

Report Structure, Key Messages and Policy Recommendations

Report Structure

- **Chapter 1—Introduction** brings thematic issues into focus and provides a general guide to the report.
- **Chapter 2—Status of Regional Integration in Africa** is a recurrent part of the report, and outlines trends in Africa’s economic integration at national, regional and continental levels. It provides an update on the Africa Regional Integration Index.
- **Chapter 3—Conceptual Issues in the Political Economy of Integration and the CFTA** provides insights on political economy dimensions leading, or constraining, regional integration in Africa and the CFTA. These are framed across five “lenses” that help to unpack and explain the complexities of regional integration. Consideration of the political economy is crucial for “bringing the CFTA about” and the messages from this chapter are mainstreamed throughout those which follow it.
- **Chapter 4—Revisiting the Case for the CFTA** outlines the theoretical and empirical rationale for the CFTA, and provides some measures of potential trade gains. It also provides a progress update on the CFTA negotiations and its envisaged scope as a point of reference for subsequent chapters.
- **Chapter 5—A Win-Win Approach to the CFTA: Sharing the Benefits** focuses on distributional impacts of the CFTA across the broad range of African countries party to the CFTA negotiations, as well as the vulnerable communities whose interests must be carefully considered. It is vital that the CFTA be designed such that its benefits are shared in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal No. 1, that “no one will be left behind.”
- **Chapter 6—A Win-Win Approach to the CFTA: Critical Policies** is a partner to Chapter 5 and offers policy recommendations to ensure that the interests of different stakeholders and vulnerable groups are met. It proposes approaches to the substantive content of the CFTA Agreement and to its accompanying policies.
- **Chapter 7—Financing for Bringing the CFTA About** sets out a framework for analysing and assessing the implementation costs associated with the CFTA, including structural adjustment costs accruing to the private sector, tariff revenue losses, implementation costs and flanking policy costs for the public sector. Resource mobilization and development assistance is discussed as a means of financing these costs.
- **Chapter 8—CFTA Governance** brings trade governance under the spotlight with recommendations on different institutional aspects of the CFTA, including the role of a CFTA Secretariat, and the national, regional and continental institutional structures that will be necessary for successful implementation. It also discusses the possible role of the regional economic communities (RECs) under a CFTA regime.
- **Chapter 9—The CFTA in a Changing Trade Landscape** reviews the evolving international trading environment, such as rising scepticism towards trade agreements, the implications of potential mega-regional trade agreements, growing trade ties with emerging economies, the period after the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and Brexit. A key recommendation is that the CFTA should present a coherent trade policy response.
- **Chapter 10—Phase 2 Negotiations: Competition Policy, Intellectual Property Rights and E-commerce** outlines the main issues for negotiators in the second phase of the CFTA negotiations.