

***UNECA 28th Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and
Experts for Southern Africa***

**The imperative for accelerated sustainable industrialization in
the context of climate change, digitalization and the need to
finance infrastructure for development in the region”**

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UNCTAD's mandate – Trade and Development



- ✓ UN body responsible for dealing with economic and sustainable development issues with a focus on trade, finance, investment and technology - *Prosperity for All*;
- ✓ 195 members;
- ✓ *Think, Debate, Deliver* - to assist developing countries in better participating in the global economy;

6 UNCTAD facts and figures

Promoting development



57

years

Membership



195

members States

Staff members



456+

Regular budget for 2020



68

million

Extrabudgetary expenditure



42

million

Projects



218

in 80 countries

UNCTAD Inter-governmental Machinery

UNCTAD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES - EVERY 4 YEARS

UNCTAD XV, Bridgetown, Barbados-Geneva,
Switzerland, 2021

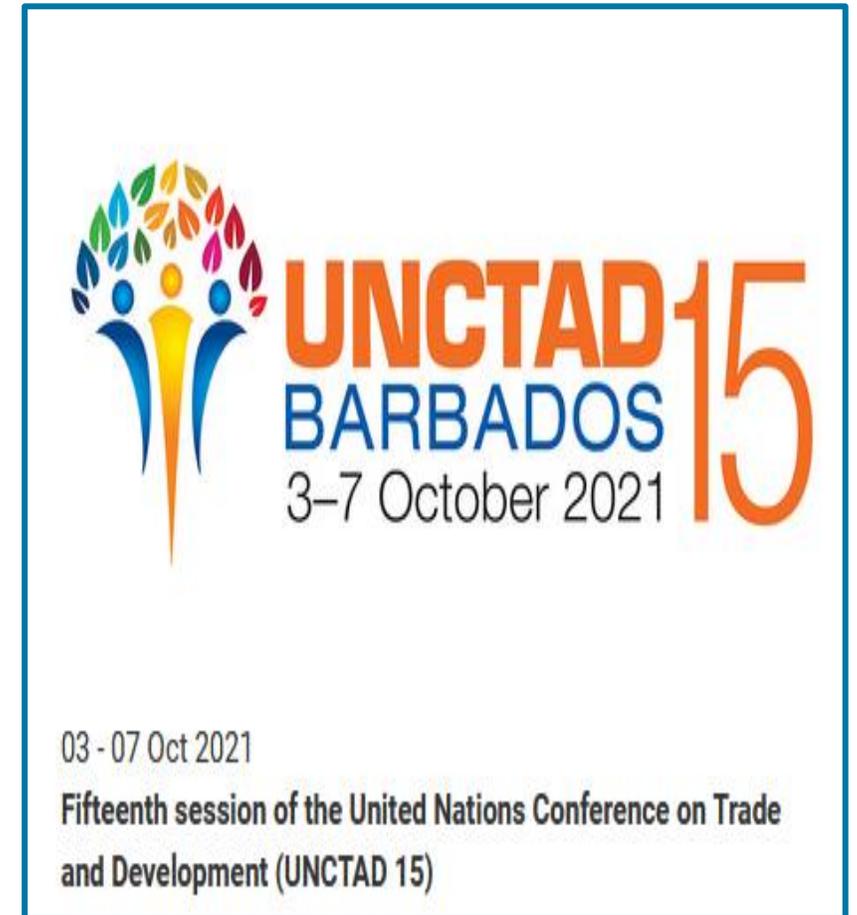
Ministerial Declaration – BRIDGETOWN COVENANT

3 Major Global Challenges

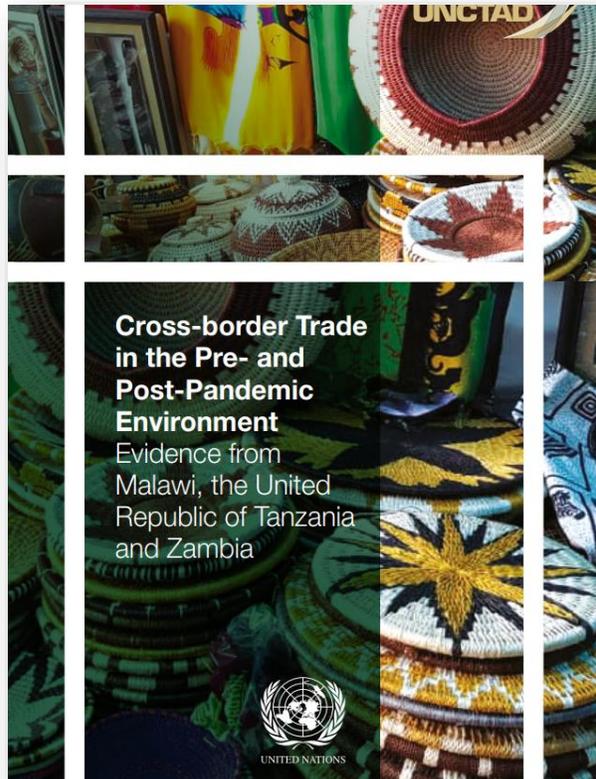
- I. inequality and vulnerability;
- II. climate change and environmental degradation;
- III. digital divide and uneven digitalization

4 Areas of Transformation for a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable world:

- I. Transforming economies through
diversification
- II. Transforming to a more sustainable and
resilient economy
- III. Transforming how development is financed
- IV. Transforming multilateralism



Relevant UNCTAD research



Cross-border Trade in the Pre- and Post-Pandemic Environment
Evidence from Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Rethinking the Foundations of Export Diversification in Africa: THE CATALYTIC ROLE OF BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN **AFRICA**
Report 2022



SMEEP | Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution Programme

Manufacturing Pollution in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia: Implications for the environment, health and future work
Main Report



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

October 2021

UNCTAD Research Paper No. 70
UNCTAD/SER.RP/2021/13

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Trade Agreements and Trade Resilience During COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

This paper considers whether trade in regional trade agreements has shown more resilience during the COVID-19 downturn. Using an econometric approach where a set of fixed effect controls for countries' specific characteristics, idiosyncratic shocks and policy responses, this paper finds that trade within trade agreements was relatively more resilient against the global trade collapse of 2020. The analysis also finds that the level of integration matters. Deep regional trade agreements have provided relatively better stability against the global shock. Importantly, the results show some heterogeneity across developing and developed countries as well as across the developing countries' regions.

Key words: international trade, COVID-19, trade agreements, trade integration

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Relevant UNCTAD research (3)

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



POLICY BRIEF
No. 94

FEBRUARY 2022

KEY POINTS

- Export potential under the African Continental Free Trade Area is heavily concentrated in three major exporters: Egypt, Morocco and South Africa. The 33 least developed countries in Africa account for only 16 per cent of the export potential
- The least developed countries have comparably greater export potential in agricultural products. Food processing industries also provide an opportunity for value addition and commodity-based export growth among these countries
- Periodic reviews of tariff concessions should allow for policy space for addressing weak productive capacities among the least developed countries and diversifying their imports

Export potential under the African Continental Free Trade Area: Limited prospects for the least developed countries in Africa?

Free trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area commenced in January 2021. Countries agreed to remove tariffs on 90 per cent of goods, progressively liberalize trade in services and eliminate non-tariff barriers, to improve regional cohesion, create a single large African market and promote gross domestic product (GDP) growth through trade. With the objective of guiding feasible policies and sectoral strategies at the national and regional levels, this policy brief highlights how countries in Africa, in particular the least developed countries, benefit differently from tariff liberalization and the removal of non-tariff barriers.¹

¹ As of October 2021, the least developed countries in Africa were Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

DECEMBER 2020

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UNCTAD/SER.RP/2020/15

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African Continental Free Trade Area Phase II Negotiations: A Space for a Competition Protocol?

Executive summary

The goal of African regional integration and economic freedom is nearing fulfillment now more than ever in the period of more than 50 years since the time of Kwame Nkrumah. The Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), signed in Kigali on 30th March 2018, created a realistic opportunity for attaining a common market for Africa. This paper examines the role of the competition protocol in promoting a combined African competitive market under the AfCFTA. It further looks at existing Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and their fit within the AfCFTA, along with the opportunities and challenges they present to this process. Finally, it includes a brief on the effects of COVID-19 health crisis to competition enforcement, the role of UNCTAD and it ends with a conclusion and way forward.

Key words: regional integration, AfCFTA, competition protocol, market.

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