



## Directorate of Information and Communication

### MEETING OF TRADE MINISTERS

24th-25th October, 2013, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The African union Commission with the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will be organizing its 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary session of the meeting of ministers of trade addressing decisions and outcomes from the Meeting of the Trade Senior Officials on the Development of Trade in Africa which concludes on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

**WHEN:** 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**WHO:** The conference will be attended by the African Union Ministers of Trade, Senior Trade Officials/experts from Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the World Trade Organization (WTO), African Development Bank, the International Trade Centre (ITC), the South Centre, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and other African and non-African International Organizations.

**WHY:** To present and discuss the strategic framework for the implementation of the action plan for boosting Intra-African trade discussed in the meeting of Trade Senior Officials and also to establish methods to improve continental free trade.

Discussed in the meeting will be the implications of the Bilateral Trade Agreement by Member States and RECs with external partners on the establishment of the CFTA and regional integration in Africa. They will also discuss the preparations for the 9<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in Bali this December and consideration of the Draft Declaration

**WHERE:** New African Union Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

The Conference is expected to further reaffirm the commitments of the African Ministers of Trade on Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT) and the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) through the endorsement of the Strategic Framework for BIAT as well as agreeing on the relevant issues relating to the establishment of the CFTA. In addition, the Conference is also expected to come-up with a unified African position in the run-up to the WTO Ministerial Conference on Bali in December 2013.

**All media representatives are invited to participate and cover the press conference immediately after the opening ceremony 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013.**

**Media contacts**

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