

ERRATA

Boosting Intra African Trade

The African Business Council

25. The proposed architecture of the CFTA provides for the establishment of an African Business Council, as a necessary continental platform for aggregating and articulating the views of the private sector in the continental policy formulation processes. The Business Council shall play an advisory role in the continental policy formulation processes and will communicate its views and positions through the African Union Commission. It will be composed of the Chairs/representatives of umbrella (regional) associations/Business Councils that represent the various private sector interests, such as the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, small and medium scale enterprises, women entrepreneurs and women in trade, sectoral associations such as banking and finance, farmers etc. The Council may be invited to the meetings of Conference of the Ministers of Trade in Observer capacity.

Customs Technical Committee (CTC)

26. In the current AU governance structure, the Directors-General of Customs Administrations in Africa meet regularly as a Sub-Committee of the Conference of AU Ministers of Trade. Although not shown in the organogram, under the proposed CFTA governance structure, the existing body will become the Customs Technical Committee (CTC) and report to Conference of AU Ministers of Trade. In addition to the Directors – General/ Heads of Customs Administrations of the Member States of the AU, membership of the CTC will include Directors/Heads of Customs Departments/Divisions of the AUC and the RECs.

27. The CTC will serve as the Technical Committee of the Conference of AU Ministers of Trade on matters relating to the facilitation of Intra-African Trade. In this regard, the Committee will (i) develop and submit proposals to the Conference on such issues as the Rules of Origin (RoO), customs regulations and procedures, transit procedures, etc, and (ii) implement the decisions of the policy organs of the AU on the facilitation of intra-African trade.

28. The Customs Division of the AUC will serve as the Secretariat of the CTC.

The African Trade Forum (ATF)

29. The African Trade Forum will serve as a Pan-African platform for reflection and discussion on the progress and challenges of continental market integration. It will be organized annually jointly by the AUC and UNECA. Participants will include all stakeholders in the development of intra-African trade: Member States; RECs; Representatives of continental and regional private sector, civil society, and women organizations; Research Institutes, CEOs of major African cross-border enterprises; and development partners.

30. The outcomes and recommendations of the Forum will be presented to the Conference of AU Ministers of Trade for consideration.
