.** Moderator: **Ms. Zodwa Mabuza,** *Chief, Sub-Regional Initiatives Section, UNECA Sub-Regional office for Southern Africa, ECA SRO-SA.*

	Presentations: ▪ Understanding Market Access Opportunities under the AfCFTA for Mauritius and Southern Africa & One Africa Brand. *By Mr. Christophe Durand, Quantitative Market Analyst, UN International Trade Center*. ▪ Real case examples of trading in Africa. *By: 2 female entrepreneurs from Southern Africa.* - *Ms. Bonini Kusano, CEO and Founder of Beyond Knowing Pty ltd, South Africa* - *Ms. Lorato Botshabelo, Founder, Amical De Poche Enterprise, Botswana.* Q&A (15 minutes)
13:00-14:00	*Lunch Break*

B. Afternoon Session

14:00- -15:45	**Agenda Item 4:** All you need to know to trade under the AfCFTA: Rules of origin, Non-Tariff measures and AfCFTA implementation tools. Moderator: **Ms. Bineswaree Bolaky**, *Economic Affairs Officer, Sub-Regional Initiatives Section, ECA SRO-SA.* Presentations: ▪ **Rules of origin, NTMs and AfCFTA Implementation tools.** *By: Ms. Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director, TRALAC.* ▪ AfCFTA Operational Tools and the role of the AfCFTA Secretariat in supporting Women in Trade. *By: Ms. Gonaya Sethora, Women and Youth in Trade Expert, AfCFTA Secretariat.* Q&A (15 minutes)
	Tea Break
16:00– 17:20	**Agenda Item 5: Leveraging e-commerce and digital platforms to trade under the AfCFTA.** Moderator: **Ms. Nelly Rita Muriuki**, *Economic Affairs Officer, Africa Trade Policy Center, ECA.* Presentations: ▪ **E-commerce in a nutshell.**

	By: Ms. Sarita Ramdawor, First Choice Manager for Sub-Saharan Africa, DHL Express Regional office in Mauritius. ▪ **Unlocking opportunities from Digital Trade in Africa:** Real case examples. *By: Ms. Sameera Chattun Khoyratty, Founder & CEO of Safe Sha Training Centre Ltd, Mauritius* *Q&A (5 minutes)*
17:20-17:25	**Wrap up of Day One** *Master of Ceremony*

Thursday September 4, 2025

A. Morning Session

09:30-10:45	**Agenda Item 6: A focus on Trade in Services: Opportunities and challenges under the AfCFTA.** Moderator: **Mr. Vinaye Dey Ancharaz**, Executive Director – National Productivity and Competitiveness Council, Mauritius. Presentations: ▪ **Unpacking the AfCFTA Protocol on Trade in Services.** *By: Ms. Daphine Lekipaika, Trade in Services Expert, AfCFTA Secretariat.* ▪ **Interface between SADC and AfCFTA on Trade in Services** *By: Ms. Rehema Nzallawahe**,** Regional Trade Advisor, SADC Secretariat.* ▪ **Mauritian perspectives on trade in services in Africa.** *By: Ms. Nirmala Jeetah, Director Bio Industry & Project Development & ITC SheTrades, Economic Development Board* Q&A (15 minutes)
10:45-11:00	Tea Break
11:00-12:30	**Agenda Item 7: High-level Session on: Challenges and Opportunities of implementing the AfCFTA and Role of National and Regional Institutions.** Moderator: **Ms. Trudi Hartzenberg,** *Executive Director, TRALAC.*

	Panelists: ▪ Mr. Rajendra Gupta Ramnarain, Acting Director, Customs Mauritius Revenue Authority. ▪ Ms. Daphine Lekipaika, Trade in Services Expert, AfCFTA Secretariat. ▪ Mr. Yann Charlotte, Business and New Business Development Manager, Association of Mauritian Manufacturers. ▪ Ms. Farzana Mouratsing, Business Development Manager, Projects & Logistics, Velogic Ltd & Freeport of Mauritius Ltd. ▪ Ms. Multra Shalini Karuna, Principal Analyst at the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection.
12:30-12:45	**Agenda Item 8: Closing Session & Wrap up** ▪ Statement by ECA Subregional office for Southern Africa. ▪ Statement by Economic Development Board of Mauritius.
12:45-14:00	*Lunch Break*

B. Afternoon Session

B2B Event
14:00 to 17:00