



The AfCFTA and Private Sector. Realizing Africa's Full Potential

Thursday, 16 June 2022

Hybrid, Hilton Hotel

All times in EAT

(The panel will be streamed with English, French and German translation.)

2:00PM

Opening remarks

Mr. Antonio PEDRO, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Benno MÜCHLER, KAS Country Representative Ethiopia/AU

2:15PM

Keynote speech

Mussie Mindaye, Director General, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

2:30PM

Panel 1: Potential for More Private Sector Engagement

Chiza Charles CHIUMYA Acting Director – Industry, Mining and Entrepreneurship Department of Economic Development, Trade Industry and Mining – AUC (tbc)

Dr. Osman BABIKIR, Acting Director for Economic Cooperation, IGAD

Christoph KANNENGISSER, CEO German-African Business Association (Afrika-Verein)

Kebour GHENNA, Executive Director of the Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Host: **Melaku DESTA**, Coordinator of the African Trade Policy Center (ATPC) UNECA

3:30 PM

Questions & Answers



3:45 PM

Coffee Break

4:30 PM

Panel 2: Comparative Advantages and Views from the Private Sector

H.E. Ewumbue-Monono CHURCHILL, Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon to Ethiopia, the AU und UNECA

Eng. Melaku EZEZEW, President of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce & Sectoral Association

Lucy MUCHOKI, CEO of Pan African Agribusiness and Agroindustry Consortium (PanAAC)

Chiara-Felicitas OTTO, Managing Director of exficon GmbH und Eight Innovations GmbH (virtual)

Host: **Benno MÜCHLER**, KAS Country Representative Ethiopia/AU

5:30 PM

Questions & Answers:

5:50 PM

Closing Remarks

6:00 PM

Reception

Introduction: Entered into force in May 2019, the AfCFTA has the potential to create nothing less than the largest free



trade area in the world. According to the World Bank, it can unleash massive gains for African economies, usher in incremental reforms that will boost trade across the continent, and bring 30 million people out of extreme poverty.

Morocco and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are the latest countries to deposit their instruments of ratification. Confirmation of Parliamentary/Cabinet approval for Somalia is pending. As at May 2022, 43 of the 54 signatories (80%) have deposited their instruments of AfCFTA ratification. The AfCFTA is at the heart of the vision of the Agenda 2063. Still, much remains to be done until AU member states can reach the Africa they want in terms of trade. While Phase II and Phase III are still ongoing, building the physical and digital infrastructure for the implementation of the AfCFTA remains another herculean task.

Another area that needs strengthening in order to make the AfCFTA a success story is the engagement of the private sector. While businesses have to learn how the AfCFTA works, the functionality of the state-driven AfCFTA would benefit tremendously from integrating and responding to the advice of traders and entrepreneurs in the years to come.

In a joint event, the KAS Office Ethiopia/AU and UNECA aim to evaluate the progress on the AfCFTA and highlight the importance of the private sector in a high-level panel discussion with key stakeholders from the AU, AU member states, and the business world.



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



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