

AU POLICY CONFERENCE

Promoting the
Peace, Security,
& Development
Nexus:

The Promise of
Regional Integration

25th - 27th
October 2022
Tangier,
Kingdom of Morocco

TECHNICAL SESSION

Session Title:
Interlinking Intra-African Trade, Industrialization and
Infrastructure Development where the guns are silent

Session Organizers:
UNECA



01. CONTEXT AND RATIONALE FOR THE EVENT

By analysing thousands of country pairs over several decades, many researchers have found that increasing trade between two countries lowers the risk of war between them. They have also found that countries that are more dependent on international trade have fewer conflicts than self-reliant ones, which provides us all with a security interest in other countries' global integration as well. It's not just trade though; it's free trade. Countries that engage in free trade are less likely to attack or be attacked than protectionist ones. Therefore, peace and stability are necessary for achieving the desired objectives of one of Africa Union's economic integration initiatives, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Intra-African trade is deeply enhanced with productive capacity that comes with increased industrialization. Inadequate transport infrastructure and services could hamper the realization of AfCFTA's benefits. It is in this context that ECA undertook a study on the implications of AfCFTA for the demand for transport infrastructure and services. According to the study, more than two million more trucks will be needed in Africa by 2030 to fully implement AfCFTA. The more the trucks criss-cross African countries with transit cargo, the higher the need to intensify security to ensure that illegal materials, small arms and light weapons are not smuggled across borders with trade cargo, aggravating insecurity in countries.

Meanwhile, 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. Given the challenges that the continent faces, African Governments need to consider and reflect on intra-African trade, specifically, AfCFTA, industrialization and infrastructure development and their link to the reduction of conflicts in Africa.

To this end and in line with the theme of the Continental Policy Conference, ECA is organizing a session under the theme "*Interlinking Intra-African Trade, Industrialization and Infrastructure Development where the guns are silent*" on 25 October 2022.

02. OBJECTIVE OF THE SESSION

The objective of the session is to examine how intra-African Trade, Industrialization and Infrastructure Development contribute in the transitions from fragile, unstable and emergency contexts to sustainable development. Participants will also reflect on how peace and security create conducive environments for pursuing regional integration processes and initiatives, including the AfCFTA and attaining broader development objectives, such as those embodied in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Africa Union's Agenda 2063.

03. EXPECTED OUTCOME

The key expected outcomes of the Session are:

- Greater appreciation of the nexus between Peace, Security, intra-African Trade, Industrialization and Infrastructure Development;
- Key stakeholders sensitized on the contribution of AfCFTA on peace and security; and

- Platform established for AU Member States, partners and stakeholders to share experiences and emerging best practices in the design and implementation of policies on the impact and cost of conflict on development and trade in the continent and areas for joint action identified.

04. SPEAKER LINE UP

Moderator: Mr. Said Adejumobi, Director, Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results, UNECA

Opening keynote: Mr. Stephen Karingi, Director of the Regional Integration and Trade Division (RITD) of ECA

Panelists:

1. Dr. Hespina Rukato, Founding Director of the Centre for African Development Solutions (CADS)
2. Prof. Babafemi Badejo, Director General, Chrisland Institute for Security, Development and Diplomacy (CLISDD)
3. Ms. Angela Strachan, Consultant in Business Environment. Trade Facilitation and Investment Climate
4. Ms. Itumeeng Dlamini, Technical Advisor to the CEO and Corporate Governance, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)
5. Prof. Taye Simbine, Director General, Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research (NISER)

Q&A

Moderated questions and answers