



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

**The African Union Policy Conference On Promoting the Peace, Security,  
and Development Nexus: The Promise of Regional Integration**

## **UNECA PRE-EVENT**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

**POLICY DIALOGUE ON THE REPORT**

**ON**

**REALIZING THE TRIPLE NEXUS AND TRADE: TOWARDS A  
NEW AGENDA FOR AFRICA**

**Date: 22 OCTOBER 2022**

**Venue: HILTON GARDEN INN  
TANGIER, MOROCCO**

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## **I. Context and Rationale for the Policy Dialogue**

Africa's governance, peace and security landscape has continued to present a very mixed picture, with progress in some countries and regions, stagnation in others and retrogression in yet others, with grave implication for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), alongside the United Nations and other stakeholders, are trying to prioritize and strengthen governance systems and promote peace and security on the continent.

Economists, social and political researchers have devoted vast efforts to better understand the causes of civil conflicts. Trade agreements can foster integrated economies and reduce conflict by creating disincentives among states and their actors due to the disproportionate cost of conflict. In states with high government accountability, low levels of income inequality and ethnic divisions, changes in export prices of certain high demand commodities have also been found to have limited effects. This suggests that overall public governance and systematised trade governance aimed at wide scale income generation, could positively contribute to fostering peace and stability. However, at national level, the marketplace as the locus for trade is a space where conflict becomes manifest and therefore holds potential to contribute to both peace and development outcomes.

It is against this background that the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) commissioned a study entitled "Realizing the Triple Nexus And Trade: Towards A New Agenda For Africa" to explore the contribution of trade in the transitions from fragile, unstable and emergency contexts to sustainable development within the framework of the triple humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Using the conflict assessment tools of the Fragile States Index (FSI) collated by the Fund for Peace, it identifies and analyses states with high levels of vulnerability to protracted social conflict due to the complex interplay of political, social and economic factors.

There is also an expanded discussion on the relationship between trade integration and fragile states score. Findings indicate that just like trade, fragility and conflict in Africa have shown its potential for export across borders. Conflicts in Africa are taking place across the range of overall integration levels, and the position of the fragility index has worsened significantly over the last fourteen years for which data is available. A significant increase in a country's Fragile States Score may be a cause for concern in the long run as recovery appears to be less rapid with many countries not re-gaining their initial 'agility' as fragility worsens. African states across the Sahel region are particularly vulnerable in an intense, fast-moving conflict ecosystem, which presents significant challenges for integrated interventions by triple nexus and trade partners.

According to the study, membership of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is crucial for reaping benefits of global human and material mobility. However, a number of African States are not WTO Members and hold observer status while negotiating accession. Concurrent WTO accession by states with limited experience with trade agreements or administrative capacity to prepare, participate in, or implement trade agreements is potentially prejudicial. Deep WTO Commitments of acceded parties to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) could undermine existing commitments and create leakage of forthcoming AfCFTA benefits to third parties.

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Meanwhile, the number of persons who try to access the benefits under the African Union Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in Africa could increase as conflict and disaster events act as a push factor to other territories. Therefore, persons in affected areas could seek work and residence opportunities under the Protocol. These currently vary across signatory states, which have commitment in Article 16: Right of Residence, to granting the right of residence to persons and their spouse and dependants where the laws of the receiving state so allow.

The above analysis supports the need for a policy dialogue. Within the context of the African Union Policy Conference on “Promoting the Peace, Security and Development Nexus: The Promise of Regional Integration”, the African Trade Policy Center (ATPC) of ECA will host a pre-event to discuss the findings of the study on “Realizing the Triple Nexus And Trade: Towards A New Agenda For Africa”.

## **II. Objectives of Policy Dialogue**

The overall objective of the Policy Dialogue is to enable key stakeholders from AU member states to fully appreciate the findings of the study on “Realizing the Triple Nexus and Trade: Towards A New Agenda For Africa”. First, it seeks to officially launch the study as an RITD knowledge product for public consumption. Second, since the Policy Dialogue takes place on the eve of the “African Union Policy Conference on Promoting the Peace, Security, and Development Nexus”, it also seeks to inform the discussions and deliberations of the Policy Conference during the following days and have the findings and its policy recommendations endorsed for policy action.

The specific objectives of the session are to:

- Highlight the key outcomes and recommendation of the study;
- Allow key stakeholders to engage on key findings and policy recommendations of the Study; and
- Garner multi-stakeholder partnerships around implementation of the key recommendations of the study.

## **III. Expected Outcome**

The key expected outcomes of the Policy Dialogue will be to:

- Launch the study on “Realizing the Triple Nexus and Trade: Towards A New Agenda For Africa”.
- Engender greater appreciation of the nexus between Peace, Security, Development and trade;
- Sensitize key stakeholders on the contribution that the AfCFTA makes to peace and security; and
- Facilitate the exchange of views and country experiences (successes, challenges and lessons) in the design and implementation of policies on the impact and cost of conflict on development and trade in the continent.

## **IV. Participants**

Participants and delegates to the Conference will include representatives from member States, Regional Economic Communities, United Nations agencies, pan-African financial institutions,

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African academic and research institutions, development partners, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

## **V. Date and Venue**

The Policy Dialogue will be held on 22 October 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Tangier, Morocco.

## **VI. Contacts**

For more information, please address inquiries to the following persons:

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